

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Criteria for Admission

St. Thomas More is a Roman Catholic school, and has its primary purpose religious formation in a Christian environment, which integrates religious truths and values of the Roman Catholic Church with every aspect of human life. This integration begins in the home and is further developed in school. The decision to choose Catholic education for a child places upon parents the responsibility to accept the religious values upon which the St. Thomas More educational system is founded and further obligates them to share those values and responsibilities with their children.

St. Thomas More is operated under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gary. St. Thomas More School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, athletic, or other school-administered programs or admissions.

Non-Catholics

Non-Catholics or non-Christians are welcome. As a Roman Catholic School, we exist first and foremost to promote the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Although we welcome non-Catholics and non-Christians, **only 15% of our enrollment will be comprised of non-Catholic/non-Christian children.** No student is required to become a baptized Catholic or to participate in the other sacraments. However, students are expected to participate in Roman Catholic religious instruction, attend Mass and other prayer services with their class.

Age Requirements

- ◆ Children entering Pre-School must be three years old on or before August 1st, toilet trained, and out of any type of diaper or pull-up.
- ◆ Children entering Pre-Kindergarten must be four years of age on or before August 1st.
- ◆ Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before August 1st.
- ◆ Children entering first grade must be six years of age on or before August 1st. At the discretion of the Principal and/or Director of Student Special Services, an exception may be made for a student who has completed a full year of Kindergarten as a resident student in a public or private school.
- ◆ Admission of students to other grades will involve consideration of both chronological age and ability to do the work of those grades. The Principal and/or Director of Student Special Services have the authority to determine the placement of all students. Prior student records will be part of the decision process.

“Indeed, the life of faith can only be effectively nurtured when the prevailing atmosphere is one of respectful and affectionate trust. I pray that this may continue to be a hallmark of the Catholic schools in this country.”

His Holiness, Pope Benedict, XVI

Admission Priority For an Upcoming School Year

At St. Thomas More Roman Catholic School, class size is currently capped at 25. The Principal, at his discretion, may increase/decrease this cap. When maximum enrollment has been reached, a waiting list will be maintained for each grade.

EARLY REGISTRATION

STM Parishioners, and existing school families register in **FEBRUARY.**

GENERAL REGISTRATION

STM Parishioners, Catholics from other parishes, both in the Diocese of Gary and other Roman Catholic Dioceses, and existing school families register in **MARCH.**

OPEN REGISTRATION

STM Parishioners, Catholics from other parishes, both in the Diocese of Gary and other Roman Catholic Dioceses, existing school families, and all other interested families register in **APRIL.**

St. Thomas More School participates in the Indiana School Choice Program. If necessary, a lottery will be held on **June 15,** for the next school year.

Admission Rules for a School Year Already in Progress

Children may be admitted at the discretion of the Principal.

Other Requirements for New Families

- Registration forms must be entirely completed and the registration fee must be paid.
- The original birth certificate **must** be submitted. A copy will be made and the original returned to you.
- For Roman Catholic students, a Baptismal certificate must be submitted **at registration.** A copy will be made and the original returned to you.
- Parents and children should visit the school when classes are in session or at least receive a tour of the building.
- Report cards and standardized test scores from the student's previous school(s) **must** be submitted for transfer students prior to an application being processed. For students entering Grades 6, 7, or 8, an interview with the Principal or Assistant Principal and parent/guardian **and student** is mandatory.
- A health history and a report of a recent physical examination and an eye examination (performed by a licensed eye specialist) are required of all new students entering Kindergarten. Transfer students in Grades 1 thru 8 must submit copies of health history from their previous school. These forms are due prior to the first day of school.
- Prior to your child being admitted, the Director of Student Special Services will test all Kindergarten thru 8th grade students. These placement tests determine at what academic level the student is performing. If St. Thomas More School is unable, as determined by the Director of Student Special Services, to meet the academic, social or emotional needs of a student, St. Thomas More School will be unable to admit the child.