



The Barrister

School News

St. Vincent DePaul Toy Drive

St. Thomas More School students are collecting toys and gifts for the needy children in our area. Gifts are needed for children ages newborn to 14 years. Please do not wrap the gift, as they are sorted by age and gender. A collection box has been placed in students' homeroom (up to grade 6). Please bring toys in by December 18th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

7th & 8th Grade

The 7 & 8 grade students are collecting "baby items" for Catholic Charities during the Holiday Season! A collection box has been placed in students homeroom. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

T.R.I.P. News

The holidays are fast approaching...so get your gift card orders in early! The upcoming Monday processing dates are: **December 7 and December 14** (this is the last processing day before Christmas break.) If you have any questions, please feel free to email Lisa at stmstrip@gmail.com.

Group Photos for the Yearbook

Group photos for the yearbook are scheduled for Thursday, December 10th. Students should wear their school uniform. If the student belongs to a club that requires its own sweater/shirt, please be sure that he/she bring their shirt to school with them. These pictures do not include sports teams.

#Giving Tuesday

In case you missed #Giving Tuesday campaign on Facebook, it is not too late!! Giving Tuesday, is now in it's fourth year, is a global day of giving that kicks off the charitable season. If you wish, this years Giving Tuesday proceeds will be put towards the *Making a Difference Capital Campaign*. If you have yet to pledge or donate, please contact our Development Director at 219-836-8610 ext. 342 or aking@stm-school.com or go to the St. Thomas More Facebook page, to make a donation. Thank you in advance for your support of St. Thomas More School!

Athletics

Fall Sports Photos

Athletics pictures for fall sports (Soccer, Girls Volleyball, and Cross Country) will be taken on Sunday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Thomas More gym. Contact your coach for the specific time slot assigned to your team. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your time slot. Order forms will be available near the front doors of the gym. Cross Country participants are expected to return their uniform after pictures. Your deposit check will be returned at that time.



"If you are what you should be,
you will set the whole world ablaze!"
St. Catherine of Sienna

Weekly Calendar

December 7	8th Grade Confirmation Retreat Gym
December 8	Feast of Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation 9 a.m. Mass Student Council Candy Cane Sale
December 9	D.A.R.E. Graduation 5th Grade 1:30 p.m. Gym, Student Council Candy Cane Sale
December 10	Band Concert 7:30 p.m. Gym Group Photos for the Yearbook Student Council Candy Cane Sale
December 11	Band Concert 9:30 a.m. Gym

FAQ

Why were family service hours started this year and how were the requirements determined?

Parent involvement is an integral part of what makes St. Thomas More School successful. For several years the Parents Association (P.A.) had been asking to have service hours put into place, so that all families would participate at a minimum level. In the fall of 2014, a sub-committee of the School Advisory Council was created to address the service hour topic. The committee talked to members of the P.A. concerning parent participation and projected service needs. Then they looked into what other schools in the diocese were doing concerning service hours/fundraising requirements. Several things were noted:

- All schools had some type of service hour/fundraising requirement
- On average, parents were required to work 20 hours
- Many gave credit only for working school fundraisers and specific school related activities (for example Cafeteria and Library)

Based on this information, it was decided that the requirement would be 20 service hours. It was also determined that the credit hour focus would be on fundraising activities and specific school related activities.

This meant that no credit would be given for extra-curricular activities. As the discussion continued, it was agreed that the extra-curricular activities fall out of the normal specific school related activities, but that these activities play a role in the development of the whole child. Therefore, it was decided to give some service hour credit (maximum of 5 hours) for helping in areas such as the play, Athletics, Science Olympiads etc.

At the end of the school year, the policy will be reviewed and any needed adjustments of the policy or on the tracking of the hours will be made.

Turn in Service Hour Form Before Christmas Break

All families are asked to **turn in their Service Hour Form** before Christmas break on **December 18th**, to the school office. The information will be entered and families will receive a status report in January listing their remaining hours and a list of upcoming opportunities. It will also provide information to create statistics on hours served to date.



Week of December 7, 2015

Weekly Menu

Daily Menu

Monday, December 7

Chicken Nuggets
Macaroni & Cheese
Broccoli/Peas, Pears, Milk

Monday Volunteers

Susanne Kinsella
Maria Cano
Agnes Nahnsen

Tuesday, December 8

Hot Dog/ Chili Dog
Baked Beans, Cucumber Slices, Dip
Mixed Fruit, Fruit Snacks, Milk

Tuesday Volunteers

Alice Balbo
Becky Kirsch
Victoria Kemp

Wednesday, December 9

Chicken Tacos or
Beef Taco Sticks/Salsa
Lettuce, Cheese
Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Wednesday Volunteers

Laura Guerrero-Gay,
Amanda Ponce de Leon
Brandy Huss

Thursday, December 10

Christmas Celebration!
Baked Ham, Hash Brown Triangle
Carrots/Corn
Bagel & Cream Cheese
Apple Crisp/Applesauce, Milk

Thursday Volunteers

Julie Dannis
Carly Olczak
Charlene Savarino

Friday, December 11

Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce
Cheese Stick, Green Beans/Salad Mix
Mozzarella Cheese Toast, Peaches, Milk

Friday Volunteers

Cristina Tumacder
Susan Payne
Jim Sweeney

Ala Carte

Salads: Large - \$2.30 Small - \$1.85
Yogurt: \$.70
Milk: \$.50
Water: \$.50

Reminders

- **Menu subject to change**
- **Hot Lunch Prices:**
Student - \$ 2.00
Adult - \$ 2.60
- **Cash or Check Payments Accepted**
Checks made out to STM are accepted.
- **Families with more than one student**
Eating hot lunch are encouraged to send in ONE check (or cash) in one envelope.
Money will be divided between siblings accordingly.
- **There is a \$10.00 charge limit per account**
If students do not bring in money after 5 charges, they will not be allowed in the hot lunch line until payment is made. However, students will be offered a cheese sandwich if they have nothing else to eat.
- **Students should turn in payment in a SEALED envelope labeled as follows:**

Lunch Money
Student's First & Last Name
Homeroom Teacher's Name
Amount Enclosed
- Check the St. Thomas More School website for the Monthly Menu under the tab: "Student/Nutrition".
- Check the weekly Barrister for the weekly menu and volunteer list.
- Go to www.myschoolbucks.com to check your student's account balances and to make credit card payments.



Do you need to burn off some energy and get a great workout in the process?
Parents, do you need some time off to recover from Winter Break?

Then get ready for an evening of . . .

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8th from 6-10pm STM GYM!

All you have to do is fill out this permission form with \$10 per player and return to Agnes Nahnsen before Friday, December 11th.

Teams of 6-10 players will be formed based on the number of participants. **NO WALK-INS!** You will be notified of your team assignment posted in the cafeteria before Christmas break (*co-ed teams, divisions 5/6th grade, 7/8th grade and STM alumni/parents/faculty*) **As a team you will come up with a name. All teams will receive team colored bandanas** (*Teams may embellish their "uniform" with the same color/design shirts, or socks, hats, etc . . . for team spirit.*) Awards will be given to the team with the most creative team spirit. Games will be run according to **National Amateur Dodgeball Association regulations**. Spectators are welcome to cheer on the teams.

Snacks included. Concessions available. All proceeds support STM Science Olympiad.

Contact Agnes for more information at agnieszka1971@yahoo.com or 805-0465.

PERMISSION SLIP

I give my child _____ permission to participate in the Dodgeball Tournament. As with most sports, I understand that there is a risk of injury and will not hold the school responsible. Injuries will be treated with basic first aid and parent/guardian will be contacted. **Checks to STM-Science Olympiad.**

Grade/Teacher _____ Gender _____

This adult wants to play _____

This adult can chaperone/help (2-4 hours) _____

Contact info: email/phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Parent Signature

Date

