

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
"Building a Strong Foundation in Faith and Knowledge"

*1719 Post Road
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Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

I sincerely hope this e-mail finds you and your family well during these trying and uncertain times. Please know that you are in my daily prayers, and on behalf of myself and our faculty and staff we wish to thank you for your tireless efforts in our Distance Learning program.

At this time I would like to provide you with some important updates. As all Connecticut schools are closed for the remainder of the year, our Distance Learning program will remain in place until Friday, June 5 for Grade 8 students and Friday, June 12 for Grades Pre-K - 7. In compliance with state and local health protocols, all previously scheduled school social gatherings from now until the end of school will remain cancelled.

With that said, I completely understand how disappointed our graduating Grade 8 students and their families must feel. Perhaps you heard during one of my daily morning Facebook announcements this week that once it is safe to do so, we will hold a commencement ceremony for the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Class of 2020. Right now, we are looking at inviting back our graduates for an early to mid-fall Sunday graduation Mass and commencement exercises. Additional details are forthcoming to provide ample planning time, but please know that the school administration and faculty will do everything within our power to ensure our Grade 8 students receive the recognition they rightly deserve while maintaining health and safety protocols.

This year, all middle school students will be exempt from their final exams. Regardless of this fact, all students will continue addressing their Distance Learning studies in an earnest manner, i.e. regular and prompt attendance to virtual lessons, completing and returning work on time, as well as studying for their scheduled quizzes and tests.

Please join me in recognizing the following Grade 4 and 5 students who recently and successfully competed in the Connecticut Math League Competition! The top three scorers in Grade Four: Henry, Ellie, and Jace. In Grade Five: Ava M., Ava C. and Caellum. Students who qualified for the national competition in Grade 4: Ellie, Jace, and Henry. Students who qualified for the national competition in Grade 5: Maria, Gianluca, Ava C., Ritko, Abby, Caellum and Ava M. Our heartiest congratulations to our students as we are very proud of them and their accomplishments! Thank you and congratulations as well to their Mathematics teacher Mr. Paul Piorek for his work and dedication to his students and their families - job well done Mr. Piorek!

Despite the fact that we have been out of our school building the past several weeks, we would like to recognize and thank Mr. Tom Davis for the repair and painting work he has and continues to complete in our numerous classroom and hallways. Students, faculty, staff and parents will be pleasantly surprised by Mr. Davis' work once we are back in school.

You may have read or heard that this is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Traditionally, Catholic educators are recognized and thanked during National Catholic Schools Week that was observed last January 26th - February 1st. However, I am sure we continue to be thankful for our excellent and dedicated St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School teachers. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers.

Nearly 100 years ago this September, the first students and teachers of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School (then known as St. Thomas Parochial School) began their classes and started a legacy of outstanding Catholic education that we are blessed to have and nurture. During the past century our school has faced many challenges and, in turn has emerged stronger and more dedicated to our faith and mission. With this in mind, let us reflect with comforting reassurance upon the prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola;

Teach us, Dear Lord,
To serve You as You deserve.
To give and not count the cost.
To struggle and not heed the wounds.
To toil and not seek for rest.
To labor and not ask for any reward
Except that of knowing that we do Your Will.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

Respectfully,
Patrick D. Higgins, Ed.D.
Principal
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School