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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

St. Thomas Aquinas Principal's Report

Introductions: STA Admin Team - 2020-2021

Ian Stang - Principal I have spent the last five years working as a high school Vice-Principal, and have had the privilege of serving both St. Joseph High School and Notre Dame High School in this capacity. Prior to working as a Vice-Principal, I taught for 13 years at the middle school level, spending seven years at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School as a grade 8 Math and Science teacher and prior to that teaching junior high Math, Science and Physical Education in Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division in Okotoks. I feel honored to return to STA; I attended STA as a student and spent time working here as a student teacher in the spring of 2002. I am a proud husband and father of three. My wife Jillian is a Business Analyst with Alberta Health Services and my oldest child Emmett is 8 years old and attends Holy Family School. My daughter Lyla is 6 years old and my son Merek will be 4 in September.

Mike Kelly - Vice Principal This year is Mike's fifth year as Vice-Principal of STA. Prior to working as a Vice-Principal here, Mike worked for 15 years as a Vice-Principal and teacher at Notre Dame High School. Mike enjoyed his summer break by completing renovation projects around his house. In addition, he enjoyed time camping with his wife Jo-Ann, and children Kendra, Ava, Joshua, and Jamison. Kendra will be completing her 2nd year at U of A starting in the fall. Ava and Josh will both attend Notre Dame. Jamison will be a grade 7 student at STA!

Kristie McCullough - Vice Principal Kristie has been an administrator and teacher with Red Deer Catholic for the past 22 years, most recently serving as Vice-Principal of St. Martin de Porres elementary school. Kristie spent her summer teaching summer school, golfing, hiking and enjoying family time with her husband and three children, Kristie is married to Chris, who is the Vice Principal of St. Teresa of Avila School. Megan is Kristie's oldest child and graduated from Notre Dame this past June and will be

attending RDC in the fall. Morgan will attend Notre Dame High School this fall as a grade 10 student and Mya is in grade 7 at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School.

2020-2021 Enrollment

Grade 6

Grade 7

Grade 8

Grade 9

Six classes - 165

Five classes - 141

Six classes - 168

Five classes - 155

Total - 629

"Learning, Loving and Growing with Christ."

A few items to highlight:

Opening Liturgy conducted on Sept 30th

Celebrated Orange Shirt Day on Sept 30 -
Deneen Hawryszko - winner of the Orange Shirt
Logo Contest

Thanksgiving Celebration rescheduled
- Tentative Date - Oct 28th.

| Halloween Theme Week / Art
Contest

Week of
Welcome

RCMP Digital Citizenship Guest Speaker -
Date TBA

Grade 6 - Downie Wenjack Fund Project - One of the goals of the project is to help students to improve their awareness of Indigenous people, their culture and of the connections that exist between all Canadians. Themes include - Pillars of Democracy, Residential Schools, Responsibility to be good global citizens.

What's New at St. Thomas?

Use of St. Benedict's Centre - STA/JPII

Outreach

COVID Protocols Include: Direction of travel arrows, N Lockers, Use of Staggered Entrances and Exits, Staggered Dismissal

New Portables to be functional by mid October

Athletics and Options being offered in modified form - Cohort Model,

80 At Home Learners

Digital Week at a Glance (SMORE)- Distributed at the end of each week

No Provincial Achievement Exams this year.

End of Day Blessing: "May the Lord Bless you and Keep you, May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you all with favour and grant you peace .

School Focus Areas

- Practice acts of Gratitude - Postcards, Circle of Courage student recognition, Super Saint Staff Award.

Faith Focus on permeating our daily lessons with our Catholic faith. Staff will continue to explore

Justice and Hospitality as two key characteristics of Catholic Identity. Work to support the learning progression of students that is related to school closure. This will be accomplished as teachers create detailed class profiles and then collaborate on best practices to support all of our learners. Teachers are working to align their instruction with one another and with their Google Classrooms. Continue to help our students understand Indigenous teachings by making use of Talking Circles, by having our grade 6 students participate in our Tipi teachings lessons and by continuing to teach our

students about the four themes
of the Circle of Courage:

Belonging - Grade 6,

Generosity - Grade 7,

Independence - Grade 8, Mastery
- Grade 9.

Teachers Exploring Vertical Curriculum
Alignment.

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School Report Card

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