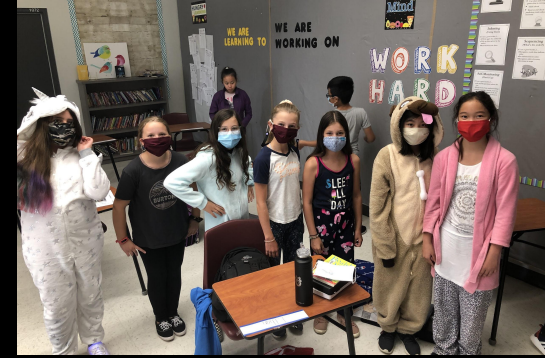


# Welcome to



**ST. THOMAS**  
**AQUINAS**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL





# Prayer and Acknowledgement of the Land :



**ST. THOMAS**  
**AQUINAS**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



**ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Introductions:



## STA Office Team



**Mr. Stang**  
Principal



**Mr. Kelly**  
Vice - Principal



**Mrs. McCullough**  
Vice - Principal



**Mr. Heck**  
Director of Alternate  
Programming

**Administrative  
Assistants**



**Mrs. Duncan**



**Ms Heisler**



**Mrs. Coumont**

# Introductions:

## STA Counselling Team



Mr. Chauvet  
Counsellor



Mrs. Lawrance  
Counsellor



Mrs. Wilson  
FSEC





ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

# School Population 2021-2022:



- 6 classes of grade 6
  - 6 classes of grade 7
  - 5 classes of grade 8
  - 5 classes of grade 9
- ~607 students with 50 staff members~





# Learning, Loving, And Growing in Christ



It is our priority at STA to create a safe, caring and welcoming learning environment for all of our students that is rooted in Catholic values. Attending STA in person or as an online learning student will provide your child with the opportunity to develop a strong faith in God while also receiving a quality middle school education.

Safe

CARING

Welcoming



ST. THOMAS  
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# Learning, Loving, And Growing in Christ



- Close Link to our Parishes
- Our liturgical plan includes:
  - Celebrations during liturgical seasons
  - Catholic permeation as part of lesson plans
  - Faith retreats
  - Our faith is visible in our school
- Sacramental Preparation in collaboration with the parishes



# What is Online Learning?

- Online learning is a program where students will receive all of their educational instruction online from specialized teachers, offering an ability to access quality learning activities and content in a flexible timetable and format.
- Research indicates that online learning increases motivation for students allowing them to work at a pace that matches their learning needs.
- RDCRS recognizes that students who are elite athletes, performers, students who suffer from chronic illness, students and families who choose this as an effective way to meet their learning needs may look to select online learning.





# Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning



- RDCRS believes that like any skill, online learning requires increased support and guidance and as students gain experience, confidence and success, more independence can be afforded to students.
- Recognizing that high school students often require online learning for increased flexibility in their schedule due to high level activities, work, outside commitments.
- The online program in middle school will help students gain the online learning skills they require to facilitate a more Asynchronous learning environment.

# Structure

- Class work is rolled out on a week-by-week basis (Week-at-a-Glance), with due dates for assignments on Fridays.
- In addition to instruction, teachers will have designated office hours, which is a time students can connect with them via email, video chat or phone call in real time and receive a prompt response.
- School hours are from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. school days, and will follow the traditional RDCRS calendar.
- Students can schedule in-person meetings with their teachers at St. Benedict
- Students are required to have their own device, we recommend a Chromebook, laptop, or desktop computer. Tablets and ipads are not recommended.
- Students will take a full course load consisting of Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Religion, Health, Physical Education, and CTS courses.



# Learning Platform: Schoology



- Schoology is our new Learning Management System and it will be the platform for online learning.
- Schoology will be how students access their courses, complete assignments and assessments, communicate with their teachers and engage in class discussions.
- Schoology offers students many opportunities to demonstrate their learning, through voice recordings, videos, and more.
- Schoology also integrates with PowerSchool, and all other online tools we use in RDCRS.



ST. THOMAS  
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# Characteristics of a successful Online Learner



- Organized
- Independent and Self Directed
- Self Advocacy - Students can and will need to ask for help when necessary.
- Having a dedicated work space within the home.
- Having access to required learning materials:
  - Functional computer, Desk, School supplies
- Having the discipline to follow a daily routine:
  - For example - Breakfast, School work, Exercise, Lunch, School work etc.



# Assessment / Reporting

The primary purpose for assessment is to:

- Communicate learning progress to students and parents.
- Identify which students did or did not master specific essential standards and subsequently develop strategies to help students improve their mastery of the learning outcomes.
- Identify the instructional practices that did or did not improve learning
- Determine how students will use results to understand their progress toward meeting essential standards.
- Parents and students will be able to view the Gradebook in Schoology

# Staffing / Student Support

- Our staffing allocation is dependent upon the number of students who enrol in the program. As an example, proposed staffing allocation based on 20 students in each grade level might look like:

Teacher 1 - Grade 6-7 Math/Science

Teacher 2 - Grade 8-9 Math/Science

Teacher 3 - Grade 6-7 Language Arts and Social Studies

Teacher 4 - Grade 8-9 Language Arts and Social Studies

- Social Emotional Counsellors - Mrs. Lawrance, Mr. Chauvet, Mrs. Wilson (FSEC)
- Inclusive Lead Teachers (ILT) - Ms. Groenen, Mrs. Mamer
- School Administration - Mr. Stang, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. McCullough
- Director of Alternative Programming - Mr. Heck

# Questions and Answers:

## - Q & A



# Blended Programming

- Blended programming is a program offering that we as a school community are willing to explore offering to students who may require it. An example of a student who might be a candidate for blended programming would be an elite athlete who is required to attend training sessions during the school day, and for that reason is unable to attend all of their classes within an in-person environment.
- These learning scenarios will be coordinated with families on a case by case basis through school administration and the director of alternative programming. These scenarios will potentially be offered on a case by case basis where/if applicable.

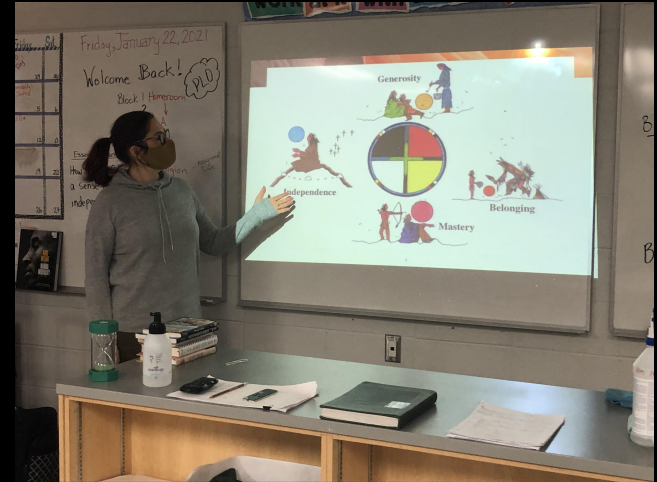


# Extra-Curricular

- St. Thomas offers a number of extra-curricular activities that students registered in the online learning program will have the opportunity to participate in. These activities include:
  - Volleyball
  - Basketball
  - Badminton
  - Track and Field
  - Cross Country Running
  - Handball
  - Ski Club



# Circle of Courage:





# Opportunities for Parents to get Involved at STA:



- Use PowerSchool/Schoology to keep up to date on your child's process. We ask parents to check this site weekly
- Stay informed with the "Week at a Glance"
- School Council – Meets every second month – we need volunteers for next year!
- Parents are always welcome at any celebration.

# Registration vs Transition

- Unlike with our school division's online learning program the last two years, this program is a school of choice program, which means:
  - It is funded as a division program.
  - Will not allow students to transition into and out of the program during the school year. Once students are registered in the program, they remain for the duration of the school year.
  - Registration for the program occurs in the fall, just like all schools within RDCRS.
- Registration is now open and can be found on our division website.
- To register your child for the Online Learning Program, students will need to enroll at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School by clicking [here](#).



# Questions and Answers:



# Thank-you and have a Great Evening!

## End of day blessing

### Contact Information:

St.Thomas Aquinas Office - 403-346-8951

Mr.Stang - ext. 251502 - [ian.stang@rdcrs.ca](mailto:ian.stang@rdcrs.ca)

Mr. Kelly - ext. 251503 - [mike.kelly@rdcrs.ca](mailto:mike.kelly@rdcrs.ca)

Mrs. McCullough - ext. 251504 - [kristie.mccullough@rdcrs.ca](mailto:kristie.mccullough@rdcrs.ca)

Mr. Heck - 403-314-9382 ext. 420126 - [brandon.heck@rdcrs.ca](mailto:brandon.heck@rdcrs.ca)

School Website - [www.staschool.ca](http://www.staschool.ca)

Social Media - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

