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August 29, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings parents and students of St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School (STA). I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As we start the 2022-2023 school year, I would like to welcome everyone back for another exciting year and would like to offer a special welcome to all of the families that are new to our community. My name is Ian Stang and as the Principal of the school, I look forward to working with you all again this year in an effort to learn from you and alongside you so that together we can continue to proudly proclaim our Catholic Christian faith and continue to achieve academic excellence.

Myself, Mr. Mike Kelly and Mrs. Kristie McCullough will make up our school administration team for the 2022-2023 school year. Mike is excited to be returning to the hallways and classrooms of STA. He will be entering his 7th year as Vice Principal of STA and his 12th year as an administrator with Red Deer Catholic. Kristie will be joining us for her third year at STA, and will be entering her 8th year as a Vice Principal with Red Deer Catholic. I have no doubt that the wealth of experience and the energy that our Administration team brings to the halls of STA will continue to serve our community well as we work to ensure that your child has a positive middle school experience.

Please take a moment to read over the information provided below so that together we can ensure that our school year get's off to a great start. We look forward to meeting you all throughout the school year, and we wish you all continued safety and rejuvenation as the first day of school approaches.

God Bless,

Ian Stang
Principal

<p>What day is the first day of school?</p>	<p>Students with last names starting with the letters A-L will attend school on Thursday, September 1, and students with last names starting with the letters M-Z will attend school on Friday, September 2nd. All students will attend regularly scheduled classes on Tuesday, September 6.</p>
<p>Can I bring my child to school on the first day?</p>	<p>Yes, you are more than welcome to drop off your child on the first day. We are asking all students to report to their assigned location no later than 8:40am where they will be met by their homeroom teacher.</p>
<p>What does the first day of school look like?</p>	<p>Your child's homeroom teacher will email you and your child on August 31st at 4:00pm to introduce themselves and to provide you with details pertaining to where your child will meet them on Thursday, September 1st, and on Friday, September 2nd. Please ensure that your child is at their assigned location no later than 8:40am. Grade level locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grade 6 - South West entrance (students will meet their homeroom teacher outside) - Grade 7 - South East entrance (students will meet their homeroom teacher outside) - Grade 8 - North side of school / Front lawn (students will meet their homeroom teacher outside) - Grade 9 - Front doors - Grade 9 students may enter the school after 8:40. Upon entering the school through the front doors, Grade 9 students will need to proceed to their assigned classroom where their homeroom teacher will meet them.
<p>What supplies does my child need?</p>	<p>We are asking that all students bring an appropriate number of supplies Supply List</p>
<p>Will my child have a locker?</p>	<p>Students will be assigned their locker at some point in the first few days of school. School supplies, lunches and backpacks will need to be stored in lockers.</p>

<p>If my child forgets his/her lunch or supplies can I drop them off?</p>	<p>Yes, please proceed through the front doors and report to the main office.</p>
<p>Will my child have options this year?</p>	<p>Yes, students will participate in an A option and a B option each term. Students will be surveyed during the first few days of school to ensure that we are aware of their option preferences before they are assigned to their designated options. Regularly scheduled option classes will begin the week of September 6.</p>
<p>When will the ball academy start?</p>	<p>Ball Academy will officially begin on the week of September 6. Equipment can be stored at STA beginning the week of September 6.</p>
<p>Will extra-curricular activities be taking place?</p>	<p>Yes, all extra-curricular activities are scheduled to take place this year. STA offers junior and senior Volleyball and Basketball teams as well as Badminton, Track and Field, Ski Club, Cross Country Running, Team Handball and Band. Of note, all junior and senior Volleyball, Basketball and Team Handball teams were sporting brand new uniforms last year - be sure to get involved and try out for all of our Saints teams!</p>
<p>Will field trips be taking place?</p>	<p>Yes, field trips are scheduled to take place this year.</p>
<p>Will the cafeteria be operating?</p>	<p>Yes, we encourage pre-ordering of lunches to help minimize wait times. Monthly menus will be available on our website.</p>
<p>Does STA have a student cell phone policy?</p>	<p>Yes, Please see relevant parent communication that was shared in November 2021 when the policy was implemented - https://www.staschool.ca/sta-cell-phone-policy</p>
<p>What will lunch recess look like?</p>	<p>Lunch recess will continue to be staggered. With the Grade 8/9 students going out first followed by the Grade 6/7. <u>STA is a closed campus meaning students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during the school day.</u></p>

Does STA offer a “Meet the Teacher” evening?	Yes, our Meet the Teacher evening is scheduled for Thursday, September 8th from 6:30-7:30pm.
Can you provide School Fee Information?	<p>Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools will be accepting online payments starting September 19, 2022 through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Additionally, STA office staff will continue to accept cash or cheque for payment of fees as required beginning September 1. School fees remain unchanged:</p> <p>\$15 - School Council \$25 CTS Option Fee</p> <p>Transportation invoices will be sent as required beginning in October.</p>
If I want more information about the school, where can I locate it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School website: https://www.staschool.ca/ - Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram @StThomasRD - Ensure that you are receiving our week at a glance via email every Friday afternoon at 4:30pm. If you are not receiving this communication, please contact the main office at 403-346-8951 to ensure that we have your up to date email address. - Attend our parent council meetings every other month.
<p>2022-2023 School Division Faith Theme:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture and Serve”</p>	