



Meet the St.Thomas Aquinas Middle School Staff 2022-2023

School Administration / Office Team		
Principal Mr.Stang	 A headshot of a man with a shaved head, smiling, wearing a dark jacket over a blue shirt and tie. He is standing in front of red school lockers.	My name is Ian Stang and I am extremely excited to be joining you again this year as the principal of St.Thomas Aquinas Middle School (STA). I look forward to working with you all 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. Prior to joining STA as the principal in 2020, I spent 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. I am honored to be back at STA; I attended STA as a student and spent time here working as a student teacher back in 2002. One of our primary goals this school year is to continue to enhance our school's Safe, Caring and Welcoming culture, and I have no doubt that we will be successful in this endeavor as we continue to remain connected and collaborative in all of our efforts. Have a great year!
Vice-Principal Mrs. McCullough	 A headshot of a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a black top with a white floral pattern. She is standing in front of red school lockers.	This year marks my 24th year of teaching. I am blessed to have taught in all levels: elementary, middle school and high school. This is my 3rd year at St. Thomas as one of the Vice-Principals. I believe creating positive relationships is the most important part of being an educator. Getting to know students, parents and staff helps to create a welcoming school climate. I look forward to connecting with all of you this school year. You can reach me at: kristie.mccullough@rdcrs.ca

Vice-Principal

Mr. Kelly





This year I begin my 21st year of teaching and 7th year at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School. Prior to STA, I was a teacher and Vice-Principal at Notre Dame High School. In addition to my current role as VP, I also teach Physical Education to the 75 and 85 homeroom classes. My roles of teacher and administrator allow me to build strong connections with the students, staff and parents of our school community. Please feel free to contact me at mike.kelly@rdcrs.ca if you have any questions or concerns. Best wishes on a successful school year!

Secretary

Mrs. Coumont



This is my 3rd year at St. Thomas and my 5th year with the division. I handle reception duties in the office and am very excited to meet all of our new students as well as welcome back our returning ones. Wishing everyone a great 2022-2023 school year!

<p>Financial Secretary</p> <p>Mrs. Duncan</p>		<p>Hello! This is my 7th year here at St. Thomas. Students and Families can find me in the front office. Primarily, I take care of your school fees. If you have any questions I can be reached at carla.duncan@rdcrs.ca I hope all of our students have a wonderful 2022-23 school year.</p>
<p>Student Demographics Secretary</p> <p>Ms. Heisler</p>		<p>2022-2023 is the start of my 22nd year with Red Deer Catholic and my 6th year at St. Thomas.. I know some of our families from my time at St. Teresa of Avila Elementary School. I primarily look after PowerSchool and student enrollment. I am always happy to answer your questions and do whatever I can to help you out. Feel free to contact me at kathy.heisler@rdcrs.ca or 403-346-8951.</p>

Counselling Team

Mrs.
Lawrance



This year marks my 21st year of teaching and my second year at St. Thomas Aquinas. My primary role at the school is as counsellor, but I am also fortunate to be able to connect with students in the classroom through mental health presentations, as well as, teaching a grade 6 art option and 8-2 and 8-3 Religion classes. I look forward to getting to know students and families and building positive relationships to support children in their education and mental health. My door is always open to provide support and a listening ear. If you wish to contact me, I can be reached at tara.lawrance@rdcrs.ca.

Mr.
Chauvet



Greetings from the counselling department! This is my 3rd year as counsellor here at St. Thomas, 6th year at the school and the 33rd year of my teaching journey with students in 3 Red Deer Catholic schools. Through this role I get to meet with many kids and parents as well as promote positive mental health in various ways. I also am privileged to teach P.E. to the 6-6 and 8-6 classes. Healthy relationships and successful students are what STA is all about. Please know that there is help available if you need it. I can be contacted at leo.chauvet@rdcrs.ca.

Mrs.
Wilson

Family
School
Enhancement
Counsellor
(FSEC)



Hello! This is my 5th year as a Family School Enhancement Counsellor here at St Thomas. It's a blessing to be able to continue to support our school community and its families. I look forward to continuing to make connections, supporting mental health and helping to foster healthy families. Please feel free to reach out karen.wilson@rdcrs.ca

Inclusive Lead Teacher (ILT) Team

Mrs.
Meyer



This year is my 16th year of teaching and my second year at St. Thomas Aquinas. I have been at various schools within our division over the course of my career. I am one of the Inclusion Lead Teacher members who works to support all the students in our school in terms of academic needs and specifically providing literacy support and strategies to teachers and students. I look forward to all the adventures and learning that this year has to offer. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach me at: melissa.meyer@rdcrs.ca




Ms.
Groenen






Welcome to STA! I was called into teaching 28 years ago and have taught at St. Teresa, St. Patrick's, Camille and I am in my 8th year at STA. Although I have been a teacher of every grade in the past, I am now in grade 8 and 9 and I'm loving it! In the past I have coached basketball and have recently added team handball to my coaching career. My passion for handball comes from watching 2 of my 3 children play at an international level. It is an amazing sport - google it!




I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to be with your children on a daily basis. Blessings, Groenen



P.E. Team		
Ms. Clarke		<p>This year marks my 9th year teaching Physical Education here at St. Thomas. I teach grades 6,7, 8, and 9 PE. This year I will also be taking on the role as STA's Athletic Director where I will be overseeing all of our offered extra curriculars. I am looking forward to being involved coaching several of our offered sports teams such as jr boys volleyball, sr boys basketball, and badminton. I look forward to building connections and keeping the students here at St. Thomas as active as possible! Please feel free to contact me at meagan.clarke@rdcrs.ca if you have any questions or concerns.</p>
Mr. Mulder		<p>Hello, this is my 20th year of teaching and 9th here at St. Thomas. I teach grades 6, 7, 8, 9 PE and the grade 7 Construction option. I will be coaching volleyball, basketball and badminton again. I look forward to another year of building relationships with students and families to help create an excellent learning environment. I can be reached at karl.mulder@rdcrs.ca if you have any questions or concerns.</p>

	Grade 6	
6-1 Mrs. Babey	 A photograph of Mrs. Babey, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black turtleneck and a white sailor's cap. She is standing in front of three red lockers labeled 'SAINTS 052', 'SAINTS 053', and 'SAINTS 054'.	This year marks my 18th year of teaching with Red Deer Catholic. I started my career in Rocky Mountain House where I taught elementary and middle school. This is my 7th year teaching grade 6 language arts and social studies at STA. Building strong relationships with students, creating an inclusive & safe learning space and providing students with voice & choice are my priorities every year. I look forward to the many adventures we will have this school year. Teamwork makes the dream work! If you have questions or concerns, please email me at charmaine.babey@rdcrs.ca
6-2 Mrs. Trieber	 A portrait photograph of Mrs. Trieber, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark jacket.	This year marks my 24th year with Red Deer Catholic. I began my career at St. Thomas and have taught in several different schools over the years. I have taught in all levels: elementary, middle school and high school. I have taught overseas for a year, as well I have also been a school counselor and Vice - Principal throughout my years of teaching. This is my 3rd year back at St. Thomas teaching 6-1 and 6-2 Math and Science. I look forward to the school year and getting to know the students and parents. You can reach me at: tracy.trieber@rdcrs.ca .
6-3 Ms. Holmes	 A portrait photograph of Ms. Holmes, a woman with long, wavy reddish-brown hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a purple sweater.	This year is my 16th year with Red Deer Catholic and my 8th at St. Thomas. I have taught grades 4-9 during my time with the division, and am excited to be back in grade 6 this year teaching LA and Social Studies to 6-3 and 6-4, as well as Band. I'm looking forward to getting to know parents and students throughout the year. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to me at kellie.holmes@rdcrs.ca .

<p>6-4</p> <p>Ms. Kostura</p>		<p>This is my fourth year teaching with Red Deer Catholic and my first at St. Thomas! I am so excited to be teaching 6-3 and 6-4 Math and Science. I was previously teaching at Holy Family for three years, so I may be a familiar face to a few of you. I look forward to learning alongside you, fostering strong relationships with students, and helping every learner reach their fullest potential. My door is always open for a chat or just a quick hello. If you would like to reach me, please don't hesitate to contact me at rebecca.kostura@rdcrs.ca</p>
<p>6-5</p> <p>Mrs. Turner</p>		<p>Hello everyone! My name is Mrs. Turner and I teach grade 6 Language Arts and Social Studies to 6-5 and 6-6. As well as Religion, Options and Fine Arts. This is my 4th year of teaching with Red Deer Catholic and you may recognize me from Maryview School, just next door to St. Thomas! That is where I was teaching before moving to St. Thomas. Please know that my classroom (1062) is always open if you need a listening ear. I look forward to getting to know all of the students in St. Thomas and watch them grow and learn this year! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out by emailing me at Katherine.monaghan@rdcrs.ca</p>

<p>6-6</p> <p>Mr. Chatwood</p>		<p>Welcome to STA! My names Mr. Chatwood. This is my first year teaching here at STA, however I am going into my ninth year teaching as I spent the last 9 in the public system here in Red Deer. I teach grade 6 Math, Science, PE, as well as the junior high baseball academy. I am very eager to get into the classroom this year and onto the ball field as well! I look forward to meeting everyone and to get to know all the staff, students, and parents here at St. Thomas! If you need anything email me at jaret.chatwood@rdcrs.ca</p>
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	Grade 7	
7-1 Mrs. Dyvig	 A portrait of Mrs. Dyvig, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a blue top and a black cardigan. Behind her is a teal wall with several framed signs, including one that says 'love' and another that says 'DREAM BIG'.	<p>This will be my 17th year teaching at St. Thomas, and my 6th year teaching Grade 7 humanities (LA & Social Studies). Originally from the NWT, I have lived in Red Deer for the past 20 years with my husband. We have 2 middle school aged children (Gr 8 & Gr 10), and spend most of our winter at the rink! I am so excited to get to know your kids and to learn with them. I want this year to be a memorable and enjoyable school year for your child. I want them to look forward to school, to know they belong, and to feel successful every single day.</p> <p>andrea.dyvig@rdcrs.ca</p>
7-2 Mrs. Geertsma	 A portrait of Mrs. Geertsma, a woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a teal sleeveless top. Behind her is a wall with various posters and a sign that says 'I Love the Sound of Silence'.	<p>I have been teaching at STA since 2014. Prior to that, I worked at a rural school division. I live in Red Deer county with my husband and two children on a generation farm. As a family we keep busy with farm life and sports. I am looking forward to another awesome, unique year in grade 7! Our classes are full of students with a great variety of personalities and I look forward to seeing each one shine through.</p> <p>debra.geertsma@rdcrs.ca</p>
7-3 Mrs. Melenchuk	 A portrait of Mrs. Melenchuk, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a white top. The background is a solid blue color.	<p>Mrs. Melenchuk</p> <p>This is my 18th year with Red Deer Catholic. I have taught Grades 3-12, but have spent the majority of my career teaching Grades 6 and 7 and love it. I teach 7-3 & 7-4 LA and Social. I also teach 7-3 Religion and Tech options. I live in Red Deer with my husband and two sons ages 7 & 9. We love to spend a lot of time outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, biking and skiing. I can't wait to get to know my students more throughout this year and am looking forward to another awesome year at STA! janelle.melenchuk@rdcrs.ca</p>

<p>7-4</p> <p>Mrs. Mamer</p>		<p>This is my 14th year of teaching and 10th year at STA! I have been lucky to teach most subjects from grades 5 to 9 however have spent most of my career teaching math and science. This year I am excited to be teaching 7.3 & 7.4 Math and Science. I also teach 7.4 Religion and grade 7 options. I am looking forward to getting to know all of my students. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child and can not wait to have a fun filled year! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach me at: melanie.mamer@rdcrs.ca</p>
<p>7-5</p> <p>Ms. Wing</p>		<p>This is my 14th or 15th year of teaching and 7th year at STA. I have also taught at St. Patrick's and St. Marguerite. I have been fortunate to teach many different grade levels and love all of them! I am currently teaching 7-5 and 8-6 English Language Arts and Social Studies. As well, I will be teaching Design Studies for grade 7 and 8. Here's to a great year! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me at shauna.wing@rdcrs.ca</p>



Ms. Lussier






Hi, I was once a student at STA many years ago and this year marks my return as a teacher! I have been with the division for 6 years working at Notre Dame and St. Elizabeth Seton and this is my first year here at STA. I am looking forward to working with the 7-5 class in Math, Science and Religion.

When I am not teaching I have 2 little girls (4 and 1) that keep me very busy outside of school.

Please contact me if you have any questions mallory.lussier@rdcrs.ca

Grade 8		
8-1 Mrs. Bowers	 A woman with dark hair, wearing a light blue denim jacket over a black shirt and grey pants, stands in a classroom. She is leaning against a wooden desk with her hands. Behind her is a bookshelf filled with books and a bulletin board with a colorful border.	Hi STA Community!! My name is Renee Bowers and this year, I am entering my 22nd year of teaching. This is however, my first year at St. Thomas also teaching Middle School. Something you should know about me is that I attended STA when I was a middle schooler way back when. This year, I am teaching Language Arts and Social Studies for 8-1 and 8-2. I look forward to working alongside so many great students, colleagues, and parents. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach me at: renee.bowers@rdcrs.ca . Let's GO Saints!!
8-2 Mr. Berry	 A man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a black hoodie, stands in a locker room. He is leaning against a red locker. The lockers have "SAINTS 264" and "SAINTS 262" stickers on them. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist.	Greetings to 81 and 82 students and parents of STA. I am responsible for sharing math, science, programming, and design studies with our kids. This is my 34th year of service (old as dirt) ... from junior high math/science to high school math/science, woodshop, construction technology, auto, welding, football and soccer. Thankfully Ms. Mason has stepped to be the oldest fixture in the school so I can abdicate that claim. Feel free to contact me at tom.berry@rdcrs.ca




<p>8-3</p> <p>Mrs. Rattan</p>		<p>Hello! My name is Katie Rattan and this is my 9th year with Red Deer Catholic. I teach 8-3 and 8-4 LA and Social. I also teach 8-3 P.E and Foods options. I live in Red Deer with my husband and 1 year old daughter. We love to spend a lot of time involved in sports. I am excited to be coaching junior girls volleyball this year. I look forward to another great year here at STA! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach me at: katherine.rattan@rdcrs.ca.</p>
<p>8-4</p> <p>Ms. Dorval</p>		<p>Hi there, my name is Jessica Dorval. This year I will be teaching 8.3 and 8.4 Math and Science. I will also be teaching Grade 8 and 9 options classes. I am so excited that I get to begin my second year of teaching here at STA. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone of my students. I hope to instill love and hope into all students through meaningful activities in the classroom. I am a believer in communication, communication can solve many things. With that being said, please reach out to me at jessica.dorval@rdcrs.ca</p>
<p>8-5</p> <p>Mrs. Mason</p>		<p>I have had the privilege of teaching at STA for the past 16 years. I am probably one of the oldest fixtures in the school at this point! I teach mainly LA and Social Studies with a little bit of Religion thrown in there. I am also the Faith Coach for our school and am in charge of organizing masses and liturgies. If you need to contact me feel free to send me an email at crystal.mason@rdcrs.ca</p>


8-6



Mrs. Van
Grinsven



I am so excited to be joining the STA community for my 4th year as a teacher! I have the pleasure of teaching grade 8 Math, Science, Religion and Health. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone, making lasting memories, having fun and learning lots! My favorite thing about teaching is establishing a safe, caring and engaging learning environment. It is my goal to instill the love I have for learning in all my students so that they can grow to be the best individuals they can be. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at kaitlyn.vangrinsven@rdcrs.ca

Grade 9		
9-1 Mrs. Blair		<p>Hello! I am excited to be a part of the Grade 9 team again this year. I am passionate about all things Social Studies and Language Arts. My goal is to pass this passion on to my students through delivering content to suit their learning needs and providing voice and choice in assignments. I view my classroom as a second family, so I hope your students feel safe and at home in our class. I encourage my students to reach their full potential and have fun in the learning process. I look forward to getting to know your students and families throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at dana.blair@rdcrs.ca.</p>
9-2 Mr. Adams		<p>This year marks my 16th year of teaching. I have been blessed to have taught all 16 years at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School. Similar to previous years, I will be teaching grade 9 math and science as well as grade 8 and 9 construction. My goal is to help each student achieve success and reach their full potential. Creating positive relationships and a safe environment allows for an optimal learning environment where students feel safe will assist in reaching their full potential. I look forward to connecting with all of you this school year. You may contact me at riley.adams@rdcrs.ca with any questions or concerns.</p>
9-3		<p>My name is Stephen Merredew and I am back for my third year here at STA teaching Grade 9 Humanities! Prior to joining STA, I spent 3 years teaching Social Studies and Religious Studies at St Joseph High School, and 6 years before that teaching Language Arts, Social Studies, CALM, and Religious Studies at Notre Dame High School. Prior to that, I taught all grade levels from K-12 across a variety of subjects in</p>

		<p>a number of school districts around Alberta. I look forward to sharing many valuable learning experiences with your child as part of our Social Studies, Language Arts, Religious Studies, and Options classes together. Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or information to share about your child via email at stephen.merredew@rdcrs.ca</p>
<p>9-4</p> <p>Mr. Carlos</p>		<p>I have been at STA for the past four years. Prior to this assignment I have done a tour of the Red Deer Catholic that has had stops in Sylvan, Blackfalds and both high schools. I have taught everything from Religion, Math, Science and Phys. Ed. I have also coached many school sports such as volleyball, basketball and high school curling. I am currently teaching Grade 9 Math, Science and Foods. As a former student at STA, I look forward to sharing my experiences and passion for history with the students and expect it to be an awesome year!</p> <p>joel.carlos@rdcrs.ca</p>

Online Teachers		
Mrs. Snyder		<p>I am excited for the opportunity to work in the online learning program this year. This is my 26-year teaching and I love it just as much as I did in the beginning. I have taught grades 3-9 and have a passion for working with students who have diverse learning needs. This year I will be primarily teaching grade 6 and 7 Social and LA.</p> <p>I am married and have two children. My husband and I have a love for the great outdoors. We spend a lot of time quading and camping in both summer and winter.</p> <p>I can be reached anytime at lucille.snyder@rdcrs.ca.</p> <p>Many blessings,</p> <p>Lucille Snyder</p>
Mr. Simsek		<p>This is my 17th year of teaching. I have taught Grades 7-12 in different provinces and territories (Quebec, Ontario, and Nunavut) before moving to Red Deer in 2016. This year, I will be teaching Grades 6-9 Math/ Science online courses. I enjoy being outdoors and playing sports including soccer and badminton.</p> <p>I am looking forward to a successful year at STA!</p> <p>mesut.simsek@rdcrs.ca</p>

Mr. Charlong



I've been teaching for a looong time (30+ years). I've taught grades K - 11, but mostly LA & Social 8 & 9 the past few years. This year I am teaching OLL gr 8/9 LA & Social, PE 6-9 and CTS 6-9. I love teaching, golfing, hiking, biking, and traveling the world. Contact me at patrick.charlong@rdcrs.ca

Educational Assistant Team

Mrs.
Englemann



This year is my 11th here at St. Thomas. I love working with kids, building relationships and making school a positive, fun place to be. I have worked with all grades 6 to 9 and this year I work jointly with grades 8 and 9. Looking forward to another fun filled year!

Mrs.
Wandler



Mrs.
Barnes



This is my 16th year as an EA. I am in my 6th year here at STA. I have worked the past four years in grade 6 and 7. This year I am looking forward to supporting students in grade 8 and 9. I am looking forward to a great year.

Mrs.
LaFrance



Mrs.
Harvey



Mrs.Lester



Mrs. Miller	
-------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Learning Commons	
Ms. Laing	

Cafeteria Team

Mrs.
Clarkson



Mrs.
McKersie



Maintenance

Ms.
Moores



