



SAINT THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Annual Report

2021-22

June 2022

Dear St. Thomas More Families, Community Members, & Friends:

Time flies when you're having fun! It is hard to believe but this past school year marked my fifth year as principal of our school since returning in the summer of 2017. As I reflect on the past five years, I am incredibly proud of our faculty and staff, students and families, as well as our larger parish community for all that we have accomplished as a community of faith. I need not mention how challenging the past two-plus years have been navigating the Covid-19 pandemic. However, this past school year we were able to return to a sense of normalcy and our school once again grew its enrollment with another very healthy kindergarten class, as well as quite a few transfer students. Our enrollment growth is the result of so many wonderful things happening in our parish and school.

Our school is blessed with a highly dedicated, talented, and professional faculty and staff who tirelessly serve the students of our school through their good work. I know that I am highly biased when I say this, but I believe our school has an exceptional faculty and staff that is unmatched by many schools. I know that many of our faculty and staff have commented to me over the past several years that they could not have successfully navigated the trials and tribulations of Covid without the support of their colleagues and our school community. I am a firm believer that people are what make a place special, and we certainly are blessed with outstanding people who serve our school families every day.

Speaking of students and families, we are all so richly blessed with kind, loving, inclusive, and welcoming students and families.. Our students truly know how to welcome the stranger and help anyone and everyone who joins our school family feel connected to our larger school family. In addition, our students live out each day what it means to be a student at a school in the Jesuit tradition. They are loving, open to growth, committed to excellence, religious, and committed to becoming young men and women for others who stand with and for others, particularly the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed.

As you review this report, you will read about what our school has accomplished in the past year and what is on the horizon for the year ahead. It is my hope that this annual report affirms all that you know and believe about our school, as well as provides you with hope for the future. We have accomplished much over the past five years, and we have much more to be optimistic about in the years ahead!

With Deep Gratitude,

Patrick A. Lofton, Ed.S.
Principal

Mission & Philosophy

Over the past academic year, our school's faculty and staff and our school advisory committee have spent time reviewing and updating our school's mission statement and philosophy to reflect our identity as a PreK-Grade 8 Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition. These statements summarize our goals and approaches as the Jesuit elementary school of Minnesota:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Thomas More Catholic School is to be a vibrant, inclusive, student-centered community built on shared values, service, and academic excellence rooted in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

St. Thomas More Catholic School prepares students to be leaders in an ever-changing world through an interdisciplinary, literacy-based education built upon three pillars:

SHARED VALUES

- educates students about the Catholic faith
- promotes Christian values
- inspires students to work for peace, justice, and inclusion
- builds within each child a commitment to living an active faith life

SERVICE

- builds awareness of the world beyond themselves by educating students about their local and global communities
- promotes service within the school and the larger community
- inspires students to volunteer their time, energy, and talent

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- recognizes each student's developmental needs and unique abilities
- promotes risk-taking and self-directed learning
- builds knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for success in high school and beyond
- inspires students to be lifelong learners

St. Thomas More Catholic School offers a Jesuit education to all students characterized by *cura personalis*, a personalized focus on the whole person: mind, spirit and body. By their graduation from 8th grade, our graduates exhibit the hallmarks of a Jesuit education: open to growth, committed to excellence, loving, religious, and committed to doing justice by standing with and for others.

The Year in Review: 2021-22 STM Strategic Initiatives

New Lunch Program



During the 2021-22 academic year, STM welcomed Agra Culture as our school's lunch provider. As you know from a previous communication, Agra Culture has restaurants in Edina and Saint Paul. The food ethos of Agra Culture is quite simple and powerful--- "Agra Culture was founded in Minnesota, prides itself in chef-crafted food as delicious as it is healthy. Dirty Dozen rules guide our organic product sourcing decisions. Our menu does not contain hormones, antibiotics or refined sugars."

In addition to Agra Culture, we contracted with Davanni's Pizza on Grand & Cleveland to provide a pizza lunch each Wednesday to St. Thomas More students. To say that Davanni's was a big hit would be an understatement. We know how much STM students love pizza!



Our lunch program also welcomed Ms. Reenie McGrade as its coordinator. Her warm and friendly disposition was well received by all in our school community. *As we look ahead to the 2022-23 academic year, we are in need of a new dining room supervisor from 10:30 to 1 pm daily. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact me (plofton@morecommunity.org).*

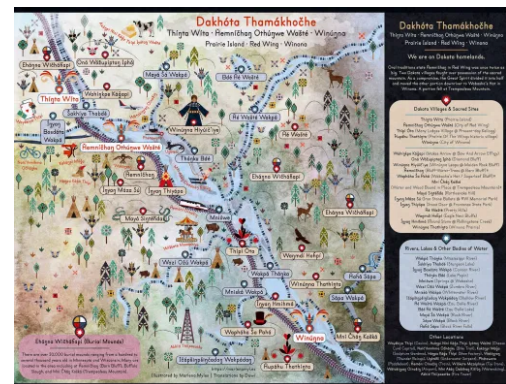


Cultural Competency & Antiracism Training

One of the goals of our school strategic plan is having a visible commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive, and innovative learning environment for all students through our classrooms, shared learning spaces, student behavior policies and practices, implementation of classroom technology and application of culturally sustaining practices.

Over the course of this school year, our staff participated in a number of workshops with Dr. Annie Mason who began working with our staff in June of 2021. Dr. Mason has helped facilitate conversation with our staff about how we can commit ourselves to growing our own knowledge and commitment around cultural competency and anti-racism, updating our curriculum to reflect more diverse voices and perspectives, and creating a school climate that truly embraces an increasingly diverse student population.

This year, our staff began examining how we might begin to integrate multiple perspectives into our school's curriculum. A few things that have come about in the past school year include the staff writing a Land Acknowledgement Statement and our school hanging framed maps in the first and second hallways of our school that show Twin Cities areas with their native Dakota names. In addition, our teachers have begun updating our literature in several grades in order to bring in more diverse perspectives. For instance, in the fourth grade our students were introduced to a new book entitled, *Home of the Brave*, that tells the story of a young boy who immigrated to Minnesota from Africa. This book tells the story of his adaptation to a new climate, culture, and people. The novel produced rich conversation among students about how they might feel moving to a new, unknown country, as well as what they can do to welcome the stranger in our own community. In the coming years, our staff will continue to work to bring in multiple perspectives to all subjects.



The Year in Review: 2021-22 STM Strategic Initiatives

Social-Emotional Needs of Students



On the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic and the multitude of social-emotional challenges that we have seen in children over the past two years, St. Thomas More has strived to think outside the box and develop a partnership with a group that can enhance our efforts around our social-emotional curriculum. This year St. Thomas More began a two year relationship with CLIMB Theater. CLIMB'S mission is to inspire and propel people toward actions that benefit themselves, each other, and their community through plays, classes, and other collaborative works. Through collaboration with our K-8 faculty, CLIMB Theater brought several customized plays and classes to every K-8 classroom at STM this spring. The focus of these classes was building accountability, resiliency, empathy, advocacy and self-control among our students. We look forward to CLIMB returning to our students during the 2022-23 school year. A special note of thanks to STM parent Anton Jones who is the Executive Director of CLIMB for being such an awesome partner and advocate for our school!

Expanding After School Programs

Building on the success of our after school Robotics Club, this year our school added an after school Theater Club led by Mr. Pollock and Ms. Dillon, as well as a Dungeons and Dragons Club led by Father RJ and Ms. Brown. Both of these new after school activities are popular with our older students and next year we plan to add a "Coding Club" after school for those students interested in learning how to code. More details will be forthcoming.

Enrollment 2021-22

During the 2020-21 academic year, our school enrollment was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In our elementary and middle school we saw growth as many new students transferred to STM from public and other private schools that were not offering in-person instruction. However, our preschool program saw a decrease in students as many families chose to keep their youngest children at home during this unprecedented year. As we look to the 2022-23 academic year, we anticipate having two sections of kindergarten again as well as growing our preschool, elementary, and middle school. Our continued growth is fueled by the good word that our families continue to share with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Please continue to spread the good word about St. Thomas More!



Children do not simply attend Saint Thomas More Catholic School—they belong.

The Year in Review: 2021-22 STM Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Partnerships

Piano

Two years ago we began to partner with the Hovland Conservatory of Music to offer private piano lessons before, during or after school. I am pleased to report that 29 STM students-nearly 10% of our student body-are now taking piano lessons as a result of this

partnership. If you are interested in having your child begin piano lessons, please visit their website to learn more:

<https://www.hovlandconservatory.org/>



University of St. Thomas Partner School

During the 2021-22 academic year, our school welcomed two students from the University of St. Thomas School of Education for their student teaching experience. Our school was selected to be a partner school because of the culture of learning that exists at STM, as well as the professionalism and competence of our highly respected teachers. Based on

my serving on the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Education as well as the Elementary Education Advisory Board, I know that many professors and administrators at the University of St. Thomas hold our school in high regard.

Groves Academy

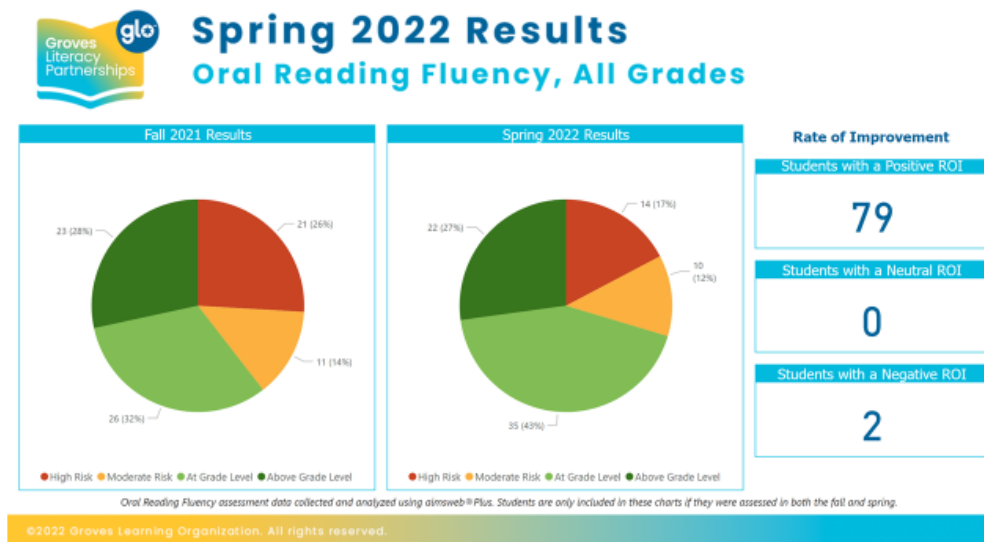
This year our school began the third year of a three year partnership with Groves Academy and the *Believe and Read* program. As you know from previous correspondence, we have chosen to partner with Groves Academy because they have a long and successful history of working with children around the Twin Cities who have reading disabilities, ADHD, and executive functioning challenges. Through a grant we received from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE), our K-3 teachers attended professional development throughout the year and received coaching from Carol Kimlinger, our school's Coordinator of Student Support Services who also serves as our in-house literacy coach. Through Carol's work and that of our

primary teachers, we are able to identify those students who have challenges with reading fluency in grades K-3 and determine the best course of intervention to help every student find success and work up to their potential. During the upcoming school year, the Believe & Read Program will become self-sustaining at our school with continued guidance and support from Groves Academy.



Assessment Information: STM Students Achieve More!

Believe & Read Program: The chart below shows how through the *Believe & Read* program, as well as the one on one support provided by Carol Kimlinger, our Coordinator of Student Support Services, our school assisted our youngest students in grades K-3 in their reading fluency over the course of the 2021-22 school year. STM is blessed with outstanding teachers who know how to effectively teach K-8 students how to read, write, and use both oral and written language effectively so they are prepared for the rigors of high school.

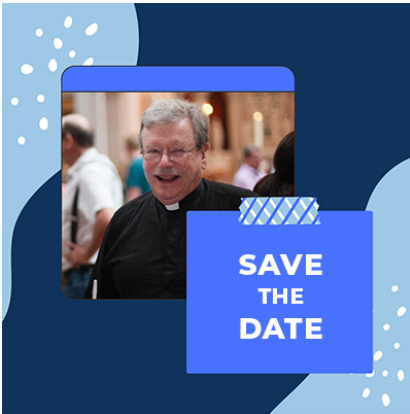


This year our school once again administered the NWEA Maps Growth tests in math, reading, and language in the fall and spring to students in grades 2-8.

Test results along with a letter were sent to all parents at the end of the school year. In my letter to parents, I shared that as we have navigated the ups and downs of a global pandemic over the past three school years, educational researchers have noted there is greater variance in student performance on standardized tests like MAP Growth, and data

on our students follows this trend. While some students achieved their projected growth targets, other students achieved smaller growth or may even appear to have lost growth. Kids have experienced a great deal of trauma and stress over the past three school years, and standardized tests like this seem to show the effects these things have had on learning. As we look ahead to the 2022-23 academic year, our teachers will be using the data from these assessments, along with data that will be gathered in the fall of 2022, to hone in on specific learning targets and areas of growth for each student in math, reading, and language with the hope of helping them better achieve their projected growth in these areas.

Our school uses a comprehensive assessment approach that relies heavily on formative and summative teacher-created assessments (class tests, quizzes, projects, etc.). Our school is blessed with highly knowledgeable, professional, and insightful teachers who use assessment data to meet students on their learning continuum so that each achieves success.



STM Honors Father Warren

On June 30, 2022, Father Warren Sazama, SJ will be retiring as pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Community. Over the past six years as pastor, his leadership has been transformative as he has led the renaissance of our parish and school. I distinctly remember when Father Warren called me more than five years ago and invited me to return to serve as principal of St. Thomas More-he had a vision for our parish and presented many compelling reasons for me to return to my home parish after six years away. Father Warren has truly been the shepherd of our community. He has been far more than our pastor-he has been a confidante, friend,

sounding board, and pastoral advisor- just to name a few of his many endearing qualities.

Please join us for Fr. Warren's last Mass on Saturday, June 25 at 10:30 am on the Feast of St. Thomas More and stay for the party! (There will be no 8 am Mass on this day.) After Mass, we will continue the celebration outside! Food will be catered, and drinks will be served. Entertainment will be provided for adults and kids. Come show your gratitude for Fr. Warren and wish him well as he enters his next phase of life!

Staff Changes

For the past five years, our school has enjoyed virtually no staff attrition among our K-8 faculty. As we come to the end of this academic year, Mrs. Meghan Kemna will be taking some time off to focus on being a new mom, and Ms. Anne Walsh will be leaving our school to pursue other professional opportunities. It is always bittersweet to see people leave us to pursue their dreams, but we are grateful to these two teachers for sharing their gifts and talents with our students. I am also hopeful that Mrs. Kemna will return to our school one day in the future.

As we look ahead to the new year, I am pleased to report that in a time when schools are struggling to find qualified personnel, we are blessed with people who really want to be a part of the St. Thomas More community. As we look to next year, Ms. Hayley Goltry will be joining Mrs. Smejkal in first grade. Ms. Goltry is not new to our community since she was a student-teacher at our school two years ago. Since student-teaching, she has served another Catholic school in our area. In addition, Ms. Lauren Harrold will be moving to second grade to work with Mrs. Angie Brown. In fourth grade, Ms. Ava Krize will be joining Ms. Hare. Ms. Krize has spent the past year at our school working under the leadership of Mrs. Gold and Mrs. Brown and everyone on our staff is pleased and excited that both Hayley & Ava are joining our staff.

In addition, Mrs. Erica Riehm (mom of STM students Henry & Kate) will be joining our school's faculty as a part-time middle school religion teacher. Mrs. Riehm has extensive experience teaching religion and language arts in Catholic schools in the archdiocese and is also a college classmate of Father RJ's! I am excited about the many gifts and talents that Mrs. Riehm brings to our school.

At St. Thomas More, we support, we teach, but most of all, we inspire all children to be their best in all they do.

2021-22 More Giving Report

St. Thomas More is grateful for the generosity of our parish, parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends of our school to ensure the financial health of our parish school. The sharing of time, talent, and treasure helps to advance the mission and ministry of our school, and your financial generosity directly impacts the families and students in our school by helping to keep tuition affordable, attracting and retaining the most highly qualified faculty and staff, providing the necessary resources to provide the highest academic and faith-centered learning environment for our students, and making this outstanding education available to anyone who desires it regardless of financial position. Below you will find a brief summary of some of our different fundraising initiatives this past year:

Fall Raffle

The Fall Raffle returned this past fall after a short hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our fall raffle raised over \$45,000, and these funds help offset operating expenses.

Parent Partnership & Annual Fund

The Parent Partnership Program was launched during the 2017-18 academic year. This program invites current St. Thomas More parents to make a tax deductible donation to help bridge the gap between tuition paid and the actual cost of educating each student at our school. The Annual Fund program invites alumni parents, grandparents, parishioners and other supporters of the school to help bridge that same gap. The current gap is approximately \$2000 per student. This year we secured just over \$19,000 in Parent Partnership gifts and over \$42,000 in Annual Fund gifts. Donations to the Parent Partnership and Annual Fund go a long way toward helping our school achieve and maintain a balanced operating budget, retain highly qualified teachers and outstanding programs at our school, as well as help support financial assistance for families who could not otherwise afford to attend our school. If you would like to receive more information about the Parent Partnership or Annual Fund, please contact Elizabeth Thimmesch. ***Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2021, and we welcome gifts of any size to the Parent Partnership and Annual Fund. As we look to the 2022-23 academic year, current parents can make a one time payment or may divide their gift over the course of the school year and pay through TADs. We would love to see more families participate in this very important giving program.***

Auction

Following a two year hiatus, our annual Auction event returned as an in-person event and was held off site for the first time in its history. To say that people were excited to gather would be an understatement. This year's auction raised over \$110,000 dollars, and we hope to top this number next year. We are most grateful for the support of current and alumni families, friends of our school, and parishioners for their generous support.

CSCOE Grant

This spring I applied for and received a very generous \$10,000 grant from the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence that is being used to purchase a variety of new instruments for our school's music program. Over the past several years, one of our strategic priorities has been to build and enhance the fine arts at STM and as you know, we have added private piano lessons, orchestra, and a children's musical over the past few years. This transformative gift will allow our school's music teacher, Eli Pollock, to continue to develop our school's general music program and bring it to new levels of excellence in the years ahead.

2021-22 More Giving Report

AIM Higher Foundation

Did you know the Aim Higher Foundation helps children access the proven benefits of a Catholic education by making tuition more affordable at K-8 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis by providing \$1,000 scholarships to children for families with demonstrated financial need?

Aim Higher Scholarships, once awarded, follow their recipients from Kindergarten through 8th Grade. This year, 29 students at St. Thomas More received an Aim Higher Scholarship! You are encouraged to apply for this renewable scholarship if your family has financial need. For more information, visit the Aim Higher website,

<https://aimhigherfoundation.org>

Capital Campaign Update

As you may remember, in the fall of 2018, our parish launched the first capital campaign in our community in over 30 years. Parishioners responded to this campaign with deep generosity by making an additional gift. After completing several much-needed projects in our school, our parish broke ground late last summer on a new entry and gathering space for our historic church, installing an elevator in this new addition to provide access to all levels of the church and parish center, as well as remodeling the undercroft of the church to serve as a much-needed church hall. Work was delayed throughout the past year due to the pandemic. However, construction is continuing throughout this summer and the project should be completed by early fall, 2022. It is not too late to contribute to our capital campaign. Please visit our parish website for more information:: <https://www.morecommunity.org/capital-campaign>



Summit Ave View



Construction is underway!



Welcoming Hearts. Inspiring Minds. Igniting Excellence.

Opportunities to Give More

Over the course of this past school year, we have received unsolicited donations--both large and small--from people who simply love our school and students. Donations to our school qualify as charitable deductions for federal tax purposes and may help reduce your tax liability. You are encouraged to check with your financial advisor regarding any questions you might have. With this being said...

- Monetary gifts of any size can be made at any time. Our school accepts cash, checks, and credit/debit card payments. Gifts can be made in the school office or on our school's website.
- St. Thomas More also accepts gifts of securities, stocks, and bonds. Please contact Elizabeth Thimmesh in our school office to find out how to initiate such a transfer.
- Many corporations will match their employees' gifts to nonprofit organizations, thus increasing the overall gift. You are encouraged to contact your employer to see if your company has a matching gift program.
- Including St. Thomas More Catholic School in your estate planning is a simple way to ensure your giving will continue for future generations. You may contact Elizabeth Thimmesh in our office regarding this.



Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial Endowment

We are excited to announce that a group of founding donors has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation to create the Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial Endowment. Saint Thomas More Catholic School is the designated charitable organization. The goal is to award a yearly scholarship, or scholarships, as a memorial to Claire Kelly Jansen. These would be awarded based on financial need and other criteria.

Claire was born in St. Paul in 1992 to Dan and Molly Kelly and was baptized at Saint Luke's Catholic Church (now Saint Thomas More) where her parents were members. Claire attended IHM-Saint Luke's (now Saint Thomas More Catholic School) beginning in 1997 and graduated in 2006. She went on to attend Cretin-Derham Hall and the College of St. Benedict.

During Claire's nine, happy years at IHM-Saint Luke's, she participated in Brownies and Girl Scouts, swimming, and band. She also made good friends at our parish school. She developed many strong relationships with her teachers, coaches, and many parent volunteers who led Girl Scouts, coached swimming, and chaperoned school events. These friendships and strong ties with the empathetic and wonderful staff at school helped support and sustain Claire when her mother, Molly, was diagnosed with breast cancer while Claire was in middle school. It was a warm and nurturing environment, and Claire thought so highly of her time there that she returned to teach at the STM preschool.

Awarding an annual scholarship or scholarships in Claire's memory to children whose families don't have the financial wherewithal to enroll them at Saint Thomas More Catholic School seems the perfect way to honor and remember Claire. Our goal is to create an endowment large enough to draw 5% of the earnings of the invested fund each year. \$100,000 is our target. We need your support.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift. All donations made prior to June 15, 2022, up to \$50,000, will be matched by Richard and Mary Schmitz. Checks can be made out to "CCF - Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial" and sent to:

Catholic Community Foundation
c/o Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial Endowment
2610 University Ave W Suite #500
St. Paul, MN 55114

You may alternatively [make a donation online](https://www.ccf-mn.org/give/make-a-gift) via credit card on the CCF website. Be sure to include the comment "Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial Endowment" with your online gift. Find out all the ways you can give at www.ccf-mn.org/give/make-a-gift.

To learn more about this endowed scholarship, click on this link:

[▶ Dan Kelly - Claire Kelly Jansen Memorial Endowment](#)

School Governance-Accreditation-Finances



School Advisory Committee

The St. Thomas More School Advisory Committee (SAC) serves as an advisory body to the principal and pastor. This advisory body's primary responsibilities include: 1) Supporting the principal and pastor in obtaining the time, talent, and treasure necessary for the school's long-term viability; 2) Developing and overseeing the implementation of a school strategic plan with the school administration; and 3) Recommending policies and practices that are consistent with the school's mission. The School Advisory Committee is not involved directly in school operations, faculty and staff employment, or curriculum and assessment decisions. Our school was the beneficiary of the wisdom and counsel of this year's SAC that was chaired by parent, Melissa Ryberg and members, Patty Brick, immediate past chair & alumni parent, Patrick Felicetta, Interim-President DeLaSalle High School; Ken Goodpaster, former STM trustee; as well as current parents, Anton Jones; Jessie Tierney, Kelly Schwab, Steve Stenzel, & Ellison Yahner.

Accreditation

During the 2021-22 academic year, our school has been engaged in a comprehensive self-study and has developed a new draft strategic plan in preparation for our onsite visit in November of 2022. Every member of our faculty and staff have been engaged in the self-study process as members of different sub-committees as we have reviewed and discussed the different standards. In addition, we surveyed our parents in the fall of 2021 to gather their input on how we are doing as a school as well as what they would like us to do in the future. From our self-study and parent survey, a strategic planning steering committee was formed made up of faculty, staff, and parents who guided the development and writing of our new strategic plan along with input gathered from our State of the School Meetings held in April 2022. Our steering committee has done a marvelous job of identifying goals and objectives from our current strategic plan that have not been accomplished due to the pandemic and has integrated new goals and objectives based on our self-study and the stakeholder survey. The end result is a forward-thinking, visionary plan that builds on the success we have enjoyed over the past five years, with an eye for further growth and development.

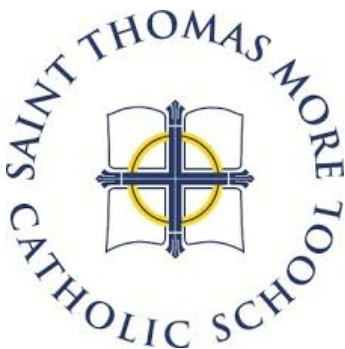
as a school in the years ahead. Over the summer, the self-study and draft strategic plan will be edited and then presented in its final form to our School Advisory Council, faculty, and parent community for feedback in the fall prior to our visit in November, 2022. Please watch your inbox in the fall for this draft plan.

Finances

Our school's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2022, and in the fall, our community will publish a financial statement for this fiscal year. Our parish continues to improve its financial position through increased stewardship on the church side, increased enrollment in our parish school, as well as a highly successful capital campaign that has raised over seven million dollars for much-needed improvements to our school and church between our church and parish center that will provide elevator access to all levels of the church and parish center as well as a remodeled undercroft of the church that will serve as our new church hall. All of this work is being done debt-free and through the generosity of donors to our parish's capital campaign.

We are very optimistic about the future financial health of St. Thomas More, especially since the Jesuits have made a long-term commitment to make our parish a primary ministry in the Twin Cities for years to come as well as construction of a new gathering space for our historic church that will include elevator access to all levels of our church and parish center. Five years ago, I inherited a school that was running a \$450K deficit budget, and this year we are now running a balanced budget. We are incredibly blessed at STM!

Our community's long-term financial health is dependent on continuing to increase enrollment in our school, stewardship within our parish, and successful advancement efforts in the years ahead. If you haven't made a commitment to share your time, talent, and treasure, please do so. Any financial gift- small or large- helps strengthen the mission and ministry of St. Thomas More. In addition, your good word about our parish school helps us continue to grow. Keep spreading the good news about St. Thomas More Catholic School!



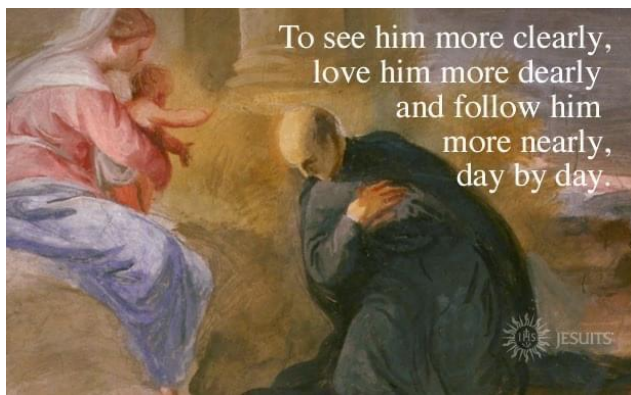
New Strategic Initiatives for 2022-2023

As we look ahead to the 2022-23 school year, we do so with much optimism. On November 7-9, 2022, we will be hosting an onsite visit team from the Minnesota Nonpublic Schools Accrediting Association and on Wednesday, November 30, Archbishop Hebda will be presiding at our school Mass and visiting our school. In addition, here are a few strategic priorities we will focus on in the upcoming school year:

- Continuing to enhance our school's Jesuit identity through faith formation, service, and retreat opportunities;
- Improving drop-off and pick-up around our school as construction on our church ends in the fall of 2022 and Summit Avenue is redone in the summer of 2023;
- Engaging in a master planning process to develop plans for our rear playground, green spaces, and other shared areas of our campus;
- Continuing to address the social emotional needs of students through our relationship with CLIMB Theater as well as the hiring of a new school counselor;

- Continuing to grow our knowledge, understanding, and commitment to welcoming and working with diverse groups of people through enhancing our school's curriculum by diversifying literature selections, engaging students in learning from multiple perspectives, as well as engaging students in meaningful conversations about how they can become young men and women for others who stand with and for others, particularly the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed;
- Fully returning our school to normal daily operations including activities such as buddies, houses, the children's musical, and parent visit days, so that we can bring our students and families together more often to celebrate the many wonderful aspects of St. Thomas More Catholic Community!

What Makes STM Special and Unique?



St. Thomas More Catholic School is a parish school that is a ministry of the Community of St. Thomas More. Our school and parish have been administered by the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits) since 1991. Our Jesuit identity both guides and defines who we are and what we do each day.

Our parish school has a long and proud history dating back to St. Luke's School founded in 1904 and Immaculate Heart of Mary founded in 1952. In 1991 these two St. Paul Catholic Schools merged to form IHM-St. Luke's School and in 2008, the parishes of

Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Luke merged to form St. Thomas More Catholic Community. Over the years we have been known by different names, but the spirit of our school and community has remained the same. We have a rich tradition of offering a transformational Catholic education in the heart of Saint Paul.

We have flourished from the roots of our founding schools, and we have been blessed by the pastoral leadership of the Jesuits for 30 years and most recently over the past six years by our pastor, Father Warren Sazama, SJ, who will be retiring on June 30, 2022. On July 1, 2022, our Associate Pastor, Father R.J. Fichtinger, SJ, will become pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Community, and Father Peter Etzel will join our community as associate pastor. The leadership of our pastor and associate pastor have been pivotal to our growth over the past six years, and I am confident Father RJ and Father Peter will continue the work begun by Father Warren six years ago.

St. Thomas More provides a comprehensive and rigorous liberal arts curriculum that is focused on developing the whole child: mind, body, and spirit, from preschool through grade eight. At the heart of a Jesuit education is the belief in *cura personalis* or care for the whole person. As a school rooted in Jesuit tradition, we intentionally teach children at St. Thomas More to be loving, open to growth, committed to excellence, religious, and to become young men and women who stand with and for others, especially those who are poor and marginalized.

St. Thomas More Catholic School

1065 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55125

651-224-4836

www.school.morecommunity.org

Follow us on



Instagram

