



Updates for the parents of St. Thomas More Academy



## DATE TO REMEMBER

- South Bend Cubs Game - May 25

STMA will cheer on the South Bend Cubs at the 11:05 game on the morning of Wednesday, May 25. Permission slips and the cost of admission are due before the big day. Go Cubs Go!

## COMMUNITY INTENTIONS

Asking for an outpouring of grace upon the two newest members of our community:

Edith Theresa Schwenkler - born to Angela and John on April 4, 2022. Edith is the youngest sister of STMA students Annie (3rd) and Dorothy (1st).

John Paul ("Jack") Beardsley - born to Elizabeth and Erik on April 26, 2022. Jack is the youngest sibling of STMA students Benjamin (4th), Charlie (2nd), and Katie (K).

## Dear Parents....

Recently, I found the prayer from which comes the prayer we say after morning Mass. The original is actually four pages! It is significant that St. Thomas More wrote the prayer after being condemned to death.

The new piece of information that I learned is that More was condemned to die on Thursday, July 1, 1535 and was martyred on the morning of Tuesday, July 6. At most, he had only five days from sentencing to execution. He did not pray the prayer he wrote very long.

More wrote this prayer to prepare himself for death. It is safe to say that he wrote it with intense focus and passion.

Having been in prison for nearly fifteen months, awaiting his trial and sentencing, More knew his death was a very real possibility. Any shred of hope for kindness from his old friend, the king, evaporated after his sentencing. It is then that he wrote this prayer.

Hopefully, the context within which the prayer was composed will increase our love for it and the vigor with which we pray it. I encourage you to look up the entire prayer entitled, "A Devout Prayer." There is nothing quite like the knowledge of our death to clarify our vision--all the more so when it is the vision of a saint of the highest order.

*Anthony Biese,  
Head of School*

# Student Corner



**Katie B.,  
Kindergarten**

**Q:** What is the happiest part of your day at school?

**A:** When I see my brothers at recess.

**Q:** What do you like about your brothers?

**A:** When they play with me!  
Sometimes me and my big brother do this game where we listen to songs and I'm the girls in the songs and he is the boys in the songs.

**Q:** What do you enjoy about your teacher, Ms. Havard?

**A:** When she helps us when we are struggling. Like during Language Arts, when I don't know what to do, she helps me.

**Q:** What do you want to be when you grow up, Katie?

**A:** A teacher!



**Q:** What do you enjoy about going to school?

**A:** I enjoy learning and learning about Jesus.

**Q:** What is the happiest part of your day at school?

**A:** Going outside to play!

**Q:** What do you play outside?

**A:** I like to play a little nun game with Katie D.

**Q:** What do you enjoy about your teacher, Ms. Havard?

**A:** She is always kind to the students.

**Q:** What do you want to be when you grow up, Celine?

**A:** A nun!

**Celine,  
1st grade**



**Matthew,  
1st grade**

**Q:** What is your favorite part of school at STMA?

**A:** Gym class! I like playing line tag!

**Q:** How do you play line tag?

**A:** It is basically like tag, but you line up on the lines in the gym. One person tells if you are "it" or not. There is usually two people who are "it." Everyone has to stay on the lines. If you get off the line, you are automatically out. No one knows who is "it" at the beginning, but when we see people get tagged, then we start to know and then we start running. If you get tagged, you are out.

**Q:** Have you won line tag before?

**A:** Yes!!

**Q:** What would you like to be when you grow up, Matthew?

**A:** A priest or a principal!





**Peter,  
2nd grade**

**Q:** What have you found different about school this year?

**A:** Well, we get three recesses and in my last school, we only got two.

**Q:** Fun! And, what do you enjoy doing at recess?

**A:** Playing with my friends and playing sports.

**Q:** What have you enjoyed about your teacher, Mr. Furneri?

**A:** I like how he plays soccer and football with us.

**Q:** What have you learned in Mr. Furneri's class this year?

**A:** A lot of history from Jesus' time.

**Q:** What is something you have learned that you did not know before?

**A:** Many things, like I did not know that the Annunciation and the Visitation both made up the Hail Mary and a lot of other things.

**Q:** What do you enjoy the most about going to school at STMA?

**A:** Probably being able to be with all my friends all day. They are really fun to play with!

**Q:** What have you enjoyed about your teacher, Mr. Furneri?

**A:** He is really funny and patient. If you do something wrong, he never says "Oh, you got it wrong." He always says, "This is how you do it." He helps to explain it.

**Q:** What was your writing assignment about in class today?

**A:** We were writing down what we would feel, hear, see, touch, smell, and taste at the Last Supper.

**Q:** What did you write?

**A:** I imagined myself in the Last Supper, peeking through the window, and seeing the disciples and Jesus eating. Jesus picked up a piece of the bread, broke it, and said, "This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me."

**Andrew,  
3rd grade**



**Veronica,  
5th grade**

**Q:** What have you enjoyed about coming to school?

**A:** Well, when I was homeschooled, I did not have that many friends. I had my next door neighbor, but she went to school so then I couldn't play with her throughout the day. Coming here, I have a bunch of friends and we get to hang out a lot!

**Q:** What have you enjoyed learning at school?

**A:** I really like drama because Ms. Cramer makes it really fun! I look forward to drama every Tuesday and Thursday!

**Q:** What do you like about your teacher, Mr. McAuliff?

**A:** He can tell if you're having a good day or a bad day or are really struggling with something and he'll come and just say, "Are you okay?" and he'll help you with anything you need.



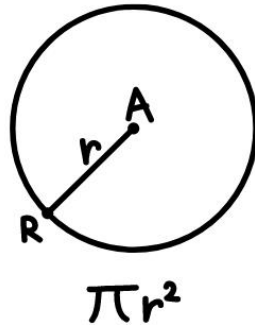
Stefan,  
5th grade

Q: What have you enjoyed the most at school?

A: I like doing math and physics.

Q: What do you enjoy about them?

A: I like math because I find it interesting. I really want to learn Algebra when I get to it. I like doing math problems for fun like calculating the diameter of circles and then using that with pie to get the answers.



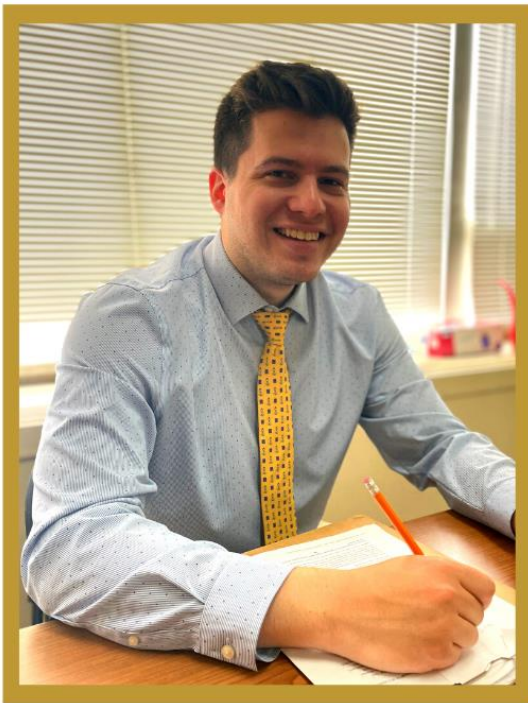
Q: What poem are you learning in class now?

A: "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Q: What is the poem about?

A: It is about Paul Revere. He was a silversmith who helped the colonists in the revolution. The British were going to get supplies at Concord that the colonists had stored. Paul Revere heard about it, so he told his friend to go to the tower of the North Church and hang one lantern if the British were going to travel by land and two if they were going to travel by sea. He was going to be on the opposite shore. He would see the light and then ride and tell the colonists on the way to Concord from Boston that the British were coming.

## Faculty Feature



Mr. McAuliff,  
4th/5th Grade Teacher

Q: What brought you to South Bend?

A: After several years of teaching in the public school system in Naples, Florida, I started thinking more about what it means to teach, and I realized that I was not doing what I had wanted to do when I first set out to be a teacher in college.

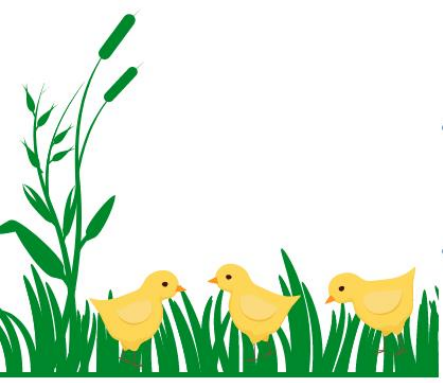
Q: What was that vision that first inspired you to be a teacher?

A: I went into teaching because I wanted to help kids grow. I always thought that I could help kids to see things as they really are, form good habits, and choose the good for themselves. I wanted to be a mentor for the students.

Q: What have you enjoyed the most about your first year at STMA?

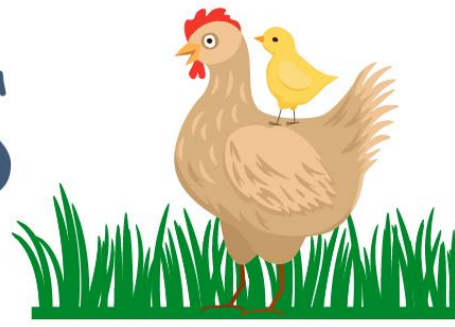
A: Getting to know the kids and seeing how they already have a lot of good formation. Parents are so willing to work with you to help their child reach their potential. The parent/teacher partnership is very unique at STMA. It is very intentional. Even outside of academics, the whole community at STMA is very intentional and that is something that my wife and I have not experienced before. In the long run, that will make the greatest impact on the kids.





# PHOTOS

Farm Animal Day - April 5, 2022















A SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO SARA HOLDERBAUM  
FOR SHARING HER TIME  
AND ANIMALS WITH US!

WE HAD A BLAST!!!

ST. THOMAS MORE, PRAY FOR US!