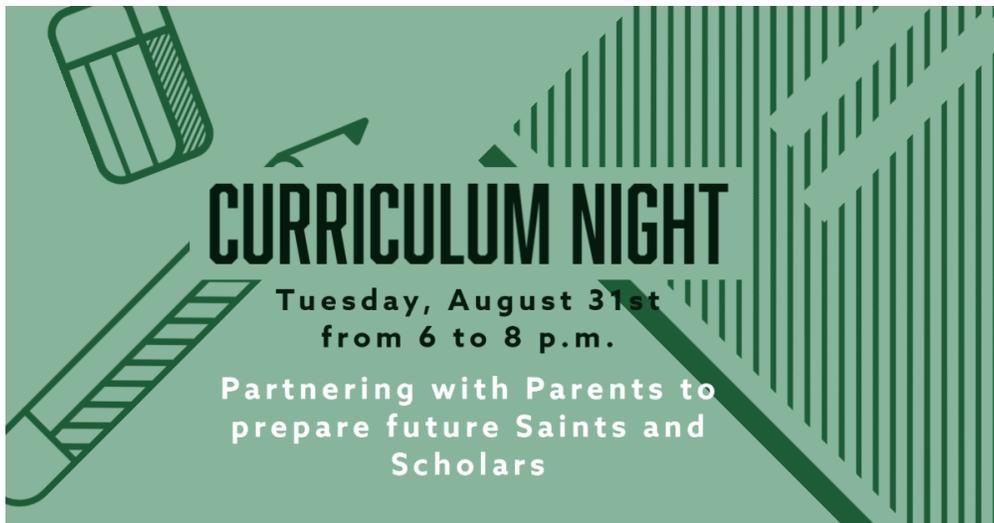


Greetings Team STA,

I am prayerful that this newsletter finds each of you well and ready for a hot weekend ahead! This second week of school has been an absolute blessing and I am continually amazed by our students and staff. Everyone has jumped back into the year and have taken on following our continued protocols and guidelines like champs! I know I'm not alone when I share that we are all excited for the great school year ahead.



As we move into next week, we look forward to welcoming parents back into the building for Curriculum Night. This year, we will be running four sessions to help spread out the number of parents in each session. Our four sessions for kindergarten through 5 grade will run from:

- 6 to 6:20 p.m.
- 6:30 to 6:50 p.m.
- 7 to 7:20 p.m.
- 7:30 to 7:50 p.m.

Additionally, our middle school teachers will run 3 sessions based on grade level with the final half-hour of the evening open for individual Q & A. The middle school sessions will run on the following schedule:

- 6 to 6:20 p.m. - 6th Grade
- 6:30 to 6:50 p.m. - 7th Grade
- 7 to 7:20 p.m. - 8th Grade
- 7:30 - 7:50 p.m. - Open for individual Q&A

Beyond these 4 sessions, I have also recorded the State of the School Address for the 21-22 school year. If all goes as planned, I will be sending the State of the School out on Tuesday afternoon, as I send a reminder out for our Curriculum Night sessions. Please watch your inbox for this update, as I review the data collected from last year, as well as an update to our policies for this academic year.



On Monday evening, August 23, our Safety Committee connected again to review our mask policy and the Ingham Co. specific data. During the meeting we also focused on the goal of keeping all of our students learning in-person this academic year, as we avoid the possibility of going virtual due to illness. As we focused on this goal, we spent a great deal of time and energy reviewing the data and discussing the social emotional implications as we deliberated on what to do for the best of our student body. At the conclusion of our meeting we have decided to implement an Intermittent

Masking policy until a vaccine opportunity is available for the majority of our student body.

So, what does Intermittent Masking mean? This means that after longer breaks from school or if there is a drastic increase in the positivity rate in Ingham Co., *we will implement a required period of masking for all staff and students, regardless of vaccination status, to ensure that all of our students stay safe and remain in-person.* At this time, we have all the best safety measures in place with our Illness Policy and within the building - washing hands, physical distancing per the CDC guidelines, sanitizing and creating air flow. The period of intermittent masking will be our last measure of defense to ensure we remain in-person when transmission increases in our area.

How will STA decide to mask and for how long? Those families who were with us last year will remember that we had planned virtual learning periods after longer breaks, due to the increase in cases in our area. Instead of moving to virtual, which we are trying our best to avoid at all costs, *we will implement a required 2 week masking period upon our return to school from holidays or long breaks from instruction.* Again, this will be in place until a majority of our students have the opportunity to be vaccinated, if their parents choose. *Our first period of Intermittent Masking will be after the long Labor Day weekend. This period will run from Tuesday, September 7th - Friday, September 17th.*

In addition to returning from longer breaks, the Safety Committee will be reconnecting every Thursday to review the positivity rate in Ingham Co. and review pediatric specific data that our amazing doctors are able and willing to share with us. This specific data will help inform our Safety Committee on a specific decision for the following school week. Then, each Friday in Tartan Times, I will update our families if masks are optional or required for all students and staff for the next week of school.

I completely understand that many of our families will be upset by this news, however I urge you to weigh the opportunity cost of masking for a small amount of time to remain in-person vs. having your child home on a virtual learning period, which is a great possibility if we choose not to put this last mitigation strategy in place. I will also ask all of our families to pray and pause a minimum of 48 hours prior to sharing any concerns, as all families must understand that I am doing everything in my power to keep our students in-person this academic school year and this is the final tool we can implement when working to remain in-person.

As always, **THANK YOU** so much to our families for your cooperation in helping us implement our new policy. This new policy has been created to keep all of our students and staff safe. It is a great blessing knowing that our community is always willing to support our initiatives to keep each and everyone of our Tartans safe and learning in-person this year! I pray that you each have a blessed weekend ahead and we look forward to welcoming our families back on Monday, August 30th.

Yours in Christ,

Meghan K. Loughlin-Krusky
Principal

Important Date:

- **Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Night** - Tuesday, August 31st from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Labor Day Weekend - NO SCHOOL** - Friday, September 3rd and Monday, September 6th
- **Intermittent Masking Required** - Tuesday, September 7th - Friday, September 17th
- **Food Bank/Casual Dress Monday** - Monday, September 13th
- **Food Bank/Casual Dress Monday** - Monday, October 4th
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences - HALF DAY** - Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. - Wednesday, October 13th from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL** - Thursday, October 14th from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.
- **Teacher Work Day - NO SCHOOL** - Friday, October 15th
- **PowerSchool Shutdown for Report Cards** - Wednesday, October 20th at 12 p.m.
- **End of Q1** - Friday, October 22nd
- **Report Cards released via PowerSchool** - Friday, October 29th at 4 p.m.



On a final note, we will continue to utilize the eLearning Hub that I created last year to connect with our students and families when they cannot be with us at school. If you have not already done so, please click on the image above to bookmark our eLearning Hub for this academic school year. *I also share an important reminder that if a child is absent from school, it does not exempt them from their daily school work.* Each evening by 4 p.m. our teachers will upload the days work to SeeSaw or their Google Classroom for students to complete. *Please know that unless a child has a severe illness and has been given an extension from the teacher and/or administration, all work must be completed upon the return to school.* The entire STA faculty and staff thank you for helping to keep your child connected so they can continue to thrive during this unique academic year.



Moving into our third week of school, our students have been doing great with remembering their items. However, it's never too early to remind our families of our policy on forgotten items. Please know that unless an item is an absolute necessity for a student, a forgotten item does not need to be dropped off. Those forgotten items that are important to drop off would be an entire backpack or lunch. Anything outside of an entire backpack or lunch, would be considered non-essential to the school day and should remain at home. This does include forgotten water bottles, tennis shoes, playground equipment, homework or other non-essential items that can be returned the next school day. We thank you for helping us keep our students engaged during the school day by limiting your trips to and from STA.



COVID-19, flu, colds and other contagious diseases are a serious issue in a school environment because they can spread so rapidly. Parents are asked to keep children home when they show symptoms of illness. If your child is ill, please call the school before 8:30 a.m. to report the absence.

· If your child exhibits any active symptoms of illness, he/she will not be admitted to the school, both for the child's own comfort and to minimize the spread of illness to other children and staff members in the school.

· If or when your child does become ill, your child **MUST** be symptom free for 48 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen prior to returning to school.

· In the event that your child or a family member tests positive for current COVID-19 viral infection, families **will be required to notify the school administration immediately**. This can be done by calling the school or the COVID-19 Hotline if it is after hours.



· In the event that your child is out of school for 5 consecutive days or more with any illness or symptoms, you must provide a note from your child's primary care physician before your child can return to school.

· In the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School, we will with with the Ingham Co. Health Department to notify families and move through their protocols.

· If a child becomes ill at school, he or she will be taken to the designated quarantine room. A parent/guardian will be contacted and will be expected to pick up the child as soon as possible but no later than 30 minutes after the phone call has been placed.





The new school year is quickly approaching, it is time to think ahead to fall sports season. 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys and girls from Lansing area parochial school can participate on the Middle School Cross Country Team!

Participation and Competition: 6th, 7th and 8th graders will run a two-mile course in the meets, with the boys and girls competing in separate races. Practices are held at Lansing Catholic High School (LCHS). The first practice will begin on Monday, August 23 at 4 pm. Practices are normally held at Lansing Catholic High School (LCHS) Monday thru Thursday and occasionally Friday depending on the meet schedule. More details on the practice schedule later. Tentative meet schedule can be found at: <https://www.athletic.net/CrossCountry/School.aspx?SchoolID=34259>

XC Participation Fee: Participation Fee is \$100.00 - this includes a uniform (\$75.00 if you have a uniform). Please make check payable to: Lansing Catholic High School. All participants must have a current (dated after April 15, 2021) MHSAA Physical Card (front and back completed) turned in on file.

Questions/Communications:

Coach Cristin Reid cristin.reid@accessbidco.com (517) 204-5991

Coach Kyle Melinn at melinnky@gmail.com (517) 285-3344

Jr. Cougar Lansing Catholic Middle School Cross Country Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/483185061694314/>

LCHS XC Coach Tim Simpson at LCCXC@aol.com

Informational Parent Meeting:

Informational meeting at LCHS Track on Wednesday, August 18 at 6 pm

If not able to attend in person you can join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85709421810?pwd=bm5NUFZTc2lkd3BCNDVXaGM2OTgrdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 0942 1810 Passcode: 924875

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85709421810#,,, *924875# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,85709421810#,,, *924875# US (Chicago)

A graphic for "Altar Server Training". It features a large, dark brown cross centered over a background of a sunset over a landscape. The text "Altar Server" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "Training" is in a black, cursive font below it. On the right side, there is a black triangular area containing yellow text for two dates: August 28 and September 1, with their respective times and provided meals. At the bottom, there is a yellow bar with black text for RSVP information.

**Altar
Server
Training**

August 28
St. Thomas
10:00am - 12:00pm
Lunch Provided

September 1
St. Thomas
6:00pm-8:00pm
Dinner Provided

**RSVP: syaich@elcatholics.org
or online at elcatholics.org/liturgical-ministry**

We're bringing back our altar servers at St. Thomas! Servers can serve at school Masses, Sunday Masses and funerals. Training for all new and former servers aged 10 and up will be August 28th or September 1st. Click here to find out more information and to sign up:

<https://www.elcatholics.org/liturgical-ministry>

**HELP FIGHT
LOCAL HUNGER**

**SIMPLY
give**

DOUBLE MATCH DAYS

Saturday, August 14 & 28

Lake Lansing Meijer



FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
with your free parish code.

[Search: St. Thomas Aquinas Parish East Lansing](#)



Introducing the new
FORMED
The Catholic Faith. On Demand.



One Parish with Two Churches

East Lansing Catholics on Facebook
(click image above to link to page)

If you have not had a chance to follow us on Facebook, please check out our new presence on Facebook as we live stream Masses, prayers, and other rich Catholic content.



A message from Lansing Catholic High School:

Hey Tartans! Lansing Catholic has a **FEW spots remaining for the 2021-2022 school year. We'd love to help you continue what you started at St. Thomas Aquinas. Contact Ms. DeVries, stacia.devries@lansingcatholic.org, (517)267-2158 with questions, or visit our website, www.lansingcatholic.org to apply and get started on becoming an LCHS Cougar!**

We know a Catholic Education is important to your family. Start planning for High School now.

Open your account for as little as \$100 and Gabriels Community and Lansing Catholic High School will match that \$100 commitment.

Contact Sean at Gabriels Community Credit Union to learn more.
Email gccuinfo@gabrielscu.com
or call 517-484-0601.

Please click on the image to access a letter from Lansing Catholic High School.

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