



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL**  
**624 DUBUQUE STREET**  
**WEBSTER CITY, IA 50595**

Volume 4 September 2022

And just like that; they're back! Off and running in a new school year! Enjoy some photos from the very first week of school at St. Thomas Aquinas School. Happy Reading! Jeanne Hill, STA School Board President



**"Tidbits from Principal Theresa Schleisman" – Back to school HUGS for everyone! Happy to be back together again!**

**September 5 – No school (Labor Day)**

**September 7 – First Student Mass (8:30)**

**September 16 - 2 hr. early out for the Homecoming Parade**

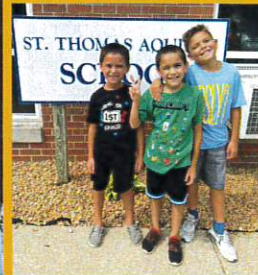
**September 20 – School Board Meeting (5:00 PM in the Parish Center)**

**September 21 – No school – all day Professional Development**

**September 23 – School Picture Day**



**Back-to-school staff picnic lunch compliments of a generous STA Ball supporter!**



### ***Mission Statement:***

*St. Thomas Aquinas School serves Webster City and surrounding communities by offering a Preschool - 6th grade education. Our school incorporates faith and values through daily learning in a safe and nurturing environment. With support from parents and families, St. Thomas develops the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional growth of students who will be future leaders in our ever-changing world.*

### ***Vision Statement:***

*In a Christ-centered environment, St. Thomas empowers young people to build their personal foundation for lifelong learning, leadership and service to others.*



## NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS:



**“Good Vibes from Preschool Para-educator Gabby Gourley”** – I am a Webster City native and attended STA from kindergarten through 6th grade. I recently moved back to the area after living and working in Nashville for 6 years. I nannied for many of those years and am now a certified yoga instructor who is so excited to be a part of the STA family once again!



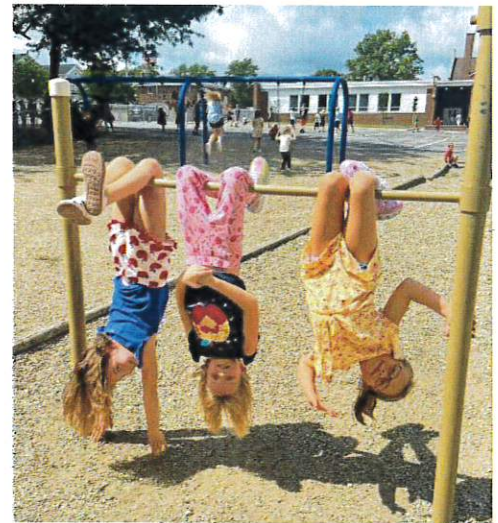
**“Comments from Teacher Katie Nyren”** – I grew up in Dayton, Iowa. I left Iowa for a bit during college to travel the country some. I worked as a nanny through college, which allowed me to experience the states and areas local to the families I worked for. It was a great way to experience different states and places! I ended up coming back home to Iowa where I finished my Bachelor’s Degree from Buena Vista University in 2009. My degree is in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. I also hold an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice. After college I spent time working in various aspects of the criminal justice and judicial system. I conducted various behavioral analysis, criminal histories, and spent time trying to prevent recidivism in the justice system through research of inmate treatment plans and referrals.

My husband’s job brought us to Webster City. This is where my small family fell in love with St. Thomas Aquinas. My daughter started here with 3-year-old preschool, and she still attends in second grade. We have made some of our closest local friends through STA school and have loved being a part of the STA family. It’s been amazing to watch my daughter grow up with the same kids she started with in preschool. Being a STA parent is by far the biggest proof of my love for STA. I trust this school with God’s greatest blessing to me. It’s why I’m sure God has placed me at St. Thomas because He knows a piece of my heart is there, and I can use it to give to other students.

I’ve spent the last couple of years working part-time at the Webster City Veterinary Clinic, volunteering as a Group Moderator for a rare brain tumor diagnosis. Volunteering as a group mentor allows me to be an advocate for a very special cause to me and help others through their journey. My favorite thing is spending time with my family and the greatest friends one could ask for. I feel truly blessed and fulfilled to be with my Kindergarteners at St. Thomas.









Loving to learn and learning to love all happening at STA School!





## MORE NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHTS:


**"Just a note from Teacher Joylyn Cobb"** – I grew up on a farm near Eldora, Iowa and attended school at Union-Whitten (now BCLUW- showing my age). This is my 33rd year of teaching and my 30th year living in Webster City. I am happy to be back at St. Thomas after seven years away working at South Hardin Schools as a 5th grade teacher and assistant volleyball coach. I am happy to have my mom, Louise, here in Webster City now as a new resident of Windsor Manor. In my free time I enjoy playing golf, learning about new technology on my computer, reading and cheering on the Iowa State Cyclones in all sports. I'm looking forward to a great school year!




**New reading plan from Teacher Joylyn Cobb** – We are hoping to do a mock Caldecott Award this year. This will be a school wide reading event. The goals of the project are to:

- To gain an awareness of the Caldecott medal and qualities of a good picture book.
- To practice reading for deep meaning and the subtleties of literature.
- To clearly express ideas and opinions with peers.
- To listen to and evaluate the ideas of others.
- To integrate cross curricular skills such as math.
- To build excitement about authors and new literature.

The event will include each classroom being introduced to the purpose of the Caldecott Award and the elements judges look at when choosing the winner, reading all of the books that are nominated for the award this year and then voting on which book they think should win the award. In order to do this we need to order approximately 20 picture books. These books are the books that are nominated for this year's Caldecott Award. We have plans to house these books each year in the Bob and Marty Doerning Library after we are finished with them. We are hoping that we can ask individuals and families to donate the books to us in honor or memory of someone. The following will be put inside the book as we get the donation:

This book was donated to  
**The Bob and Marty Doerning  
School Library** 

by \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
in honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_









**"Chosen pointers from Teacher Chelsey Wagoner"** – I graduated from Webster City High School in 2016. I've been coaching 8th grade Volleyball and JV Softball in my spare time while I've been finishing up my teaching degree at Buena Vista. I've had a passion for teaching for a long time and coming to school every day has helped my passion to teach grow even more! I have always wanted to be a teacher and I'm very excited to be teaching 1st grade here at St. Thomas Aquinas! I feel like St. Thomas is a perfect fit for me. I am eager to see what the rest of the year brings!



**"Jamming from Teacher Jim Hindt"** – This school year I will be teaching the Religion classes from kindergarten through 6th grade at St. Thomas. I have taught grades 6 - 12 and college students in some way or another for about 25 years, but this is my first foray into working with some of the youngest versions of the human race. Melissa and I have had 3 of our children graduate from St. Thomas, and our youngest, Eli, is currently in 2nd grade, and now I am blessed to be able to see him and his mom every day while at work. Our family has been involved with the church since our arrival to Webster City in 2013, and I am excited to be taking this new faith journey with the school.

#### **Other important information:**

##### **\*\* Reminder Program:**

Make sure you have signed up to receive important updates from Sharon Smith and Theresa Schleisman on your phone – either through notifications on your smart phone ([rmd.at/stapa](mailto:rmd.at/stapa)) or via text message by texting @stapa to the number 81010.

##### **\*\* Mass Times:**

Mass will be at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays except for early out Wednesdays which will be at 12:15 p.m.

##### **\*\* Mass Shirts:**

Please return your shirt order form to the office by Tuesday, September 6th. Students will again wear their blue school shirts on Mass days.

**\*\* Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** - Remember to turn this form in to the office as soon as possible. This form reviews parent information and liability responsibilities regarding your child's chromebooks and iPads.

##### **\*\* Tuition Discounts:**

Remember to sign up for the SCRIP program (read on for more details) and earn money towards your child's tuition this year.





## Helping to make faith-based education more affordable:

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES:**

**RaiseRight/Scrip:** Simply a gift card program.

**BUY GIFT CARDS:** Select from over 750 popular brands, with options for eGift cards (available immediately) physical gift cards, and reloadable gift cards. No extra money spent. No wasted value. You pay \$50 for a \$50 gift card. Use to pay for your purchases or give as a gift.

**EARN FUNDS:** For every gift card purchased, you receive earnings up to 20%. The earnings come from the gift card brand you are purchasing - their way of supporting organizations like ours. Average earnings are 6% (much more than the average credit card rewards program)

**EARNINGS DISTRIBUTION:** All earnings for our organization are tracked and online reports are available. Currently, 50% of the earnings are available to use as a credit on tuition accounts and will be applied annually.

Start earning today! Download the **RaiseRight** mobile app and enter our enrollment code to join. **12LB436F3119** Buy cards and when you are ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments. You can link a bank account, add a credit card, or both. eGift cards are delivered to the app within minutes - view them in your wallet. Physical gift cards are mailed to our coordinator and will be delivered to you. Local businesses also participate and those can be ordered via forms available in the church and school office. Contact Allison Lacey, St. Thomas Aquinas Coordinator with questions. (515-835-7489)

**Children's Rosary:** Simply praying the rosary led by children.

To qualify for the Danuta & Kent Oberg Children's Rosary Scholarship, you need to be a student at St. Thomas Aquinas School and attend scheduled Children's Rosary sessions which are offered 2x/month from September through May. More scholarship dollars are allocated to faithful attendees which require attending seven times in the nine-month period in which sessions are offered a total of eighteen times. Sessions are scheduled on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:00 AM just before the 10:30 AM Mass and on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

