



# THE BARRISTER

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD IN THE VALUES OF JESUS AND MARY  
THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP



## A Big Thank You!

A big thank you to the Home and School Association, Student Council, and all who volunteered to make Pizza with Santa a great success! A wonderful time was had by all who attended.



## Christmas Band Concert

Congratulations to our Band Directors Mrs. Van Manen & Mr. Bob Gloppen, and our STMS Band for a fabulous performance this week! If you missed the performance you can view at <https://youtube.com/live/uS8ta1RHc2A?feature=share>

## Christmas Music Concert - Grades K-3

All families are welcome to join us on Wednesday, **December 18** at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

## Congratulations D.A.R.E. Graduates

Congratulations to our 5th Graders who graduated from the D.A.R.E. Program this week. Thank you to Officer Ghrist for continuing this important program at STMS.

## Christmas Parties

Students may wear appropriate Holiday Attire on **Friday, December 20**. Please remember that **no foods or gift bags** are allowed to be brought in. We are providing treats.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- 12/15** **Third Sunday of Advent**
- 12/16** T.R.I.P due by 8:00 a.m.  
PS/PK Christmas Program 9:00 a.m. - Gym
- 12/17** School Confessions (Grades 4-8) 9:00 a.m.
- 12/18** Pep Rally - Students/Staff **wear House T-Shirt**  
Christmas Music Concert (Grades K-3) 6:00 p.m.  
ByWay Dining for Dollars-all day!
- 12/20** Christmas Parties Grades (PS-6, 7/8 offsite) 9:30 a.m.  
All students in Holiday attire.
- 12/22** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 12/23** No School-Christmas Break
- 1/6** School Resumes 7:45 a.m.
- 1/10** Spirit Wear Day - donate non-perishable food items

## EXCELLENCE HAPPENS ON PURPOSE



## D.A.R.E. Graduation

## REMINDERS

### T.R.I.P Dates Processing dates are as follows:

Monday, December 16  
Please have all orders in in office by 8:00 a.m.

### Robo Text NEWS

If you would like to receive school text messages, please text the number **79041** and send a message saying YES. You will receive a confirmation from Bright Arrow. This is essential as we enter the winter weather season!

### Blue Ribbon Yard Sign & Car Decal Form

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/4ufOwi1W>

### Community Connections

There is special period for Virtus trained adults to come into their child's classroom to showcase their careers, hobbies or stories. See the sign up genius link to sign up: [LINK](#)  
**Thank you for sharing your time and talents!**

### Eagle Educator Award

Please nominate one of our amazing teachers for next month's Eagle Educator Award. Each month is a new opportunity. [Click here](#)





## DEVELOPMENT

### Denim and Diamonds

Auction basket donation: If you happen to have any baskets laying around the house (we will take all shapes and sizes) that you don't need, we will take them for our auction in February. Please drop them off at the school office, c/o Annette Czarobski.

#### Need service hours?

Sign up to help at our Denim and Diamonds event on Friday, February 28! Volunteers are needed for setup, cleanup, basket wrapping, and event assistance. Check Sign Up Genius for details or email Annette at [aczarobski@stm-school.com](mailto:aczarobski@stm-school.com). **Sign up here**

#### Dance the Night Away

Join us for an hour of fun dance lessons! Whether you're a beginner or experienced, our instructor will guide you through every step. Learn new skills, make friends, and enjoy the music! Sessions are Friday, January 17 and February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym. Cost is \$10 per person (pay at the door); bring your own refreshments. Space is limited, so **sign up HERE** and mark your calendar!

#### Denim and Diamonds Auction

Support our Denim & Diamonds Auction by donating through our Amazon Wish List (link & QR code below). Your contributions directly benefit our school and help make this event a sparkling success. Every item makes a difference for our students. Check out the list today and help us shine!

**Amazon Link**

## Annual Fund Drive 2024-2025

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of our school community. We are excited to remind you that our Annual Fund Drive is currently underway and will run through the end of January. We are currently at \$23,000 in donations, with a goal of \$75,000.

This important initiative helps ensure that we can continue providing a high-quality, faith-based education for our students. Every donation, no matter the size, directly supports the resources and programs that make St. Thomas More such a special place for our children to grow and learn. Anyone can donate.

#### Why Your Support Matters:

- Contributions help enhance educational programs like our Makers Space, where our students learn coding and 3D printing.
- Every dollar counts in making a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

We ask for your generous support as we work together to build a strong future for St. Thomas More. The end of the year is the perfect time to make your donation and maximize the impact of your contribution before the tax year closes.

If you'd like to donate, there are a few options. Please return the donation card that was mailed to your homes last month, pick up a donation card in the Narthex after Mass, the school office or email Annette Czarobski at [aczarobski@stm-school.com](mailto:aczarobski@stm-school.com) to have one mailed to you. You may also complete the link below.

Link to donate: <https://2024annualfund.givesmart.com>

#### Matching Gift Program

Exciting news, parents! Did you know that many employers offer matching gift programs? That means your generous contribution to our Annual Fund Drive could be doubled—at no extra cost to you! By simply checking with your employer, you might be able to amplify your impact and help us reach our fundraising goals even faster. It's an easy way to make your support go further and strengthen the future of our school community. Take a moment to see if your company participates—your matching gift could make a big difference! Here's a few companies that offer it: Coca Cola, Ford, Disney, General Electric, Starbucks, Deloitte, IBM, Home Depot, Microsoft ....

- 1) Enter employer's name into a search tool
- 2) Download or request a matching gift form from the employer
- 3) Ask your HR department for a matching gift form and instructions

## HASA

**Class Events** [LINK](#)

**HASA Events** Including recess and lunch duty [LINK](#)

### HASA Christmas Fund

Donations will be accepted through **Tuesday, December 17.**

If you would like to participate this year, please go to

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/nx55uHHs>

Thank you for your generosity.

## UNIFORMS & SPIRIT WEAR

[Tommy Hilfiger Uniform Ordering](#)

[Tee Party Studio Spirit Wear](#)



## CAFE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pancakes w/ yogurt and chicken sausage	Crispy Chicken w/Mac & Cheese	Classic American Burger	Christmas Dinner, Roast Turkey Blueberry Crisp	Cheese Pizza

## EXTRACURRICULAR

### ST THOMAS MORE EAGLES SCHEDULE

DATE	TEAM	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
DEC 14	8TH BOYS BBALL 7TH BOYS BBALL 6TH BOYS BBALL 5TH BOYS BBALL	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM	ST MARY GRIFFITH ST PATRICK OUR LADY GRACE ST MARY CP	ST THOMAS MORE ST THOMAS MORE ST THOMAS MORE ST THOMAS MORE
DEC 15	7TH BOYS BBALL 6TH BOYS BBALL 5TH BOYS BBALL 8TH BOYS BALL	1:00PM 1:00PM 4:00PM 5:00PM	ST PAUL ST MARY GRIFFITH ST PAUL NATIVITY	ST PAUL ST THOMAS MORE ST THOMAS MORE ST THOMAS MORE

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!! SIGN UP GENIUS LINK FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49A4AE2EA7FA7-51021565-stmgirls#/>

### Happy Birthday Dr. Francis

Wishing you the best on your birthday and  
throughout the coming year.  
Thank you for all that you do for STMS!

**December 17**

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Thursday, December 12, students honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. She is the Patron Saint of Mexico and the Americas, this date commemorates her appearance to a poor man in Mexico in 1531. The link below is a video created by Mrs. Hajduch and Mrs. Castro's Spanish students to honor her and to teach about her history.

<https://youtu.be/IVWaGHC-aKU>



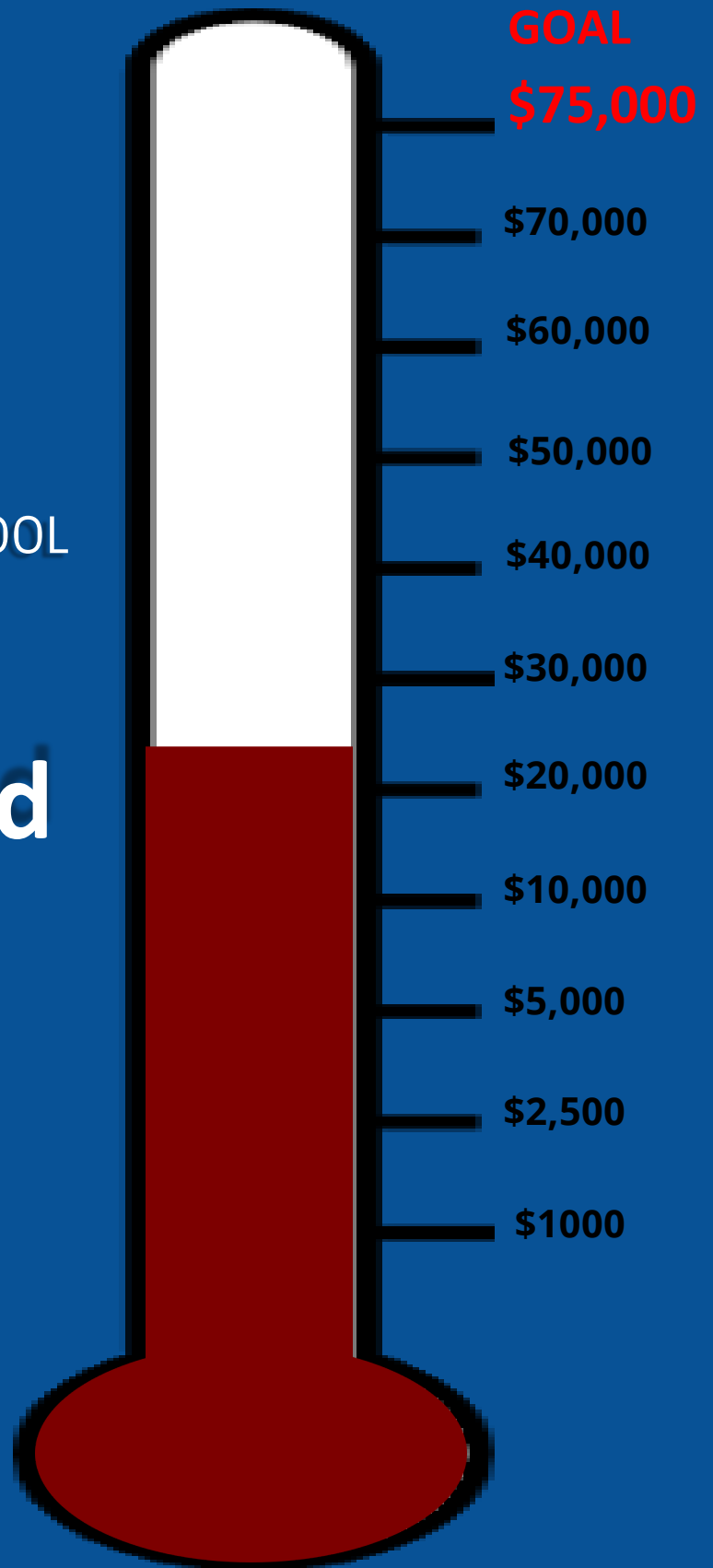


ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

**2024**

# Annual Fund

Please help us  
reach our goal of  
\$75,000  
by January 31, 2025



**Thank you for supporting our Blue Ribbon School!**



# Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas St. Thomas More Family: Each year, the Home and School Association (HASA)

provides the opportunity for families to make a monetary contribution to funds that are distributed to the teachers, aides, administrators and ancillary staff for Christmas. The total amount collected for each fund is distributed equally among them, and a card is included with the gift listing the names of each family that contributed. Participation is strictly voluntary. If you wish to do something special for a particular teacher or staff member on your own, please feel free to do so.

Last year, many families participated, and we provided a gift of approximately \$75 for each employee. This year, we have 80 teachers, aides, administrators and ancillary staff members.

If you would like to participate this year, please click on the following link: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/nx55uHHs>

Due by Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Questions: [hasa@stm-school.com](mailto:hasa@stm-school.com)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS BLESSING!



# Byway Brewing Co.



## Dining for Dollars

**Date: Wednesday, December 18th**

**Time: All Day**

**Location: 2825 Carlson Dr.  
Hammond, IN**



**St. Thomas More School will receive  
20% of all food sales!**



# ***UNIVERSAL SCHOOL CHOICE PARENT MEETING***

## **St. Thomas More Catholic School**

8435 Calumet Ave, Munster, IN 46321

**Tuesday, January 14th**

6:00 pm CST

**97% of Hoosier families qualify to  
receive the estimated \$7,000 Choice  
Scholarship,**

# ***DO YOU?***

The Indiana Choice Scholarship (voucher) system has arbitrary income lines is penalizing hardworking Hoosiers by forcing them to jump through hoops to prove that they qualify.

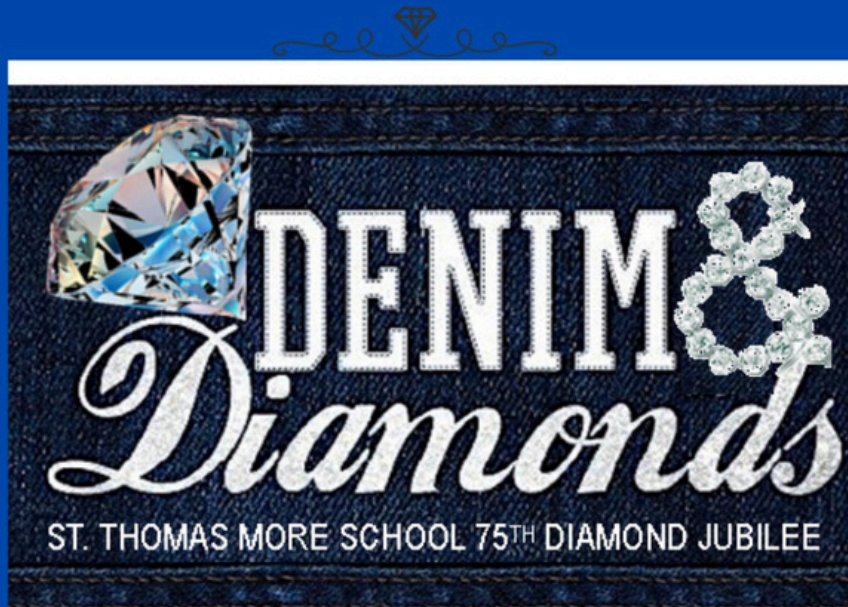
These are your tax dollars that are designated for your child, but you don't have access to them. Your child shouldn't be the exception. Everybody pays, everybody should be in.



**RSVP Here:**



# Save the Date



**Date: Friday, February 28, 2025**

**Location: Tuscan Gardens  
601 Holbrook Road  
Glenwood, IL**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.**



# \* Dance Lessons \*

Join us for a  
fun-filled  
hour of  
dance  
lessons.



**Dates:**  
Friday,  
January 17th &  
Friday,  
February 7th

**Time:**  
7:00 p.m. to  
8:00 p.m.

**Cost:**  
\$10 per  
person

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**



**Location:**  
St. Thomas More Gym

# Munster Soccer Club Spring 2025

## Registration Info

Boys and Girls born between 08/01/2005 and 07/31/2018 are eligible

### ON-LINE REGISTRATION ONLY

<https://www.munstersoccerclub.com>

**Starting: Friday 12/13/24**

**Ending: Sunday 1/26/25**

**Registration deadline is: SUNDAY 1/26/25**

**Late registrations will be put on waiting list. NO guarantee of being put on a team!**

**All late registrants will be subject to \$10.00 late processing fee.**

**No refunds after 2/2/25.**

### **RETURNING PLAYERS:**

Login with your Sports Connect family account to begin registration. Cost is \$125 and an **UPDATED NEW** wallet/passport sized head shot only photo (NO HATS OR SUN GLASSES) of the player **MUST** be uploaded at time of registration on-line. If the player purchased new uniform Kit during a previous season, they will be able to use same uniform kit provided the vendor is able to supply the current uniform kit.

### **NEW PLAYERS:**

Create an online family account from our website with Sports Connect. Then login to begin the online registration. Cost is \$125 (+ uniform kit) and a **NEW** wallet/passport sized head shot photo (NO HATS OR SUN GLASSES) of the player for the player card as well as a copy of a birth certificate for proof of age **MUST** be uploaded at time of registration on-line. Must purchase new uniform kits during online registration. The cost of the uniform kit is around \$50 (required). This will be a one-time fee as we will continue to use the same uniforms every season provided the vendor is able to supply the current uniform kit. Orders must be made at Munster Soccer Club Online Store thru Challenger Team Wear website. A physical address for shipping must be provided (No P.O. BOX). Additional shirts or "spirit wear" can also be ordered on-line from the Challenger Team Wear website.

### **VOLUNTEER COACHES:**

If you would like to help out as a volunteer register yourself to be a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach. Complete the online registration process and follow the instructions provided to complete your background check, concussion policy, and safe sport. We will need a wallet/passport sized head shot photo (NO HATS OR SUN GLASSES) uploaded for your coach's card as well.

Also feel free to join our Facebook Group Page: **Munster Soccer Club**

For any questions, please first refer to the FAQ page on our website at:

<https://www.munstersoccerclub.com>

If you still have questions after FAQ page email [mscpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:mscpresident@yahoo.com)



# Important Information For The Upcoming Spring/Summer Munster Little League Season

*Please review prior to registering your child.*

**Who Can Play** – Any child between the age of 4 and 12, based on the 2025 Little League Age Chart (see below). To be eligible for the MLL, your child must be a resident (proof of residency required) or attend a school located within the Town of Munster (a Little League School Enrollment Form will need to be completed).



The image shows the 2025 Little League Age Chart. It features the Little League Baseball logo at the top. Below the logo, a note states: "Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right." The chart is a grid with months (JAN to DEC) as columns and birth years (2021 to 2009) as rows. The age for each combination is listed in the rightmost column, ranging from 4 to 16.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020	4
2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	5
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	6
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	7
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	8
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	9
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	10
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	11
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	12
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	13
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	14
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	15
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	16

## **What Your Child Will Need To Play**

- Glove – Players will need to have a glove.
- Athletic Supporter – All male players will need an athletic supporter(cup).
- Cleats – Players should utilize a pair of cleats during practices and games.
- Helmets – Helmets are provided by the MLL, however, players should choose to wear their own helmet provided it has a protective mask.
- Bats – Bats are not provided by the MLL. Players may choose to use their own bat or borrow a teammates bat. Approved Little League bats can be found at:  
<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>

**Uniforms** – The MLL provides a uniform shirt and hat. Uniform shirt sizing is generally in line with normal athletic t-shirts. We generally recommend that a player chooses a uniform size shirt that is one size larger to accommodate for a sweatshirt or jacket during cold weather play. Samples of uniform sizes are available to be tried on at in-person registration.

Uniform pants, socks and belts are not provided. After your child is drafted to a team, the respective team manager will contact you to advise of the recommended colors to purchase.

**Evaluations** – Evaluations are required for players in the Major, Minor and C-League Divisions. The evaluation will consist of throwing, fielding and batting. The 2022 evaluation will be held on Saturday, March 5th at the MHS Fieldhouse. Scheduling will be done via email and you will receive that email after the registration period has ended. The actual evaluation takes about 20 minutes.

**Games Times and Information** – Games are typically played in the evenings during the week and throughout the day on Saturdays. Please note that during the school year, there will be night games played within our Major and Minor Divisions (timing rules will apply for the Minor Division). By rule, games are allowed to commence on April 15th. Generally, our younger leagues begin games in early May to avoid the extreme cold weather. Games typically last between 60 minutes and 120 minutes. There are no Sunday games and the MLL generally will not have any games played on Mother's Day weekend or Memorial Day weekend.

- Major Division – Games begin in April – Typically 2 games during the week (M-Th; 5:30pm/7:30pm) and 1 game on Saturdays. Games end by mid-June.
- Minor – Games begin in April – Typically 2 games during the week (M-Th; 5:30pm/7:30pm) and 1 game on Saturdays. Games end by mid-June.
- C-League Division – Games begin in April – Typically 1 game during the week (M-Th; 6:15pm) and 1 game on Saturdays. Games end by mid-June.
- Prep Division – Games begin at the end of April – Typically 1 game on Saturdays. Additional weeknight games may be played after school ends. Games end by mid-June.
- Tee-Ball Division – Games begin at the end of April – Typically 1 game on Saturdays. Additional weeknight games may be played after school ends. Games end by mid-June.

**Practice Times and Information** – By rule, practices can commence following the respective drafts in March. Practice times and location will be addressed by the respective manager. Generally, practice times are held in the early evening during the week and on Saturdays. In March, the MLL may provide indoor practice facilities. Information will be provided by the respective manager prior to the commencement of practices.

**Weather** – Be prepared to play in cold weather. By rules, games may commence when the temperature is 40 degrees or above. Notification of games postponements or cancellations will be made via email/text. Members are advised to expect to play scheduled games unless otherwise notified.

**Birth Certificates** – For new players to the MLL, a birth certificate will need to be provided during the registration process.

**Proof of Residency** – For all players, proof of residency will need to be provided during the registration process. If your child does not reside within the Town of Munster, a Little League School Enrollment Form will need to be completed by the school administrator to verify that your child does attend a school located within the Town of Munster. Proof of residency is required each year.

**Volunteers** – If you wish to volunteer for a position within the MLL (e.g., manager, coach, scorekeeper, team parent), you must complete the volunteer portion within the online registration system. In addition, a volunteer application will need to be completed to enable Little League International to complete a background check (required by Little League International). In early March, a link will be emailed out to all prospective volunteers and must be completed as soon as practicable.

**Forms** – Required forms (e.g., School Enrollment Form; Medical Form) can be found on the MLL website in the Forms tab.

**Website/Facebook/Twitter** – The MLL website contains important information concerning the league and season. Please continue to monitor the website. You can also like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.