



St. Thomas Aquinas CES

262 Old Homestead Road, Keswick, Ontario, L4P 3C8

905-476-7784 <https://sta.ycdsb.ca/>

Live with Love!

Learn with Joy!

Welcome to the 2025/26 School Year!

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2025/26 school year. I hope that you and your families enjoyed a wonderful and restful summer. I would like to welcome back all of our families and students, as well as welcome all of our new families to the STA community. On behalf of the entire staff here at St. Thomas Aquinas, we are excited to get the 2025-26 year started and are looking forward to the first week of school as well as to an exciting year ahead.

Ongoing communication from our school is important. The school will be communicating with families in various forms throughout the school year. You can expect to stay informed with school news and events through our 'Week at a Glance' communications. This communication memo will be posted on our school website, <https://sta.ycdsb.ca/>, on Sunday. In addition, this memo will be sent via email to all families every Monday at 8:30 am. The school website will also be regularly maintained and updated with our school Calendar, the Week At A Glance and special news/events. On occasion there may be standalone emails regarding specific news and events. In the coming weeks, please ensure that the school has accurate contact information (i.e. phone numbers and email addresses). In addition, you may wish to follow the school instagram account, https://www.instagram.com/stthomascscs_ycdsb/ for up to date information and upcoming events occurring at the school.

The first day of school is Tuesday September 2nd, 2025. Families will receive an email communication with their child's classroom placement on Monday September 1st at 5:00 pm. A great deal of time, effort and thought has been put into class placements. Many factors, including balancing classes, consultation with teachers and the learning environment have all been taken into careful consideration. As a result, changes to class lists are not likely unless needed to comply with Ministry parameters. Your support and understanding regarding this matter is greatly appreciated

First day of school procedures:

- **AM Student Entry:**

- Regular outdoor procedures. Supervision begins at 8:55 am. Students stay in their designated yards. Should it rain, we will move to inclement/indoor procedures and students can directly enter into the school.
- Teacher names and grades will be posted in the yard. Students will locate their classroom teacher for attendance prior to heading into the school.
- Kindergarten students will meet their teachers in the gated FDK yard located on the north side of the building by the Kiss 'N Ride.
- Students arriving late must use the front/main school doors and sign in with the office.

- **PM Dismissal:**

- Students will be dismissed from school at 3:40 pm. Please ensure that you have established a meeting point with your child if they are not on the bus or After School Program.
- FDK students: The classroom teacher will bring the students to the FDK gated area to meet their parent(s). Students taking the bus or attending the Afterschool program will be escorted by a member of the FDK team

- **Bus Loop:** The bus loop is at the front of the school building. Please do not enter the bus loop during morning entry (8:55 am - 9:10 am) and afternoon dismissal procedures (3:30 pm - 4:00 pm).

- **Parking Lot Safety:** The safety of students, and staff is paramount at St. Thomas CES. The Kiss 'N Ride, located on the north end of the building acts as a drop off/pick up loop. Please note the following reminders:
 - We ask that parents/guardians not park/leave their vehicles unattended or idling.
 - Use caution when in the parking lot: be mindful of students, families and staff
 - Please avoid entering the staff parking lot located on the south side of the building

- **Bus Transportation:** Parents are encouraged to visit www.schoolbuscity.com for updates and transportation information. Please refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com prior to leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons. To locate your child's bus stop. Please go to, "Find Your Bus Stop" on the STYR website to confirm their child's transportation for September.

- **Safe Arrival:** Parents and guardians are required to report their child(ren)'s absence or late arrival in advance, or before bell time for the current day by accessing the Elementary Safe Arrival Program using any of the three methods below:
 - Toll Free Safe Arrival Phone Number 1-855-856-7862
 - The Safe Arrival SchoolMessenger website: go.schoolmessenger.ca
 - The SchoolMessenger App from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store
 - [Elementary Safe Arrival Parent Guardian Letter](#)
 - [Safe Arrival Instructions](#)

- **Dress Code:** School dress code is important at St. Thomas Aquinas. Please refer to the school website for additional information on appropriate dress when at school
<https://sta.ycdsb.ca/our-school/dress-code/>

- **Cell Phone Use:** In alignment with the Ministry of Education policy memorandum, the Provincial Code of Conduct has been updated to address the use of cellphones and other personal mobile devices as outlined in PPM 128. These revisions are designed to restrict the use of all personal mobile devices during instructional time in both elementary and secondary classrooms in order to prevent distractions and maximize learning time. Please see the attached letter for further details. [Cell Phone Use Information](#)

- **Automated Speed Enforcement Camera (ASE):** An Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) camera will be activated near our school in September 2025 as part of York Region's commitment to improving road safety through York Region's [Vision Zero Traveller's Safety Plan](#). Please see the attached link for further information. [ASE Information](#)

As we begin this new school year, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support and partnership of the STA school community. May we look ahead to the new school year as we *Live with Love and Learn with Joy!* Have a wonderful long weekend!

Yours in Catholic Education,

F. Rossy
Principal