

Greetings St. Thomas Aquinas Community,

Thank you to our families, staff and students for a great start to the 2025/2026 school year. It has been wonderful to welcome back our students and feel the excitement and anticipation of another school year. On behalf of the staff at STA, we look forward to working together as a community in making this year the best one yet.

The 'Week at a Glance' communications are posted on our school website each week on Sunday afternoon. The school website, [STA Website](#), also contains updated special news/events and our school Google Calendar. In addition, you may wish to follow the school instagram account, [STA Instagram Page](#) for up to date information and upcoming events occurring at the school.

Morning Entry Reminders:

- Supervision begins at 8:55 am. Please do not drop your child(ren) off before this time as there is no supervision.
- ***Parents/guardians are asked not to enter the blacktop area between 8:55 am and 9:10 am.*** Parents may wait on the field or area by the Kiss 'N Ride. This will assist in ensuring the safety of our students and staff during this time.
- Pets & School Property: ***If you do bring along your dog when you drop off or pick up your child(ren), please remain off school property (with the exception of those with service dogs).*** Keep your dog leashed and out of reach of passing children. Some students may experience allergies, anxiety and/or fear when in the presence of dogs, both large and small.
- Kindergarten students will continue with direct entry into their classroom using the main door by the Kiss 'N Ride. A staff member will be at the doors to assist students with entry to the school.
- Students arriving late must use the front/main school doors. Parents/Guardians must sign their child(ren) in with the office.

End of Day Dismissal: The dismissal bell rings at 3:40 pm. Please arrange a meeting point with your child if they do not take the bus or are not in the After School Program. Students may exit through the back doors of the school if you are picking up your child by the church or park area.

School Dress Code: For information regarding our school dress code please visit our school website at [STA Dress Code](#). It is strongly recommended that students not wear flip flops, slides or crocs to school as these can pose a safety concern when students are playing outside at recess or in the school. Running shoes are recommended.

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. We ask that parents/guardians not park/leave their vehicles unattended/idling, use caution when in the parking lot and be mindful of students, families and staff

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

Anaphylactic Allergies and Medical Concerns: If your child has specific anaphylactic and/or medical concerns, please notify the office so that all information and forms are kept up to date. Please contact the office if you have questions.

Open House: *Save the Date!* The Open House will take place on Thursday September 18, 2025. More information will follow this week.

School Day Cashless System: The School Day Cashless System at STA is continuing this year. The School Day Cashless System provides real-time, secure access to up-to-date information and the ability to:

- complete online payments for trips, hot lunch and other activities;
- avoid the risks associated with sending money to school with your child;
- approve permission forms instantly online;
- reduce the environmental impact of photocopying permission forms and announcements;

New families to St. Thomas Aquinas will have received an email this past week with instructions and the Secure Match Key for your child(ren) to register onto School Day. Please contact the school if you require assistance.

Catholic School Council Meeting & Elections: Catholic School Council members have a special commitment to their school. They demonstrate enthusiasm, a desire to make a difference and a willingness to contribute in a meaningful way to strengthen the partnership between school, home and parish. If you would like to put your name forward and become an active participant in your child's education, please call the school office at 905.476-7784 for a declaration package (please see attached). It may be sent home with your child, or you may choose to pick up a package in the main office. ***A form must be completed if you wish to be a member of the CSC and returned to the school by Tuesday September 23, 2025.*** Successful candidates will hold their elected position for a term of one year and will be expected to attend the regular meetings. [CSC Constitution](#) [CSC Election Form](#)

Deadline for submission of nomination forms: Tuesday September 23, 2025.

Election Day: Wednesday September 24, 2025 (6:30 pm)

First council meeting: Wednesday September 24, 2025 (6:30 pm)

2025/2026 School Agenda: All students have received the 2025/2026 School Agenda this past week. School agendas are \$5.00 each. Payment can be done through cheque (made payable to St. Thomas Aquinas CES) or cash.

Upcoming Dates:

September 18: Open House (information will follow this week)

September 24: School Photo Day (NEW provider Edge Imaging)

September 24: CSC meeting & Elections in the library at 6:30 pm

September 25: Terry Fox Day

September 26: P.A. Day (no school)

Have a great week,

F. Rossy

Principal