



St. Thomas More School

Admissions Policy

2023/2024 School Year



Criteria for Admission

St. Thomas More is a Roman Catholic school and has, as its primary purpose, religious formation in a Christian environment, integrating religious truths and values with every aspect of human life. This integration begins in the home and is further developed in school. The decision to choose Catholic education for a child places upon parents the responsibility to accept the religious values upon which the St. Thomas More School educational system is founded, and further obligates them to share those values and responsibilities with their children.

St. Thomas More is operated under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gary. St. Thomas More School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, athletic, or other school-administered programs or admissions.

St. Thomas More School participates in the IN School Choice Program.

Non-Catholics

Non-Catholics are welcome at St. Thomas More School. As a Roman Catholic School, we exist first and foremost to promote the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Although we welcome non-Catholics, **only 15% of our enrollment per grade will be comprised of non-Catholic children.** No student is required to become a baptized Catholic or to participate in the Sacraments, however, students are expected to participate in religious instruction, attend Mass and other prayer services with their class, as part of the school's curriculum.

Age Requirements

- ◆ Children entering Preschool must be three years old on or before September 1st, toilet trained and out of any type of diaper or pull-up.
- ◆ Children entering Pre-Kindergarten must be four years of age on or before September 1st.
- ◆ Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1st.
- ◆ Incoming Kindergarten students must successfully complete Kindergarten Readiness Screening.
- ◆ Children entering first grade must be six years of age on or before September 1st. At the discretion of the Principal and/or Director of Student Special Services, an exception may be made for a student who has completed a full year of Kindergarten as a resident of another state in a public or private school.
- ◆ Admission of students to other grades will involve consideration of both chronological age and ability to successfully complete the work in those grades. The Principal and/or Director of Student Services have the authority to determine the placement of all students. Prior student records, an STMS placement exam, if needed, and a possible interview will be part of the decision process.

Admission Priority

For an Upcoming School Year

Applications for the 2023/2024 school year will open on January 29, 2023. Registrations are taken in the order received. Classes will be capped at 24 students per classroom. When maximum enrollment has been reached, a waiting list will be maintained for each grade. It is important to complete and submit your Online Application as soon as possible. Parents have 30 days in which to complete the application. A student body ratio of no more than 15% per grade of non-Catholic students will be maintained at all times. Once 15% non-Catholic is reached, new applications will be taken in the order received and held until March 24, 2023, when current non-Catholic families have re-enrolled for the following school year. At that time we will begin to fill remaining spots from the non-Catholic applications. Applications received on or before February 28, 2023 will be eligible for a \$50 registration fee discount.

Admission Rules

For a School Year Already in Progress

- Children who have moved into the area are admitted any time during the school year, pending review of report cards, standardized test scores, the STMS placement exam and family interview.
- Children with special circumstances may be admitted at the discretion of the Principal after review of report cards, standardized test scores, placement exam, behavioral history from previous school and an interview.

Other Requirements for New Families

Go to www.stm-school.com to start the Online Application process.

1. Please complete the online forms in full and submit the following:
 - Birth Certificate; Baptismal Certificate, if applicable
 - Current & 3 years of past Report Cards (required for 1st-8th grade Applicants)
 - Standardized Test Scores for Current & Past 3 Year(s), if applicable
 - NWEA Map Test Results for students in grades 1-8 (may eliminate the STMS pre-acceptance Placement Exam).
 - IREAD 3 Test Results, required for 4th grade applicants coming from an Indiana school
 - Home Language Survey (IN residents: please request from previous IN school)
 - Custodial Documentation, if applicable
 - Up-to-Date Immunization Records (after admissions)
 - Physical Exam required for all incoming Kindergarten students dated after May 1st and due by first day of school
2. Complete a Placement Exam if NWEA/MAP results are not available (required for 1st-8th grade applicants). You will be notified of the scheduled times.
3. Kindergarteners must sign up for the Kindergarten Readiness Evaluation.
4. Schedule a Parent/Student Interview with St. Thomas More School Administration prior to June 1st. This is required for all new applicants.
5. Students of all grade levels will need at home devices with keyboards and internet connection.
6. Final Acceptance is pending review of year end report card.