



# St. Thomas More School

## Tuition, Fees & Service Hours Policy 2021/2022 School Year



	<u>1 Child</u>	<u>2 Children</u>	<u>3 Children</u>	<u>5-Day Half-Day Preschool or Pre-K</u>	<u>3-Day Half-Day Preschool</u>
<b>Parishioner Rates</b>	\$5,474.00	\$8,211.00	\$10,948.00	\$2,737.00	\$1,940.00
<b>Non-Parishioner Rates</b>	\$7,504.00	\$11,256.00	\$15,008.00	\$3,752.00	\$2,330.00

Each additional child is charged at the rate of \$2,737 if a parishioner or \$3,540 if non-parishioner. These rates are half of the one child rate.

### Application/Registration Fee

**\$200 per child** (\$150 if paid on or before February 28, 2021) must accompany each student registration, as well as the required applications and documents. Other than the application/registration fee, there are **no** additional educational charges such as book or technology fees. Minimal incidental fees for gym clothes, summer reading, individual headphones, Parent Association, graduation etc., will be charged. Students at all grade levels will need at home devices and an internet connection.

*In the event of a financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Noreen Bickel, School President, at (219) 836-9151, ext. 2330 for confidential assistance in paying your tuition.*

### Parishioner/Non-Parishioner Rates

Parishioner rates are granted to families who are registered, **active parishioners** of St. Thomas More Church and live within the boundaries of the Diocese of Gary. Non-Parishioner rates apply to all those families living outside of the boundaries of the Diocese of Gary and/or non-parishioners of St. Thomas More.

An **active parishioner** at St. Thomas More Parish is someone that:

- Attends Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days, usually at St. Thomas More Church.
- Participates in parish ministry
- Contributes weekly to the church an amount that truly reflects the ways that the parishioner and family have been blessed.

During this time of COVID, we realize that you may not be as active as you will be in the future.

### Assistance, Scholarships & Other Credits

**Current Families:** *Information will be posted when available in Resource Documents in ParentsWeb.*

**New Families:** *Information will be sent to you, as soon as it is available.*

- Indiana Choice Scholarship - Indiana residents within the income guidelines may qualify. Take less than 5 minutes to see if you qualify. Go to: <https://nwchoicescholar.org/>. You may be pleasantly surprised! If it says you qualify for a Choice Scholarship, **do not** submit your contact information. Please contact Jennifer Gonzalez at [jgonzalez@stm-school.com](mailto:jgonzalez@stm-school.com) or 219-836-9151 ext. 2200, to start the process of getting approved. This must be completed by March 15<sup>th</sup> in order to qualify for next year's Choice Scholarship.
- Diocesan Financial Assistance - The application window for Diocesan assistance will open in early February. Go to: <https://dioceseofgary.org/office-catholic-schools> and select Online Application at the bottom of the page. You will be directed to log in thru your FACTS account. You must apply as soon as possible in order to possibly secure assistance. Funds are limited and are expected to be allocated quickly.
- Angel Scholarship - **Must First Apply for Diocesan Financial Assistance.**
- Tuition Reduction Incentive Plan (T.R.I.P.) - Earn money by purchasing gift cards through this STMS program. Discounts can be credited to your tuition account. Some STMS families have earned over \$1,000 in tuition credits in a year!
- \$500 Tuition Credit for referring a new family to STMS, who registers and attends in Fall 2021. Credit will be issued in December of 2021.
- Prepayment discount of \$100 (\$50 for half day) if you pay your tuition in full by August 1, 2021 on FACTS. If you pay your tuition in one or two installments, the FACTS fee will be \$20 instead of \$50.

### Tuition Payments

All tuition payments (1, 2 or 10 payment options) are to be made through FACTS Tuition, in addition to incidental fee payments (field trips, gym clothes, lunch charges, after school child care, etc.). Families are responsible for the FACTS fee: \$20 if tuition is paid in 1 or 2 installments, otherwise \$50.

### Mandatory Service (Volunteer) Hours

The service hour policy for the 2020-2021 school year requires all school families to work a minimum of **20 service hours in fundraisers or specific school activities or pay a \$10 per hour fee**. The specifics of this program are under review and may change slightly for the 2021/2022 school year. Final details and opportunities will be published in the fall of 2021.



# St. Thomas More School

## Admissions Policy

### 2021/2022 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.

#### Age Requirements

- ◆ Children entering Preschool must be three years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ◆ Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ◆ Incoming Kindergarten students must successfully complete Kindergarten Readiness Screening.
- ◆ Children entering first grade must be six years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 and an STMS placement exam, if needed, will be part of the decision process.

#### Admission Priority

##### For an Upcoming School Year

Registration for the 2021/2022 school year begins on January 31, 2021. Registrations are taken in the order received and, in most cases, will be capped at 24 students per classroom unless reduced due to COVID measures. 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 (OA) as soon as possible. From once an OA is started, parents have 30 days in which to complete the application process. A student body ratio of no more than 15% per grade of non-Catholic students will be maintained at all times. For new non-Catholic students, applications will be taken in the order received and held until February 28, 2021, when current non-Catholic families have registered 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, 2021 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 and the STMS placement exam. Children with special circumstances may be admitted at the discretion of the Principal after review of report cards, standardized test scores, placement exam and behavioral history from the student's previous school(s).

#### Other Requirements for New Families

Go to [www.stm-school.com](http://www.stm-school.com) to start the Online Application (OA) process.

1. Please complete the online forms in full and submit the following:
  - Birth Certificate
  - Baptismal Certificate, if applicable
  - Current & 2 years of past Report Cards (required for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Applicants)
  - Standardized Test Scores for Current & Past Year(s), if applicable
  - NWEA Test Results for students in grades 1-8 may eliminate the STMS pre-acceptance Placement Exam.
  - IREAD 3 Test Results, required for 4<sup>th</sup> grade applicants coming from an Indiana school
  - Home Language Survey (IN residents: transfer from previous school)
  - Custodial Documentation, if applicable