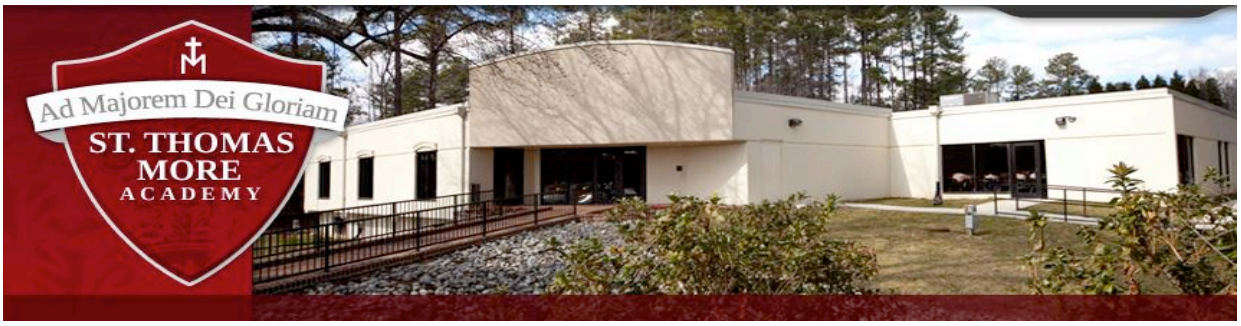
ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Welcome Guide for Parents



Compliments of the STMA Administration and the H& SA

August 2010

Welcome to St. Thomas More Academy!

At one time we were all new parents here. And as with all new experiences, there are often questions. This Parents' Guide is intended to provide you with a basic overview of the school and serve as a resource that contains information that (we hope!) will help provide some answers to questions you may have.

We understand people access information in different ways. Some of you may rely on the weekly electronic newsletter. Others may depend on forms sent home from the school. Still others may visit the school's website as their primary source of information. These are all valid ways of gathering information and that being said, the intent of this guide is not to replace any of them!

The aim of this guide was to simply take common information from various sources and deposit it all into one place. Every effort has been made to ensure this information within this guide is accurate. However, it is not intended to serve as the definitive, official policy. Throughout this guide we will note where additional information or policy can be found.

Throughout the guide you'll see the use of this symbol: New! This is to draw your attention to material that is new or has changed from years past.

We would like you to know this guide represents collaboration between the STMA Administration and the board of the Home and School Association. Our shared goal is to present you with a guide that is concise, accessible, and useful. This is our first attempt at this project and there are no doubt things we could improve upon. Because this guide is for you, the parents, we would absolutely **welcome your feedback** – particularly regarding what you would like to see. What did we leave out? Is something confusing? How can we make this better?

Thanks and Welcome to St. Thomas More Academy!

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Welcome Letter from the Headmaster

I am pleased to welcome you to Saint Thomas More Academy.

Eight years ago, STMA first opened its doors and I, too, was a new parent here. In fact, everyone was new. The school has come a long way since that time and, by the efforts of so many and the grace of God, has always been true to its mission, "To continue the vital tradition of Catholic education by integrating the very best academic curriculum with the deepest spiritual wisdom of Catholic Christianity".

The faculty and staff of Saint Thomas More Academy appreciate the opportunity to educate your sons and daughters and help them develop into confident, well-formed young men and women. We truly look forward to making this the best year in the school's history and are excited about the amazing potential of our student body. Please be sure to read TJ Moran's welcome from the Student Council. TJ conveys the value of our "Catholic atmosphere, excellent teachers, and challenging academics." Note the students' understanding that hard work is richly rewarded. Our students believe – know – that STMA is special.

This year we are blessed to have the finest faculty I have ever worked with. In preparing for the year I find myself continually thankful for their wisdom, depth of knowledge, richness of faith and incredible dedication.

I want to thank those who prepared this Welcome Guide, especially Ross Yeager, the president of the Home & School Association, and the H&SA officers, volunteers, students and STMA faculty who also contributed. I am confident this guide will help ease your transition into the school.

Please keep the students, faculty, school, families and each other in prayer.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Larry Henson

Headmaster

St. Thomas More Academy – *Fast Facts*

Mission: To provide the lifelong skills, knowledge, and catechesis to youth so they may love and serve God as Disciples of Christ and assume leadership roles in society as responsible, compassionate citizens.

Grades: 9 - 12

Address: 3109 Spring Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27616

Telephone: (919) 878-7640
Fax: (919) 878-7641

Website: www.stmacademy.org

Facebook: St. Thomas More Academy | Facebook

Select Staff

Headmaster:	Larry Henson
Dean of Faculty:	Dr. Wesley Kirkpatrick
Dean of Students:	David Kovacs
Director of Institutional Advancement:	Deacon Brad Watkins
Dean of Academic Affairs:	Rod Ruiz
Athletic Director:	Alex Young

St. Thomas More Academy (STMA) of Raleigh, North Carolina is an independent, diocesan-approved, classical, college-preparatory co-educational Catholic private high school. STMA is a member of NAPCIS. The school was founded in 2002 to meet the growing needs of central NC Catholics. The school moved to its current site in August 2007. STMA has been voted one of the 50 Best Catholic High Schools every year since 2006 by the Catholic High School Honor Roll.

2010-2011 Academic Calendar

8.19.10	**First Full Day of Classes**
9.2.10	Convocation Mass
9.6.10	**Labor Day – No School**
9.20.10	First Quarter Progress Reports
10.15.10	**Teacher Work Day – No Classes**
10.18.10	First Quarter Report Cards
11.20.10	**Thanksgiving Break Begins**
11.22.10	Second Quarter Progress Reports
11.28.10	**Thanksgiving Break Ends**
12.13.10	First Semester Exams Begin
12.17.10	First Semester Exams End
12.18.10	**Christmas Break Begins**
12.21.10	Second Quarter/First Semester Report Cards
1.2.11	**Christmas Break Ends**
1.24.11	March for Life, Washington, DC
1.25.11	**No School**
2.7.11	Third Quarter Progress Reports
2.19.11	**Mid-winter Break Begins**
2.27.11	**Mid-winter Break Ends**
3.25.11	**Teacher Work Day – No Classes**
3.28.11	Third Quarter Report Cards
4.20.11	Fourth Quarter Progress Reports
4.21.11	**Begin Easter Break**
5.1.11	**End Easter Break**
5.28.11	Baccalaureate Mass/Graduation
5.30.11	Memorial Day – No School
6.3.11	**Last Day of Classes**
6.6.11	Final Exams Begin
6.10.11	Final Exams End
6.14.11	Fourth Quarter/Second Semester Report Cards

- Current month's calendar & upcoming event can be found under "Quick Links" on the upper right tab on the STMA website: http://stmacademy.org/calendar/events/

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather, information regarding closings/ delays will be listed on **WRAL** under: **St Thomas More Academy Raleigh**. RenWeb (unless affected by a power outage) may also be used to broadcast information.

Agencies Providing Administrative Services for STMA

RenWeb:

St. Thomas More Academy makes use of RenWeb as a tool to post students' grades, view posted assignments, and communicate with parents. In addition, this secure website features a parent directory. Each family will have a unique user ID and Password to ensure confidentiality.

A link to the RenWeb site can be found under the "**Quick Links**" tab in the upper right corner of the STMA website

Or go there directly by navigating to: https://www.renweb.com/login.htm

First time users:

- Go to www.renweb.com
- Select "Login"
- In the school ID box enter: **STMA-NC**
- Select First-time users
- Enter your e-mail address (must match the one provided to the school)
- Follow the remaining instruction

FACTS Tuition Program:

Families that choose monthly tuition payments (as opposed to one-time lump sum payment) are required to establish a FACTS tuition account. STMA staff will send families an e-mail with instructions regarding how to register with FACTS. Once the account has been established families then will pay tuition in monthly installments via automatic bank withdrawals. Please contact school administration for more information. **STMA Office Telephone**: (919) 878-7640

School Hours and Carpool Instructions

During regular school days the school opens to students at **7:30** a.m. and closes to students at **4:00** p.m.

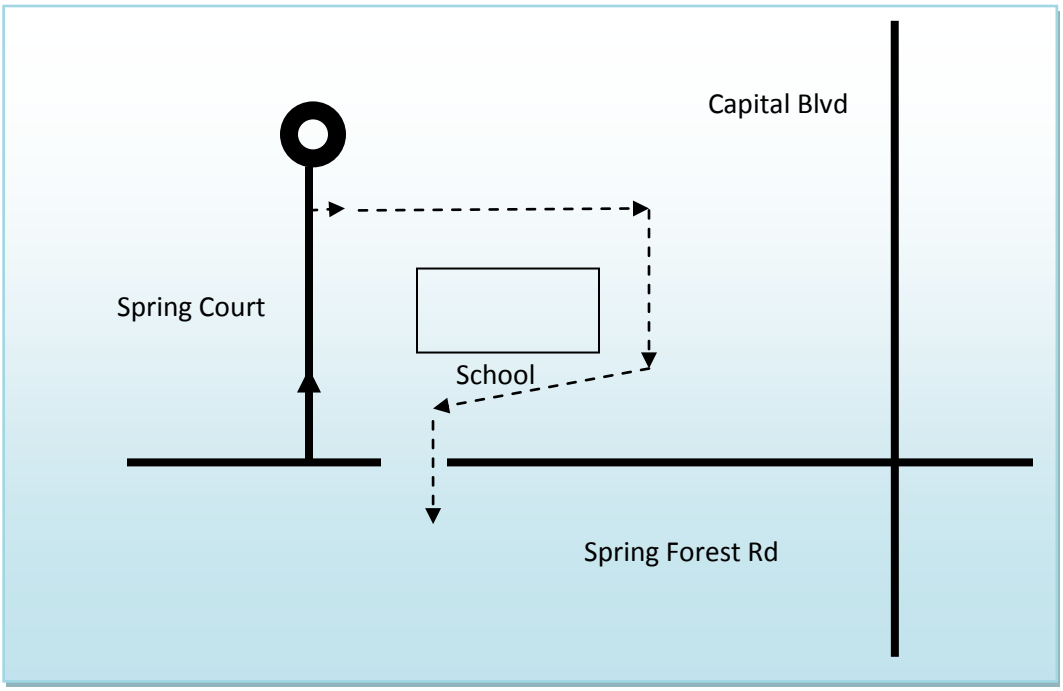
- Students arriving **to their classroom** after **8:00 a.m. are tardy**.
- Unless they are involved in a sanctioned after school activity, students not picked-up by **4:00** p.m. are subject to a late pick-up fee.

Carpool:

Each family will receive a **Carpool Number**. It is important that you and your student(s) know this number as this is used to notify students when you have arrived.

To facilitate a smooth traffic flow during peak drop-off and pick-up times please access the school through the entrance at the back of the property off Spring Court. Do not access the school through the primary entrance. The proper route is mapped below.

During carpool, please pull completely forward to the designated area and try not to create a large gap between cars. **Do not leave vehicles unattended in the carpool lane!**



Uniforms

Students are required to wear proper uniforms during school. Uniforms are available locally at **Educational Outfitters**: 1331 Buck Jones Rd, Cary educationaloutfitters.com. Tel: **(919) 804-5437**. Their staff will be able to help direct you on what is needed. Please **contact them directly** should you have an issue with your transaction or need to exchange merchandise. Educational Outfitters has traditionally come to STMA at the end of the school year to measure and advise parents regarding uniforms. There may also be a discount involved on orders on that date. This annual event is often referred to as "**Fitting Day**" (*see* "Events" *section*).

The HSA or School may make "***spirit wear***" available during the school year. This may include items such as stylish hoodies, sweatshirts, and tees with the school name. These are not part of the official school uniform. Wear your spirit wear & show your school pride after school and on weekends!

On occasion, and at the school's discretion, they may offer a "**Dress Down Day**". These days will usually be associated with special occasions. In addition, the school or Student Council may offer a similar Dress Down type day for charity. These events will be publicized and will involve a small monetary contribution for participation -all for a good cause.

The 2010 -2011 school year uniform is as follows: New!

FULL DRESS UNIFORM

-**All Fridays**, because of Mass and RLL Lecture Series, are full-dress days-

- Blazer (black with removable crest)
- Pants (charcoal gray) – *girls may wear charcoal gray or plaid skirt instead of pants*
- Oxford Shirt (white, long or short sleeves,)
- Necktie (wine stripe) for boys
- Black socks and belt, and closed-toe black or oxblood leather dress shoes – *girl's heels may not exceed two inches.*

REGULAR school days, when full dress uniform is not required, the blazer need not be worn.
In addition the following items may be worn:

- Black pants/skirt
- White, wine or gray STMA logo polo
- Wine-striped oxford shirt
- Wine sweater or sweater vest, (all must be worn over oxford shirt or polo)
- Wine fleece jacket

**For more information see STMA Website*: http://stmacademy.org/admissions/uniforms/

Service Hours

Students are required to perform **100** hours of service to be eligible for graduation (25 hrs per year) No more than **50** of those hours in a single year will be counted toward the graduation requirement, although students are encouraged to do as much service as possible. **10** hours per year can be from the **spiritual works of mercy** (praying at abortion clinics, serving Mass beyond Sunday obligation…) and the rest should be from the **corporal works of mercy**. The hours must be turned in **within a year from the date of service**, documented on the **STMA Service Hour Form** (available at the front desk) with a signature of the adult supervisor for them to be valid. Documented service hours may be handed in at the front desk.

Hot Lunch Program

STMA *typically* offers a Hot Lunch program on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays,** & **Thursdays**.

Each month, students will find a sheet (*see example below*) in their mailbox. Families can choose which days they would like to purchase hot lunch. They may choose all, some, or none. **Drinks are not provided.**

New!

Forms will clearly denote a "**return by**" date. Both the **form and cash** payment should be returned in a secure envelop with the child's name and must be placed in the **"Hot Lunch" box** at the **front desk** by the designated due date. **Late forms cannot be accepted**.

EXAMPLE

Hot Lunch Form October 2010

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week of 10/4	Pizza	Sandwich	Chicken
Week of 10/11	Sandwich	Chicken	Pizza
Week of 10/18	Pizza	Sandwich	Chicken
Week of 10/25	Chicken	Pizza	Sandwich

Total Cash payment $:_____

Please return form & money by Sept 30, 2010

Student Enrichment Activities at STMA

Science Olympiad

The 2010/2011 school year will be St. Thomas More Academy's 7th year participating in Science Olympiad. For the past 3 years we have been able to field both **Varsity** and **Junior Varsity Teams**. Science Olympiad is a national competition providing a series of rigorous, standards-based challenges to nearly 6,000 teams in 49 states. In North Carolina alone over 450 schools and over 8,000 students competed this past year. The teams, made up of a maximum of **18 members** each, are faced with 19 very challenging events beginning at the regional level. Team members compete in 2 or more events each. Varsity Teams that place in the top in their region advance to the state level competition. The top 2 teams at the state competition advance to the national competition.

Every year our students have improved on their performance and have had a lot of fun doing it. Most recently, our Varsity and JV teams both finished first in our regional tournament and for both of the last 2 years our varsity team has qualified for the state level competition. The hard work, ingenuity and enthusiasm that are brought forth on tournament day are truly amazing. Events that have been a part of the competition in the past include building events such as Bottle Rockets and Electric Vehicle, lab events like Forensics and Food Science, process skills such as Disease Detectives and Ornithology and general science knowledge such as Cell Biology and Astronomy. The goal of Science Olympiad is to show students that Science is a part of their everyday life and that it is an accessible and exciting field of study. **Your student does not need to be a straight "A" science student** to do well in Science Olympiad as long as they are willing to make a serious commitment to their events. If they put the effort in they will see positive results.

Along with the commitment of our students, one of the secrets to our success has been the individual attention and support of our parent coaches. While all construction of devices and completion of tasks is the responsibility of the students, our ability to assign a coach to each event really helps to keep students on track. The primary responsibility of the coach is to coordinate a regular meeting time and place with their team members. Helping to provide resources, study guides, design suggestions, etc. are some additional things coaches can do to keep the teams focused up until the day of the tournament. Please consider coaching one of our event teams this year. Even if you have never done it before or you don't feel you have any real science expertise, just having someone making sure a team is meeting is helpful to our effort. Contact **Marc Seelinger** for more information. **mseelinger@bellsouth.net**

Athletics

New!

STMA offers a variety of athletic activities for students. Some are **sports** (such as Soccer and Basketball) while others are considered ***Intramural clubs*** (like Tennis & Ultimate Frisbee). Regardless, a recent (*within the last 12 months*) **physical** is required for participation.

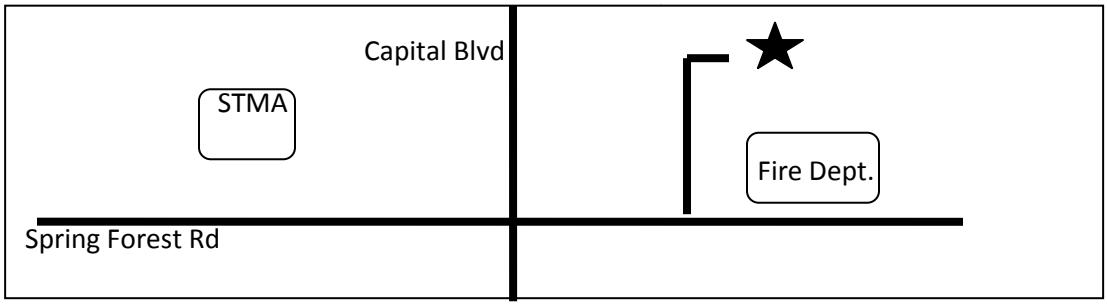
Registration is required for participation in **sports**, but not for ***Intramural clubs***. As a part of registration, a fee of **$40** is required. These fees pay for facility use, referees, and uniforms.

Typically, a member of the STMA faculty serves as the **Athletics Director** and coach. This year we are seeking a parent volunteer to support sports as a well (please see "Additional Parent Volunteer Opportunities" section of this guide.)

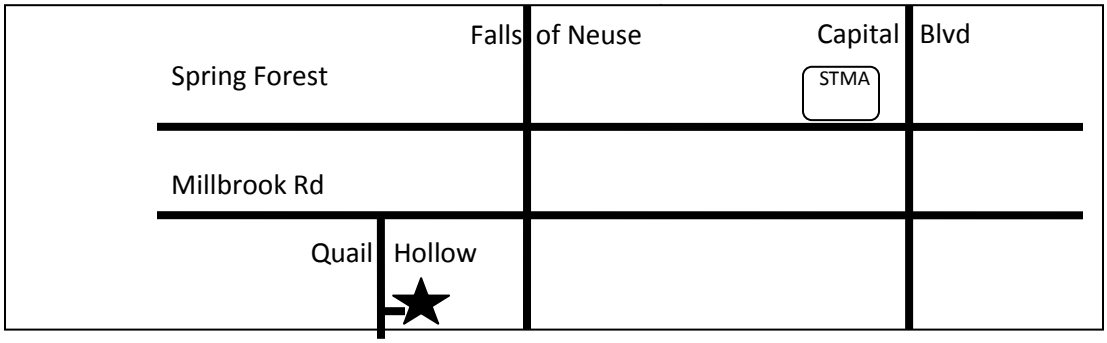
Transportation to and from practices and games is the responsibility of the parents. **Maps** for practice sites and to away games will be made available whenever possible. Information regarding sports and clubs can be found in the **weekly newsletter** and/or on the school website: STMA Athletics

Maps to Commonly Used Practice Fields

Spring Forest Park



Eastgate Park



Rewards Programs

Many of the larger retailers and stores **contribute back** to the community. St. Thomas More Academy takes advantage of these programs to help support the school and athletics.

When considering participation in these programs, don't forget to think about **friends and family members!** This is a great way to maximize contributions back to the school.

Retailer: Target New!

Program Name: Take Charge of Education

STMA Code: **151362**

Program Overview: https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005171

Register card online: https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005158

Check on total contributions to the School :
https://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001919&_requestid=117140

Fast Facts:

The website is easy to navigate and straightforward. All you need to is link your "Red Card" to the school's code (151362). Note there are various Red Cards. One is a Visa, another is Target's own charge card, and one is just a check cashing card (like a debit card). They all work to help the school- So it's more a matter of what works best for you.

Retailer: Kroger

Program Name: "Pre-paid gift cards"

STMA Code: #80953

Program Overview: http://plus.aftskroger.com/index_kroger_plus

Fast Facts:

This program features pre-paid gift cards. Simply purchase a Kroger gift card using the school's code #80953 and a percentage of the total value of the gift card will be sent to the STMA Home & School Association (H&SA). The H&SA uses these funds to support athletics. Some families simply use these cards for weekly grocery shopping – others give them as gifts.

Retailer: Harris Teeter

Program Name: TIE (Together in Education)

STMA Code: 5414

Program Overview: http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie_details.aspx

Register card online:
http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx

Check on total contributions to the School :
http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie_earnings.aspx

Fast Facts:

The website is easy to navigate and straightforward. Simply link your "VIP Card" to the school's code (5414). **Note:** Cards must be linked up each year and expires on **May 31st**! So at the beginning of each new school year remember to go online and re-link your VIP card!

For more information, please contact **Amy Gillen**:
wolfpackgillen@gmail.com

STMA Events, Activities, & YOU!

STMA families give of their time and talent to provide for all the needs of the student body. Your involvement allows the school to provide an extraordinary education at a reasonable rate.

We ask **every STMA family** to please volunteer for one or more of the following events. Please sign the ***Volunteer Sign-up*** sheet displayed at our **Back-to-School Night**, at all H&SA meetings, or by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator: Ginny Craig @ ginnycraig27@gmail.com, 847-8929. Thank you in advance. We simply cannot do any of these events without you!

2010 – 2011 List of School events by month

- **August** - Back-to-School Night
- **September** - Convocation Mass and Reception – **Thursday, September 2, 2010**
- **October** – STMA Fall BBQ – TBD
- **October** – Junior Class Ring Ceremony and Luncheon -TBD
- **October** – Science Olympiad Begins
- **December** – Christmas Chorale and Reception, **Sunday, December 19, 2010**
- **January** – March for Life – **Monday, January 24, 2011**
- **February** – Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference – **Friday and Saturday February 25-26, 2011**
- **February** – Jostens Class Ring Sales (Sophomores and upper class) - TBD
- **April** – STMA Spring Cotillion – TBD
- **May** – May Crowning – TBD
- **May** – STMA Graduation – **Saturday, May 28, 2011**
- **June** – Uniform Fit Day & Sale w/Educational Outfitters – TBD

Ongoing Events:

Monthly - Teacher Appreciation
Weekly – Wednesday Morning Rosary Group

2010 – 2011 School Event Description

• Convocation Mass and Reception with Bishop Burbidge

(Sophomore Class Led Event)

When: Thursday, September 2, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.

Where: St. Catherine of Siena, 520 West Holding Avenue, Wake Forest, NC

What: Convocation (Latin 'calling together', translating the Greek *ecclesia*). A mass with Bishop Burbidge celebrating the Saint Thomas More Academy new school year and blessings over its faculty, staff, and student body.

How you can help: This is a Sophomore Class Led Event. Sophomore class parents and student volunteers are needed to assist this year's Convocation Coordinator, Mary Parsons, by volunteering to help plan, set-up, clean up and donate food. **Student Service Hours Awarded**

Coordinator: Mary Parsons – matildaparsons@yahoo.com

• Fall Picnic

When: TBD – late September/October

Where: TBD (Our usual site, Pullen Park, is closed this year)

What: STMA Family Picnic, Alumni

How you can help: A coordinator or two are needed for this event, along with other parent and student volunteers, to help plan and facilitate the event. A folder is available with notes and ideas from previous picnics.

- ## Teacher Appreciation

When: Monthly

Where: Saint Thomas More Academy

What: Each month, three parent volunteers work together to do "something" for the STMA faculty (coffee & donuts, spiritual bouquet, lunch, goodie bags, etc,). A folder is available with notes from previous Appreciation Days filled with many helpful ideas and guidelines, but each team has plenty of room to be creative and inventive.

How you can help: A coordinator is needed for the year to oversee each month's activity. Three (3) different families are needed each month to plan and facilitate the monthly activities.

- ## Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

When: Wednesday mornings, 8:00 a.m.

Where: STMA Chapel

Coordinator: Maura Moralic

What: After morning carpool, parents & siblings meet in school chapel to say the rosary for our STMA students, staff, faculty and all our families.

How you can help: Participate!

- ## Science Olympiad

When: Begins in October with competitions in mid-winter and spring.

Where: STMA and participating universities.

What: (***See full description in Enrichment Activities Section!***)

Coordinators: Marc and Maureen Seelinger - mseeling@bellsouth.net

How you can help: Twenty (20) parent volunteers are needed to coach the 23 different events. For more information, please attend the H&SA meetings, or contact Marc and Maureen Seelinger.

- ## Christmas Chorale

(Freshman Class Led Event)

When: Sunday, December 19, 3:00 p.m. (Reception to follow)

Where: St. Catherine of Siena, 520 West Holding Avenue, Wake Forest, NC

What: A Spiritual Christmas Performance directed by maestro Mrs. Nina McElwee featuring the Select Choir, individual student musicians, and the Freshman Class Choir.

Coordinator: ***Needed*** *!*

How you can help: A Freshman Class parent coordinator is needed for this year's event. Four to five additional Freshman Class parents needed to assist the coordinator(s). A folder is available with notes from previous receptions and plenty of past volunteers are available to answer questions and help with the event. If you enjoy hosting a Christmas party, this event is for you!

- ## March for Life

When: Monday, January 24, 2010

Where: Field Trip via bus to Washington, D.C.

What: Annual pro-life rally protesting abortion, held in Washington D.C. on the anniversary of the decision in the United States Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade.

Coordinator: STMA Pro-Life Club

How you can help: Fourteen (14) parent chaperones are needed to assist the STMA faculty by helping to chaperone the field trip. There is a charge for the bus trip, typically around $40.

- ## Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference

When: Friday and Saturday, February 25-26, 2011

Where: North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Jim Graham Building,
1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh

Coordinator: Ginny Craig – ginnycraig27@gmail.com

What: Ignited By Truth Catholic Conference supported by the Diocese of Raleigh. It has been a longstanding STMA tradition to assist with both the IBT Walk-A-Thon and IBT Catholic Conference.

How you can help: Twenty (20) student volunteers are needed Thursday night and possibly early afternoon Friday to help set-up, assist vendors, work on table displays.
Ten students are needed to serve as ushers/greeters during the conference. ****A Ticket must be purchased****
Twenty (20) student volunteers are needed after the mass Saturday night to take down the conference (stacking tables and chairs, helping vendors pack, general clean up).
*****Student Service Hours are awarded*****

- ## Class Rings – "Ring Ceremony"

When: TBD - Jostens Ring Sales in February, Ring Ceremony in October

Where: STMA and possibly Strombolis Restaurant (across from school)

What: Jostens representative displays and sells class rings in February to the Sophomore class and any upper class students who wish to purchase class rings. A 'Blessing of the Rings' Ceremony is held in October for the Junior Class with lunch to follow.

Coordinator: Ginny Craig – ginnycraig27@gmail.com

How you can help: Two junior class parents are needed to chaperone the lunch trip this October.
. One sophomore class parent is needed to be next year's coordinator to assist Jostens with Ring Sales in February.

- ## May Crowning

When: TBD school day in May

Where: STMA

What: During the Month of May - a month both named for and dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, Mary - Catholics have long honored her by placing a crown on her image. The tradition in the United States and many other countries has been for school children to hold a "May Crowning" ceremony, with a procession, rosary, and a wreath of flowers that one designated student places on the statue.

Coordinator: Martha Centeno - mm_centeno@hotmail.com

How you can help: Assist Mrs. Centeno by volunteering to help plan and facilitate the May Crowning Ceremony and Party.

- ## Cotillion Dance

When: TBD Saturday evening in April or May

Where: Fallon Center, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church,
2718 Overbrook Drive, Raleigh

What: Cotillion Style Ball

Coordinator: Patricia Guin - pbguin@aol.com

How you can help: Ten (10) Senior Class parent volunteers needed to help serve dinner.

Three (3) parent and/or student volunteers needed to set-up in the morning/early afternoon.

Three (3) parent/student volunteers needed during the evening to help wash dishes.

Five (5) parent/student volunteers needed to clean-up tables and chairs after the dance.

******Student Service Hours Awarded******

- <u>Graduation</u>

(Junior Class Led Event)

When: Saturday, May 28, 2011 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Where: TBD

What: Baccalaureate Mass honoring our graduating senior class, Commencement Ceremony and Graduation Reception.

Chairman:

Baccalaureate Coordinator:

Commencement Coordinator:

Reception Coordinator:

How you can help: **Needed**: Starting in December a junior class parent to chair the event and oversee the other three event coordinators.

Three, preferably junior class parent volunteers to work with the Chairman and coordinate the Baccalaureate mass, Commencement and Graduation reception.

A wonderful notebook prepared by past graduation volunteers is included as a guideline for this event along with many experienced parents.

The Chairman and Graduation Coordinators will need many other parent and student volunteers throughout the year and during the event.

- ## Alumni Event(s) New!

When: TBD

Where: TBD

What: Possibly a picnic for all past STMA students and families

How you can help: May need one or two parent coordinators, and and student volunteers to help plan and facilitate the event(s). A folder is available with notes and ideas.

- ## Uniform Sale/Uniform "Fitting Day"

When: TBD – May or June

Where: STMA

What: Educational Outfitters visit STMA to aid new and existing students with finding and fitting school uniforms.

Coordinator: Deirdre Schuetz - schuetz@nc.rr.com

How you can help: Two to four parent volunteers needed to assist ***Educational Outfitters*** and help students with uniform selection.

- ## "Feast Days"

One of the unique aspects of STMA is our celebration of feast days. On these days we ask **families to donate a dish, side dish, drink or dessert** so that we can form a large buffet capable of feeding our entire student body. In addition to eating we also hold various contests and games such as an Irish limerick contest and a competition for best dressed saint on All Saints Day. The feast days typically celebrated are All Saints Day (**November 1st**) The Immaculate Conception (**December 8th**) and St. Patrick's Day (**March 17th**). While the Student Council does most of the organizing for these events, **we need parent volunteers as well as food donations**. In the days prior to feast days, look for food and volunteering requests in the news letter or hand outs sent home. We thank you in advance for you generosity and willingness to help make our feast days possible!

*Additional Parent Volunteer Opportunities for Your Consideration

Wonderful ways to make a big difference for our school and students

- ## Volunteer Coordinator

What: The Volunteer Coordinator gets the ball rolling at STMA, so to speak, by recruiting all the necessary parent volunteers needed to run the various H&SA events throughout the school year. He/She works along-side the H&SA Board members insuring that all H&SA events are held on a timely basis with enough help from various volunteers. This is a wonderful job allowing you to meet and work with many of our STMA families. The position is for two-years – the first year working along-side the existing Volunteer Coordinator, the second year as Lead Coordinator.

Coordinator: Ginny Craig – ginnycraig27@gmail.com

How you can help: Looking for a new coordinator to assist with coordinating many of this year's H&SA Events. For more information please contact Ginny.

Sports Coordinator New!

What: **NEW POSITION**: Coordinator works along-side STMA's Athletic Director (Mr. Young) and our coaches by making phone calls, organizing volunteers, sending emails and providing maps to the various sporting locations. Also compiles a volunteer schedule for both girls' and boys' basketball games for the purpose of collecting admission fees at the door of STMA's Home basketball games.

How you can help: Needed: One coordinator for the whole year, or several coordinators per sport. For more information, please contact Ginny Craig - ginnycraig27@gmail.com

Student Council

The 2010 – 2011 Student Council Welcomes Students and Parents!

The Student Council for the 2010-2011 school year would like to welcome all incoming students and their families to Saint Thomas More Academy. Over the years, we have discovered just how special our school is, and we are excited that you will be joining us to make this school even better. As students, we have come to love STMA for its great Catholic atmosphere, excellent teachers and yes, even its' challenging academics. As you will soon see, STMA is not your typical school. For example, whether we are marching around the streets of Washington D.C. protesting abortion (March For Life), or studying the philosophy of Pope John Paul II, we are constantly reminded of our uniquely dynamic education. Incoming students must prepare themselves to work hard while at STMA, but also to expect all the hard work to be richly rewarded as you will become an excellently formed person headed off to make a major impact in the world. A justice on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania named Juanita Kidd Stout once said, "A person educated in mind and not in morals is a menace to society." At STMA a student receives a stellar education in math, writing, history, science etc., but an even greater education in how to live one's life as a Christian leader in our world. This is why we think our school is special and we are excited to welcome all incoming students to experience Saint Thomas More Academy.

Sincerely,

Your 2010-2011 School Year Student Council:

TJ Moran, Vincent Green, Bridget Seelinger, and Patrick Seelinger

2010 –2011 Student Council Officers:

Student Body President:	TJ Moran
Senior Representative**:**	Vincent Green
Junior Representative:	Bridget Seelinger
Sophomore Representative:	Patrick Seelinger
Freshman Representative:	*To be elected at the beginning of the school year*

Roles and Responsibilities:

The representatives of each class must vocalize the desires of their respective class in the Student Council meetings; help plan and arrange events, such as dances, feasts and Spirit Week; as well as, serve as mediators between the faculty and students. The president must lead the representatives in planning the events and in aiding the student body in their efforts at STMA. Within the Council, the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are held. The Vice President presides over meetings if the president cannot attend, the Treasurer must handle the monetary affairs of the Council, and the Secretary must record the decisions and topics discussed during meetings.

Goals and Plans for this year:

We plan to serve the student body as best we can to make the 2010-2011 school year as successfully as possible.

Yearbook Sales:

The Student Council coordinates yearbook activities including sales. Please contact student yearbook editor Austin Faur afaur92@gmail.com

Home & School Association

Welcome!

Congratulations on your decision to enroll your child(ren) at STMA! We're confident you'll soon realize what a great choice you've made. The staff, faculty, and students here are among the finest you'll find anywhere.

Just as your child will be warmly accepted and welcomed at STMA, we want to make every effort to acknowledge and greet you, the parents.

The Home & School Association (H&SA) exist to support our school. More importantly, this body serves as a means for all parents to actively participate in supporting our school. Each H&SA Board Member is a school parent, but our success can only be measured by how well we engage and involve all parents.

Our goal this year is to do just that. We want to be very thoughtful and intentional in developing events & activities that may be of interest to you or provide opportunity for your involvement. We intend, of course, to be transparent and inclusive in how we share information so it's accessible to everyone. Our collaboration with the School's Administration to create this guide is a first step.

In short, our hope is to develop a true sense of community and connectedness – not just for some, but for all.

So again, welcome to STMA! We look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

2010-2011 School Year H&SA:
Ross Yeager, Marie Taylor, Mary Parsons, Amy Gillen, Ann Kane
& Ginny Craig

2010 -2011 H&SA Officers:

President:	Ross Yeager	theyeagers@nc.rr.com
Vice President:	Marie Taylor	mrstaylor@nc.rr.com
Corresponding Secretary:	Mary Parsons	matildaparsons@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary:	Amy Gillen	wolfpackgillen@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Ann Kane	
Volunteer Coordinator:	Ginny Craig	ginnycraig27@gmail.com,

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Home & School Association (H&SA) exists to support the school. It also serves as a body to involve and engage parents. The H&SA holds bi-monthly meetings to share information and gain input from parents regarding ideas and initiatives.

The H&SA is not involved in establishing STMA school policy. However, the H&SA – in its role of support- may be involved in a number of school activities. This is always done in collaboration with input from STMA's School Administration.

New!

As a means to help parents delineate between information from the School Administration and H&SA, we will place this logo on all forms and correspondence from the H&SA:

H&SA

Goals and Plans for this year:

Our primary goal for this year is to engage and provide the opportunities for involvement to **all** parents. To accomplish this, we will implement several strategies:

- Transform bi-monthly meetings –seek ways to make them much more participatory
- Provide opportunities for parents to do things together
- Assure essential information is accessible: be transparent, be inclusive, and be responsive to all parents

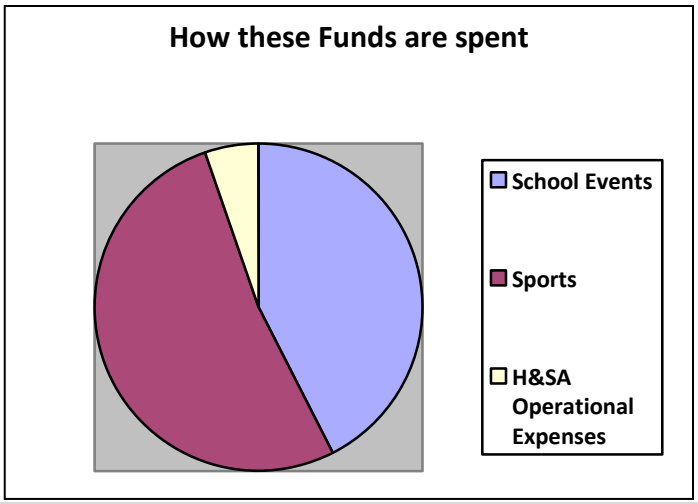
We have also spent some time streamlining and defining our own internal roles and believe the H&SA is well positioned to be more efficient and effective in our duties and responsibilities.

Communication

Understanding people make use of different sources to access information, the H&SA plans to share information through various means. This will include: **RenWeb**, the weekly **STMA Newsletter**, and the "**H&SA Announcements**" page on the STMA Website. Saint Thomas More Academy HASA . Remember look for the H& SA logo

Finance

Funding: Each year the H&SA receives approximately **$5,000** through the **$50 fee** paid by families at registration.



Family Activities: New!

Below is a listing of possible family activities we are developing for the coming school year. We will try to schedule these during weekends and evenings to provide better opportunity for families to participate. More information will be forthcoming as these events are scheduled.

- Restaurant night *(Various restaurants throughout the area – families join to eat out and a portion of the proceeds go to the school)*
- Carolina Master Chorale *(Concert)*
- Geocache/Letter boxing (Family Activity)
- Train to Charlotte (Day Trip /Sightseeing)
- JC Raulston Arboretum (Family Activity)
- Hurricanes/Bulls/Mudcats game (Family Activity – group pricing?)
- Hike at Raven Rock (Family Activity)
- NC Art/ Science/ History Museum (Family Activity – guided tour?)
- Christmas party in January for charity –with music & light refreshments (make something /service project for worthy organization, send letters to troops…etc)

Ideas for potential events at STMA school include: Guest speakers, wine tasting, "how to" classes, movie night, mystery adventure, blood drive? blood pressure & health screening, CPR training…etc.

Do any of these ideas interest you? Do you have other suggestions? Please contact Marie Taylor at mrstaylor@nc.rr.com

2010 -2011 STMA Home & School Association Meeting Calendar

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend!

The H&SA meets every other month beginning in September. The meetings are held at the school and begin at either **7:00 or 7:30 p.m.** -*we involve the parents in that decision at the first meeting of the year*. 30 minutes prior to each meeting we gather in the school library for an **informal social** with light refreshments. The meetings typical last just an **hour** as we are aware of and respectful of your time

The following are the dates for the 2010-2011 school year:

Thursday **September 16th**

Thursday **November 18th**

Thursday **January 20th**

Thursday **March 17th**

Thursday **May 19th**

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