

2017-2018  
ST THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL  
KINDERGARTEN  
ABC'S



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2017-2018

Dear Parents,

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome you and your child to our class. Each new year is exciting and I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child!

Kindergarten is a very important year for your child that builds the foundation for a successful education. It is a year full of fun, learning and exploration. My goal is for every child in my classroom to develop a love and passion for learning! Encourage your child to discuss school activities with you!

I have prepared the ABC's of Kindergarten to answer many questions you may have concerning procedures in our room and in our school. Please keep this booklet throughout the year so you can refer to it as needed. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your child as he/she grows academically, spiritually and socially. By working together, we will have a TERRIFIC year!

Mrs. Wehner ☺





**ARRIVAL** - Your child should be in their classroom by 7:50. School starts promptly at 8:00. Your child may come to school no earlier than 7:35. If your child is not in class by 8:00, he/she is considered tardy. If your child arrives at school after 8:15, they will need to be signed in by an adult at the office. Please make every effort to have your child at school on time every day. This will also give your child sufficient time to complete their morning work when they enter the classroom.

**ART**- Your child will go to Art class for 30 minutes each week.

**ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES**- Regular school attendance is important to your child's success in Kindergarten. Please make every effort to have your child at school every day! If your child is sick or misses school for any reason, please call the office by 9:30 or email me at [lwehner@aquinastars.org](mailto:lwehner@aquinastars.org) that day. For more details on the attendance policy and a complete list of excused absences, please refer to the St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School Parent/Student Handbook. If your child has a communicable illness like a fever, stomach bug, diarrhea or pink eye, he or she must be 24 hours free of it before returning to school (without the use of Tylenol or other fever reducing medication).

**ASSESSMENTS** - We use several standardized instruments to assess your child in Kindergarten. These tests help us determine the starting point and direction of instruction that will best help your student. In addition, we will test new material in class to make sure progress and/or mastery has been achieved.

# B

**BIRTHDAYS** - Birthdays are exciting times! At Aquinas we have a 'birthday club' opportunity for you to purchase ice cream cups for the class. The cups will be delivered to the class on the day you designate for the celebration.

Please note that in the Aquinas handbook it states that birthday party invitations may **not** be passed out at school, even if the whole class is invited. A "buzz book" comes out later this school year with parent emails in it.

**BOOK ORDERS**- We work with Scholastic Book Club to give you an opportunity to purchase books for your child at a low cost throughout the school year. Please see the flyers we send home throughout the year and feel free to order books from them and off the Scholastic website. Of course, there is no pressure to participate!

**BREAKFAST**- Please be sure that your child eats something in the morning. This will give him or her the fuel needed to start the many tasks your child needs to begin the morning at school.

# C

**CLOTHING** - Please be aware of the weather each day and any possible change in the weather that may occur from day to day. **Please dress your child appropriately for dismissal in the RAIN OR COLD!** Please note that Kindergartners should **not** bring umbrellas to school. Instead, please send raincoats, rain hats and even boots, if you wish, on expected rainy days.

Cold, blustery weather calls for hats, gloves and a warm scarf. Please DO NOT forget jackets or coats and be certain that your child has their jacket or coat on as they get out of carpool each morning. We will have outdoor recess every day... weather permitting. **A special note: Please label all of your child's personal items with his or her name! This includes lunch boxes, backpacks, sweaters, vests, jackets and coats!**

**COMMUNICATION** - I feel that communication between home and school is crucial to your child's success in Kindergarten. I will send newsletters each week and your child's envelope/blue folder will come home daily. If you ever need to talk to me, please feel free to send me a note or email.

Your child will come home with a communication folder that we call the "blue folder." If you have any paperwork for the school office or us in the classroom, please send it in the blue folder inside the plastic envelope. We will check the folders daily and ask that you do the same. **Please initial your child's calendar included in their folder in the appropriate date square each day.** I will quickly communicate with you each day during pick up as well as through notes, our weekly newsletter and email. If you ever have questions or concerns about anything happening in our room, please feel free to ask me!

**COMPUTER LAB-** Our school has an awesome computer lab! Our computer teacher, Mr. Wage remains up to date on all of the current technology and we are so lucky to have him with us. Your child will go to computer class for 30 minutes each week with Mr. Wage.

**CONFERENCES-** We will have school wide parent-teacher conferences in November. The school will send home an email to schedule conferences via a website scheduler. I am available for additional conferences and phone calls as the need arises as well.

**CHIPS-** Each child has a plastic cup in the classroom with their name on it. The cups hold the chips they earn throughout the week. The goal each week is to earn at least 10 chips. Chips are earned for maintaining a positive attitude, giving 100% effort on an activity, being a good role model for their peers, helping a classmate or the teacher without being asked and for many other reasons! The ways to earn chips in my class are endless- and all ways resemble Christ like behavior. On occasion, chips are also taken away for

poor behavior or choices in the classroom or on campus. Each Friday afternoon K2 will enjoy "Fun Friday" for the last 45 minutes of the school day. All the students that have at least 10 chips in their cups take part in Fun Friday. The activity for each Fun Friday will always be a surprise and will be different from week to week! That is part of the FUN! My students learn quickly to work hard to earn their chips so they can take part in the surprise activity! The students that do not earn at least 10 chips that week are invited to sit quietly at their seat and enjoy a book.



**DAILY BEHAVIOR PLAN/REPORT** - Learning and good behavior go hand in hand. During the first few days of school as a class, we will create a list of rules that will make our days at school successful. These rules will be established to ensure that your child experiences a safe and positive learning environment.

In our classroom, more emphasis will be placed on positive behaviors than on negative behaviors. The importance of making good choices and accepting responsibility for their actions will be emphasized to your child. I will also teach problem solving strategies to your child should a discipline situation occur between students. I encourage students to talk to each other to resolve a problem, among other strategies.

There are times when some children will need additional support. We will keep track of behavior on our "How am I Doing" chart. Each child will start the day out on green.

If a child has difficulty following a rule or directions, he/she will:

1. First be given a warning, along with a reminder about the appropriate behavior and a strategy for making better choices.
2. If the child continues to have difficulty, he/she will have their card moved to yellow, and will be asked to think about his/her actions and

of ways he/she can make better choices, and they will receive a logical consequence for the action.

3. If a child still continues to have difficulty, he/she will have their card moved to red, will be asked to think about his/her actions and of ways he/she can make better choices and will receive a logical consequence for the action.

PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS WILL ALWAYS BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN THEIR WAY BACK TO GREEN. WE ARE ALL HUMAN AND MAKE MISTAKES. GOD ASKS US TO LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES AND MOVE FORWARD AND THAT IS ALL WE SHOULD ASK OF ONE ANOTHER.

Each day you will receive a report about your child's behavior in their daily folder. If your child ended the day on green, they will have a green apple in the appropriate date box. If your child was on yellow or red at the end of the day, they will have a yellow or red apple in the appropriate date box and I will always include a comment explaining the choices they made that day. There is a comments page in your child's folder on the backside of the calendar. Please feel free to write me a note with comments or questions. **Please initial your child's folder daily in the appropriate date box regardless of if they ended the day on green, yellow or red.** Also, please praise and reinforce positive behaviors and discuss difficulties with your child.

**DISMISSAL** - Kindergarten makes every effort to be out on the sidewalk for dismissal just before 3:00 each day. If there is a change in your child's pick up time or method of transportation, please send me a written note or call the office. **Please send me a note if someone other than you or someone who regularly picks up your child will be picking him or her up that day.** Your child's safety is what is most important during dismissal. If I do not recognize the individual picking up your child I will ask for ID and cross check to make sure they are on your approved pickup list. I treat all my students as if they were my own and safety comes first. Thank you in advance for understanding!

**DOMINICAN SISTERS**- We love our Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia! We ask the students to address them as "Sister" followed by their name. When responding to a sister, we say, "Yes, Sister" or "No, Sister."

# E

**EMAIL** - I can be reached by email at [lwehner@aquinastars.org](mailto:lwehner@aquinastars.org). I will make every effort to get back to you within forty-eight hours.

# F

**FIELD TRIPS** - Kindergarten will go on one field trip this year. We will send more information on that as the time draws near.

**FOLDERS** - Your child will bring home his or her clear plastic envelope/blue folder every day. Inside you will find their schoolwork, any important notes or information and a daily behavior calendar. Please review your child's folder every night, remove any schoolwork/notes, and initial their behavior in the appropriate date box. Also, if you need to send a note to me, please send it in their daily folder.

# G

**GRADES** - Kindergartners are given one of three ratings for specific skills on their report cards. The ratings are based upon an overall evaluation of the student to include teacher judgment and observation of the student's



daily work, class participation, effort and performance on teacher prepared tests. The student will receive one of the three following ratings.

M: Student meets grade level standards- student consistently meets skill

P: Student is progressing towards grade level standards- student is still developing skill

NI: Student needs improvement- student is not demonstrating skill

**GUIDANCE** - Our school guidance counselor is Mrs. Perroots. She is available for students and parents. Her email is [kperroots@aquinastars.org](mailto:kperroots@aquinastars.org).



**HANDWRITING** - The students learn how to print each letter both in the upper and lower case forms. We encourage the children to hold their pencil more efficiently by "pinching the pencil between pointer and thumbkin and resting it on tall man." We will also be teaching each child to print their name properly, beginning with a capital letter and following with lowercase letters. Each child should soon be able to print both their first and last names using Kindergarten lined paper correctly.

**HOMEWORK** - We will be sending home short readers for you to practice with your child each week. We will also begin to send home flash card sight words, blending charts and word lists. Please review these each night. I also ask that you READ to and with your child each night!

Many of the important nonacademic skills that your Kindergartner can continue to work on are maybe already incorporated into your daily routine: singing songs, working on household tasks (like setting the table and making their bed), tying their shoes as well as learning phone numbers and birthdays.

Each month the family portion of the Virtues packet will be due. Please review your virtues booklet and talk about each saint of the month with your child, then complete and sign the homework page to turn in to school.

There will also be homework projects that will be assigned on a periodic basis. Please have fun with this at home with your child.

On occasion, there may be a skill that your child is struggling with or needs additional reinforcement practice in order to reach an expected level of competency. If this is the case, I will send home practice opportunities for your child that target the skill needing additional attention.



**ILLNESS** - If your child is ill, please call the office and email me. Also please send a note in your child's folder when they return to school. If they go to the doctor, please send that note as well. Please keep your child home if he or she is ill and can spread the sickness to others. Please refer to the Aquinas handbook as well to get more details on when a student must stay home.



**JOURNALS** - We will use journaling as a way to teach writing in conjunction with Superkids and across the curriculum. We will also learn how to draw and label in our journals.



**KINDERGARTEN** - Kindergarten is a year full of fun, learning and exploration that builds the foundation for a successful education.



**LANGUAGE ARTS** - For Reading and Language Arts we use the Superkids Reading Program which is a phonics based reading program. Students will learn to systematically read and write letters, to associate letters with sounds, to blend letter sounds to form words and sentences, and to read and write phonetically regular words as well as Memory (Sight) Words.

**LIBRARY** - Your child will go to the library each week and will be allowed to check out a book. Please return that book each week so your child will be allowed to check out another book. Mrs. Beda is our librarian and her email is [jbeda@aquinastars.org](mailto:jbeda@aquinastars.org).

**LUNCH** - The students will eat lunch at approximately 11:30 each day. Students can bring a lunch from home or buy hot lunch. Milk may be purchased by submitting the milk form at the beginning of the school year. Our hot lunches are available to purchase online each month. Remember that we have lunch every day except 12:00 noon dismissal days. Kindergarten does not purchase ice cream or snacks from the lunchroom. We encourage you to send child friendly, easy to open containers for your children.

# M

**MASS** - Kindergarten will attend mass every Wednesday. We will sit with our sixth grade prayer partners.

**MATH** - Math is part of our day every day! We use the calendar and real life situations to create math problems. We will work on our problem solving skills as well. Kindergarten uses Saxon curriculum in Math and it is a very comprehensive regiment that prepares them well for the First Grade.

**MONTHLY CELEBRATIONS**- Each month we will study the life of a saint. Be on the lookout for projects, poems, songs and tidbits of information that come from our studies.

**MUSIC** - Your child will go to Music class with Mrs. Riley each week. Her email is [lriley@aquinastars.org](mailto:lriley@aquinastars.org). We also sing and dance all of the time in the classroom in Kindergarten! We can learn so much through singing!

# N

**NAP TOWELS**- Nap towels will be sent home every other Friday to be washed. **Please label all towels and please send back the same towel so your child can easily identify it.**

**NEWSLETTER** - A weekly newsletter will be sent home in your child's folder every Tuesday. It will contain information about upcoming events, our theme and areas of studies for the following week, classroom activities and announcements. It will also include suggested activities for skills you can practice at home.

**NUMBERS-** Each child in the class has a number which corresponds to his or her position in the alphabet. We use the numbers as a way of ordering the students in line and for attendance procedures.



**OPENING EXERCISES** - This includes prayers, the Pledge of Allegiance, special songs, calendar, and weather.

**OUTSIDE** - Your child will go outside for recess daily, weather permitting. Please make sure to dress your child appropriately for the weather.



**P.E.** - Your child will go to P.E. with Mrs. Puglise once a week. Her email is [spuglise@aquinastars.org](mailto:spuglise@aquinastars.org).

**P.E. UNIFORM-** The students will wear their gym uniform to school on their scheduled PE day. The summer gym uniform is the Aquinas gym shorts and a tee shirt with the Aquinas crest. The winter gym uniform is sweat pants and a sweatshirt printed with the school logo. Students must wear black or white tennis shoes and white crew socks. No ankle socks are allowed. When our regular school uniform changes from summer to winter (November) or winter to summer (April), the gym uniform will also change. The gym uniform can be purchased from Flynn and O'Hara.

**PARTIES** - We will be having four classroom parties this year. We will have a Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and an End of the Year Party. Our room parent will contact you to help with our celebrations!

**PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization)** - I encourage all parents to join the PTO. It is a great way to get involved in your child's education and to support Aquinas!



**QUESTIONS** - Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education.



**READ** - Please read to your child every night!!!

**RELIGION** - We use a Religion Weekly series called Promise by Pflaum Group. Each Friday the students will take home a flyer with an activity and a story that link directly to the Gospel to be read that Sunday at Mass.

We will also read Bible stories, learn prayers and help the children to become more aware of themselves and have concern for the needs of others at home, in school, at church and on the playground. We will participate in weekly Wednesday Mass with our sixth grade prayer partners.

**REPORT CARDS** - Kindergarten has two grading periods ending in January and June. We will discuss a progress report with parents at conference time in November.

**REST TIME** - Rest time is after lunch during which the Kindergartners will remain quiet, listen to soothing music and take time to relax and recharge.



**SCHOOL HANDBOOK AND CALENDAR** - Please read the school handbook and refer to it as needed so that you have a clear understanding of the policies and procedures here at Aquinas School. The handbook is found on the school website at [aquinastars.org](http://aquinastars.org).

**SHOE TYING CLUB** - The ability to tie their own shoes is a skill important for kindergarteners to master. Please work on this skill at home with your child.

**SNACK** - We break for snack each day around 9:30. Please send a healthy snack every day...even on early dismissal days. We ask that students only drink water at snack time. Please send a water bottle every day for your child. We ask that it be labeled and have a pull top for easy opening and closing with a no-leak feature if possible. Please pack the snack in a separate bag/box from their lunch and label with their name.

**SOCIAL SKILLS**- Children come to Kindergarten not only to learn academics, but also to learn how to be in school and work with other children and adults. We will encourage the children to hone their 'social skills' this year.

**SPIRIT WEAR**- Aquinas typically has Spirit Wear Day the last Friday of the month. Spirit Wear Days can be found on the school calendar and we will also send a reminder in your child's folder notifying you of an upcoming Spirit Wear Day. Spirit Wear includes an Aquinas Spirit Wear shirt and blue jeans. Spirit Wear can be purchased from Aquinas. If your child chooses not to wear Spirit Wear, they are welcome to wear their school uniform on Spirit Wear Day.

# T

**THE CONNECTION-** This is our school's weekly newsletter sent to you via email. Please take a minute to read it so that you are informed about things that are happening at Aquinas.

**TRANSPORTATION** - Please notify me in writing if there are any changes in the way your child will be going home from school. If there is a last minute transportation change, please call the office and they will notify me. **Please do not call the classroom phone or email transportation changes!** I cannot guarantee that I will have the opportunity to check my classroom voicemail or email prior to dismissal.

# U

**UNIFORMS-** Please see the handbook for uniform guidelines. The Aquinas administration asks that all parts of the uniform be worn properly. We remind the students to stay looking neat by keeping their shirts tucked in and shoes tied.

**UNITS AND THEMES** - Each week we will have a unit in our Superkids Language Arts program. We will incorporate this unit into our reading and writing. Each week and month we will talk about pertinent holidays, church celebrations and feast days. These themes will be integrated into our subjects across the Kindergarten curriculum.



# V

**VIRTUES PROGRAM-** The Dominican sisters have worked over the years on a home and school program called the "Virtues in Practice (VIP)." This program is a wonderful way to talk about the virtues of faith, hope and charity. The Virtues Program gives suggestions of how you can live out the Catholic faith with your family. Each month a page from the Virtues book focusing on our virtue of the month will be due at school.

**VOLUNTEERS** - There are many opportunities to volunteer at Aquinas. Please stay tuned for emails from our class room parent, the Aquinas volunteer coordinator and check the Connection each week for ways you can help our school.

# W

**WATER BOTTLES** - Please make sure that you send one each day filled only with water. The water bottles should be easy for your child to open and be as spill proof as possible.

**WORD WALL WORDS** - These are high frequency words that your child will need to recognize instantly by sight. Instant recognition of these words will help your child become a more fluent reader. I will add sight words to our word wall each time we send them home. We will use these words in our writing and to play games in the classroom.



**XOXOXO** - Make sure to give your Kindergartner lots of hugs and kisses!!!



**YEARBOOK** - Yearbooks will be available for purchase. Information will be sent home in your child's daily folder.

**YOUTH RALLY**- Each year around the time of Catholic Schools Week, Aquinas has a day long Eucharistic adoration called the Youth Rally. This is a very special event unique to our elementary school.



**ZZZZZ'S** - Kindergartners are busy people during the school day! Kindergarten students require 10-12 hours of sleep each night. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest each night so they are alert and ready to learn each day.