

### VISION STATEMENT

St. Thomas More Catholic School will continue to be the heart of St. Thomas More parish, celebrating our Catholic identity, community, academics, and diversity. Building on the foundations of Church, School, Community, and Home, the children and families will make new discoveries, and enhance learning for everyone. Our students will face the challenges of the future with open minds and innovative thinking, becoming responsible, active members in society, and spread our Catholic Faith with dedication and enthusiasm.

Our Staff Believes:

- The imparting of Catholic beliefs is of great importance, together with the integration of daily living with the Gospel message, to develop a spirit of prayer and worship.
- Our students have a responsibility to serve and to witness God to the wider community.
- God blesses our students with the ability to learn, achieve, create, and succeed on their fullest potential.
- Our students should practice self-control and respect in their interactions with others.
- Education is a life-long process, which begins at home and is fostered in our school, and should continue throughout life.
- A sound curriculum, integrated with current technology and effective teaching prepares our students to relate to God and others and learn how to choose wisely.
- Cultural diversity within our school facilities interactions with and opens doors to an interdependent world.
- Our students have a learning environment that is clean, safe and secure.

### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Thomas More Catholic School fosters Catholic values and traditions in a challenging academic environment. We work in partnership with the school families and St. Thomas More parish to form a diverse and joyful learning community that instills faith, love, and knowledge of God. We develop well-educated young people who are dedicated to modeling the Gospel message and becoming active and vital members of the Church and community.

### OVERVIEW

St. Thomas More School is a Catholic school located in Decatur, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. St. Thomas More blends academic excellence with spirituality in the context of a strong community to provide our students an ideal environment for growing and learning. We believe that all children are God-gifted with ability to learn, achieve, and succeed at their own level. The life-long process of education is fostered at St. Thomas More School through the use of a sound curriculum and effective teaching.

Founded in 1950, and initially staffed by the Sisters of Notre de Namur, St. Thomas More School has grown from eight classrooms to five buildings. In the tradition of Catholic education, spiritual leadership, respect and self-discipline, and a strong emphasis on academics, and services to the wider community are key components of what makes St. Thomas More special.

The school climate is very positive and caring. The Faculty and staff believe that caring personal relationships begin in the home and are carried into the school. St. Thomas More is a unique community nourishing the mutual respect of people. The school population is a reflection of ethnic differences and diverse world cultures. Each student is welcomed and respected, and young people come to understand and accept one another. True community is lived at St. Thomas More in the lives of the students, faculty, staff, and parents.

Education is highly valued by the families who choose St. Thomas More School for their kindergarten to eighth grade children. St. Thomas More School has maintained consistently high standards of achievement in recent years.

## HISTORY

In 1948, the Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta purchased land for a new parish on West Ponce de Leon Avenue in Decatur, Georgia. A convent, school, church, and rectory were constructed. St. Thomas More School opened on September 1, 1950 with approximately 150 children in grades 1–5. Grades 6, 7, and 8 were added in successive years. In 1955, the lower school building was constructed. This facility relieved some overcrowding and provided space for a kindergarten. Even so, classes averaged 50–60 children until the opening of two additional Catholic schools in the 1960's and 1970's that subsequently reduced our enrollment for a period. By the end of the 1980's, the number of students again created a need for expanded facilities.

Trailers were rented until the construction was complete. Mulhern Hall provided additional space along with four new classrooms. In addition, new administrative offices were added and two classrooms remodeled into computer labs.

Our latest improvement phase included the addition of a multi-purpose activity facility. It is a large building that includes a full size basketball court and houses our physical education program. It also features a generous, raised stage for dramatic and musical productions. Band, Music, and Art classrooms are also included in this building. The Administrative offices were improved and expanded along with a new focal entry and secure portal to the school.

## SCHOOL STRUCTURE

St. Thomas More has two sections of each grade, K–8. To facilitate instructional and curriculum planning as well as for administrative purposes, the student body is grouped in three levels:

Primary level: Grades K–2

Intermediate level: Grades 3–5

Middle School: Grades 6–8

Educational psychologists agree that it is easier for children to adapt to the culture of a school when behavioral and academic expectations are consistent throughout the school. Routines and procedures, which are consistent from room to room, help make a child feel comfortable, secure in the knowledge “that this is how things are done in the school.” Each level at STM has a coordinator who works with the instructional team on the level to develop practices and policies, which are age and developmentally appropriate.

As a parish school in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, St. Thomas More is guided by the rules, regulations, and policies set by the Archdiocese. On the local level, the St. Thomas More Parish Board of Education oversees the general direction of the school. This Board meets monthly.

Date filed \_\_\_\_\_

Entering grade \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only

Student Information

Full legal name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ County of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic background (for census information only) \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Name the child goes by \_\_\_\_\_

Sacramental Information

	Date	Church	Location
Baptism	_____	_____	_____
First Communion	_____	_____	_____
Penance	_____	_____	_____
Confirmation	_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Information

Married together     Married separated     Divorced     Other

Who has legal custody?     Both     Father     Mother     Other

Resides with:     Both     Father     Mother     Other

Mail report cards to:     Both     Father     Mother     Other

Send bills to:     Both     Father     Mother     Other

Father's full name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen:  Yes     No

Education:     Elementary     High School     College     Advanced

If different from applicant's:

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Pager \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen:  Yes  No

Education:  Elementary  High School  College  Advanced

If different from Applicant's:

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Pager \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's full name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizen:  Yes  No

Education:  Elementary  High School  College  Advanced

If different from Applicant's:

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Pager \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Educational History

Previous school attended \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Independent  Parochial  Public

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Other schools attended:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Has your child been home schooled?  Yes  No

Which program did you follow? \_\_\_\_\_

Educational/psychological evaluations?  Yes  No

Has the student ever received an educational/psychological evaluation? If so, please give date \_\_\_\_\_.

All educational/psychological evaluations should be submitted with the application.

Learning disability?  Yes  No

Has the applicant been diagnosed with any of the following?  ADD  ADHD

Other Please explain.

Socialization or behavioral problems?  Yes  No

Has the applicant had any previous unusual socialization or behavioral problems with other children?

If yes, please explain. Please provide any other information regarding the child's educational background or social development that the school should know in order to evaluate its ability to serve the child's needs.

Medical conditions?  Yes  No

Does the applicant have any medical conditions that would prevent him/her from active participation in the school's physical education program or field trips? Has there been a need for any unusual medical care?

If yes, please explain. Is student currently on any type of medication? If yes, please explain.

### Parents' Goals and Assessments

In order for the admissions committee to evaluate your child and his/her needs in regard to the programs offered, please answer the following questions.

#### *Type of educational program and environment sought for your child*

Realizing that "education" is not an exact science and that there are many variables involved in the educational process, please explain the type of educational program and environment that you desire for your child.

What goals or objectives would you like for the teacher to emphasize regarding your child?

#### *Specific talents, interests, travel*

If your child is at an age where there are specific talents and interests that you have noted, please elaborate.

If your child takes music, art, dance, fitness, or other types of private lessons or has traveled extensively, please elaborate.

Also include any athletic teams, fine arts groups, clubs, or other organizations in which your child participates.

#### *Additional information*

Please provide any additional information regarding your family (adoption, divorce, separation, changes in school, deaths of relatives/friends) or child (fears, social problems, etc.) that would help us know and understand his/her educational or personal needs.

**The School as community***School publications*

Yes  No I hereby give permission for my child and or myself to have our photographs and or names appear in school publications and promotional materials approved by the school.

*Family Participation*

As a school community, Saint Thomas More School has various functions to which immediate family members, grandparents, and friends are invited. Please provide the following information:

*Siblings*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

*Paternal grandparents*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Maternal grandparents*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please read and sign*

I have read and understood this application, and I further certify that the information I have submitted is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

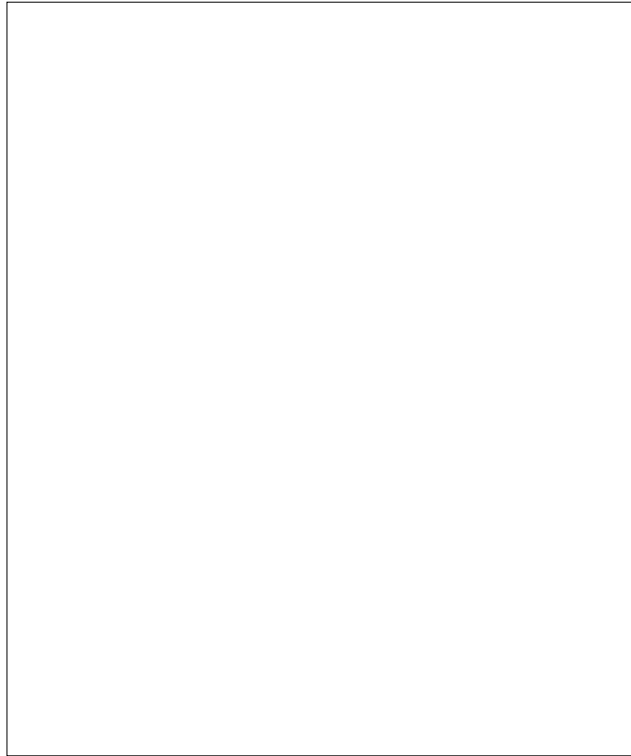
I agree to communicate in writing to the Principal any changes contained herein even if said changes occur after my child has been enrolled.

I understand that upon discovery of substantial inaccuracy of any information herein, or omission of information requested herein, Saint Thomas More School reserves the right to revoke admission to the School.

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach a recent photograph of the applicant.*



St. Thomas More School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



# Application for Admission

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## SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
630 West Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404.373.8456 tel  
404.377.8554 fax  
stm@stmga.org  
www.stmga.org

# hello!



# join us!



An Archdiocese of Atlanta School, St. Thomas More is also a member of the Georgia Independent School Association and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Southern Association of Independent Private Schools. Our school encompasses Kindergarten through 8th grade with two classes at each grade level. Our current enrollment is 479 children with an average of 26 pupils per class.

#### STUDENT BODY

The majority of our students come from Decatur, Avondale Estates, and eastern Dekalb County. 85% of our students are Catholics affiliated with 25 other parishes in the Atlanta area.

#### FACULTY AND STAFF

- 50% of our staff have advanced degrees
- Average teaching experience of our staff is 14 years
- Ten paraprofessional assistants
- Media specialist with an assistant
- Band program with part-time teacher
- Computer lab with full-time teacher
- Professional staff of 32
- Overall student-teacher ratio 13:1
- Full-time guidance counselor and full-time teachers in the following areas: computer, media specialist, art, music, physical education, and Spanish
- Student Support program designed to help students whose needs are not fully met by our regular curriculum and is staffed with two full-time and one part-time teacher.

#### EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM

Whenever school is in session, extended childcare is available from 7–8:00 am and from afternoon dismissal until 6 pm. Registration is limited to 150 students and usually fills up fast. Families will be billed for usage.

*Application deadline: February 26, 2010.*

*Waiting list: After February 26, 2010.*

Applications will be considered and placed on our waiting list. The waiting list does not carry over from one year to another.

#### *Out of town Catholics with children already in Catholic Schools*

Throughout the school year, we try our best to accommodate Catholic families moving to the Decatur area. Please check with our registrar to see if there is space for your child.

#### Fees, costs, and tuition rates

*Application and testing fee: \$100 per child*

*Upon acceptance, a deposit of \$500 per child is required to hold your child's place. This fee is non-refundable and will be deducted from your annual tuition amount.*

To qualify for the Catholic tuition rate, your parish priest must sign a completed *Parish Verification Form* indicating that your family is practicing their faith at an Archdiocese Catholic Church.

*09-10 Catholic tuition and book bill rates:*

*\$6,200 per child*

*09-10 Non Catholic rate: \$8,400 per child*

We expect tuition to increase 3 to 5% annually.

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stm@stmga.org

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**W**e appreciate your interest in St. Thomas More School, an educational environment to help develop the whole person, spiritually, academically, socially, aesthetically and physically. The school works to create a Christian community, which exists for service and witness in the wider community. St. Thomas More welcomes children whose families are registered in a Catholic parish. Non-Catholics will be admitted if space permits.

The registration process for St. Thomas More is as follows. All phases must be satisfactorily completed before an acceptance letter can be mailed.

#### PHASE I: APPLICATION

In this packet you should find the following items. We cannot process your application until all the information requested is complete.

- *School Application Form* to be completed by parent
- *Previous School Form* to be completed by the school the child presently attends and a transcript sent with report cards and standardized test scores (Kindergarten applicants do not need a transcript but if the child attends a pre-school, please have the teacher complete the recommendation form).
- *Parish verification form* to be completed by the pastor of your Church or *Non-Catholic Church Participation Form* completed by your minister.
- \$100 *application fee* per child (make checks payable to St. Thomas More School)
- *Birth certificate and if your family is Catholic, your child's baptism certificate. We also need a copy of your child's up to date immunization form.* You must bring in your child's original documents. We will make copies and return the originals to you.

Deadline for completing Phase I is the last day of February.

#### PHASE II: TESTING AND INTERVIEW

Kindergarten applicants: A Kindergarten Readiness Test will be scheduled when all materials have been received. Dates for testing are 2/19/10 and 3/6/10.

All other applicants will be tested in conjunction with the interview on March 6, 2010.

#### PHASE III

After completion of Phase I and II, the application will be reviewed by the Admissions Review Team. During the first week of April, you will receive notification of acceptance, non-acceptance, or placement on a waiting list.

#### PHASE IV

Upon acceptance, a deposit of \$500 per child (*non-refundable*) will be required to hold your child's place in this school.

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**2010**

<b>January 25</b>	Annual Open House for prospective families, 7 pm  Admissions Packets available  Tuition assistance applications available (Catholics only)
<b>January 26 – 28</b>	Classroom observation available, mornings
<b>February 19</b>	Admission testing for Kindergarten, by appointment only
<b>February 26</b>	Admissions and Tuition Assistance application deadline
<b>March 6</b>	Admission testing for Kindergarten through eighth grade, by appointment only
<b>April 2</b>	Decision letters mailed
<b>April 15</b>	Enrollment decision and deposit due

**Saint Thomas More Catholic School**  
Admissions Office  
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[www.stmga.org](http://www.stmga.org)