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New program expands STM School's offering to younger age group

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Share with family and friends who might want to join our fabulous community

# THE UTOPIAN

Summer 2021 | Newsletter of Saint Thomas More A Catholic School in the Jesuit Tradition

"Finding God in All Things"



## Joyful & Inventive Graduation Caps Successful COVID-19 School Year

Graduation day is something that students and their families look forward to not just for days or weeks, but for years. So when COVID-19 safety protocols dictated that STM's traditional graduation ceremony could not reasonably take place inside, school leadership did what they have been doing all year. They pivoted to create a unique STM experience that would be both memorable and safe for all involved. Families gathered outdoors in socially distant seating, effectively turning the school parking lot into an outdoor auditorium and church. Wearing matching graduation gowns and face masks for the occasion, graduating students were seated on either side of what served as altar and podium. Festive balloons and windows artfully decorated with giant 2-0-2-1 signs served as a backdrop to the ceremonies while delighted family and friends alternately listened, worshipped and cheered together.

*In another STM tradition, members of the Class of 2017 (shown below) and some members of Class of 2016 (whose reunion was postponed due to COVID-19 last year), returned in May.*





## Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

Redirect your tax dollars to benefit Catholic education and STM School! Georgia taxpayers can make a contribution to GRACE and direct 100% of their contribution to St. Thomas More Catholic School for scholarships in exchange for a generous tax benefit created by the Georgia legislature – a 100% tax credit.



**Take advantage of this generous tax benefit and at the same time help fund a scholarship for a family with financial need at STM School. For more information, visit [gracescholars.org](http://gracescholars.org).**



### UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE OPPORTUNITIES

*Please share these with family & friends!*

**November 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Fall Open House**

Watch the STM school website for registration details.

**January 10, 2022, 9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**Winter Open House**

With a program from 9:30-11:00 a.m., this event is currently planned to be in-person and include tours

## For news large and small in real time, please follow STM on social media!

News and happenings at STM are being shared all the time via social media, so please follow us on your favorite platform/s. Not only is it fun to see what is going on, but when you like or share our posts, you help us build the special community we have here. Thanks – and hope to see you online!



## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Reverend Mr. Avery Daniel, STM Class of 2007**, and St. Pius X Catholic High School Class of 2011, was ordained a Transitional Deacon for the Archdiocese of Atlanta on February 6, 2021. By the grace of God, Deacon Avery will be ordained a priest in June of 2022. On his journey to the priesthood, Deacon Avery graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2015 from the Pontifical Josephinum College Seminary in Columbus, Ohio with a BA in Humanities. After graduation, he was selected by Cardinal Wilton Gregory to attend the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City. In 2019, after completing all of his classes, evaluations and Master's Degree Thesis in Italian, Deacon Avery graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy with a Master's Degree in Theology. Deacon Avery was enrolled in a program to obtain a Licentiate in Seminary Formation from the Gregorian University when the pandemic began. During the summer of 2020, Deacon Avery obtained his certification in Crises Ministry and Counseling from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is currently assigned as the Chaplain at Blessed Trinity High School and a Transitional Deacon in Residence at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church in Roswell.



**Mary Brady, STM Class of 2017**, and **Catherine Breault, STM Class of 2017**, were



members of the 4x1600 relay team that set a new Georgia #1 All-Time record of 20:26.92, shattering the previous state record by 11 seconds. Mary was the overall 5-A AAAA state

champion and was also named the Georgia Gatorade Player of the Year! Congratulations Mary and Catherine, St. Pius X Lady Golden Lions and the SPX Class of 2021.

**Erin Egan, STM Class of 2013**, and Marist Class of 2017, graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics and Philosophy. Erin will be working at Epic Healthcare in Madison, Wisconsin after graduation.



**Annabella Farabaugh, STM Class of 2012**, (shown above) graduated with High Honors from the United States Coast Guard Academy with a BS in Marine and Environmental Science. President Joe Biden gave the commencement speech and presented her with her diploma (with her grandfather on stage) as well as with her Billet (job assignment). Annabella is now an officer in the US Coast Guard and is headed to Key West to board the Cutter Mohawk for her first assignment. While at the USCGA, Annabella received the "Selfless Service Award" which is presented to the first-class

cadet who has demonstrated continued service to the community having the most lasting impact. She also received an award from the Leadership and Diversity Council (LDAC). Annabella started a newsletter at the USCGA called "Need to Know" covering topics like redlining, cultural appropriation, systemic racism and more. The idea was for cadets to take on and write about a topic thereby educating themselves and others. The newsletter is now being used corp wide for training. She will remain on the editing staff while in the fleet. Annabella was recruited for basketball at the Academy and played all four years and was team captain the last two years. She started every game for the past three years and was very surprised to receive the American Legion, Department of Connecticut Trophy for USCGA Most Improved Female Athlete. Her stats improved every year and she was deemed the hardest working female athlete on campus.

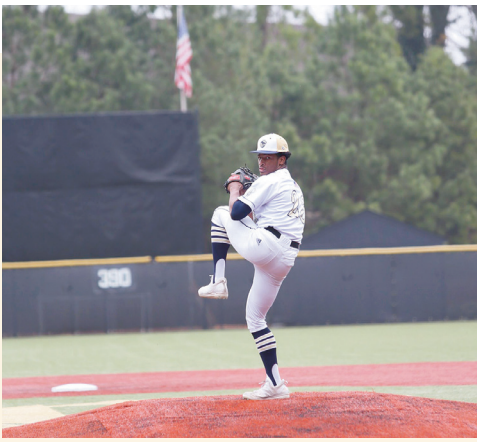
**Ellie Glenn, STM Class of 2015**, and St. Pius X Class of 2019, is a sophomore at Santa Clara University. She is studying bioengineering on the premed track and plays on the women's soccer team. The Santa Clara women's team won the NCAA Division 1 Women's Soccer National Championship this year! Congratulations to Ellie and the Santa Clara Broncos!



**Chandler Panarese, STM Class of 2019**, recently won the St. Pius X Band award for most outstanding sophomore. Chandler plays the oboe for symphonic band, alto saxophone for marching band, and tenor saxophone for big band.



**FUN FACT:** Annabella received the "No Place for Hate" award as a student at STM.



**Agyei Quinichett, STM Class of 2017**, accomplished his academic and athletic goals at St. Pius X High School. He was awarded the Father James Harrison Principal's Award for the Class of 2021 and honored as the 5-A region Pitcher of the Year. Agyei is the first pitcher since 2007 to throw a no-hitter for the Golden Lions. He threw two! Agyei received several offers from colleges to play baseball. He will continue to play baseball for the East Cobb Astros until he makes a final decision to commit and enroll as a business major in the fall of 2022.



**Patrick Woodland, STM Class of 2012**, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance. Patrick was a member of the Kennedy Program, the Apollo Society, and the Corsair Society, all programs for students interested in careers in finance. Patrick was selected as a sector leader for the Terry College of Business Student Managed Investment Fund, where students manage more than \$1.6 million in funds provided by alumni and the University of Georgia Foundation. Patrick also served as Vice President of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Patrick is an investment banking analyst for Wells Fargo in its New York City office.

## Saint Thomas More Catholic School Launches First Pre-K4 Program in August 2021

Our new Pre-K4 program is a developmentally appropriate, project-based program, combining learning with play, in a faith-filled environment. A full class of 16 students is already enrolled and excited to begin in the 2021-2022 school year. We have an experienced, certified teacher and one assistant teacher providing a 2:16 teacher/student ratio. The pre-K4 students will enjoy full day programming that will be integrated into STM's current K-8 program having the same school calendar, tuition rate, specials (including Art, Music, PE, Spanish, and Library), and full use of campus facilities. The Pre-K4 day includes time for snacks, lunch in the cafeteria, rest time, and two recesses. Students will also be taking well-supervised walking community field trips as part of their project work experiences. Our program – as all our instructional programs – is accredited (by Cognia) through the Archdiocese of Atlanta. We are thrilled to be welcoming our very first STM Pre-K4 students to campus this fall!



## Mr. Beck Named STM Teacher of the Year

Earlier this year, Middle School math teacher Tim Beck was named STM teacher of the year and lauded by both the STM community and the greater Archdiocesan school community. Mr. Beck has taught at STM school since 2005 and is known for not just his teaching excellence and dedication to student success, but for his special humor. From bribing his classes to say, "Sir, yes, sir!" to him whenever the principal is in his classroom, to his carpool antics with the students – juggling, riding his hoverboard or



unicycle, to taking quarters from behind kid's ears, he enriches the STM school experience. *Thank you, Mr. Beck!*

**Are you an alumni or parent of an alum with news? Please email [amurphey@stmga.org](mailto:amurphey@stmga.org) so that we can share it in our next newsletter!**