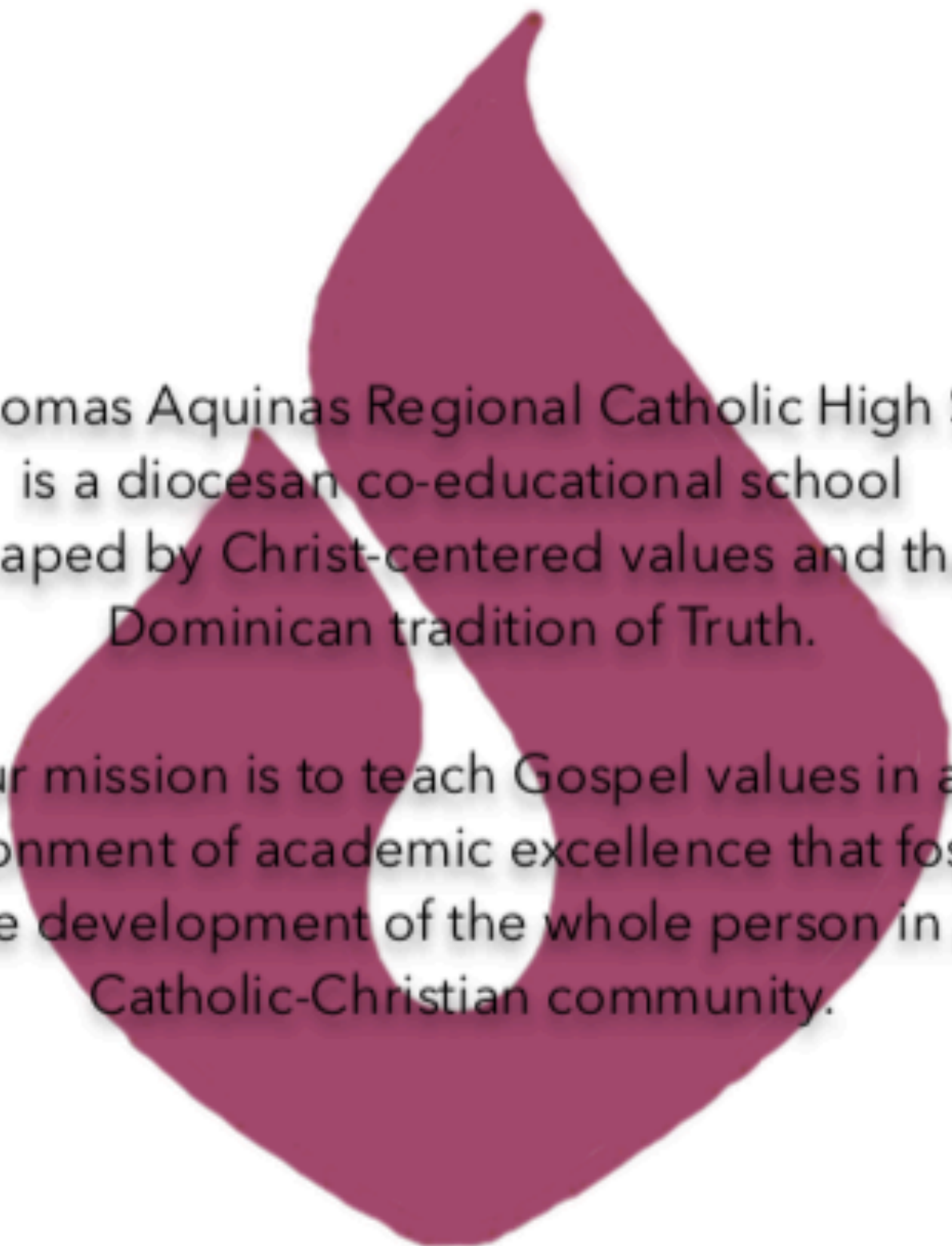


THE FLAME

FALL 2019

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL





Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School
is a diocesan co-educational school
shaped by Christ-centered values and the
Dominican tradition of Truth.

Our mission is to teach Gospel values in an
environment of academic excellence that fosters
the development of the whole person in a
Catholic-Christian community.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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the
Principal

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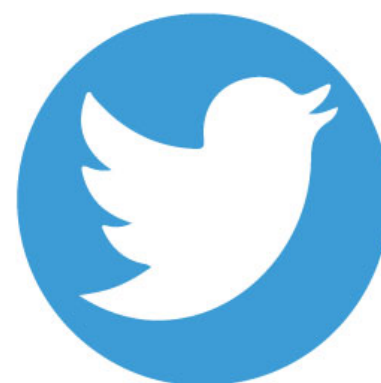
Alumni News

Athletic
Achievements

Service
and
Community



Follow Us On
Social Media!



@STAFALCONS

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St Thomas Community,

It is with great excitement that I update our alumni and the community about St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School. St. Thomas is now in its the 34th continuous year of educating our area high school age students. We presently have 322 students, which is an increase of 30 students over the 2018 - 2019 school year. We thank the local community for their support as we continue to educate their children. Looking at the alumni and parents who support this fine Catholic school, St. Thomas is truly one of the most blessed environments. We are also grateful for the help of our local Catholic parishes and thank each one of them for the support they provide to STA.

St. Thomas Aquinas is an exceptional place for so many, for many reasons, and you can be assured that we will continue this tradition. With the help of alumni and other supporters, we will make sure this legacy continues for generations to come. The pursuit of truth is a key Dominican pillar, and our senior class continues our standard of excellence, particularly in scholastics. The amount of scholarships these students receive speaks of the quality education they attain at St. Thomas Aquinas. Our ACT scores continue to rank above National and State average, and they continue to be the highest in the Tangipahoa area. These accomplishments would not exist if not for the dedicated faculty and staff who have certainly embraced the Christian Mission of our school. The support of our wonderful parents is shown daily in the amount of time and money they spend making STA the best. With this being my third year as principal of our school, I am really looking forward to another successful academic year. We are all grateful for the many volunteers who give their time, talent, and resources for us to continue the spirit of St. Thomas Aquinas. During this past year, we were able to purchase two new school buses with cash. We were also able to pay off the last standing debt (roof) to the diocese and now have no debt owed. Many thanks go out to all of you who contribute your financial support to many of our fund-raising campaigns. This school cannot and would not exist without you, our loyal supporters. We look forward with positive eyes to the new school year, and we pray that God will continue to bless us and allow us to be a dynamic presence in the community. If you are in Hammond and would like to visit the school, please come by and allow us the opportunity to show you around. We are excited for each of our alumni as you achieve success in your professional and personal lives and we invite you to keep us updated so we can celebrate with you. As each new year approaches, we have the excitement of Homecoming and we hope that you will be able to join us for this family event! We sincerely thank you again for all you have done and continue to do for St. Thomas Aquinas. We appreciate you, and you are in our prayers daily! May God bless you and keep you in the palm of His hand!



Yours in Christ,

Pat Sanguinetti

Principal

ADVANCEMENT

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

[2 Corinthians 9:10](#)

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters of St. Thomas Aquinas,

It is with great pleasure that I address you, and update you on all the wonderful events that have been taking place at STA. First and foremost, I want to say how excited I am to be back on campus as Advancement Director. In the famous lines from Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz* "There's no Place Like Home." To be back in a Catholic Christian school environment where Gospel Values are taught daily is so important to me.

As we all know, The Annual Appeal is a huge contributor to the success and growth of our school. We must continue to build upon the foundation of our school that began well over 30 years ago. We must maintain standards, so we can continue to teach, grow, inspire, and evangelize all our students. We must also continue to grow and expand in every aspect of our extra curriculars to give our students a first-class view into the window we call life. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, will allow us to complete the mission that was founded upon by our Dominican Sisters. Those Dominican traditions of prayer, community, study, and service continue to thrive today as the focal point and mission of this wonderful school we call St. Thomas. We thank you in advance for your consideration.



Improvements made during the 2018-2019 School Year:

- Fresh paint in gym hallway**
- Fixed pot holes on Voss Drive and around Campus**
- Network Infrastructure upgrade**
- Remodeled the Weight Room- New Turf, New Equipment, and New flooring.**

Plans for 2019-2020 School Year:

- Upgrades to the Main/ Original School Building including Technology, and Maintenance Improvements.**

May God Bless you all,

Cole Catalano

Advancement Director

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



Hello Everyone,

I just wanted to introduce myself and say how truly excited I am about joining the STA family. My name is Fr. Brad Doyle. I've been ordained a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge for 4 years and have served at St. George (my home parish) and the Cluster parishes on the West Bank of St. James Parish. Those assignments were fantastic, but I am really looking forward to being a high school chaplain.

During my seminary formation, I requested the bishop for a pastoral year to teach and coach football at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge. It was such an important part of my life and formation as a priest. The kids taught me so much. I am glad to have the opportunity to be apart of another high school community again; to learn and grow, and help the student body of STA to encounter God in an ever deeper way as well.

My goal is to be present and available for confession, counsel, fun, and everything in between. Thank you for welcoming me, and GO FALCONS!

New Administration

"As Dean of Students, I hope to play a part in elevating the STA community. I'm looking forward to serving St. Thomas Aquinas in this new capacity."



CHRIS LUNDBERG, PH.D.
Dean of Students & Academic Coordinator



RANDELL LEGETTE
Athletic Director

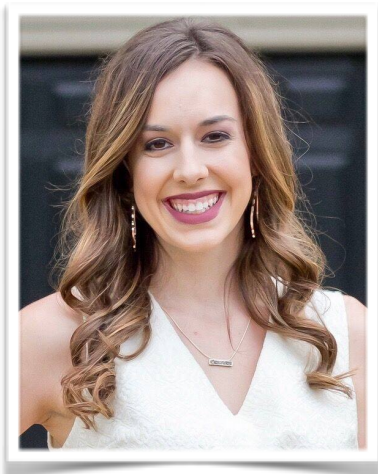
SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



Bishop Duca poses for a picture with the 2019 Silver Falcon recipients (Dane Schmitt & Abby Bates) at the commencement ceremony. Photograph provided by Gary Lee of Bonidee Photography & Design.

Bishop Michael Duca was appointed by Pope Francis as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Baton Rouge on August 24, 2018, succeeding Bishop Robert Muench, who recently retired.

New Coaches



LAUREN DANIEL
STARLETTES COACH



STACEY NEWMAN
GIRLS SOCCER COACH



LAUREEN DIGOVANNI
CHEER COACH

Faculty Additions

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS
OF OUR FACULTY



HAILEY DELAUNE
THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT



BRYAN LAZARE
MATH DEPARTMENT



JOHN TRESCH
THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

ALUMNI NEWS

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School is proud to announce Mrs. Michelle Trapen as the 2019 Mother Seton Award Recipient. The Mother Seton award was created by the Diocese of Baton Rouge to honor those individuals whose volunteer through service and exemplary dedication to home, school and the Church. The winners of this award have strong Catholic values and a selfless dedication to Catholic Education.

Trapen has served on every committee at some point over the past 10 years including: STA Home and School Association, in which she served as Treasurer the past 3-years, Falcon Fest Committee, Chaired the Open House Committee, Chairperson for the Football team Golf Tournament, Advisory Board member and has served as a Parent Ambassador. She also has spent countless hours setting up tailgates, fundraisers for both the Soccer and Football teams, served as a team parent and has been a homecoming parent volunteer. Michelle also served on the Board of Directors for CASA in the Capital area and was a member of the Baton Rouge Junior League and was on the Kappa Alpha Theta Advisory Board. She is a senior account manager for BearCom which designs and sells Motorola communication systems primarily in the Petro-Chemical industry. She is married to Mark Trapen and together they have 4 children, Morgan '12 , Mason '14 , William '18 and Adam '19.



Mother Seton

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE



Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School and the Falcon Alumni Association are pleased to announce the selection of Nicholas "Nicky" J. Muscarello Jr. as the school's 2019 Distinguished Graduate. Nicky is a 1992 graduate of STA and a current resident of Hammond. Muscarello is a Louisiana State Representative for the 86th District and an attorney in Hammond, LA.

"My Catholic education has provided me the ability to make use of scripture as a tool for guidance and inspiration," said Muscarello. " It also taught me the importance of civic responsibility and service to my community."



NEW WHEELS

Thank you to everyone who supported our bus drive. Your generosity allowed STA transportation to receive a Major Facelift. The addition of 2 Brand New buses has transportation stylish and comfortable.

ALUMNI NEWS



The Loss of Sister Phillip Neri Crawford

Some kind words about Sister Phillip from former Student, Alumni and Faculty member Courtney Day Silewicz. '98

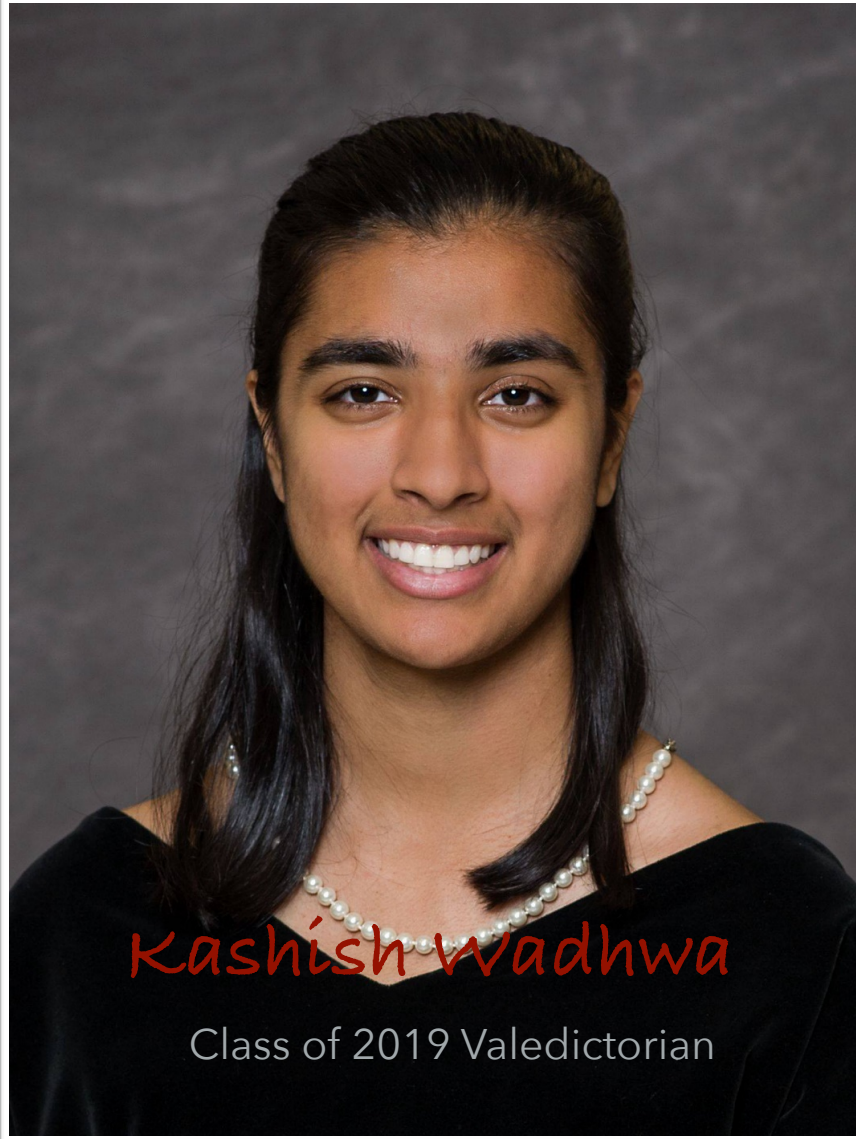
When I think back on my high school years at St. Thomas I have nothing but fond memories. I cultivated amazing friendships, had great experiences and learned valuable life lessons from the faculty and staff. A huge part of that stemmed from our principal, Sr. Phillip. She was fair, kind and a little bit scary! She preached Catholic ideals and her philosophy of the 3 R's: to be reasonable, responsible and respectful. She also made sure that we all left room for the Holy Spirit during our school dances. She was a constant presence at school. I cannot remember a basketball game that she was not cheering us on and making sure our spectators followed her 3 Rs! St. Thomas Aquinas owes a debt of gratitude to Sr. Phillip. She was a true trail blazer who dedicated her time, energy and heart to the STA community.

Alumni Crawfish Boil



People's Choice Award 1st Place Pullin' Tail, 2nd Place Pinch This, and 3rd Place Wittie's Bollin' Potts.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



- Received the honor of Student of the Year for St. Thomas Aquinas and the Diocese of Baton Rouge.
- National Merit Commended Student
- AP Scholar
- Quest Bridge College Prep Scholar
- Coca Cola Semi Finalist 2018
- Board Member of The Red Cross
- Earned 230 plus Hours of Service
- Attending the University of Pennsylvania



- National Merit Scholar Award Winner
- AP Scholar
- Commission Artist
- Completed Course Work at the University of Oxford in Cambridge, UK
- Completed Volunteer Work with Patients Suffering from Cervical Cancer at Various Orphanages in Peru
- Attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Seniors Victoria Perrin & Rachael White competed at the Beta Club National Level. Victoria placed 4th in 12th Grade Language Arts and Rachael was Runner-Up for her Banner Design in the Visual Arts Division II Category.



Paul Levy Teacher of the Year!



The Senior Class of 2019

Top 10

1. Kashish Wadhwa, 2. Rachael White,
3. Katie Amos, 4. John Ross Donnes,
5. Madison Plaisance, 6. Kylie Ruiz,
7. Lyndsi Pierre 8. Parker Ramirez
9. Kaleigh Scallan,
10. Caroline Ingrassia

Class GPA average of 3.4

Average ACT score of 23

72% of senior class scored 21 or higher composite score on the ACT

Earned 3.5 million in scholarship

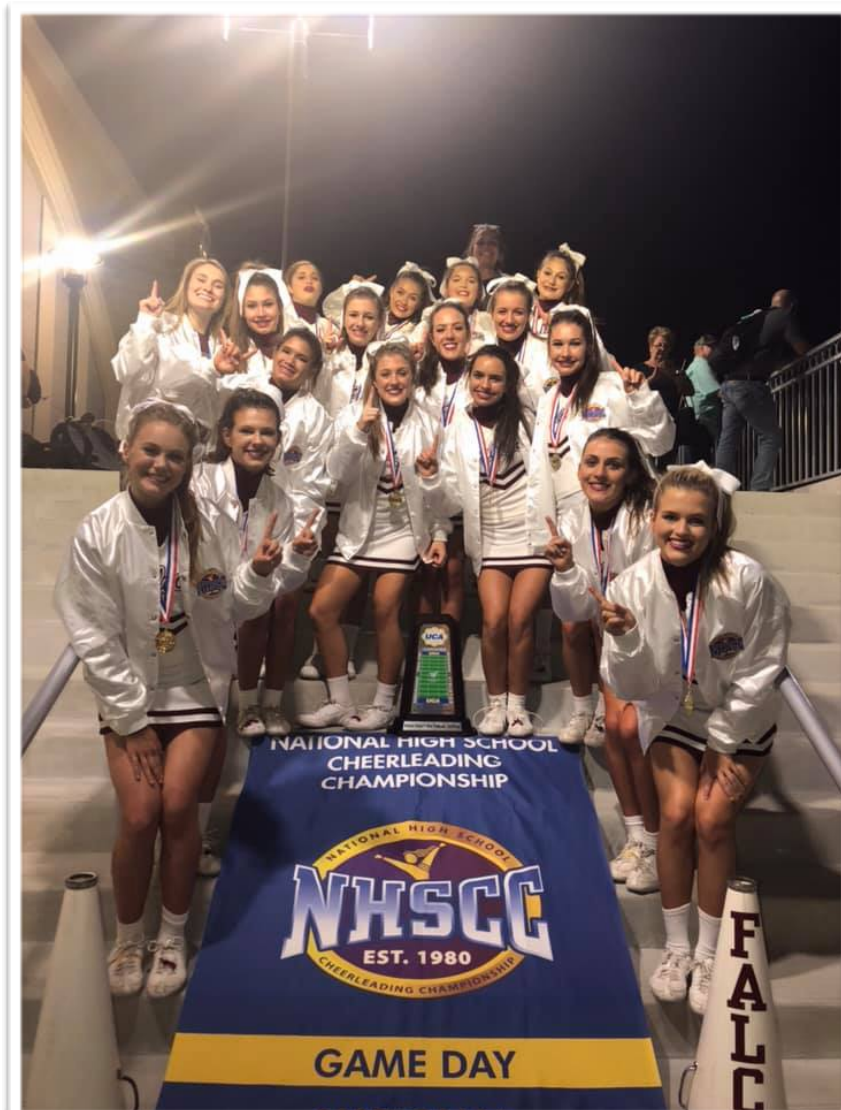
369 collegiate credit hours earned through Dual Enrollment

2,135 hours of service performed during their senior year

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENT



2019 Division III STate champions St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School. The Falcons beat Northlake Christian by a score of 53-42 to claim the Championship. (MVP Jaylen James)



College Signings

SOME OF OUR SENIOR
MAKE A BIG COMMITMENT BY
SIGNING THEIR LETTER OF
INTENT.



JOHN ROSS DONNES
LYNN UNIVERSITY
CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK



LUKE SWEENEY
COSTAL ALABAMA
BASEBALL



LOGAN LUCAS
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK

The 2019 UCA Medium Non-Tumbling
Game Day National Champions

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Be on the lookout for our Annual Appeal Letter! This letter will include updates on improvements made to the school and goals for future projects. Thank you in advance for any and all donations made to our Annual Appeal. Improvements would not be possible without your generosity and support.

ALUMNI!!!!

Please update us on any major life changes...new babies, jobs, degrees, addresses, marriages and any other accomplishments! We would love to keep in touch and brag on all of your successes and future endeavors!

Please send new information to either cole.catalano@stafalcons.org or csilewicz@stafalcons.org.



The graphic features a background image of football players in action. In the center, there is a large red cross with a shield in the middle containing the school's logo. Below the cross, the letters 'S' and 'A' are prominently displayed in a large, red, blocky font. At the bottom left, the text 'ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FALCONS 2019 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE' is written in white, bold, capital letters. On the right side, a table lists the schedule with dates and opponent names. A legend at the bottom right indicates that 'HOME' is in white text on a red background and 'AWAY' is in red text on a white background.

SEPT. 06	ASCENSION CATHOLIC
SEPT. 13	AT EPISCOPAL
SEPT. 20	LORANGER
SEPT. 27	PINE
OCT. 04	AT INDEPENDENCE
OCT. 11	NEWMAN
OCT. 18	LIVINGSTON COLLEGIATE
OCT. 25	NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN*
NOV. 01	AT SPRINGFIELD*
NOV. 08	AT POPE JOHN PAUL II*

DESIGN BY: @LOUISIANAPREPS

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

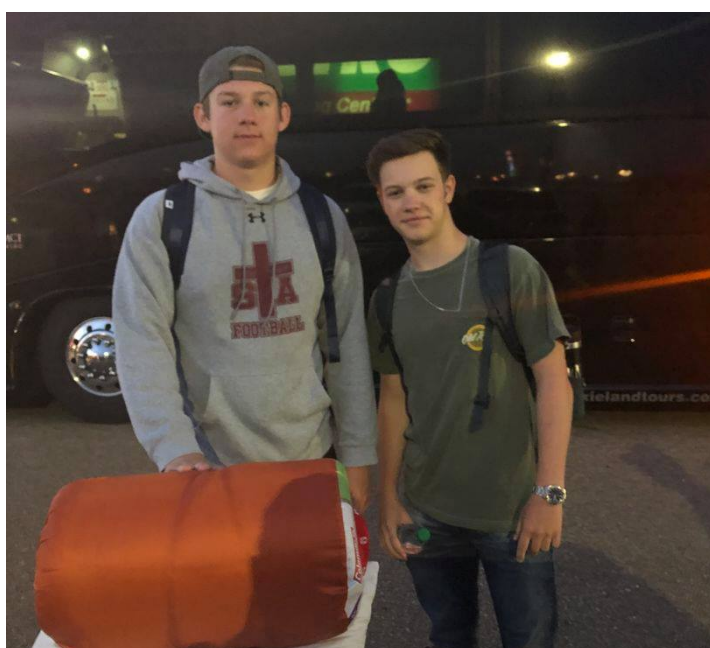
Four students, Abby Bates, Blake Brewer, Madison Plaisance, and Emma Smith attended the March for Life 2019 in Washington D.C. The students attended mass and explored the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, toured The Holocaust Museum, participated in a Rosary Walk, where they prayed in front of The White House and at Planned Parenthood and participated in the March.



STA students and chaperones embarked on an international travel adventure with EF Tours to Berlin, Prague and the Swiss Alps. In each place that was visited the students explored historical landmarks and consumed delicious local foods. The group experienced a lifetime of unforgettable memories.



SERVICE AND COMMUNITY



CREATING UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Grandparents Day (Top Left)

Abby Bates the Hammond Knights of Columbus Catholic Youth Leadership Award. (Top Right)

Laken Neal, Juliette LeRay, Caroline Casey, and Darah Haidet representing STA at Girls State. (Middle Left)

Students raised over \$500 for Wounded Warrior Project through the snack sale. (Middle Left)

Gabe Hester & Myles Naquin had a fun Summer Representing St. Thomas at Boys State. (Bottom Right)

OTHER NEWS



Mr. Holley and Ms. White were hard at work last year with their theatrical and musical performances. Mr. Holley and his students put on an amazing Fall and Spring Music Performance. He also jumped on board to help Ms. White with the Theatre's performance of *Shrek the Musical*. We can't wait to see what they have in store for the upcoming year.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DONORS AND EVERYONE
THAT CAME OUT TO SUPPORT THE 2019**



Your Generosity and Support Allows STA to Offer Excellent Educational Opportunities and Experiences to the Future Leaders of Our Community.

ANNUAL APPEAL



Ashley Gebbia
Class of 1991
Annual Appeal

Having just moved to Hammond in 1985 and being raised in a Catholic family, my parents chose to send me to high school at St. Thomas Aquinas. The opening of the first Catholic high school in this area was a momentous event in Hammond. I am proud to say I was a student from the second graduating class (1991). Initially, our class consisted of thirty students, which allowed for one-on-one interactions with teachers, most of whom were Dominican sisters. I feel that I was definitely academically prepared for college. STA instilled the value of leadership, community and service, while fulfilling social and extracurricular needs. I contribute the success in my profession as a nurse to many of the values and skills learned at St. Thomas. Today, I still live in this area with my husband and my three children. I have remained close with some of my high school friends, work with others, and now I am watching our children go to school together.

For me, being a part of an institution from the ground up means having a connection and desire to see it thrive and provide the educational needs of our community. There was always a longing for my children to attend STA and receive the same, if not better of an experience than I had many years ago. Both of our boys have graduated from St. Thomas; Hunter (2015) and Hayden (2017). Emma Kate is currently a sophomore.

Obviously, I felt confident that they would be challenged academically while continuing their growth in the Catholic faith. St. Thomas continues to maintain a low teacher/student ratio. I find their teachers are united in their goal to assist in developing young kids to reach their full potential. The school does a good job focusing on morals and good behaviors and fosters a close Christian community. Parental involvement is welcomed and appreciated in the support of our children. There is an emphasis in religious tradition where the kids attend weekly masses, participate in campus ministry, service and community involvement. Many students are given the opportunity to gain credit for college courses. This is a great tool that prepares them for the next step in their education. Also, there is a wide variety of extracurricular activities.

It is tremendously important to the success of any program/school to have invested people give back in any way. I share a common goal with others in wanting the next generation to have the opportunity to reap the same rewards as those of us before them. There is a huge sense of satisfaction in knowing that I can contribute and further the goals of the same school that has given me so much. The gift of money is greatly appreciated; the gift of time is invaluable.

Goals for the funds raised by the Annual Appeal:

- **Academics scholarship Fund**
- **Attract High Performance Students from Our Community**
- **Upgrade All Classrooms in the Original Building with Apple TV's, in Lieu of Existing Smartboards and Projectors.**



NOTHING BUT NET



St. Thomas Aquinas Boys Basketball 2019-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nov. 25-27	Catholic Tournament		
Dec. 2	Amite	Away	6:00 JV/V
Dec. 4-7	CYO Tournament	Away	
Dec. 10	Hannan	Home	6:00 JV/V
Dec. 12-14	St. Paul Tournament	Away	
Dec. 27-30	Hannan Tournament	Away	
Jan. 3	Loranger	Away	6:00 JV.V
Jan. 7	Albany	Away	6:00 JV/V
Jan. 10	Pearl River	Home	6:00 JV.V
Jan. 14	French Settlement*	Home	6:00 JV/V
Jan. 17	Doyle*	Away	6:00 JV/V
Jan. 21	Northlake Christian*	Away	6:00 JV/V
Jan. 24	Pope John Paul*	Home	6:00 JV/V
Jan 28	Springfield*	Home	6:00 JV/V
Jan. 31	French Settlement	Away	6:00 JV/V
Feb. 4	Doyle*	Home	6:00 JV/V
Feb. 7	Northlake Christian*	Home	6:00 JV/V
Feb. 11	Pope John Paul	Away	6:00 JV/V
Feb. 14	Springfield	Away	6:00 JV/V

*Indicates District Game, Home Games in **Bold**

Head Coach: Raymone Andrews

Principal: Pat Sanguinetti

NOTHING BUT NET



GIRLS BASKETBALL Schedule 2019-2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oct. 19	Hall of Fame Game	Denham Springs
Oct. 24	Hammond Scrimmage	Home
Nov. 16	Jamboree (Lee High)	Madison Prep
Nov. 24-27	<u>Natchitoches City of Lights Tourney</u>	Away
Dec. 3	St. Joseph	Home
Dec. 5-7	<u>Denham Springs Tournament</u>	Away
Dec. 9	St. Mary's Academy	Away
Dec. 11-12	<u>Chapelle Tournament</u>	Away
Dec. 14	Madison Prep	Away
Dec. 17	Zachary	Home
Dec. 19-21	<u>Walker Tournament</u>	Away
Dec. 27-28	<u>Albany Tournament</u>	Away
Jan. 2-4	<u>Sugar Bowl Tournament</u>	Away
Jan. 11	Northwest	Madison Prep
Jan. 14	French Settlement*	Home
Jan. 17	Doyle*	Away
Jan. 21	Northlake Christian*	Away
Jan. 24	Pope John Paul*	Home
Jan. 28	Springfield *	Home
Jan. 31	French Settlement*	Away
Feb. 4	Doyle*	Home
Feb. 7	Northlake Christian*	Home
Feb. 11	Pope John Paul*	Away
Feb. 14	Springfield *	Away

* Indicates District Games, Home Games in **Bold**

Principal: Pat Sanguinetti
Head Coach: Michelle Bates

Athletic Director: Randell Legette
Assistant Coach: Eddie Fisher

The Flame

14520 Voss Drive
Hammond, La 70401
985-542-7662

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Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional
Catholic High School is a diocesan co-
educational school shaped by Christ-centered
values in an environment of academic excellence
that fosters the development of the whole person
in a Catholic-Christian community.



Excellence on the ACT or SAT

ACT 30+ or SAT 1400+



**Katie Amos, Kashish Wadhwa, Rachael White, Lyndsi Pierre, Kate
Graziano, Ethan Mixon, Ethan Stoulig, Amelia Fritz, Taylor McGovern, &
Abigail Potrament**