



Dear St. Thomas Families,

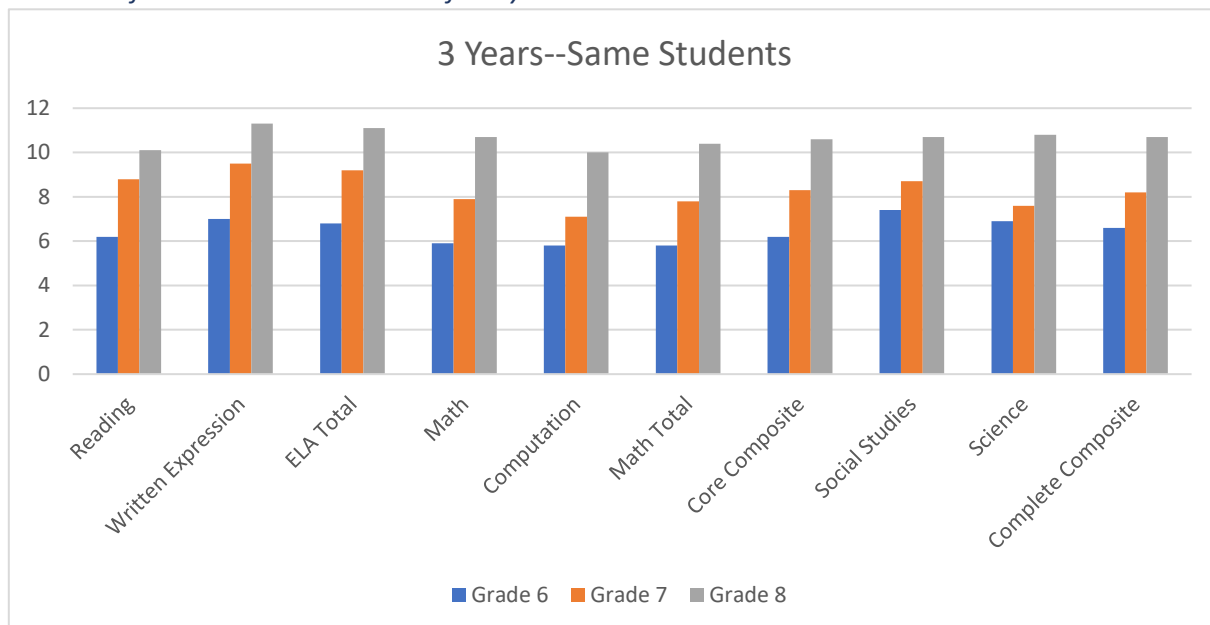
Each year we ask parents for profound trust and support of our school. Providing your child with an outstanding elementary education is easy. Providing your child with a Catholic, faith-filled education with high expectations and academic discipline becomes a challenge due to financial burdens. Fortunately, St. Thomas has a unique tuition plan in which each family can customize the tuition to fit their family's ability to pay. Sadly, the current state of our economy makes even this individualized tuition plan difficult. St. Thomas has promised that no child will be denied a Catholic Education because of the inability to pay the full cost to educate. However, like your home, our school requires bills to be paid in order to operate.

I would like to share a few key points to keep in mind. Our academic program is challenging. We strive for excellence. The Iowa Assessments help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

*The following charts shows how our current students scored when taking the Iowa Assessment Tests in their first month of their current grade level.*

	Reading	Writing	ELA Total	Math	Computation	Math Total	Core Composite	Social Studies	Science	Complete Composite
Grade 8	10.1	12	11.1	10.7	10	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.7
Grade 7	9.8	11.9	11	8.5	7.8	8.3	9.4	9.9	9.2	9.4
Grade 6	6.8	8.7	7.7	6.7	7.1	6.8	7.2	8	8	7.5
Grade 5	6.7	8.4	7.5	6.2	5	5.8	6.5	7.5	6.9	6.7
Grade 4	5.4	6.4	6	4.9	3.9	4.6	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.4
Grade 3	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9

*This chart follows the same students for 3 years.*



St. Thomas provides an outstanding education due to the dedication of our teachers. Our staff is highly educated with credits beyond their initial bachelor's degree, many beyond a master's degree and even a few with multiple master's degrees. They teach at a catholic school because it is their calling, a vocation. St. Thomas provides a complete education filling each day with challenging academics, faith, prayer, Jesus and our beautiful Catholic traditions. This fact alone makes the offerings at St. Thomas priceless. Please seriously reflect on the value of a Catholic Education for your child when making your Fair Ability to pay tuition pledge.

*Overall Expenses*

Total Expenses	<i>Salaries, benefits, advertising, subscriptions, textbooks, postage, printers, supplies, etc.</i>	\$1,584,960.00
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	
	<b>Cost to Educate in 2018-2019</b>	<b>\$6096.00</b>

At this time, I ask that you prayerfully reflect upon your unique situation. Please make an honest pledge towards the cost to educate for each of your children. *St. Thomas is the only school in the Rockford Diocese that offers a Fair Ability Tuition Program. This is due to the strong support of our churches: St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Mary-Huntley and Resurrection in Woodstock as well as the prayerful generosity of our families. Without this generous parental support, this program would not survive. Thank you for making the possibility of a Catholic Education a reality for so many!*

May God Bless all St. Thomas Families,

*Mrs. Gina Houston*

*Mrs. Gina Ruffolo*

Registration Requirements:

1. Completed SchoolSpeak Profile Update
2. Complete Fair Ability Tuition Contract
3. Registration fee \$175 per child
  - a. \$100 during registration
4. Technology fee \$35 per child
5. Service Contract online through SchoolSpeak
  - a. 20 hours service for Fair Ability
  - b. 4 hours service for non-Fair Ability

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL FAIR ABILITY TO PAY TUITION CONTRACT 2019-2020

It is of great importance to us to have our child(ren) attend a school which:

- Provides faith formation and academic excellence for all students desiring a Catholic education;
- Develops and celebrates the uniqueness of each child within an environment where God can be encountered;
- Teaches and models Gospel values, enabling students to become socially responsible Catholic leaders.

Believing Saint Thomas the Apostle School to be such a school, we wish to enroll our child(ren) in this school for the 2019-2020 school year. In order to practice our Fair Ability tuition program, we acknowledge that we are registered and active parishioners at:

\_\_\_ St. Thomas, \_\_\_ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, \_\_\_ St. Mary-Huntley, or \_\_\_ Resurrection-Woodstock.

We also commit to volunteering a minimum of 5 hours per quarter/20 hours per year at St. Thomas School which will be recorded and maintained through SchoolSpeak.

If we are paying full tuition, we are still committed to actively participating in the St. Thomas School community and promise to volunteer at school for a minimum of one hour per quarter/4 hours per year. Hours will be recorded and maintained through SchoolSpeak.

Student	Grade for 2019-2020	Student	Grade for 2019-2020

I/we understand that with the Fair Ability Tuition Plan, as a logical extension of the Stewardship effort of the Church, that **every** family is expected to make the highest tuition payment pledge possible that is appropriate to their actual financial means. I/we understand too, that the people of St. Thomas, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Mary-Huntley and Resurrection-Woodstock parishes are paying a subsidy to provide my child(ren) with a Catholic education. Further, **realizing that it will cost approximately \$6096 per student, per year** to operate and maintain the quality of our Catholic school education and having seriously considered our family's situation, I/we, the under-signed, hereby promise to pay the following amount in support of the total cost. **Further, I/we understand that registration for a subsequent year is contingent upon completing this commitment for the current year.**

**(Please fill in completely)**

2019-2020 Cost to educate my \_\_\_\_\_ child(ren) (# of children x \$6096) (a) \_\_\_\_\_

My pledge for the 2019-2020 school year will be: (b) \_\_\_\_\_

The subsidy I am requesting from the parish family is: (a – b) \_\_\_\_\_

Included with this form is the \$175 per child-required fee, discounted to \$100 per child if registration is completed during registration on March 12 or 14 and an annual tech fee of \$35. This is in addition to the total pledge amount and is non-refundable. Registration is not considered final until this fee is paid and all required documents are submitted to the school office. Please choose your payment option below:

Tuition Agreement

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly - One payment (Due on the opening day of school)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bi-annually - Two payments (Due August & January)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly - Four payments (Due August, October, January, & April)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly - Ten payments (Due August through May)

Parent/Guardian (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee ( ) Cash or ( ) Check # \_\_\_\_\_

*Once your information has been verified by St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School personnel you will receive an email receipt stating that you are officially registered at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School.*