



SAINT THOMAS  
MORE ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

MICHAELMAS & CANDLEMAS TERMS

A.D. 2022-2023

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# Welcome To Saint Thomas More Academy

## OUR MISSION & A GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Saint Thomas More Academy is an apostolate of the parish of Saint Aelred Catholic Church. Saint Thomas More's mission is to support parents in the Athens-area who wish to educate their children.

“A TRUE EDUCATION AIMS AT THE FORMATION OF THE HUMAN PERSON  
IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS ULTIMATE END”

*(Gravissimum Educationis 1).*

Specifically, Saint Thomas More Academy aims to help parents instill in their children a **Sacramental Worldview** - to see the world with the eyes of Christ, to speak with the language of his Body, the Church, and to walk as his faithful disciple in the world so that students may know, love, and serve the Holy Trinity in this world and receive the gift of eternal blessedness.

This mission is supported by the Four Pillars of Catholic Education, rooted in the medieval Cathedral school model, the time-honored approach to classical Christian education: **Sacred Worship, Sacred Wisdom, Sacred Music, and Sacred Art**. The classical seven liberal arts of the Trivium and Quadrivium all fall within these pillars, as well as Theology, the Queen of the Sciences, and Philosophy, her handmaid.

We aim to assist in the cultivation of a sacramental worldview through offering a curriculum and community that helps parents

1. form their children spiritually through regular instruction in the Catholic Faith and participation in prayer and Mass according to the prescribed forms of Saint Aelred Catholic Church;
2. immerse their children in the excellence of the Catholic academic tradition; and
3. imbue in their children a love for the historic Anglican patrimony choral tradition as well as the great artistic treasures of the Church.

Saint Thomas More Academy is an educational program that honors the theological order of the domestic church, affirming parents as the primary educators of their children (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2229). Saint Thomas More currently offers a Homeschool Enrichment Program for students in Grades K-12, as well as a Preschool program for students aged 3-4. In the 2022-2023 academic year, Saint Thomas More Academy will offer two 12-week terms - the Michaelmas and Candlemas Terms - offering lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for students from the ages of 3-18.

All programs at Saint Thomas More are informed by the knowledge that children are persons with dignity and a supernatural destiny. The environment of Saint Thomas More allows each child to mature academically and in virtue with gentle and charitable guidance. The ultimate goal is for students to discover the influence and beauty of Catholicism in every aspect of culture and their own lives, growing in holiness and drawing ever closer to the Triune God.

## WHAT MAKES SAINT THOMAS MORE ACADEMY UNIQUE?

We go to school with Jesus Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament. We begin and end our day before Him, seeking His guidance and singing His praise. The most important class of each day is the Mass, where the True, the Good, and the Beautiful are not found through the subjects studied, but worshiped and consumed as the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Saint Thomas More Academy is the only homeschool enrichment program in the Athens, GA area that is an apostolate of a Roman Catholic Parish. As such, our educational program is uniquely centered on the virtues and on the liturgy. Immersion into the life of the Church, which is immersion into the life of Christ, is at the core of our school. Studies of all other disciplines hinge on this study and submission to the life of Christ, who is the true center of an education of the whole person of a child.

## A SACRAMENTAL WORLDVIEW

The Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes is bishop of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, the diocese within which Saint Aelred Catholic Church falls. Saint Thomas More Academy's educational mission hinges on what the Most Rev. Lopes identifies as a Sacramental Worldview - a concept traced through the history of the Church, but which finds unique expression in the parishes of the Ordinariate.

*The Church's mission of Catholic education is refined in the Ordinariate according to its vocation to preserve and promote the Patrimony of English Christianity for new generations for the enrichment of Christ's Church. This demands an understanding of the Patrimony that is deeper than a collection of sacred history of the things, words, or even actions. The rich Patrimony of English Christianity is the sacred history of the Church's own faith and its interaction with a particular people and a particular culture. Over the course of centuries, English culture made its own The Faith once delivered to the Saints, interiorized it and expressed it in an imagery, language, and a logic all its own. All the while, the Gospel penetrated that culture, transformed it from within, and used it as a privileged canvas on which to portray love's redeeming work. At its best, English Christianity encompassed a sacramental worldview: a view of God, Man, and the right ordering of things so that the world itself and all its wonders is understood as the burning bush of God's revelation.*

*Catholic education for the Ordinariate aims to recapture this sacramental worldview, equipping and empowering young people to see beyond the ephemeral to the deeper truth of God in Christ. It is less education and more formation in the beauty of Truth, in the rhythm of prayer, in the cultivation of virtue, and in the vibrancy of a creative imagination. The particular contribution of the Ordinariate in this is to ensure that this type of Christian formation as it developed in the English context never becomes a museum piece, but rather is lived by well-formed, intentional Catholics, and so contributes to the conversation of faith for generations to come.<sup>1</sup>*

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE ORDINARIATE

The questions remain: How does Saint Thomas More Academy set out to form young people in a sacramental worldview that will sustain their faith and serve them throughout life? How does Saint Thomas More bring the wisdom of the spiritual, liturgical, and pastoral traditions of English Christianity to bear on education today?

Drawing on the strength of our Patrimony, Catholic education at Saint Thoma More Academy is structured around four pillars:

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<sup>1</sup> Bishop Steven J. Lopes, "The Mission of Catholic Education in the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter"

## Sacred Worship

Primacy is given to the daily celebration of the liturgical life of the Church since the first education of the soul is conducted not by programs but by the Word of God and sacramental grace. This is accomplished through the daily celebration of Holy Mass, the source and summit of the life of the Church, and in the daily offering of the Office.<sup>2</sup>

The day at Saint Thomas More Academy will be sanctified by the recitation of Morning Prayer in the church to begin the day, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Noon, as well as the Minor Offices in some classrooms. This rootedness in the liturgy of the Church, particularly in the Anglican Patrimonial vernacular language and spiritual heritage, will shape the whole of the day at Saint Thomas More Academy, and will provide the basis for scripture study and faith formation.

## Sacred Wisdom

Academic rigor in the liberal arts is essential to the formation of rational, free, and virtuous persons. Ordinariate education ensures a firm grounding in literature, grammar, mathematics, science, and other core subjects.<sup>3</sup>

All study at Saint Thomas More Academy will be infused with the Catholic Faith. Understanding our Faith and the ideas that shaped Western civilization allows our students to deepen their beliefs and expand their understanding of the world. Additionally, Saint Thomas More will utilize the **Disciple of Christ Education in Virtue** program developed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. This program will integrate virtue education throughout the day at Saint Thomas More Academy, as well as provide a structure for student evaluation across disciplines. While this does not require any specific curricular obligations on the parents' part, parents are encouraged to study and incorporate the Sisters' articulations of the virtues and their adaptations appropriate to different age levels. Copies of the sisters' Virtue Charts will be provided to all families at Saint Thomas More Academy, and Educator Guides and further materials can be purchased through the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

## Sacred Music

Music is an integral part of the patrimony of English Christianity, and singing has been an essential expression of faith and worship for centuries. Music education is therefore central to the curriculum in the Ordinariate and provides a point of integration for the other core subjects.<sup>4</sup>

Saint Thomas More Academy emphasizes in its daily community life one of the oldest academic traditions in Catholicism: the singing school - *schola cantorum*. The venerable tradition of the *schola cantorum* attributes its origins and patronage to St. Gregory the Great. Saint Thomas More will strive to cultivate this ancient tradition along with the patrimony of the celebrated Anglican choral tradition. In order for any *schola cantorum* to sing the Lord's praises capably, the choristers must learn vocal technique and sight singing as well as music theory and history.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

Saint Thomas More Academy will begin teaching music foundations in Preschool and Primary and will begin choral work with our Junior and Intermediate Divisions. Each division will practice the skills mentioned above as appropriate to its level, utilizing the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life curriculum and Sister Justine Ward's method of Gregorian Chant instruction. All students will learn to chant Morning Prayer and sing hymns at Mass, and the Academy Choir, consisting of Junior and Intermediate students who have mastered appropriate benchmarks in the RSCM will vest and sing at Mass. Generally, choristers will be assigned listening homework which consists of listening to recordings of the music they are studying. As singing permeates the day, the text of sacred song penetrates the hearts and minds of students. Daily life at Saint Thomas More Academy will foster a life of harmony with one another by being in tune with the heart of the Lord.

### **Sacred Art**

Also a strength of the patrimony, sacred art is taught in the Ordinariate not just from the standpoint of appreciation, but in the creation of it. Students will explore the fine, applied, and performing arts as an integral part of learning and not just as an "extracurricular" activity.<sup>5</sup>

Art education at Saint Thomas More will consist of art history and appreciation as well as practice. The history and appreciation lessons will draw from the deep well of the Catholic artistic tradition, with pieces selected following the liturgical calendar. Historical context will help students place the work within the life of the Church, and the appreciation emphasis will be on how various works convey the Truth and Beauty of the Triune God. Some study will also be made of secular art, with a focus on connecting to other disciplines and study of creation and the incarnate world, emphasizing how artists have conveyed God's beauty and captured elements of his perfection. Following in the tradition of Saint Thomas Aquinas and Jacques Maritain, students will study how art with secular subject matter can point toward the divine.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

## HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Saint Thomas More Academy complements the vocational mission of parents “as those first responsible for the education of their children” (CCC 2229). As such, our program is currently open to families educating their children at home. Saint Thomas More aims to support parents undertaking this “privilege of evangelizing their children” by providing a deeply committed parochial Catholic community in which to “initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ for their children” (CCC 2225). At Saint Thomas More Academy, we seek to provide parents with extended access to the “privileged place for catechesis of children and parents,” the parish. We aim to center the child’s academic education on Christ and His Church, as the Catechism charges parents to “associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church” (CCC 2225, 2226). At the very heart of our program is an unwavering support of family life. Designed to support parent-led education, not replace it, the Saint Thomas More program provides a wealth of activities that will help form students for life.

The patroness of the Ordinariate is Our Lady of Walsingham, a medieval apparition of Mary in England who emphasized the domestic life of the Holy Family by gracing Lady Richeldis with a vision of the Holy House at Nazareth and instructing her to build a chapel in its image. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham, Saint Thomas More Academy seeks to support parents in the cultivation of their home as a school of virtue for the whole family. While the source and summit of this support comes in worship at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and is seconded by the lessons of the day, Saint Thomas More also provides auxiliary support to its families from the Parish Priest and our Home Education Advisor.

As an apostolate of Saint Aelred Catholic Church, Rev. Fr. Gregory Tipton is available for aid and counsel for parents of Saint Thomas More Academy on all topics, but particularly those related to Magisterial teachings on Catholic Education, the *ecclesia domestica*, and the rights and duties of parents and children, as well as discernment regarding a child’s path to the cultivation of virtue.

Mrs. Megan Tipton, Academy Director, and Mrs. Jenny Williams, our Home Education Advisor, is available for consultations upon request. She is able to provide suggestions for at-home implementation for those families new to home education, or those presented with obstacles at a new stage in home education. Mrs. Williams is able to connect parents with other Catholic homeschooling families who can offer counsel and support, as well as suggest curriculum materials that correspond to the Saint Thomas More Academy mission and courses.

## THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT THOMAS MORE

*"I die the King's good servant, but God's first." - Saint Thomas More*

Saint Thomas More was classically educated and highly accomplished by all secular standards. Most importantly, he was a champion for the Catholic Faith throughout his life, witnessing to Christ finally as a martyr when called to choose between the State and Our Lord's Church. Intellectually, he propagated Catholic humanism as a response to the errors of the Protestant Reformation. His patronage is critical today to a school that aims to train children in the Catholic classical tradition unadulterated by the Secular Humanism which often claims to be modern "classical education." He is also a powerful intercessor in our efforts to place the ultimate emphasis of education on sanctification.

*"[Saint Thomas More] is, for us, the Road Back. For our countrymen, I mean, for southerners ... He is the man to pray to for the conversion of the south. One of the stumbling blocks to the Southerner (or the American) who is drawn to the Church is that he sees not the Church of More, not the English Church which is his spiritual home ..."*

*- Walker Percy*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Saint Thomas More provides a course of studies faithful to the doctrine and teaching of the Catholic Church, which enlightens and informs all areas of the curriculum. Understanding our Faith and the ideas that shaped Western civilization allows our students to deepen their belief and expand their understanding of the world. We strive to maintain an environment in which our students can learn both the joy of intellectual inquiry and the perseverance required for true study. Our curriculum is rooted in the classical tradition.

In the Michaelmas and Candlemas Terms, Saint Thomas More Academy will offer a two-day program for all students. Students will be placed in one of four divisions: Preschool, Pre-Primary, Primary, Junior (A & B), and Intermediate. The day at Saint Thomas More Academy begins at 8:30 AM with Morning Prayer and ends with Midday Mass, followed by an optional lunch. Lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with more academic lessons on Tuesdays and elective offerings on Thursdays. Course offerings by division can be viewed below, along with curriculum overviews (p. 14). Students may enroll in one or both days at Saint Thomas More Academy, but preference will be given to students enrolling for both days.

Saint Thomas More Academy's physical classes occur at Saint Aelred Catholic Church, 4951 Macon Hwy, Bishop, GA 30621. Once a month, Saint Thomas More will have a Park Day, in which all classes between Morning Prayer and Mass will meet at Harris Shoals Park, Harris Shoals Dr, Watkinsville, GA 30677. Parents will be responsible for the transportation of their children to and from the park, and are encouraged to stay for the duration of Academy these days (see the Family Volunteer Roles section, p. 23 for more information). Park Days will have an alternate schedule, which will be provided, along with logistical information, in advance.

## DIVISION OF STUDENTS

The placement of students is not based primarily on age, though age should be used as a guide. At Saint Thomas More Academy, we seek to honor the whole child, placing them in the division that best fits their spiritual, moral, academic, and physical development. Parents should review the course offerings and curriculum overviews when requesting a division placement for their child. Together with the parents, tutors will determine a child's final placement.

<b>Preschool</b>	Ages 2-3 (Limited availability, open to returning preschoolers and siblings of students)
<b>Pre-Primary</b>	Ages 4-5 (Literacy skill building)
<b>Primary</b>	Ages 6-7 (Early readers)
<b>Junior</b>	<u>Level A:</u> Ages 8-10 (Upper elementary) <u>Level B:</u> Ages 11-13 (Middle grades)
<b>Intermediate</b>	Ages 13+ (9th and 10th grades)
<b>Senior Theology Seminar</b>	Ages 16+ (11th and 12th grades)

## DAILY SCHEDULE

8:15 - 8:25 AM	Student Drop-Off and Sign-In <i>Parents will walk students into the church and sign-in children on the porch/in the Narthex.</i>
8:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Chapel) <i>Parents are encouraged to pray with students. Parent attendance is required for Preschool &amp; Pre-Primary students.</i>
9:00 AM	Classes Begin
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Classes Meet
12 PM	Mass <i>Parent attendance at Mass is required with Preschool &amp; Pre-Primary students, and encouraged for Primary &amp; Junior students.</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch <i>Students are responsible for their own lunches, and all families are invited to join. Lunch on premises is optional but encouraged.</i>

**OFFERINGS BY DIVISION**

	<b>PRESCHOOL</b>	<b>PRE-PRIMARY</b>	<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>JUNIOR (A/B)</b> <i>Divisions will be taught separately Tuesdays and combined Thursdays.</i>	<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>
<b>TUES</b>	<p>Circle Time Scripture &amp; Saints Collaborative Play Stories</p> <p>Montessori-based lessons in phonemic awareness and letter recognition</p> <p>Educational play: Letters, Counting, Sorting, Sequence, Color, Shape &amp; Fine Motor</p> <p><i>Tutors: Emily Gearhart &amp; TBD</i></p>	<p>Circle Time Scripture &amp; Saints Outside games &amp; Collaborative play Stories</p> <p>Montessori-based lessons in phonics &amp; beginning math</p> <p><i>Tutors: Diana Werling &amp; TBD</i></p>	<p>Circle Time Stories Reading Scripture &amp; Saints Latin</p> <p><i>Tutor: Whitney Boroski</i></p>	<p>Literature - <i>Tonia Landt James</i> Grammar - <i>Tonia Landt James</i> Composition - <i>Jenny Williams</i> History - <i>Megan Tipton</i> Saints &amp; Liturgy - <i>Fr. Tipton</i></p>	<p>Theology - <i>Fr. Tipton</i> Philosophy - <i>Fr. Tipton</i> History - <i>Kevin James</i> Literature &amp; Composition - <i>Tonia Landt James</i> Saints &amp; Liturgy - <i>Fr. Tipton</i></p>
<b>THURS</b>	<p>Letters, Counting, Sorting, Sequence, Color, Shape &amp; Fine Motor</p> <p><i>Tutors: Emily Gearhart &amp; TBD</i></p>	<p>Circle Time Nature Study &amp; Art Catechesis of the Good Shepherd</p> <p><i>Tutors: Megan Tipton &amp; TBD</i></p> <p>Music - <i>Hank Sullivant</i></p>	<p>Geography - <i>Mary Betanzos</i> Nature Study &amp; Stories - <i>Megan Tipton</i> Handicrafts - <i>Jenny Williams</i> Music - <i>Hank Sullivant</i></p>	<p>Art History - <i>Jenny Williams</i> Art - <i>Jenny Williams</i> Nature Study - <i>Mary Betanzos</i> Geography - <i>Mary Betanzos</i> Music - <i>Hank Sullivant</i></p>	<p>Art History - <i>Jenny Williams</i> Art - <i>Jenny Williams</i> Nature Study - <i>Mary Betanzos</i> Geography - <i>Mary Betanzos</i> Music - <i>Hank Sullivant</i></p>

**TERM DATES**

<b>MICHAELMAS TERM</b>	<b>CANDLEMAS TERM</b>
September 20 - December 15, 2022	January 10 - April 20, 2023
<p>Breaks: Hallowtide Break: November 8 &amp; 10 Thanksgiving Break: November 24</p>	<p>Breaks: Shrovetide Break: February 14 &amp; 16 Holy Triduum &amp; Easter Octave Break: April 6, 11, &amp; 13</p>

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

### Preschool

Saint Thomas More Academy offers a Preschool class for siblings of older students, as well as returning preschoolers from the 2021-22 Academic Year who are not yet old enough to advance to Pre-Primary. Preschool will focus on explorative play, engaging students in the development of virtue as well as fine motor, art, and foundational academic skills. The Preschool division seeks to spark the imagination by inviting children to encounter Truth, Goodness, and Beauty through quality children's stories, nursery rhymes, scripture and saint stories, and investigation of the natural world. Additionally, the developing literacy, spatial, and mathematic skills of each student will be cultivate through s Montessori-style one-on-one and small group approach. This approach to phonemic awareness, letter recognition, color, sequence, counting, and pattern allows students to explore and develop in an encouraging and supportive environment that makes learning at each child's pace fun and rewarding. While this curriculum can stand on its own, it is encouraged that parents thread these studies throughout their week, primarily reading aloud to your child from the selections provided. Suggested at-home continuations of studies may be offered to parents by tutors (i.e., musical selections for listening or backyard nature study activities).

### Pre-Primary

Pre-Primary students will begin each day in the classroom with Circle Time, connecting the months, days, natural seasons, liturgical seasons, and lives of the saints. They will learn and commit to memory nursery rhymes, hymns, and prayers, and will be invited to encounter the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in poetry and time-honored classic children's stories. Tuesdays in the Pre-Primary division will include collaborative play and outside games, as well as Montessori-based one-on-one and small group instruction in literacy and math skills. This Montessori approach allows each child to explore and develop these critical foundational academic skills in an encouraging environment at their own pace, building a strong base for an enquiring and joyful learner. Thursdays invite Pre-Primary students into our choir room for foundational music skills, as well as exploration of creation and fine art through nature study. Students will also engage in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based exploration of prayer, the scriptures, the Church aimed to introduce children to the Trinity in a reverent but hands-on fashion. While student work in Pre-Primary can stand on its own, it is encouraged that parents thread these studies throughout their week, primarily reading aloud to your child from the selections provided. Suggested at-home continuations of studies may be offered to parents by tutors (i.e., musical selections for listening or backyard nature study activities).

### Primary

The curriculum for all Primary Division students will include Stories, Reading, Writing, Nature Study, Latin, and Scripture on Tuesdays and Art, Choir, Handicrafts, Geography, and Nature Study on Thursdays. Reading lessons will range based on the students in the class, and will include phonics reinforcement and student read-alouds of storybooks at their level. Latin will be taught using elements from the Song School Latin curriculum, emphasizing early language connections through song, play, and stories. Saint Thomas More Academy strives to give each primary student the best place to start and depends upon active parental involvement for the child to progress. It is encouraged that parents thread these studies throughout their week at home, primarily by reading aloud to your child from the selections provided. Students will require at-home instruction daily in addition to weekly lessons at

Academy which are intended to reinforce progress made at home. Suggested at-home continuations of in-academy studies may be offered to parents by tutors (i.e., musical selections for listening or backyard nature study activities).

### **Junior (A & B)**

At the Junior levels, Saint Thomas More Academy is pleased to offer a two-day curriculum consisting of Literature, Grammar, Composition, Liturgy and Saints, and History on Tuesdays and Art, Art History, Choir, Nature Study, and Cartography on Thursdays. Literature studies will seek to emphasize the unique contributions of the English Patrimonial tradition. History will be taught by emphasizing its purpose - preparing students to live out the role in God's story He has chosen for them. Art History will correspond to the time periods covered in History lessons, and will expose students to Truth and Beauty accessible in sacred and secular art. Geography will aim to give students a sense of place in the cosmos, engaging students in the study of geography as well as the hands-on practice of mapmaking. The distinctive criteria for eligibility for the Junior Level is reading fluency, manuscript or cursive handwriting skills prepared for in-class writing exercises, and an intellectual and moral maturity ready to take on more directed study in specific disciplines. The level of development of these skills and maturity will determine a student's placement in the A or B level within the Junior Division, in addition to age. This curriculum is designed to supplement home instruction, but will include assignments throughout the week between lessons. More outside-of-class work will be required of the Tuesday courses than the Thursday ones. Thursday courses' home assignments will be limited and are designed to be enriching for the whole family. For example, students will be encouraged to hang a print of the artwork studied in their home for admiration and reflection throughout the week, and similarly will be asked to listen to recordings of some of the music studied in choir throughout the week.

### **Intermediate**

The Intermediate Division at Saint Thomas More Academy is designed to reflect some of the distinctive elements of the English Cathedral Schools of the High Medieval era - rigorous study in philosophy and theology beginning in young adulthood, and all through the eyes of the Church and with worship of the Trinity at the heart of all intellectual endeavors. This division offers courses in History, Theology, Literature, Saints and Liturgy, and Philosophy on Tuesdays and Art, Art History, Nature Study, Choir, and Geography on Thursdays. These courses will be taught "at a high school level," and students' readiness for the Intermediate Division will be based on the intellectual and moral maturity to handle the responsibility and course material required of study of this kind. Students will be responsible for outside-of-class reading and writing assignments weekly. Study in each of these courses is meant not just to build a storehouse of facts and skills, but to prepare students to live a life in Christ. As such, all courses will be entwined rather than compartmentalized, and with Christ at the core, rather than chronology. Thus Theology, not History, will serve as our prime discipline. For students needing records for high school transcripts, tutors are prepared to accommodate.

## TUITION

Tuition may be paid monthly or in full. Families paying tuition monthly will owe tuition payments every four weeks. There are three four-week periods (three “months”) each term, for a total of six payments for the academic year. Payments can be made via check or online at [thomasmoreacademy.org](http://thomasmoreacademy.org). Families who begin the Michaelmas Term with Saint Thomas More Academy are responsible for both terms’ full tuition.

### MONTHLY TUITION RATES:

	ONE DAY	TWO-DAY
PRESCHOOL	\$40	\$60
PRE-PRIMARY	\$50	\$75
PRIMARY	\$50	\$75
JUNIOR A	\$60	\$80
JUNIOR B	\$60	\$80
INTERMEDIATE	\$70	\$90
Sr. THEOLOGY (ONE CLASS)	\$30	--

### ANNUAL TUITION RATES:

	ONE DAY	TWO-DAY
PRESCHOOL	\$240	\$360
PRE-PRIMARY	\$300	\$450
PRIMARY	\$300	\$450
JUNIOR A	\$360	\$480
JUNIOR B	\$360	\$480
INTERMEDIATE	\$420	\$540
Sr. THEOLOGY (ONE CLASS)	\$180	--

## FEES & ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Registration Fee, due with official registration form after enrollment application has been accepted (\$30/student, \$75/family)
- ❖ Supply Fee (\$50/student; due with first month's tuition)
- ❖ Uniforms (see p. 18)
- ❖ Texts not provided by Saint Thomas More Academy (listed in course overviews provided over the summer)
- ❖ Limited personal Supplies (listed in Division Supply Lists provided over the summer)

## UNIFORM & APPEARANCE

Following the uniform regulations will aid students in cultivating the virtues of modesty and orderliness, and will create a unified atmosphere where each person is valued and respected as a child of God.

### General Appearance

1. All students should look and smell clean. Hair should be neatly styled; no unnatural hair coloring or streaking. Students who arrive at Morning Prayer or Lessons unkempt will be required to straighten their appearance in the restroom before joining their division. Repeated issues will be discussed with parents.
2. Boys' hair may not hang below the collar. Any facial hair must be kept neat and trimmed.
3. Students who are approximately 10 years and older are strongly encouraged to wear deodorant.
4. Jewelry for girls should be kept to a minimum of stud earrings, a single bracelet and/or watch (no wristbands or athletic wear), and a single small necklace (no chokers). For boys, a single wristwatch is permitted. Body-piercing jewelry is strictly prohibited.
5. Hair ornamentation should be kept modest, tasteful, and in keeping with uniform color and style. Brightly-colored clips, bows, scrunchies, etc. are not permitted.
6. Makeup should likewise be minimal for girls. No lip, cheek, or eye coloring is to be worn. Nail polish, if worn, must be neat and modestly colored. Makeup is prohibited for boys.
7. No head coverings are allowed during lessons, i.e. caps or hats; however, girls may wear a fitting hat or mantilla as a veil for Mass.
8. Outerwear worn to and from school should be dark- and solid- colored and should not bear any logos or markings. Non-uniform outerwear, if a student chooses to wear it, must be hung on the coat racks when arriving and may be collected when attending a lesson outdoors or when leaving. Uniform outerwear (listed below but not required) is highly encouraged.
9. Uniforms should be clean and pressed. Any mended areas must be neat and nearly invisible.
10. Shirts must be tucked into waistbands at all times.
11. Girls' skirts should fall just above or at the knee.
12. Any undershirts or undergarments should not be visible through uniform shirts.
13. Uniform clothing should fit appropriately, neither too small nor oversized.

### Uniform Requirements

\*Indicates uniform pieces that must be purchased from the French Toast website.

	GIRLS		BOYS	
	PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY, & JUNIOR	INTERMEDIATE	PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY, & JUNIOR	INTERMEDIATE
TOPS	*Light blue short sleeve peter pan collar <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/short-sleeve-modern-peter-pan-girls-uniform-blouse-2t-4t/p/1593?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/short-sleeve-modern-peter-pan-girls-uniform-blouse-2t-4t/p/1593?</a>		*Light blue, long-sleeve button-down oxford shirt <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017?</a>	*Light blue, long-sleeve button-down oxford shirt <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017?</a>

				*Navy blazer <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/school-blazer-boys-4-7/p/1428?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/school-blazer-boys-4-7/p/1428?</a>
BOTTOMS	*V-Neck Pleated Jumper (Blue Red Plaid) <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-pleated-plaid-jumper-girls-4-6x-7/p/1047?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-pleated-plaid-jumper-girls-4-6x-7/p/1047?</a>  Solid white, black, grey, or navy bike shorts, bloomers, or cheer shorts beneath (no logos or embellishments)	*Pleated Skirt (Blue Red Plaid) <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/plaid-pleated-skirt-girls-4-6x-7/p/1065?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/plaid-pleated-skirt-girls-4-6x-7/p/1065?</a>  Solid white, black, grey, or navy bike shorts, bloomers, or cheer shorts beneath (no logos or embellishments)	*Navy shorts <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-flat-front-stretch-performance-short/p/1656?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-flat-front-stretch-performance-short/p/1656?</a>  Brown leather belt	*Khaki chinos <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-straight-fit-chino-with-power-knees/p/1694?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-straight-fit-chino-with-power-knees/p/1694?</a>  Brown leather belt
OUTERWEAR (OPTIONAL)	*Solid navy cardigan <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-crew-neck-cardigan-sweater-girls-4-6x-7/p/1371?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-crew-neck-cardigan-sweater-girls-4-6x-7/p/1371?</a>	*Solid burgundy cardigan <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-crew-neck-cardigan-sweater-girls-4-6x-7/p/1371?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-crew-neck-cardigan-sweater-girls-4-6x-7/p/1371?</a>	*Navy sweater <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-v-neck-cardigan-sweater-boys-4-7/p/1370?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-v-neck-cardigan-sweater-boys-4-7/p/1370?</a> or *Navy sweater vest <a href="https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-sweater-vest-boys-4-7/p/1029?">https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-sweater-vest-boys-4-7/p/1029?</a>	N/A
SOCKS AND FOOTWEAR	Solid white or navy tights or knee socks, or white bobby socks with no embellishments or logos  Solid navy or brown mary janes, or navy and white saddle oxfords		White or navy knee socks or white crew socks with no logos  Navy or brown loafers, bucks, or boat shoes; or navy and white saddle oxfords	

**PRESCHOOL:**

Preschool students who have uniforms already or who fit in uniform sizes are encouraged to wear them. Otherwise, preschoolers should dress in solid navy bottoms or dresses with solid gray tops. Tops may be emblazoned with the Saint Thomas More Academy logo along with siblings' Park Day uniforms, if desired.

**Park Day Uniforms**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gray t-shirt</li> <li>● Navy athletic shorts or sweat pants (girls may also choose fingertip-length athletic skirts)</li> <li>● White or gray athletic socks</li> <li>● Tennis shoes</li> <li>● Gray or navy sweatshirt may be worn, but should have minimal logos</li> </ul>
<p>T-shirts will be emblazoned with the Saint Thomas More Academy logo. Students should bring their t-shirt, labeled with their name, on the first day of Academy. They will be returned the following week.</p>

## Standards & Policies

### GOVERNANCE OF SAINT THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

As an apostolate of Saint Aelred Catholic Church, Saint Thomas More Academy is presided over by the Parish Priest of Saint Aelred. The Parish Priest is the final adjudicator of all matters pertaining to the Academy. The Board of Tutors assists and supports the Parish Priest in a consultative manner for the formulation of policy and administration of the Academy in accordance with its mission. The day-to-day operations of the Academy are administered by the Academy Director, who acts under the authority of Parish Priest.

#### BOARD OF TUTORS:

Rev. Fr. Gregory Tipton (Parish Priest)  
Hank Sullivan (Choirmaster & Organist)  
Whitney Boroski (Finance Administrator)  
Jenny Williams (Home Education Advisor)  
Mary Betanzos  
Emily Gearhart  
Kevin James  
Tonia Landt James  
Diana Werling  
Megan Tipton (Academy Director)

### STAFF

The staff of Saint Thomas More are faithful Catholics and, for the most part, also parents of students. They have a variety of educational and academic backgrounds ranging from liberal arts to the sciences. They are committed to supporting homeschooling parents and educating children in the Catholic classical tradition and, most importantly, in virtue. All staff and volunteers at Saint Thomas More Academy are required to undergo a criminal background check and to complete the Safe Environment training program required by the Ordinariate, *Safe Haven - It's Up to You*.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Saint Thomas More Academy is an apostolate of the parish of Saint Aelred Catholic Church, which is a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. As such, all programs, activities, and ministries of Saint Aelred are subject to the protocols of the Safe Environment program. All adults actively involved in an official capacity with the Academy will be required to take the Ordinariate's online Safe Environment training course, *Safe Haven - It's Up to You*. It is recommended that parents review the program: [ordinariate.net/safe-environment](http://ordinariate.net/safe-environment).

### DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY OF SAINT THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Each member of the Academy community is called to discipleship. Students, parents, faculty, and volunteers all strive to follow the teaching and example of Christ, the model of virtue and source of grace. All work together to provide an atmosphere that encourages learning and growth in virtue, honoring the dignity of the person as made in the image of God. Students contribute positively to the classroom atmosphere by treating others and their property honorably, by being punctual and prepared, and presenting themselves in a neat and fitting manner. Parents contribute by encouraging virtuous conduct and a love of learning in their children. Tutors strive to model virtue and help cultivate it in the students.

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ requires disciplines - no discipline, no disciples. The goal of all discipline at Saint Thomas More is true cultivation of virtue, which perfects the grace given in baptism. When students occasionally make choices contrary to the life of virtue (or the Academy's established policies set to provide an environment suitable for its cultivation), the Academy strives to help these students understand why their behavior is inappropriate, and how they can affect the desired change. The goal is to provide interior direction in order to bring about an authentic change of life (repentance), to help the student exercise the virtue that was lacking in his behavior, and ultimately to direct the child toward God Himself. The Academy will use the *Education in Virtue* program to support this goal.

Saint Thomas More Academy has the authority to help a student cultivate discipline:

1. while the student is on campus or in any area adjacent to the campus; and
2. while the student is in attendance at any program-related activity, regardless of time or location.

Campus is the property of Saint Aelred Catholic Church and the grounds in front of and behind the building. In the definition of Campus, the Academy also includes Harris Shoals Park when classes or activities are held there.

### **DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES**

If correction is needed during time at Saint Thomas More Academy, it will follow this general form, leaving room for the discretion of the tutor in response to the particularities of each student.

1. If a student is admonished three times, he or she will be asked to sit out for 5 minutes.
2. If a student is asked to sit out three times in one day (whether during one class or across multiple), his or her parent will be called and the student will be sent home for the day.
3. If a student is sent home two Academy days in a row, he or she will be suspended for the following week (or two days of lessons).
4. If, within the first two weeks upon returning from suspension, a student must be sent home again, a meeting with parents, students, and Academy Director will occur to make a decision regarding expulsion for the remainder of Term.

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

“The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God” (St. Gregory of Nyssa). Saint Thomas More Academy holds Jesus Christ as the ideal and model for human behavior. The theological virtue of charity, the very center of spiritual life, is emphasized above all, for it animates and inspires the practice of all the virtues (CCC 1827). The cardinal virtue of justice, and the associated virtues of respect (for self and others), courtesy, responsibility, sincerity, and trustworthiness are also of primary importance in the life of the Saint Thomas More Academy. The practice of these virtues ought to inform all the students' dealings with other members of the Academy, including guests or visitors. Staff may counsel and correct a student when appropriate at any time or place during the day, always keeping in mind the dignity of each student. Saint Thomas More Academy will contact parents about any discipline issues. Please see our Disciplinary Guidelines below for more details. The essential expectation for student behavior is that students conduct themselves in a mature and dignified manner at all times in accordance with their age. Following the guidelines above will aid the students in exercising the virtues of orderliness, industriousness, self-control, and modesty, as well as respect, responsibility, and courtesy. These are not rules to be memorized or an exhaustive list of

what virtuous behavior looks like for a student, but rather guidelines that serve as a starting place for parents and students to develop a clear understanding of the practice of virtue within the Academy.

1. During Academy hours, students are required to enter and leave the building only with an authorized adult - either their parent or their tutor. Parents should be physically present in the Narthex of the Church to drop off and pick up their children, and should use the front doors of the Church to enter and leave. All visitors will be expected to sign in with the Academy Director.
2. Students should arrive at Saint Thomas More Academy promptly and in full uniform, which should be clean and pressed.
3. At the beginning of each class, students should place their things on their desks or tables and stand behind their chairs to wait for the tutor to begin with prayer. After the prayer, the tutor will invite the students to sit.
4. Students are expected to observe appropriate, modest posture at all times.
5. When students have a question to bring to the class, they should raise their hands and wait until the tutor asks them to speak.
6. Students should keep classrooms and personal belongings orderly and clean. Students should make proper use of all classroom and personal effects, treating all with care.
7. Students are expected to act in an appropriate manner during class changes. Student conduct will be appropriate and quiet. Students must be prompt during class changes.
8. All students are expected to greet clergy, staff, parents, visitors, and fellow students politely and courteously when they see them throughout the day.
9. At snack, lunch, or during recreational periods, each student is expected to act in a controlled and respectful manner while using the areas designated. Students are expected to keep the grounds neat and litter free. Students may not access stored materials without the approval and supervision of a Tutor.
10. Students must respect their property and that of others. Each student is legally and financially responsible for the removal, defacing, or wilful damage to property while attending Saint Thomas More Academy.
11. Personal belongings are to be kept in good form. Uniform items, books, binders, desks, folders, jackets, or backpacks must be free of any inappropriate or unnecessary writing or decoration and must conform to uniform and supply guidelines.
12. Standard norms are to be practiced during snack and lunchtime. Good manners, proper etiquette, orderly place settings and quiet tables, cleaning up after oneself, and leaving the room clean make for a courteous and pleasant experience for all.
13. Food and beverages are to be consumed at appropriate times, in designated areas. Eating is not allowed during class time.
14. Students may not leave early without prior written approval from a parent or guardian. Students may not leave with any adult other than a parent or guardian without prior written request, approved in advance by the Academy Director.
15. Students are expected to complete their classwork and any homework with effort and daily diligence.
16. Cell phones are prohibited at Saint Thomas More Academy, including before Morning Prayer and during and after lunch.
17. The following items are strictly forbidden at Saint Thomas More Academy: weapons of any kind, pornography, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Any student possessing any of these materials will be expelled immediately from the Academy.

## LUNCH GUIDELINES

Lunch at Saint Thomas More Academy, in keeping with one of the earliest Christian traditions, is meant to be fellowship that pours out of the Mass and the unity of the Body of Christ. As such, it is an opportunity to cultivate virtue as students, families, and tutors enjoy time together.

- ❖ Students' lunches should be packed individually, labeled with the students' name, and should include all utensils and accessories needed to properly eat. Lunch boxes should be placed on the designated table upon entering in the morning.
- ❖ Students staying for lunch at Academy will line up outside the Parish Hall doors, enter together, retrieve their lunch boxes, and find a seat at the student tables or picnic benches. After Grace Before Meals is prayed in common, students may begin eating.
- ❖ Students are expected to maintain orderliness and courtesy, practicing appropriate table manners in regards to posture, place setting, eating and drinking, and volume of speech.
- ❖ When a student is finished eating, they may ask the Tutor or Lunch Monitor to be excused to clear their place. Students should clean up after themselves as though no one is coming behind them, returning their place to the order in which it was found. Students can then play and socialize out-of-doors.
- ❖ There will also be tables designated for parents and siblings of students to eat meals in common. Please keep food at the tables and return your area to the state in which it was found.
- ❖ On designated feast days in the liturgical calendar, Saint Thomas More Academy will have Common Lunches. These potluck-style meals will vary depending on the feast, but instead of packing lunch for yourself and your student(s), all families will bring a dish and we will share a family-style meal in celebration of the saint or feast day.

## SICK POLICY

If your child has been unwell, they should not return to Saint Thomas More Academy until they have been 24 hours without fever or vomiting. If a student becomes sick during Academy, we will contact a parent to pick up the student.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

In case of inclement weather, parents will be notified by 6:30 AM via email of cancellation or delayed start. If no email has been sent, Academy will proceed as usual. Families are responsible for making a decision in regards to safety of travel to Academy. If severe weather occurs on a Park Day, families will be notified by 6:30 AM if Academy will be held at Saint Aelred Catholic Church.

## FAMILY PARTICIPATION & DUTIES

Tuition and fees comprise only one way in which families contribute to Saint Thomas More Academy. The gift of ourselves and our time provides an excellent opportunity to model and practice the virtue of generosity, and to demonstrate to students the importance of cheerful giving for the good of the Academy. Family Duty sign-ups will be provided at the beginning of Term. The following volunteer expectations of parents are:

- I. **Park Days:** Parents' presence is requested for the duration of Academy on the monthly Park Days. Parents will volunteer to help with supervision and liturgically-based celebrations. Younger siblings are welcome to join their parents for Park Days. An email will be sent out in advance of each Park Day detailing volunteer

- needs. On Park Days, Junior and Intermediate families will be asked to provide a snack for all students, volunteers, and tutors. Sign-ups will be available with snack guidelines and recommendations in advance.
2. **Daily Volunteer/Hall Mom:** This all-purpose role will assist in classes as needed, help to facilitate snack and bathroom breaks, assist in class change, substitute for a tutor in the case of an emergency, etc.
  3. **Daily Snacks** (Preschool & Primary): Parents will be asked to sign up for a rotation to provide the daily snack for their student's class each term. At the beginning of each term, sign-ups will be available with snack guidelines and recommendations.
  4. **Lunch Monitors:** Lunch monitors will assist in supervising student clean-up crews after lunch, ensuring places are cleared and the room is returned to its proper state. This may include wiping down tables, sweeping, vacuuming, and washing dishes (completing any of these tasks that are left undone). A checklist will be provided in the kitchen. Some lunch monitors will also be responsible for supervising outdoor play.
  5. **Facilities:** Parents will be asked to assist in keeping our space clean, especially the Parish Hall which we share with Saint Aelred Catholic Church. On Thursdays, facility helpers will return the Parish Hall to its Sunday set-up, and may be asked to move tables and chairs, vacuum classrooms, take out trash, straighten classrooms, etc.
  6. **Substitutes:** If you would like to be placed on a Substitute list in the event a tutor is absent, a sign-up will be available each term. Lesson plans and all materials will be provided by the tutor. Substitutes will be compensated for their time at Saint Thomas More by the tutor for whom they filled in.
  7. **Common Lunch:** On feast days (listed in the calendar, p. 12), families are asked to bring a dish for a potluck-style meal so we can all celebrate Our Lord and his Saints in common. Details will be sent prior to each Common Lunch.