



STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

INSPIRED BY OUR MISSION...

The mission of the St. Thomas the Apostle School community is to lead, challenge, and encourage God's Children in Extraordinary Variety to grow in faith, knowledge, and commitment to service.

...AND VISION FOR STA

St. Thomas the Apostle School is a center of academic excellence where students' spiritual, moral and character development is nurtured. Students are educated in a supportive learning community that demands their best each and every day. St. Thomas the Apostle School provides a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum grounded in the Catholic faith and Christian values. Partnering with parents and the entire St. Thomas the Apostle Parish community enhances our distinctive curriculum that is focused on preparing students to succeed as life-long learners with 21st-century skills. All are committed to working together to ensure that each student understands what it means to live their faith and use their talents as responsible citizens in stewardship to others and the world.



FROM STA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND ADVISORY BOARD

Dear STA Community,

St. Thomas the Apostle School has been a pillar in the Hyde Park community and the South Side of Chicago for over 130 years. We are proud of our long history and the tremendous growth of our school in recent years. Our vibrant community continues to welcome new families, provide high quality academics and instruction, expand our support services, and ground our students in a foundation of faith.

Over the past two years, we have developed a strategic plan for our STA. It is time for our community to start thinking "bigger picture." Our strategic plan will give us direction when making decisions, and promote continued growth for our school. The 4 major initiatives in our strategic plan are: Accessibility, Finance & Facilities, Academics & Instruction, and Communication & Engagement. Each initiative has goals with action items to achieve over the next few years.

We hope this plan will inspire our community! We believe that this strategic plan, along with your support, will allow St. Thomas the Apostle School to serve God's Children in Extraordinary Variety now and for many years to come.

Sincerely,

STA School Administration and Advisory Board



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

FINANCE & FACILITIES



ACADEMICS & INSTRUCTION



ACCESSIBILITY



COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

FINANCE & FACILITIES

- In order to maintain a safe and high-quality learning environment, we will assess the school's major capital needs and develop a multi-year plan to acquire the necessary funding needed to invest thoughtfully into our school building.
- We will develop a five-year, right-size tuition plan and a conservative fundraising plan. This plan will project for future enrollment and expenses, including projected scholarship support, in order to ensure that an STA education is affordable for all families.

ACADEMICS & INSTRUCTION

- In a continued effort to be inclusive of all learners and to ensure all students grow academically, socially, and emotionally, we will evaluate the existing supports for students to help identify additional support we can include in our education program.
- We will provide diverse enrichment opportunities for STA students throughout the academic year and summer. These will include project-based learning, service learning, grade level "traditions", and "specials" courses.
- In order to promote a community of teachers committed to professional growth, we will thoughtfully plan teacher professional development.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Our school will focus on meeting the needs of all learners. STA will strengthen and support our inclusive learning program, work to identify additional support staff, and provide teachers with professional development around differentiation and inclusion.
- In partnership with members of our school's parish, school parents, and partners in the Catholic community, our school will demonstrate our Catholic identity by developing service opportunities for students and families.
- Because a parent - school connection is important for student success, STA will provide families with opportunities for family learning. We will align family curriculum nights with school initiatives and develop a communication plan to support parent involvement of student learning.
- In an effort to continually support all families and to ensure each child's time at STA is productive, we will evaluate our school's extended day program and its impact on the school mission, student homework, and family life.
- Our school will develop a program and communication plan to inform parents on high school options, high school admissions processes, and resources for scholarships in order to support a seamless transition for our students from STA onto high school.

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Existing families are a key to the STA community and the school's success. We will improve communication and engagement to increase retention, foster parent and student ambassadors, and increase parent and student awareness of all things STA.
- In order to increase community engagement and awareness, we will focus on improving branding for the school, participation in or creation of community events and programs and utilizing the school's physical space to interact with the community.
- STA will work to improve alumni and donor engagement through improved identification, communication, and collaboration with the STA alumni base, individuals and businesses that support STA and engage them in the school's mission of educating God's children in extraordinary variety.
- We will strive to partner with local institutions and businesses, including universities and high schools to increase academic excellence and support our students and families going through the high school admissions process.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Thank you to the members of our Advisory Board for your work on the creation of this strategic plan for St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Chairman

David Dault

Members

Jon Bennett

Carla Burford

Gina Cleggs

Tareema Jean-Baptiste

Raymond Lodato

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