



SAINT THOMAS
MORE ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

MICHAELMAS & CANDLEMAS TERMS

A.D. 2021-2022

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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:

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 in its spiritual, artistic, and choral tradition as well as the great artistic treasures throughout the history 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. Saint Thomas More currently offers a Homeschool Enrichment Program for students in Grades K-8, as well as a Preschool program for students aged 2-4. In the 2021-2022 academic year, Saint Thomas More Academy will offer two terms - the Michaelmas and Candlemas Terms - offering lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for students from the ages of 2-18.

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. Studies are meant to emphasize and nurture the intellectual, historical, artistic, and spiritual gifts of the Faith. 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 are hinged 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.

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

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.

General Information

Saint Thomas More provides a course of studies faithful to the doctrine and teaching of the Catholic Church, which enlighten and inform 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, Primary (K-1), Junior, 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 foundational academic lessons on Tuesdays and elective offerings on Thursdays. Course offerings by division can be viewed below, along with curriculum overviews (p. 6). Students may enroll in one or both days at Saint Thomas More Academy, but preference will be given to students enrolling for both days. Classes will be capped at 8 students in each division.

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 Volunteering section, p. 15 for more information). Park Days will have an alternate schedule, and will include primarily Physical Education with Fr. Tipton, as well as Nature Study and Art.

DIVISION OF STUDENTS

The placement of students is not based primarily on age, though that can 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.

Preschool	Ages 3 - 4
Primary	Students ready to learn to read and write (Age 5+)
Junior	<u>Level A</u> : Students with developing reading and handwriting skills, ready to apply them across various disciplines <u>Level B</u> : Students fluent in reading and adept at handwriting, ready to apply these skills across the same disciplines (Age 7+)
Intermediate	Students with the intellectual and moral maturity to begin formal lessons in theology and philosophy, in addition to other disciplines (Age 12+)

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 in the Narthex.</i>
8:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Chapel) <i>Parents are encouraged to pray with 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 PS students, and encouraged for P & J students.</i>
12:30 PM	Lunch <i>Students are responsible for their own lunches, and all families are invited to eat together. Lunch on premises is optional but encouraged.</i>

TERMS

MICHAELMAS TERM (12 WEEKS)	Thursday, Sept. 23 - Thursday, Dec. 16
Christmas Break (Dec. 17 - Jan. 17)	
CANDLEMAS TERM (12 WEEKS)	Tuesday January 18 - Tuesday, April 12
Easter Break (April 13 - April 25)	
EASTERTIDE (END OF SCHOOL) CELEBRATION - Tuesday, April 26	
Summer Break (April 27 - Sept. 26)	

Curriculum

COURSE OFFERINGS BY DIVISION

	PRESCHOOL	PRIMARY	JUNIOR (A/B)	INTERMEDIATE
TUESDAY	Circle Time & Nursery Rhymes Sequence, Pattern, & Counting Scripture & Saints Letters Nature Study Stories	Circle Time & Stories Handwriting Reading Scripture & Saints Nature Study Latin	Scripture & Saints Literature Latin Writing History	Scripture & Saints History Theology Latin Logic Literature (primarily at home)
THURSDAY	Circle Time & Nursery Rhymes Music Nature Study Art Stories	Cartography Art Nature Study Handicrafts Choir	Art History Nature Study Art Choir Cartography	

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, PRESCHOOL

The daily schedule for all Preschool students at Saint Thomas More Academy will include nursery rhymes, scripture stories, nature study, story time, and a daily snack. On Tuesdays, study will also include study of letters and sequence, pattern, and counting. On Thursdays, lessons will include art and music. All study will be focused first around the liturgical season, then by the natural seasons. The aim of this course for early learners is exposure to Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, and immersion in the story of Christ through the eyes of the Church. 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).

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, PRIMARY

The curriculum for all Primary Division students will include Stories, Reading, Writing, Nature Study, Latin, and Scripture on Tuesdays and Art, Choir, Handicrafts, Cartography, and Nature Study on Thursdays. Much of Tuesday's lessons will be adapted from *English Lessons Through Literature, Level I* by Kathy Jo Devore. This comprehensive series includes a thorough instruction in grammar, composition, and handwriting, all of which are directly connected to the classic literature being studied. Additionally, students will use C.C. Long's *New Language Exercises* to reinforce grammar as they practice manuscript handwriting. Students will also take lessons to begin learning the Palmer Method of script handwriting. Reading lessons will range based on the students in the class, and will include phonics reinforcement and student read-alouds of story books at their level. Latin will be taught using elements from the *Song School Latin* curriculum, emphasizing early language connections through song, play, and stories. Other texts to be utilized can be found in the Primary Reading List (p. 10). Students are not placed into the Primary Division by age or grade but rather by experience and mastery of skill in consultation with parents. Specifically, readiness for the Primary Division is exemplified by recognition of all capital and lowercase letters in print, the dexterity and fine motor skills to begin printing capital and lowercase letters, and signs of readiness to read (including sounding out words and recognizing words and letter sounds). 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. While students will receive a holistic curriculum exclusively through class time, it is possible and even encouraged that parents thread these studies throughout their week at home, primarily by reading aloud to your child from the selections provided. Students learning to read 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).

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, JUNIOR

At the Junior levels, Saint Thomas More Academy is pleased to offer a two-day curriculum consisting of Literature, Latin, Writing, Scripture 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. Latin will be taught adapting the *Song School Latin* curriculum. Writing instruction will be based on the Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum. 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. Cartography 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 a developing 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, rather than 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.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW, 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, logic, and Latin 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, Latin, Scripture and Saints, and Logic on Tuesdays and Art, Art History, Nature Study, Choir, and Cartography on Thursdays. For lack of better common descriptors, 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.

Common Curricular Elements

FAITH FORMATION

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.

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 who are interested in the Sisters' articulations of the virtues and their adaptations appropriate to different age levels may choose to purchase copies of the Virtue Charts and Educator's Guides through Saint Thomas More Academy for their at-home use (see the Reading Lists, p. 10).

As our choir develops, hymns and chants will be sung at daily Mass and prayer will be chanted. 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.

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Saint Thomas More Academy holds as integral to 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.

Saint Thomas More Academy will begin teaching music foundations in Preschool, and will begin choral work with our Primary, 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. The Academy Choir, consisting of Junior and Intermediate students (as well as capable Primary students), will work toward chanting at Morning Prayer and singing at Mass. Generally, choristers will be assigned listening homework which consists of listening to recordings of the music they are studying.

ART HISTORY AND FOUNDATIONS

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 landscape 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.

PARENT SUPPORTS

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.

Jenny Williams, our Home Education Advisor, is available for consultations upon request. She is able to provide suggestions for the at-home implementation of homeschooling 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.

SAMPLE READING LIST

Below is a sample of the texts used at Saint Thomas More Academy. An official Reading List by division for the 2021-2022 Academic Year will be provided to all families before the start of Michaelmas Term. Most texts will be provided by Saint Thomas More Academy.

- ❖ Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes
- ❖ Winnie-the-Pooh & The House at Pooh Corner (A.A. Milne)
- ❖ Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass (Lewis Carroll)
- ❖ Aesop's Fables, *selections*
- ❖ When We Were Very Young & Now We Are Six, *selections* (A.A. Milne)
- ❖ A Child's Garden of Verses, *selections* (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- ❖ Stories and Poems for Extremely Intelligent Children of All Ages, *selections* (Harold Bloom, ed.)
- ❖ The Republic & The Symposium (Plato)
- ❖ A Year at Maple Hill Farm (Alice and Martin Provensen)
- ❖ Nature Anatomy (Julia Rothman)
- ❖ The New Catholic Picture Bible, *selections* (Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.)
- ❖ Once Upon a Time Saints, *selections* (Ethel Pochocki) ¹
- ❖ Picture Book of Saints, *selections* (Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.)
- ❖ A Child's Book of Saints & A Child's Book of Warriors, *selections* (William Canton)
- ❖ The Book of Saints and Heroes, *selections* (Leonora Blanche Lang)
- ❖ My Book of the Church's Year (Enid Chadwick)
- ❖ King of the Golden City (Mother Mary Loyola)
- ❖ Heavenward Bound (E.T.W. Branscombe)
- ❖ The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ❖ The Divine Office
- ❖ The Holy Bible (RSV-2CE), *selections from Morning Prayer*
- ❖ St. Gregory's Prayer Book
- ❖ An Educator's Guide to Living a Virtuous Life (Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist)
- ❖ The Virtues At-A-Glance, Virtue Charts (Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist)

Tuition

Tuition will be due each term by the 5th of the first month of the term (September 5th and January 5th). Payments can be made via check or online. Families can also pay per-term by the 25th of the first month of that term. Families who begin the Michaelmas Term with Saint Thomas More Academy are responsible for both terms' full tuition.

TUITION PER TERM:

	ONE DAY	TWO-DAY
PRESCHOOL	\$90 (\$7.50/wk)	\$150 (\$12.50/wk)
PRIMARY	\$90 (\$7.50/wk)	\$150 (\$12.50/wk)
JUNIOR (A/B)	\$135 (\$11.25/wk)	\$180 (\$15/wk)
INTERMEDIATE	\$135 (\$11.25/wk)	\$180 (\$15/wk)

OTHER FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Registration Fee, due with official registration form after enrollment application has been accepted (\$30/student, \$75/family)
- ❖ Supply Fee (will be announced in early September and due with first month's tuition)
- ❖ Uniform (see p. 14)
- ❖ Texts not provided by Saint Thomas More Academy (see Reading Lists, p. 10)
- ❖ Personal Supplies (Expectation will be minimal. A list will be provided by division prior to start of term)
- ❖ Snacks for Preschool and Primary Division class (approx. 1x/month, see Volunteering, p. 15)

Standards and 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) - Theology & Logic

Mary Betanzos - Cartography, Nature Study, & Literature

Whitney Boroski - Primary

Mary Edmonds - Latin

Patsy Leamon - Latin advisor and assistant

Hank Sullivan (Choirmaster & Organist) - Choir & Music Foundations

Daisy Sullivan - Preschool & Art

Jenny Williams (Home Education Advisor) - Art History, Writing, & Handicrafts

Megan Tipton (Academy Director) - History & Nature Study

STAFF

The staff and volunteers 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.

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY OF SAINT THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Each member of the Academy community is called to discipleship. Students, parents, faculty, and staff 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.

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. 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 below 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 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.
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 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 are required to bring a water bottle to Academy each day. It should be of a solid color, without distracting ornamentation, and it must be labeled with the student's name.
15. 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.
16. Students are expected to complete their classwork and any homework with effort and daily diligence.
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.

UNIFORM AND 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.
2. Boys' hair may not hang below the collar. 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. For boys, a single wristwatch is permitted. Body-piercing jewelry is strictly prohibited. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Uniforms should be clean and pressed. Any mended areas must be neat and nearly invisible.

Uniform Requirements

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

	GIRLS		BOYS	
	PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY, & JUNIOR	INTERMEDIATE	PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY, & JUNIOR	INTERMEDIATE
TOPS	*Light blue short sleeve peter pan collar https://www.frenchtoast.com/short-sleeve-modern-peter-pan-girls-uniform-blouse-2t-4t/p/1593?		*Light blue, long-sleeve button-down oxford shirt https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017?	*Light blue, long-sleeve button-down oxford shirt https://www.frenchtoast.com/long-sleeve-classic-dress-shirt-boys-toddler-2t-4t/p/1017? *Navy blazer https://www.frenchtoast.com/school-blazer-boys-4-7/p/1428?
BOTTOMS	*V-Neck Pleated Jumper (Blue Red Plaid) https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-pleated-plaid-jumper-girls-4-6x-7/p/1047? Solid white, black, grey, or navy bike shorts, bloomers, or cheer shorts beneath (no logos or embellishments)	*Pleated Skirt (Blue Red Plaid) https://www.frenchtoast.com/plaid-pleated-skirt-girls-4-6x-7/p/1065? Solid white, black, grey, or navy bike shorts, bloomers, or cheer shorts beneath (no logos or embellishments)	*Navy shorts https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-flat-front-stretch-performance-short/p/1656? Brown leather belt	*Khaki chinos https://www.frenchtoast.com/boys-straight-fit-chino-with-power-knees/p/1694? Brown leather belt
OUTERWEAR (OPTIONAL)	*Solid navy or burgundy cardigan https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-crew-neck-cardigan-sweater-girls-4-6x-7/p/1371?		*Navy sweater https://www.frenchtoast.com/anti-pill-v-neck-cardigan-sweater-boys-4-7/p/1428?	N/A

		an-sweater-boys-4-7/p/137 o? or *Navy sweater vest https://www.frenchtoast.com/v-neck-sweater-vest-boys-4-7/p/1029?	
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	

PARK DAY UNIFORMS: grey t-shirt, navy athletic shorts or sweatpants, athletic socks and tennis shoes. Grey or navy sweatshirt may be worn as well, but should have minimal logos.

VOLUNTEERING

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. The following volunteer expectations of parents are:

1. **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 of each Park Day.
2. **Classroom Volunteer** (Preschool & Primary): Parents of Preschool and Primary students are asked to consider signing up to serve as the rotating classroom assistant in each of these divisions. The assistant will provide the tutor with an extra set of hands, help to facilitate snack and bathroom breaks, and may be asked to work with a break-out group during lessons. Sign-ups will be available at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. Volunteers will be required to complete Safe Environment training.
3. **Daily Snacks** (Preschool & Primary): Parents of Preschool and Primary students 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.