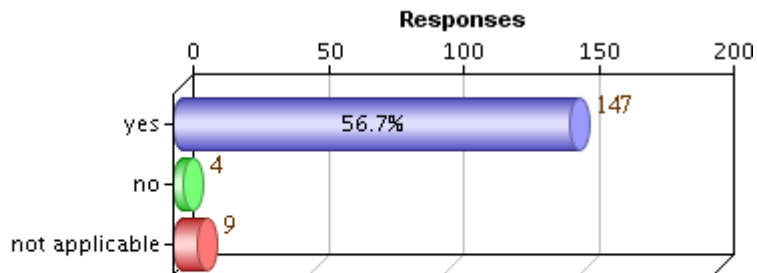


**17. Do you feel we are taking grade appropriate steps to ensure proper knowledge and understanding of what the Catholic Church teaches?**



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

I am proud & thrilled that Jack knows his rosary so well!

Children understand more than teachers give them credit for. Adults need to stop talking down to our kids unless they give an indication that they don't understand.

Would like to see year long concentration/teaching on our position of PROLIFE issues! Love the celebrate life week but kids need to have more exposure to the teachings & have teacher's discuss/teach it.

We could be teaching the Faith more in-depth especially @ the junior high level. It should be taught daily.

Great job at this

Please, please consider sending teachers for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Training.

I would like to see more depth in the Junior High especially including some of the Papal encyclicals. I feel they do well with Church history, but maybe not so well with knowing what's behind the actual teachings of the Church.

I think Adam Baxter has made an incredible positive difference

wonderful!!!!

Outstanding faith formation at STS!

Our kids are only in Kindergarten and 1st grade, but so far we are very pleased.

faith first has been great for our children

great job

I am always impressed by what my son is learning about our faith.

In the past religion has been watered down a bit, kid can handle it, down water it down.

Although I believe that a more classical approach would be better long-term

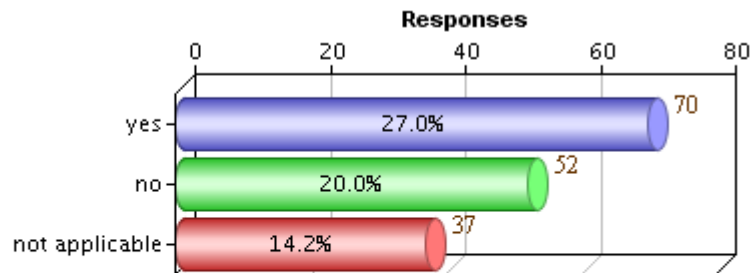
super and dedicated staff.

I think we to add the specific catechism teachings in the religion curriculum for each grade level.

Tyhe St.Thomas school is very productive.

Total Number of Responses 259

**18. Are you interested in additional support materials or programs to help you nurture your child's Catholic formation?**



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

Absolutely would like to see more of the curriculum the teachers teach so we can follow at home

Church teachings/expectations as a Catholic

More is always good in this area!

I'd like help with gaining more knowledge on the basics, ie. purgatory, scapular, novenas, Holy Day obligation...

Preperation materials for the young grades at the end of the year to prep them for next year

Always!

I appreciated the book "Talking to Your Children About Sexuality" and the chastity handout.

When needed for various special programs - 1st Communion, Confirmation, etc

The Catholic Morality & Chastity Program and sacramental preparation programs we already use are awesome. Any and all additional help is always welcome.

I have one child in Kindergarten. What she has had so far is excellent.

There is never a time when you can not reach out and learn more about one's faith. God is rich with many offerings of his word.

There are many times I feel I am learning everything all over again with my kids. I often don't have the answers to their questions.

I think what is provided is adequate

Not yet. My oldest is only in P3 at the moment.

I love to receive family prompts as part of homework

Follow-up materials to enhance the sacramental preparation.

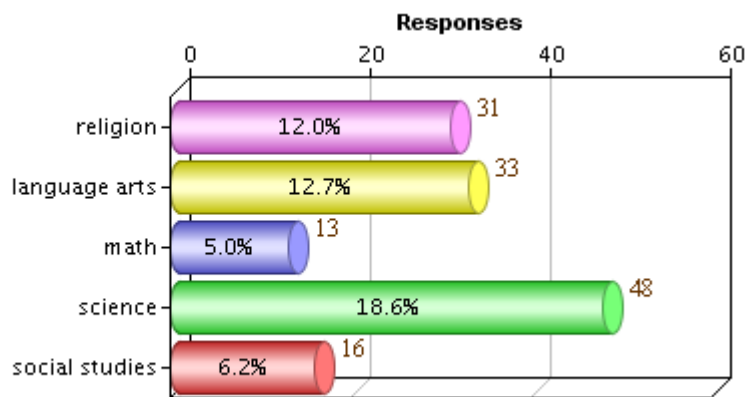
Include Good Shepherd program for kids

Interested in classes aimed at further educating (and reminding) adults on the basic tenents of our faith. Also to include: topics of interest such as the relevance of the Saints' live to ours;

i get lots of stuff from my home-school connections, more than i can handle already!

Total Number of Responses 259

19. If more emphasis on our current core curriculum were available, where would you like to put the emphasis?



Total Number of Responses 258

**Comment:**

Sometimes I worry with all of the technology advancements in the world, that language skills are being lost or lessened.

Personal responsibility needs to be stressed more so that they can understand not just feel that they have an intimate relationship with God first human beings second.

and social studies

Environmental Sciences-these children will inherit our environmental issues. I believe they can create solutions that we would never think of.

math & science

I believe that the core curriculum classes should be taught EVERY day in EVERY classroom.

and science. I would love to see a teacher who only does religion. I feel the science program is not taught well enough.

and Social Studies. Join (continue to) these two to develop value systems especially among our younger members

more hands on

Would like to have more emphasis on moral issues in middle school, and Church teachings concerning how we live out our faith on a daily basis.

While our test scores might be good, many kids hate science at St. Thomas. I think it is taught basically from the book so that if a kid doesn't understand the book, then he/she isn't getting a different perspective from the teacher's lecture. I would also eliminate homework for kids, at least until Junior High. Our children have very little time to be kids anymore.

I am not familiar with upper level curriculum and current student comprehension of subjects listed.

We already do a fabulous job with the most important core - Religion. Social Studies is important in order to help give our children an understanding of how the governments and world around them works.

not sure child is currently in preschool

I'd like to see more labs and hands-on science in the lower grades.

I have no complaints about the school, I just want to encourage the kids to read more.

Though I will say, I think all core classes need to be more intense as the world job markets become more global.

Truly I think curriculum is great.

I tried to highlight two areas: Religion and Science (science especially in the earlier grades).

The wave of the future is in allied health feild. (of course in doing so with faith would be better!)

I am happy with our curriculum

I think there are opportunities to teach science in a fun, exciting way that we are not taking advantage of (e.g., more hands-on work).

This is so hard to answer. Taylor has a fantastic teacher and he is flourishing in all subjects!

I'm not sure at this point due to the ages of our kids.

Grammar

We think the education our children are receiving is balanced.

resource for children with learning trouble

Surrounding public schools are further advanced in math than St. Thomas. We should not have to sacrifice academics by wanting a catholic education. In some instances, such as math, I feel we need to raise the bar. These kids can do it.

I know Faith is number one, so I'd like to make sure that my children were proficient in the English language. So many kids these days are very poor at grammar & proper expression abilities.

Nothing

Science needs the most work

We live in a global community and it is sad how little our children know about the world around them.

Jr. High Science

But maybe to see it done differently. Great job in the intensity and time allotted for faith opportunities. Not satisfied with current religion texts. Suggest to offer the availability for confession more frequently.

Science program is weak-I have not liked the curriculum at all

Mr. Carr is wonderful!

Diversity of other cultures

this area is completely lacking especially in Jr. High. Math is great

Religion can also be expanded

Junior High level

My kid is in P4, too early to have an opinion on this.

I was not as well prepared as in other subjects for High School in this area

Wherever we are weakest

I would also like to see an emphasis on penmanship

This is the best opportunity we have for indoctrinating the kids in the Catholic Faith. We are creating the foundation and it must be rock solid! Our children need to be able to defend their faith/beliefs and to have the knowledge to do so. The many decisions that face our children in today's world are mind-boggling. Their decisions must be faith based, rooted in the love of God as it is so easy to be led astray in today's world.

Our Jr. High Science is a C+. Need more labs and practical applications/research projects and experiments.

N/A

I would like to see the children pray the rosary more, spend more time in opportunities for adoration, etc. There is so much more to be learned about the faith than just the run-of-the-mill "Catholic education".

Science is a very important subject for kids to learn!

Our Christian faith, not our Catholic Disciplines and traditions

The Science is the weakest link in middle school. We are very dissatisfied with the lack of labs and application of study.

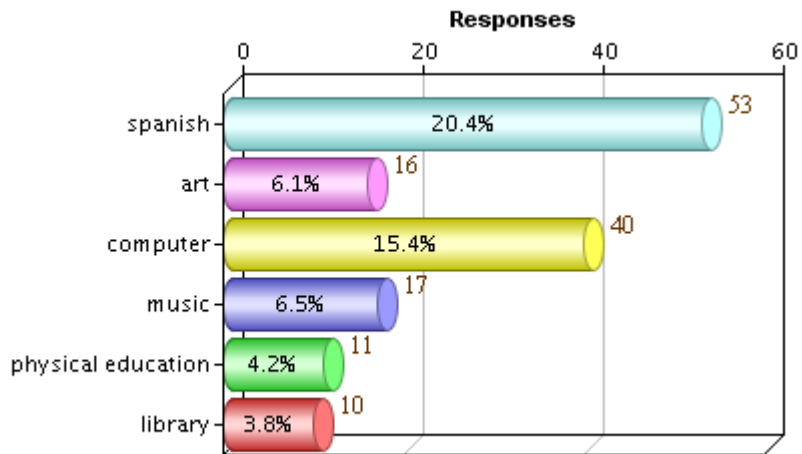
Our Christian faith, not our Catholic Disciplines and traditions

The junior high school science program has the materials I feel it is not presented to its full extent.

More lab work, a more informed instructor

Total Number of Responses 258

20. If more emphasis on our current enrichment classes were available, where would you like to put the emphasis?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

I think all children enjoy art & don't always have the time or resources to experiment w/new elements.

Spanish would be good because of more Hispanic population entering into Michigan.

just because that is wher the world is going-all high tech

and library

and computer

SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH

Clare plays the violin and I

I feel all grades should go into and use the library at least 1-2 times a week

Art, Music, & Phys Ed. Anywhere the need/interest appears greater

more resources and library programs to help kids enjoy books, learn the different genre and authors

Would like to see band become available at St. Thomas during the school day.

Music also a close second. I would love to have my child learn a musical instrument but it doesn't fit into our schedule to take him at 7am. Would be nice to offer during the school day.

not sure child is currently in preschool

Music & Computer, then Art. I am not a fan of children learning Spanish!

Any foreign language needs to be taught more than once or twice a week. Foreign language greatly improves knowledge of the primary language - grammar, etc. not to mention supporting social studies, etc.

While I would prefer that Music & Art be emphasied... well, we know that technology is a HUGE part of our lives these days. Our children need to learn how to get the most/best out of their learning now in order to compete with everyone else out there.

Our students stand out at CC technologically and in the arts and our sports help to offset PE, but they are REALLY lacking in Foreign Languages and have known many children (mine included) who have struggled in this area in High School. We start out so well in Preschool with Mary Ann Bridge or Patricia Corcoran and then tend to suffer in elementary school learning the same basics year after year. It is frustrating when your junior high student is repeating many of the same things your lower elementary student is doing. And, it's hard to learn a language without daily instruction.

and Spanish!!!!

We really could use a full time Spanish teacher

The library has been greatly improved over the last 2 years, but it still has a long way to go. Even with all the improvements made, it is still a pretty sorry library. A school of excellence should have a library they can be proud of. Plus, the library can be used in so many ways to benefit other areas of the curriculum.

We believe children need more structured exercise than just once a week.

It is hard to increase enrichment classes and not take away from core classes.

no comment

I would also like to see a second language, or a different language offered.

I think Spanish is important, but so few curriculums understand that "art is basic"; meaning MUSIC, DANCE, THEATER & MEDIA ARTS. I see too many schools focus on athletics and this leaves out the majority of students.

I think they are doing a wonderful job, but more couldn't hurt.

We need more books

I would love to see my children graduate from 8th grade with the ability to converse in Spanish.

and physical education

With obesity at an all time high our children need more PE

see above

Good elementary/middle school spanish can advance students to higher level courses in High School, and it is important to have more culturally diverse experiences in general.

Can we extend our enrichment class period?

emphasis on health & wellness. Importance of good eating habits, exercise, etc.

Although I chose library (as library skills are not being directly taught any longer) I also believe that the more physical education the better and that Spanish is much more likely to be learned the more it is used.

Jr High Band in zero hour limits the number of students who can participate. We should also have a Jr High Choir. Like to see a theater/drama program.

I think the library could be strengthened considerably with excellent materials and writings that are more central to our faith and developing good strong Christian moral character rather than pop-culture. That being said, I am basing this more on the "scholastic book fair" experience rather than my true knowledge about the library.

Art is a way of living your young life!

a good band

a good band

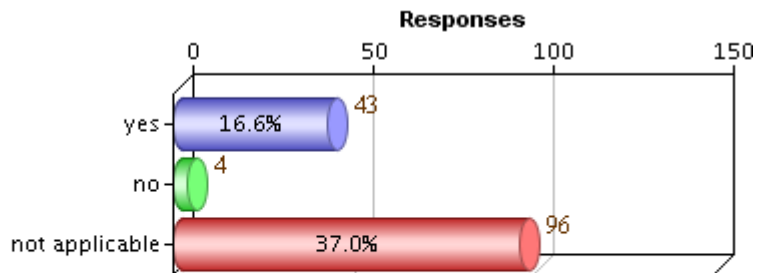
I'd like to see students learning instruments at younger ages.

I would the emphasis to also be on Music, Art and Phy. Ed needs to greatly improve.

All are important: Computers and a second language have higher priority. Having a tastes of the cultural arts is very important.

Total Number of Responses 259

21. If you have a current/recent H.S. student (who attended St. Thomas), was he/she adequately prepared?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comments:**

Although my daughter did not attend St. Thomas, her friends who did were VERY WELL prepared for the CC curriculum & regiment as well as leadership roles.

Daughters did not feel prepared for the Science @ CC and said that more essay writing would have been helpful.

Especially in Math and Spanish.

no in science - yes otherwise

Penmanship was never enforced/ this concern may sound small ,but it's true

could use more instruction on time management and study skills.

I dont have child, but i am a high school student

Our math program is great - love Mr. Carr's approach to teaching math. He loves teaching all children, not just the ones that are good at the subject. Mrs. Zoppa also does a great job at teaching language arts, especially approaches to term papers.

Yes, with exceptions. I think our students are VERY well formed in their faith, VERY well prepared in math, Language Arts, and technology. They're okay in history and science, but really lacking in Foreign Languages.

Very happy with the core curriculum prep. Ecstatic about the religious formation. And very appreciative for the CLC/Resource Program!!

I beleive in some areas they were very prepared but in others they were not.

better study skills

My child is in most honors and AP classes due to the opportunity to excel at STS

Our children are thriving beyond St. Thomas!

Not in the area of science, everything else was good.

St. Thomas has a great reputation at CC.

I was well prepared overall

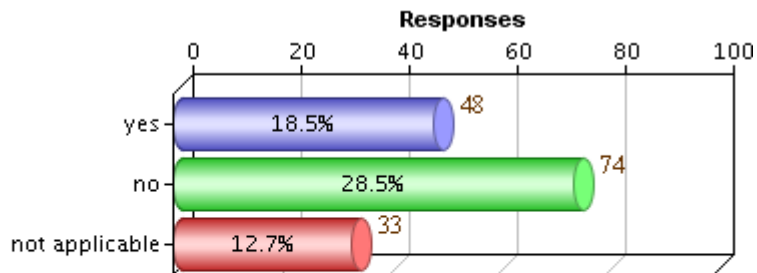
yes, Ben is a solid 3.5 student and looks forward to going to school

NO CHILDREN

Leah was extremely well prepared for high school and college

Total Number of Responses 259

**22. Has your child ever experienced or witnessed intolerance or discrimination within the school environment?**



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

BULLYING that continues & doesn't get dealt with appropriately suspend kids, hold parents accountable, don't make the victims of this take the fall

lack of consistency with dress code & punishment of "bullies"

Not to my knowledge

in the past

Ask, and I'll explain.

i'm sure they have but i can't remember specifics

Not that I'm aware of

Bullied throughout time here; told of other kids experiencing the same.

Not that I've been told.

Bullying - yes. I've seen lots of intolerance on the playground!

It is not necessarily racial but other kinds of intolerance. I don't think it is anything other than human weakness and it provides teaching lessons at home.

My new elementary student does say he feels

Not based on ethnicity or race, but on other factors such as popularity.

Our daughter was intimidated by a girl of another race because she is white (the girl actually said this is why she did not like our daughter)

Not that I am aware of.

not racial. because of her size.

unfortunately it happens and at no fault of the staff

I do not appreciate to windfall of events following the comment of ONE visitor to St. Thomas School, nor the letter from Fr. Jim.

Too young to understand

I think the worst experience has been in accepting "non-conservative" thinking

some of my kids have been bullied when they were at St. Thomas.

Unless you consider that my child has been excluded socially because my child is a bit different.

rare, and prompt actions taken to correct

Not old enough to communicate this yet

Boys who aren't "jocks" have a harder time at St. Thomas due to our obsession with sports.

I think too much is made of this. I believe our Catholic faith informs us as to how to act toward people and we don't need to use other words (such as

that doesn't mean it does not exist!

bullying instances re: another student and at times related to our own child

a bully in my child's class that has been a bully for 6 years with little repercussions

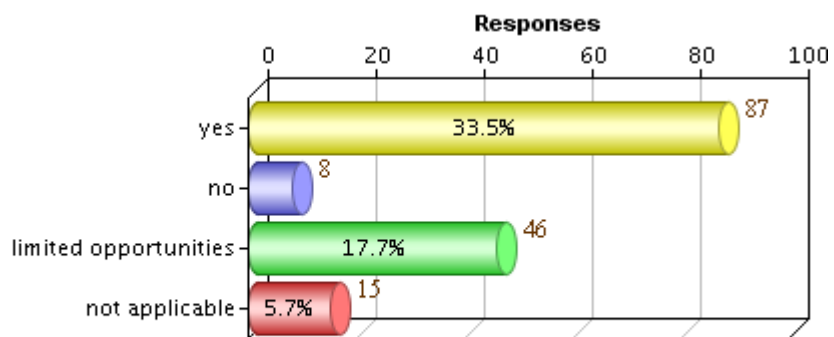
a bully in my child's class that has been a bully for 6 years with little repercussions

One of the children at the pick up has picked on my child she has confronted the situation herself.

While students are tolerant, my children believe that they witnessed intolerance by a teacher toward an African-American student.

Total Number of Responses 258

23. Does the climate of our school nurture and celebrate diversity?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

It was one of the reasons we looked into choosing St. Thomas

St. Thomas teaches that all people are children of God. My children have learned to see everyone as a person. Even when they recognize differences, they do not see them as better or worse than anyone else. St. Thomas is a very sheltered place and the children are not exposed to the realities of the world. I think that is ok as long as we are teaching them to respond in love to everyone (which I think we are ).

I would like to see us focus more on what all God's Children Have in common.

I think we do a good job teaching and celebrating diversity, but we are limited simply because our population is not very diverse.

I know we're trying & I appreciate how hard it is to educate people about diversity. However, sometimes we run the risk of

It does a great job since the student body is not as diverse as other schools may be.

there's not that much diversity in terms of races/cultures

Like social justice, diversity is not just a one week event - it is on-going education that starts with teacher training and then, parent education. We are so weak in this area.

It is hard to tell; from what I can see the school population is not very diverse.

Over all I feel the school leadership and staff do an excellent job fostering acceptance of all our differences.

I like the fact that diversity has been expanded to include much more than ethnicity. We should celebrate all individual differences.

I believe the school does celebrate diversity. I am thrilled that we have a resource room. Not many Catholic schools offer "special ed" type resources. Would love to see more supports if budget allows to increase diversity in this area.

Very diverse

This needs to be fostered on a daily basis

adequately nurturing diversity

Look at the statue in the habitat - it reflects "white" people

too much time is spent on this subject were taught to love and care for all people period.

I think too much is made of this. See same answer and comment to 22, above. Our Catholic faith has all we need to learn how to treat others --

yes; however these thoughts can sometimes be forgotten when not in school

Yes in general, however as our student population is not very ethnically diverse, more opportunities need to be created for the children. Perhaps linking up with a sister school would be a good way to do this. In addition, bringing in speakers, artists, dancers, musicians...AND bringing the children out & exposing them to other cultures would be great (ie. ethnic festivals, school visits, )

By focusing on the fact that all people are created, and loved, by God.

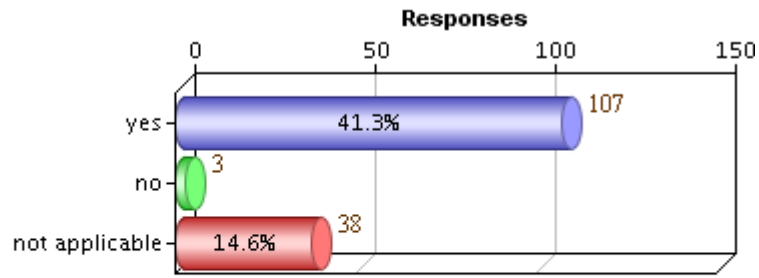
I don't have any students attending st. thomas school but I have noticed that it isn't very diverse. I also wonder how and even if other cultures are taught about in the classroom.

Not much racial diversity at St. Thomas

Total Number of Responses 258



24. Is the tuition rate equivalent to the education your children receive?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

maybe very expensive but would do it all agian

Do not honestly know how to answer that. It's a GREAT education!

you need to keep quality teachers, staff, programs and facilities. However, tuition takes a big chunk out of our paycheck

I wish that there was no tuition so anyone could afford Catholic school. Ideally if every parishioner actually tithed that may be possible, or at least reduce tuition significantly. I would like to see our school kids learning these practice things about living out their Catholic faith, such as the Church's teaching on tithing.

Our child is in preschool so we can not make a fair judgement

I think it's too expensive

Yes, but it is a huge sacrifice for us to be able to pay this. We need more support from the Diocese.

however, some class sizes are too large considering the tuition

Truly, you cannot put a price on the spiritual formation of a child. We are continually grateful to our St. Thomas School and Parish family for helping John and me with this calling. I have said on several occasions to friends that when I get tired of the drive from Caledonia, I just go listen to Fr. Jim's homily to the children at the Friday school Mass. This is priceless.

We all know it's worth every penny, however I know it is a hardship for many families. We are grateful that St. Thomas parish invests as much in the school as it does. In an ideal world, the parish would be able to support its school fully so that every parishioner could be assured their children were being educated so strongly in the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, that isn't reality and not all schools are as firmly founded in teaching the faith as St. Thomas is.

Money well spent, as far as I'm concerned.

Our only concern at this point is the large # of children in the first grade class and there not being an aide in there full time. I don't think it is hurting our child acedemically, but it appears behaviors sometimes go unnoticed because of the # of children and not enough eyes to watch them.

However, like I said previously, some things need to be stepped up a little.

A very great value!

It actually is a bargain, especially for the families with more than one child.

We're happy for the education but the cost is rising fast ...

Again, I have no children, but I think it was well worth it for me!

Not related -- you make a decision to use Catholic Schools and you pray

a big payment each month but the investment is solid!

No, I get much for my \$\$\$ than what I pay. I'm thankful, because I couldn't afford much more.

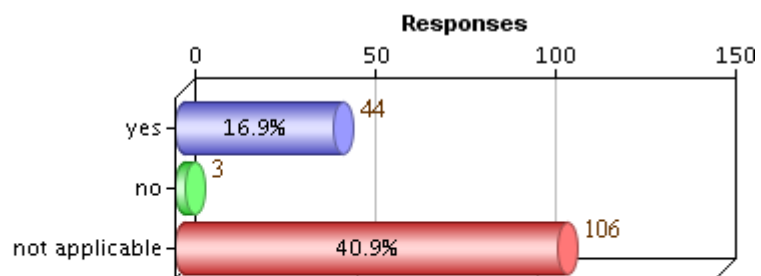
NO CHILDREN

There could be more creative ideas which would encourage matching gifts from employers

Especially in my son's first grade class!

Total Number of Responses 258

25. If utilized, is the financial assistance process friendly and accessible?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

It is somewhat confusing. Our aid has also been cut every year. It doesn't make much sense especially when our income hasn't changed.

Yes, but we are always in need of more help for more people.

we appreciated during our time of need we were able to accept help.

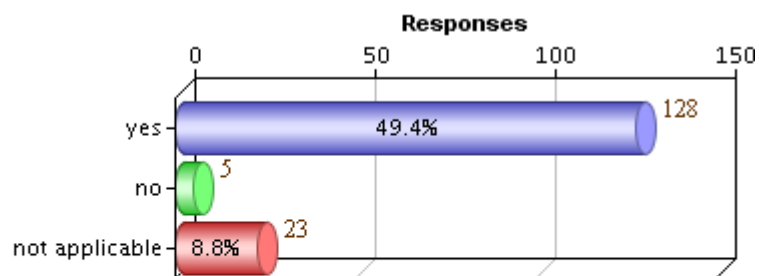
it has been an incredible help

Dawn is very helpful and efficient. However, there are certain families that I feel look down upon those in need of the assistance. I have experienced this, especially if you are new.

we were so grateful to have received assistance over these last two years during our time of need and the process was both of the above.

Total Number of Responses 258

26. Are you satisfied with the communication received from the school?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

love the PIECES

Excellent

I do get a bit overwhelmed with all the information in the newsletter.

I am very impressed with Mrs. Tietema's communication. Her weekly letters are quite informative and appreciated. It is always nice to know what your child is learning and/or doing in school.

The Pieces Newsletter is Great! Very comprehensive and easy to read.

I'd like to see longer conference times.

I am very happy with how the teachers & staff quickly relay me information when needed.

late information too often, or don't get the Pieces/calendars at all, not on website

As a parent with a child not yet in first grade, there are quite a few programs that are not explained. Bulletins assume we know what they are and how to get our children involved.

Wonderful communication!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I wish more communication could be done electronically, either through email or the website. We get so many papers home (and some never make it home) that it seems we could cut costs and make information more available electronically.

Excellent-love getting the Pieces every other week.

hot lunch calendars are slow in coming. today is 3-12 and do not have March

very good communication

PIECES (and others) might be delivered via email (save paper, ink and loss of info

In general. We would like more frequent communication if there is an area of strong concern prior to parent teacher conferences. The sooner we know of a 'problem' the sooner we can try to bring about positive change.

I'd like at the beginning of each teacher's newsletter to be a bullet form of important stuff to know. Then each topic can be expanded in the letter portion.

Love the Pieces and the teacher newsletter

Teacher Ease has improved this year, a welcome site. Should continue this trend.

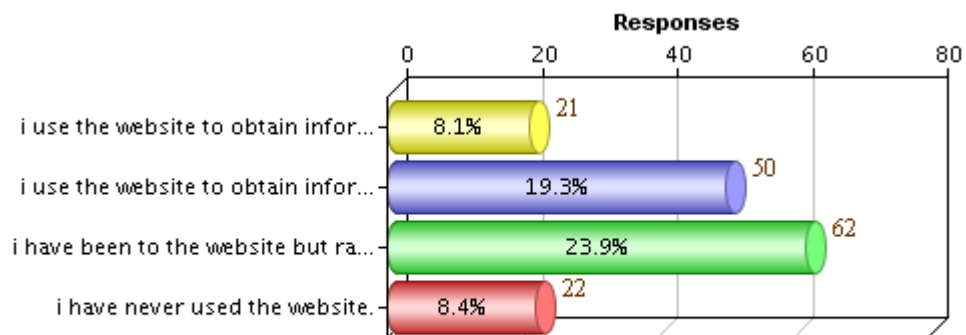
Wish the high school communicated like St. Thomas

Most of the time. I sometimes do not receive info from my daughter's teacher

However, occassionally I don't receive things from my daughter's teacher.

Total Number of Responses 258

27. Please select below the statement that best describes how you use the Saint Thomas School website, [www.stthomasgr.org](http://www.stthomasgr.org)



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

It is great to have classroom

I would use it more if I was forced to, but the paper communication is so thorough and convenient, I choose to get my info that way.

Having 3 small children I don't have time to spend during the day on the computer. This is why I like my info on paper.

My wife is the main user.

I wish it were updated more often

I would use it more if encouraged by faculty and staff to do so.

It would be great to be able to read the current "Pieces" on line.

Please add the current school year calendar, the monthly lunch menu and the sports schedules.

Its a beautiful website. :)

I will visit more often now that I have been there

not up to date on calendars/Pieces

I live on the website, but then again as webmaster.....I don't suppose my opinion on this one counts! I do hope people give feedback on how we could improve the site.

The new website looks very nice and professional. However, I find it difficult to navigate and I feel overwhelmed by all the text. And although it looks professional, it is very dry. It does not convey the fun, exciting, dynamic, kid-friendly environment we have at STS.

however, it isn't always up to date.

The communication from the teachers has always been excellent, therefore, the website is repetitive, and I don't think everything you want to know is available on it.

I would use it more, but sometimes the info is slow and it is easier to just call school, etc.

The website has not always been a good vehicle as it wasn't updated- recently it has been better.

I do not use the computer that much except to check email

K Barth has done a nice job

Need to get all of the pieces on there. It's great that the Sports stuff is on there now. I'd like to see all of the communication, including teacher's newsletters, on there.

I would if more info was on it more often

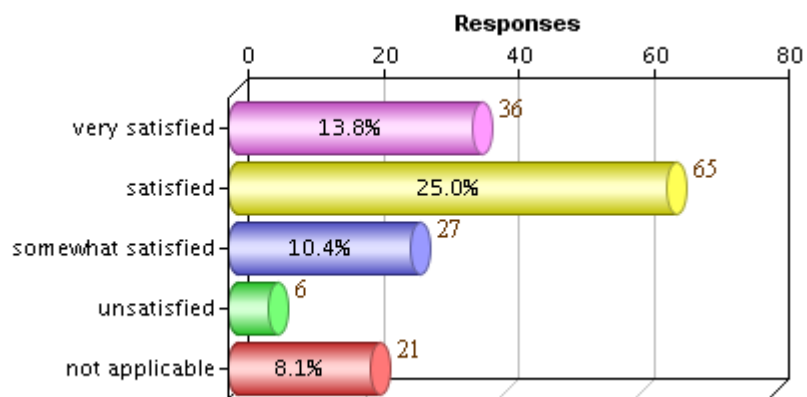
The website looks great. I use it for the Pieces.

I would if more info was on it more often

I know it is there I need to get into the habit of using it.

Total Number of Responses 258

28. Are you happy with existing class size limitations at St. Thomas?



Total Number of Responses 259

**Comment:**

It would be nice if half a dozen more children could be added to the current 1st grade & then they could have two classrooms

Smaller class size is always more beneficial for maximum learning and growth

too many kids are in one class ie 1st grade (current) kids have go to be lost in there; many moms concerned current first grade class seems large

I would rather not have split classrooms.

The splits have pros and cons. luckily having sports helps keep my child in contact with her schoolmates. i'd like to see more activities with the other class when someones in the split

The smaller, the better - 10 is ideal! Or: a teacher and aid in every classroom.

classes >20 seem to make it too difficult to monitor behavior and needs

While Mrs. Lake and Mrs. Prindle do a great job, 26 first graders is too many.

I am glad we have been able to increase the size of Jr. High classes to 30 so that we don't have to turn so many away. As the kids are divided so many times due to their math groups anyway, this is not an unrealistic number.

1st grade is a little large

It would be nice to have more flexibility with class sizes. However, I am leary of an expansion project that might cause financial hardship and put our vibrant, flourishing school at risk.

See comment for question #24

I trust the staff will choose the right size classes

We need more space by two classrooms

My son is in a very large class. He is doing fine, but if he were a child that had some extra needs I would be concerned with the size of his class.

I wish the school could handle 2 classes of each grade. It would be more equitable for families and students.

I feel that some class sizes are too large (over 22 kids in an early elem class) for the needs of all students to be met.

Classes are full and getting a bit more crowded than I would prefer.

I wish there was more room in some classes

as we encourage children with special needs to join the school community, class sizes must reflect the need for additional time, attention and resources for that child.

I think we need more space in order to have 2 classes of each grade and keep numbers down.

Unfortunately we are unable to grow which is a big disadvantage for our parish

Our Jacob would have been in that first grade "controlled growth" class which is way too big for first grade. We pulled him out as he needed some additional special services and needed to be in a classroom that was under 20 children. I would do away with that "one" class as it also causes the dynamics to never change among the children. He was the only African American child in the class and that didn't seem it would ever change.

wondering if we could go a little larger in class size, though

Adding classrooms/teachers to keep classes small but grow the school would be wonderful

The current 1st grade class is large for that age. I do, however, understand why this happened.

I don't feel parents ever really had a say in the size of a classroom; the Principal decided concerns with split classes, and the process of deciding who goes where.

I do not prefer split classes nor do I prefer having a single class that travels through the years (that is one class for that grade due to restrictions 'controlled growth?')

The "control" classes can get quite large. The other grades with 2 classes each is much more conducive to learning.

Would prefer that there were no split-grade classes

there should NEVER be a split in lower grades where some are still learning to read

there should NEVER be a split in lower grades where some are still learning to read

Wish we had more room as we have had to turn prospective students away

Would like to see my childrens classes a bit smaller. I believe the current size is too large to allow the teacher to maximize learning potential. Would like to reduce to 15-20 per class.

I would love to see them down around 20, but I understand space issues and general interest in students attending our school.

do not like splits. especially in grades 1 2 & 3

i always felt my classes were too small, but looking back, it was ok.

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**29. What is the greatest need the school has for facility improvements?**

N/A

roof replacement

more room 'somehow' so no classes have to be oversized (like above) Are we completely land locked?

lunch room, good start this year w/the hot lunch program

N.A.

Open up the After School room to be used for another classroom and have the Spanish teacher move from classroom to classroom. Would like to see the Science Lab utilized by the junior high students (seems like alot of materials going unused).

AIR CONDITIONING IN THE SCHOOL. Please, we must have some connections out there somewhere in our close-knit family/community, if we could only inquire, search, and pray, I know someone would come forward.

3rd floor - we need larger classrooms for jr high and air conditioning or lots more fans

Refer to parents of students.

Air conditioning

Expand for the Jr. High.

check for mold up in the jr. high, air for hot days, more parking for pk and k area

Christen (resource teacher) needs a bigger resource area.

I think they are fine.

A gymnasium that is connected to the school, and a playground that is closer to the school.

Updating! Renovating some of the classrooms

Updated assembly/cafeteria area.

Library needs to have more books that are intended for Junior High students.

Again, I can't make a comment as this is our child's first year.

The facility while sound, needs updating. New carpet, new whiteboards, furniture, etc. There is a huge difference between the Ministry Center facilities and classrooms and the facilities and classrooms in the school building. The addition of a campus-wide wireless network would encourage/allow for better connectivity as well

-More classrooms! -Larger classrooms!

I think that it would be great if the space allowed for one additional classroom so that each grade could have 2 classrooms. The rest of the facilities appear adequate.

Air conditioning, bigger classrooms

Honestly... the school just plain needs more room. I know so many people would love to have their children attend St. Thomas, but with the limited classrooms & class sizes it is able to handle, that is not possible. If St. Thomas was able to expand and have two full classrooms for each grade (which I highly believe is possible with the reputation St. Thomas has for educational & moral standards), it would be such a benefit for all involved.

More classrooms so noone gets turned away. Cleanliness--some of those classrooms are quite dirty--cold and flu season is worse than it needs to be.

MORE classrooms so that we do not have to limit any incoming class to one class like we currently do every 3-4 years. It would also allow us to have more classes in the Jr. High.

Safety

We need more space for programs to expand.

I believe that a school nurse, that can also double up as an office assistant, would be a great addition to the school.

Library, bigger classrooms.

I am sure there are needs of greater importance, however, very little space for the students to store their things in the hallway has been my child's biggest challenge this year. Getting to her cubby and not getting pushed and shoved has been a struggle.

Assuming the property infrastructure is ok, nothing major that needs capital improvement (HVAC, structure etc.) I'd say the physical education facility could use enhancing.

would like to see bigger library. possible space for music room onsite. Sidewalk to original school entrance and use that.

Whatever the faculty feels is needed.

I believe St. Thomas is both a great facility and also a work in progress. these needs seem to be met.

More classrooms, so we have the room for higher enrollment. With other catholic schools closing, I believe many will come here, especially if people see expansion. Expansion means growth, which means we're thriving.

It would be great to have an new on-site playground.

More classrooms for more students

Larger/more classrooms

I think the library could use some attention as far as the amount of books it has.

A librarian. The library is not organized and not all the children at the school use it. It seems to be a wasted resource.

More classrooms.

Not necessarily facility improvements, but I would like to see families with children attending St. Thomas having a goal of hours to volunteer in a school year. Many schools expect the families to do this, I would rather see it totally on a volunteer basis, but I think this should be encouraged. How about 30 hours or more a year?

increased technology

more technology in more classrooms supporting both teachers and students. Wireless/remote access and laptops for teachers so they do not have to be onsite to do their work.

More classroom space!

More space

space

More classrooms

an additional classroom

more classrooms, larger meeting spaces,

A third floor

I think we need to expand the facility to support growth.

More classrooms and changing the carpet in some classrooms.

improved drinking fountains on the second floor

We probably could use more classrooms and have two of each grade.

More space to grow our existing programs!

I am not too concerned with improving the facility by adding more things. I am satisfied with keeping our current facility in good condition. What matters to me most is the quality of instruction and time spent on task. However improvements in the facilities would foster that, then that would "get my vote".

More space and more use of technology. The mobile laptops are very cumbersome and don't work half the time.

School needs more rooms for the students.

The school could use more room to that there would not have to be split grades. There could also be more enrichment activities if there were more room.

More room to have multiple classes in EACH grade!!!

See capital improvements list

cold water in the drinking fountains--my son answered this one

more classrooms at the lower ages

more room

- no specofic suggestion at this time

more classrooms

Parking around the preschool is tight during pick-up/drop-off times. The lot alongside the preschool playground is often completely full and I end up parking in the driveway with my hazards on.

HVAC is pretty bad - hard to control. However, it is adequate and too expensive to replace.

We need to consider the possibility os expanding to accomodate more children who would like a Catholic education.

More classrooms, perhaps an attached cafeteria

More space.

Air Conditioning inside the school would make for a more comfortable learning environment. What are the possibilities of STA actually purchasing Wilcox Park or a part of it? With the current state of the city of Grand Rapids they may be thinking of selling it right now!!!

an actual self-contained music room

Addition of class space so that there can be room for two of each elementary aged grade levels. Perhaps this could be a room that could have a multi-purpose so that in years of enrollment decline, it could be used in another way if it truly was not needed as a classroom.

The school may need to address its growing enrollment and determine whether it should expand in order to be able to accept those who want to attend, while minimizing class sizes.

The library needs more books that can be used for research. Children's books need to be cut back.

Performing arts space. Soccer practice field.

More classroom space to eliminate the need for split-grade classes

Wish they had a playground they could get to easier so they could have recess on a playground 3x/day like we did when we were kids! Don't think this is possible though....

More library books for the children to read.

More space to expand...more space...more space...

The bathrooms need remodeling if they haven't been already.

Not sure, maybe more space? The lunchroom/funeral conflicts don't happen too often. Hot lunch was a nice improvement and got better this year also. The only other comment I have is we should try to limit the number of sports on Sundays. We need a day of rest, not a day of running around.

More space to expand...more space...more space...

More classrooms

Physical space to accomodate additional students and alleviate the waiting list and turning some away.

More classrooms added to allow for smaller classes.

This may not be facility, but I would like to see textbooks from Christian publishing companies that emphasize Christian values and talk about God in them.

class rooms 2 rooms for each grade and room for the science & art labs

The facility is wonderful compared to other schools I and my children have attended. Libraries, computer labs, and science labs can always stand to be updated, but our current facilities certainly appear adequate.

air conditioning for the class rooms-

more space

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**30. In what ways would you like to see the school make additional use of technology?**

I think they do a good job currently.

N/A

Digital cameras available to teachers is great for capturing learning experiences (pictures speak volumes!)

more computers - just keep up w/the public schools RE: technology

just keeping pace with today's society will be adequate

Is there too much emphasis on technology? By the time you update equipment its obsolete! Basics are more important at grade school level.

Make efforts to reduce the environmental impact of using technology by updating to greener alternatives.

I only hear good to excellent things regarding the running of the school.

I would like to be able to access homework assignments online and also to view grades for my children.

continue with computers and modern technology. how about a class for adults so they're not too far behind their children :)

More labs in science class

I have limited knowledge in this area so I am not a good person to answer this.

Maybe a higher level of computer classes, web design.

To look into Therapeutic Listening program for students with sensory processing disorders and/or visual-motor delays.

Sorry - can't think of anything here (my kids need to get a little bigger before I can answer this I guess).

Let students have access to computer lab during recess knowing a supervisor would be checking in on them occasionally.

Distant learning experiences.

- Campus-wide wireless network. - Encourage the use of technology in reports/presentations. - Provide parents with access to online resources for additional classwork/homework support. - Use the website more dynamically to convey timely information (daily site updates, daily teacher blogs, daily homework assignments, etc.) - Email copies (pdf) of the Pieces to parents and save the printing costs.

Technology Carts for teachers similar to East Grand Rapids, more use of devices like the phonic ear, and more use of technology to support individualized education based on learning styles/multiple intelligences.

I think they are doing a good job.

Technology is not a strong point for me. Nothing comes to mind.

The kids could use computers more often (research, use of a computer, preparing assignments) and homework assignments could be posted on the school website (link)

I think - especially for the JR. High aged students - laptops for all work/research would be wonderful. I know that is probably not possible, but I can dream, right? I do feel, however, that pushing the students to excel in every aspect of computers (for research, reports, etc) will give them a huge jump over other students in the area.

When a student misses school--an easy way to figure out what they missed. We love technology club.

I love what we do technologically. Our kids are very well prepared when they go to High School--as a matter of fact most of CC's technology offerings are a joke to our students because they can do so much more. Keep up the great work. Maybe more emphasis on improving typing skills as they are even more important in today's world than printing and handwriting.

I would like to see them being taught more about how to use by themselves common programs such as Windows. Learn how knowledge and understanding of computers can improve their ability to do any work by how it applies to different fields of work.

Students with difficulties using (more frequently) laptops/tablets. I LOVE to see the use of projectors and large screens in the classrooms. It is phenomenal! Keep up the great work!

Wifi access along with a coffee shop.

I hope you continue to look for opportunities to expand the uses of the website (e.g., have logins for families to access information or communicate with others, add videos or interactive things, etc.). I'd like to see it become a place where kids and families go on a regular basis to enhance their education experience. I'd also like to see increased use of electronic communication instead of all that paper or phone calls.

continued addition of PCs

State of the art science education software.

I am really impressed by the technology club. Put as much info on website.

Whatever faculty feels is needed.

I would like to see more resource help for children who struggle. A full time resource person as well as tutoring made available to these children.

MORE computer instruction!!! They need to know how to do everything on computers. Maybe more than one computer per classroom would be nice.

Perhaps a Parent Chat or Parent Message Board? Somewhere where parents can go to chat, get advice, plan playdates, etc. I don't know the emails of my child's classmates. But, would like the chance to communicate easily with them. The phone is hard when you have young children who ALWAYS seem to have tantrums the moment you pick up the receiver. Email is SO handy and SO convenient and SO easy.

Working/ faster laptops..

Improved use of technology in the delivery of lessons; computer projection systems and smart boards add to the lesson retention while reaching visual and auditory learners.

Expand the children's visibility to technology

see above. Faster processing computers. How about home/remote access for students to do on line homework, etc.

I have witnessed the power of sound amplification, a Tablet PC and Projector for instruction and presentation in some of our classrooms. I would love to see this technology available in each of our classrooms.

I've heard white boards are an amazing tool.

get tablet pcs and projectors for each classroom.

new computers and monitors + printers for classes

Projectors and Tablet PC's

Projectors and tablet PCs

I would like to see a projector in each classroom and a laptop computer for the teacher's use.

doing a fine job for students, more teacher time for prep as new technology becomes available

Projectors in every classroom for teacher use.

I would like my children to be able to keep with current trends so that they will be prepared to use technology in whatever capacity needed in the future. I am somewhat ignorant of what that may be however, so I do not have practical suggestions.

Better computer use in the classroom and by the teachers. Some teachers use e-mail often others don't touch it.

1) Capture kids imagination with more and more meaningful science experiments. Blow some stuff up (safely), melt some stuff, cool chemical reactions, electrochemical reactions.

Laptops are already being used so I'd say we're already there.

send emails to home as a prompt - it's a direct line back to investigate the school website

personal computers for each student in Jr. High

- add physics and chemistry lab

Sending newsletters, notes and announcements electronically.

Too early for me to have an opinion.

Research - but this takes a lot of oversight, and may be impractical. Sometimes I feel that technology is overused just because it's there. I hope we don't fall into the habit of trying to "entertain" our children too much through its use.

I think the school does a great job of incorporating technology.

I would like to see the current technology available up and running with as few problems as possible. I would like to see similar equipment in each of the classrooms so that all teachers have quick access to a laptop, a large screen for projection and a computer that allows for this. (the kind you can write on--flip top)

The school has enough technology as it is.

I was a catechist and I was looking up saints on the internet computer in the class room. There were so many blockers that it wouldn't let me get more information on the saints. Need to loosen the restrictions.

Don't think they need to.

To teach the kids to make their own website.

The school( catholic central included) needs to upgrade their computers. The public schools are ahead of us in that sense.

Keep Teacher Ease more up to date. This is a wonderful tool that has helped us know what is going on with our children.

Offer more advanced computer courses to the junior high students

I believe that computer class should be more regularly versus 1-2 times per wk. Would like to see keyboarding added as well to allow them to perfect keyboarding asap.

None?

expand the computer room and have parent volunteers to be available for the students who do not have a computer at home

n/a

ceiling projectors and screens for each classroom. require all teachers to use technology in their teaching.

Adult education classes in the evening and weekends, especially computer and Internet training.

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