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Newsletter—September 4, 2026

We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service

Welcome Back!

We are about to wrap up our third week of school and it feels great! Our students, teachers and staff seem to be settling into their schedules and routines. Thank you for having your child/children well rested and prepared to start their school day with us! Your partnership with our school is so critical in making everything at home and school run smoothly. Please never hesitate to ask us questions so we can help you better understand or troubleshoot something.

Our Fall Fundraiser-MegaBlast has begun! Don't forget this is one of the major ways our school raises money for some incredible programs such as Fine Arts Day/Field Day, Accelerated Reader Program, Fine Arts Programming, (helping offset the costs associated with our Art/Music/Band/ Spanish Programs). Did I mention that this also allows our teachers to continue their education through conferences and workshops, as well as additional college coursework? Remember, if everyone helps we can reach our goal! Thank you for your support! Register using this link <https://themegablast.com/join/stas>

As we begin a new year, I ask God to keep our families healthy and safe and allow our children to develop their faith so that they may possess the courage and confidence to grow their gifts and share those with others.

Blessings,

Maureen Bentley
Principal

MEGA BLAST!

St. Thomas School 2026 Fall Fundraiser
September 2 – September 16, 2026

How to Register:

1. Register online at www.themegablast.com/join/stas
If you registered last year, please scroll to bottom of page and click, "Already Registered? Click here."
2. Upload a Profile Pic.
3. Enter or Reload **10 Valid Email Addresses** of Family & Friends per student.
4. Register by **9:00am on September 4** to receive your entry into the Registration Giveaway drawing!

Registration Giveaway – September 4

- Pre3-3rd Grade Winner – Bass Pro Bowling Party, Purple Bubble Bar Party, Elevate Party, or Dive-In Arcade
4th-8th Grade Winner – Escape Room Party, The Putt Club Party, Spa Truck Party, or Dive-In Arcade
One winner per grade category. Each winner will choose a gift card valued at \$250.



Week 1 Drawing September 9

Raise \$300 or more
to be entered into a drawing for a
Mini Fridge filled with gift cards
and other prizes!

1 winner from grades Pre3-3rd and 1 winner from grades 4th-8th



Golden Ticket September 11

Anyone that has raised \$300 or more gets to pick a chocolate bar from Mrs. Bentley!
If your chocolate bar contains a **GOLDEN TICKET**, you will have your favorite Dairy Queen Treat delivered to you at school, get some extra recess and an out of uniform day for your class!



LAST DAY OF FUNDRAISER SEPTEMBER 16!



Week 2 Drawing – Last Day of Fundraiser!

Any student that has raised \$400 or more will be entered for a chance to win an **Outdoor Picnic with lunch** from Chick-fil-A for your **ENTIRE HOMEROOM and TEACHER!** You will also earn extra lunch recess that day!
(Only 1 winner will be drawn)

Fast Pass Wristband

Top Money Raiser per homeroom receives a pass for the front of the line at Comet Palooza Day on September 30!

Top 5!

The Top 5 earners in the *entire* school receive a special lunch on the town! They will receive party bus transportation to and from lunch (location to be voted on by winners) and will get to bring a friend of their choice with them.



Top Class

The class that raises the most money will earn –
1-8 Grade Classes: Nacho Average Class Party- celebrate with queso and nacho chips and lots of other toppings! Then, enjoy a walk to Stadium Park where you will play a fun kickball game against your classmates! Also – No Homework Today!
Pre-3-Kindergarten Classes: Drop your books and enjoy an afternoon of snacks and a movie!
The teacher of the **Top Class** will be awarded a \$100 gas card & \$100 PTO bonus.



School Milestone Incentives

When STS raises \$20,000, all students will be rewarded with an out of uniform day & those having raised \$300 or more will be placed in a drawing to help tape our mystery faculty member to the gym wall!

When STS raises \$35,000, every student that has raised \$400 or more will be entered in for a chance to Pie the Principal or other faculty/staff member. Three lucky winners will be drawn for this fun prank!



When STS raises \$50,000, Mrs. Bentley will have to move her office to the roof for a day!
Every student that has raised \$500 or more will be entered for a chance to win their class donuts and choose the hot lunch menu for an entire week!

Comet Palooza Day!! September 30

Celebrate the success of our Fall Fundraiser with inflatables, games, and fun! More information will be sent closer to date.





💖
STS Thom's Moms & Friends Presents: Cheers, Chat & Chill

Friends welcome — the more, the merrier! 🥂💖

Join us for a fun and relaxing Sunday afternoon **soirée** filled with good conversation, laughter, friendship, and a little time to simply **cheers, chat & chill!**

Come catch up with old friends, **meet new moms**, and enjoy a lovely afternoon connecting with our STS community. Bring a friend (or a few!) — everyone is welcome!



CHEERS, CHAT & CHILL

**Sunday, September 27th
2:30–4:30 PM**

**1308 E. Seiberling Ave.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616**



Bring something to share!

Use our **SignUpGenius** to sign up to bring a favorite dish or drink.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BADA92AA1FB6-65585386-cheers>



RSVP to Allexe by September 20th



309-696-2301

Come catch up. Meet someone new. Make an afternoon of it! 💖
The more the merrier — we can't wait to see you! 🥂✨

Allexe Slevin & Sarah Tamburro





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CMGConnect

DIOCESE OF PEORIA



End-User Instructions

Getting Started:

1. Go to <https://Peoria.cmgconnect.org/>
2. Create a new account by completing all the boxes under the **Register for a New Account** area. This includes your address, primary parish, and how you participate at your parish or school. If you have questions please contact your parish/school coordinator.
3. Your dashboard will show you the required and optional training curriculums that have been customized for your particular role within the Diocese.
4. Click  under the Safe Environment Training-Peoria to begin.
5. On the last page of the curriculum, submit your background check information.
The curriculum will be marked "Resume" until your background check is processed and reviewed by the diocese. Processing can take up to 7-10 business days.
6. If needed, you can access your completion certificate after you are certified by returning to the training dashboard and clicking **Print Certificate**.



For technical assistance, contact us via the  button found in the bottom right corner of the web page.

Last Updated: 02/13/20

REMINDER: Diocesan requirement for volunteers.

Please check to see if you have expired!
Training is good for 5 years.

All volunteers of the school and parish (those who work with or have contact with children) must have completed the Safe Environment workshop prior to working with our children.

To complete the training go to

<https://cmgconnect.org/> online training hub

Find your Diocese - Peoria

Set-up an account

Complete Safe Environment Training for **Volunteers**—not employees

Create **ONLY ONE** user account. If you have forgotten your log in – email safeenvironment@cdop.org

If you have already completed the online training, it will show as complete when you log in.

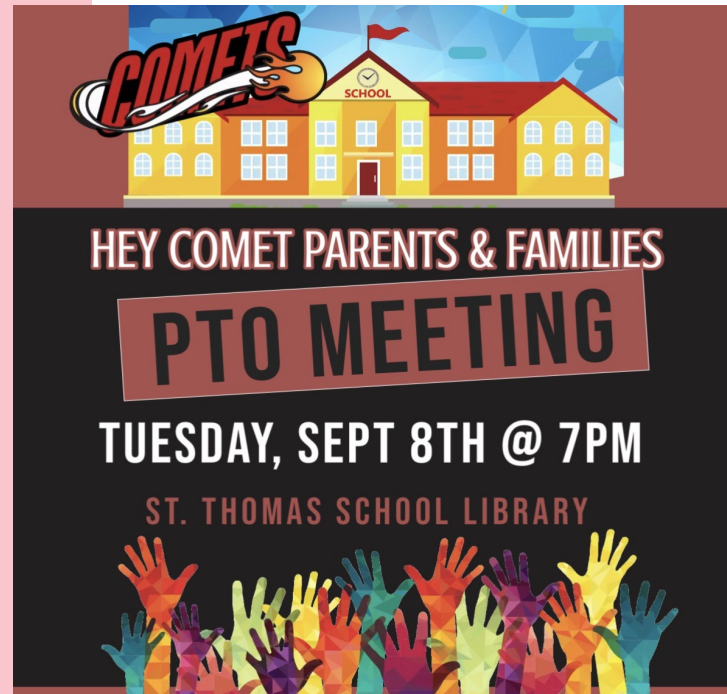
If you have expired, you must take the **RENEWAL Training** – complete the background check and CANTS at the same time. These are uploaded – do not print and send to the office. Follow the prompts to submit.

We appreciate your support by completing these mandatory steps for volunteers. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.



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[Sign up for FREE childcare during the PTO meeting](#)





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You Donut
KNOW HOW MUCH WE
LOVE
YOU
Sunday, September 13th
Grandparents Day
Comet Kids- Let's celebrate our Grandparents on National Grandparents Day! Bring your Grandparents to 10am Mass and then enjoy a delicious donut with them in the parish hall!

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11TH**

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
PATRIOT
Day

**COMETS MAY CHOOSE
TO WEAR RED,
WHITE & BLUE
WITH THEIR
UNIFORM BOTTOMS
AND GYM SHOES.**

St. Thomas
BACK TO SCHOOL
GLOW
BINGO
Night!

\$25 PER PERSON
SEPTEMBER 25TH
6PM

PRIZES! **ADULTS ONLY MEET PARENTS** **WEAR NEON!**

Come ready to win and have a great night out!

SCAN TO SIGN UP!

ALL SCHOOL ROSARY

**FRIDAY,
SEPT. 11TH
9AM**

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11



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Dear St. Thomas School Community,

Lindsey Swischuk, one of our STS parents, is the founder of Pink Boots and Country Roots. It's an annual charity country music concert right here in Peoria Heights. This second annual concert takes place on Saturday, September 19. Proceeds help provide essential resources for patients battling breast cancer. These funds assist with financial hardships related to treatment, such as transportation, lodging, and medical expenses, ensuring that individuals receive the care that they need.

More Info about the event and their mission can be found at <https://www.pinkbootsandcountryroots.com>

This is a special discounted ticket link specifically for the St. Thomas community:

<https://www.etix.com/ticket/c/913EC39A8BF8CFEC0B2B02F0A53CD46A/artemis-esthetics-wellness-discount>

The discount is **\$5 off General Admission tickets** and **\$25 off VIP tickets** when they use the link.

Grandparenting & the Faith



Welcome to our fall season of St. Thomas
Grandparenting & the Faith!

We are kicking off this season with a fieldtrip for all new &
returning grandparents, to the Fulton Sheen Museum.

Monday, September 14th

9:00am meet at the Fulton J. Sheen Museum

Our very own Rhonda Bachman will give us a tour

9:30am we'll head to the Cathedral to visit the tomb
of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

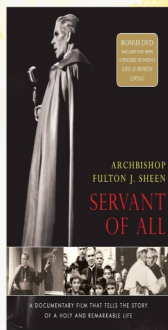
10:00am those who are able will return to the
Museum to enjoy a documentary film on the life of
Fulton Sheen.



Spadling Pastoral Center
419 N. E. Madison Ave



Cathedral of St. Mary
of the Immaculate Conception
607 NE Madison Ave



Kolaches at STS!
Start Feast Day of
St. Wenceslaus with a delicious
treat! 🇸🇰❤️



 American Kolache Truck will
be at St. Thomas School on:

 **Monday, September 28**

 **Starting at 7:30 AM**

 **Back lot – available through
drop-off!**

Come grab some fresh,
delicious kolaches for breakfast
and make your morning extra
special!

Bring your family, bring your
appetite, and don't miss out!