

The Principal's Newsletter
September 8, 2017



Educating * Mind * Heart * Spirit

"We are created in God's image." Genesis 1:27

Friday Folder Return Percentage

What percentage returned them on Tuesday, September 5?

90% return. Parents, let's see a 100% on September 11.



SCRIP has been sold after the weekend Masses and in the school office daily long before I ever came on the scene in 1997. With the recent cutback in terms of parish investment in the school by \$50,000 by the finance committee for this school year, some parishioners have suggested that greater impetus be given to SCRIP. At the same time they state that either they or others have no idea what SCRIP is. I know that Erin Tasler and Michelle Jergens, co-chairs, and our many SCRIP volunteers who sell after the Masses are REALLY NICE PEOPLE and would WELCOME the opportunity to explain it to anyone who inquires. Likewise, Mrs. Smith, school office secretary, is every PLEASANT and would do likewise, always with a smile.

WHAT IS SCRIP?

SCRIP is a national program for non-profits. Scrip is a term that means "substitute money." St. Thomas Aquinas School purchases gift cards at a discount from local and national businesses and then sells them to the public. For example, we purchase a \$100 gift card from Hy-Vee or Fareway for \$98. We sell you the \$100 gift card with which you purchase \$100 worth of goods. We make \$2. Profit varies by businesses. I like to eat at Panera so when I purchase \$100 worth of Panera gift cards, the school's profit is \$9.00. Attached is a SCRIP order form. You can see the many businesses that participate in SCRIP and the profit we make from varying gift cards. You win! We win!

Why buy SCRIP? So often we are asked to buy things that we don't really need or want just to support one group or another. With SCRIP you are using the gift cards where you normally would shop AND you're getting full dollar value! The participating businesses are donating a share of their profit to be used for our purposes.

If you would like to order SCRIP certificates, please fill out a SCRIP form. Send your check payable to St. Thomas Aquinas School with the form. Orders are usually placed on Monday and filled by Thursday noon.

Thanks for your support

Enrollment Figures for 2017-2018

3 year-old preschoolers	-	Miss Erin	-	12
4 year-old preschoolers	-	Miss Erin	-	20
(15 are all-day)				
Prek/K	-	Mrs. Sadler	-	17
1 st /K	-	Mrs. Thompson	-	13
2 nd	-	Mrs. Pruisman	-	7
3 rd	-	Mrs. Ricke	-	11
4 th	-	Mrs. Wagner	-	11
5 th	-	Mrs. Barrick	-	4
6 th	-	Mr. Meyers	-	10
Total				105
73 Families				

Mrs. Engstrom – Physical Education & Technology – 105 Students

Mrs. Brandt – Music – 105 students

Early Literacy and Universal Screening

Universal screening (CBMreading (Curriculum-Based Measurement for Reading)) is an evidence-based, one-minute assessment and is the process of regularly checking every student's performance in reading. There are **three screening periods for all students**—fall, winter, and spring. For the past several years, school in Iowa have used the TIES software. However, the Iowa Department of Education terminated its contract with TIES (TIES is owned by Minnesota school districts) after a technical audit found their TIER software system was "unfit" and came with "a very high risk of continuous failures." Since 2013, Iowa has paid them more than \$14 million.

So the state of Iowa transitioned to a new statewide data system for K-6 literacy through FASTBridge Learning. Our teachers have participated in the webinar training and found out that some elements of the new data system were quite familiar and all are ready to administer the Fall testing from September 19 through the 21st.

Alert: School pictures are scheduled for Thursday, September 28



Alert: In honor of St. Francis of Assisi whose feast day is October 4, Father Meyer will bless pets on Friday, October 6th at 2:45 in the east lot.

Upcoming Events:

*Tuesday, September 12 – Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m. in the parish center.

*Wednesday, September 13 – **2 hour late start** for teacher in-service

*Friday, September 15– Student Mass planned by the 5th graders.

*Monday, September 18 – No school – Staff Development Day

*Friday, September 22 – Prayer Partner Mass planned by the 4th graders.

*Thursday, September 28 – School Pictures taken by LifeTouch starting at 8:30.

*Friday, September 29 – Student Mass planned by 3rd graders.

*Friday, October 6 – Student Mass planned by the 2nd graders. In honor of St. Francis of Assisi (feast day is October 4) we will have the blessing of pets on Friday, October 6 at 2:45 in the east parking lot.

*Friday, October 13 – Student Mass planned by the 6th graders

October 13th is **WC Homecoming – 2-hr early dismissal**

It has been a long-standing tradition that we have a float in the homecoming parade. Many hands make light work so if you are willing to assist in creating a winning float, please contact Heidi Tesdahl.

***Week of October 16th – Iowa Assessments for students in grades 1 through 6.** The Iowa Assessments is a group-administered achievement test for grades K-12 which measures a student's knowledge in subject areas that students have learned in school – reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The Iowa Assessments were released in the 2011-2012 school year and has replaced the Iowa Test of Basic Skills® (ITBS®) and Iowa Test of Educational Development®. The new exam format has been redesigned to better align the exam with the Iowa Common Core Standards.

Level	Grade	Total Questions	Time to Complete
5-6	K-1	187	2 hr 40 min
7	1-2	278	4 hr 10 min
8	2	297	4 hr 10 min
9	3	365	5 hr 40 min
10	4	335	4 hr 55 min
11	5	361	4 hr 55 min
12	6	381	4 hr 55 min

St. Thomas Aquinas SCRIP ORDER FORM

Thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated! Please remember that we can sell only the amounts listed on the order form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Check# : _____ Amount: _____ * Please make checks payable to: **St. Thomas Aquinas** *

Filled by: _____ NCCOS: _____

Retailer (c.o.a.) = certificate on account	Profit for school	Card Amount	Qty.	Total	Retailer (c.o.a.) = certificate on account	Profit for school	Card Amount	Qty.	Total
Aeropostale	\$1.75	\$25			Cold Stone Creamery	\$0.80	\$10		
Amazon.com	\$0.75	\$25			Courtyard/Marriott	\$6.00	\$50		
American Eagle Outfitters	\$2.00	\$25			Critter Nation	\$0.50	\$10		
American Girl	\$2.25	\$25			Dairy Queen	\$0.50	\$5		
Applebees	\$2.00	\$25			Derry Auto (c.o.a.)	\$1.00	\$25		
Arby's	\$0.80	\$10			Derry Auto (c.o.a.)	\$2.50	\$50		
Banana Republic	\$2.25	\$25			Derry Auto (c.o.a.)	\$5.00	\$100		
Barnes & Noble/B. Dalton	\$1.00	\$10			Dick's Sporting Goods	\$2.00	\$25		
Barnes & Noble/B. Dalton	\$2.50	\$25			Dillard's	\$2.25	\$25		
Bath and Body Works	\$1.50	\$10			DSW (Designer Shoes)	\$2.25	\$25		
Bath and Body Works	\$3.25	\$25			Express	\$2.50	\$25		
Bed, Bath and Beyond	\$1.75	\$25			Fareway	\$0.50	\$25		
Best Buy	\$0.75	\$25			Fareway	\$1.00	\$50		
Best Buy	\$8.00	\$100			Fareway	\$2.00	\$100		
Buckle	\$2.00	\$25			Fairfield Inn/Marriott	\$6.00	\$50		
Build-A-Bear	\$2.00	\$25			Fazoli's	\$1.75	\$25		
Burger King	\$0.50	\$10			Flah's Line	\$2.50	\$25		
Cabela's	\$3.25	\$25			Flower Cart (c.o.a.)	\$1.25	\$25		
Carlos O'Kelly	\$0.90	\$10			Foot Locker	\$2.25	\$25		
Casey's	\$0.30	\$10			Fuhr's Pastry	\$1.00	\$10		
Casey's	\$0.75	\$25			GameStop	\$0.75	\$25		
Casey's	\$1.50	\$50			Gap/Old Navy/Banana Republic	\$2.25	\$25		
Cheesecake Factory	\$1.25	\$25			Gerber's (c.o.a.)	\$2.50	\$50		
Chili's/Macaroni Grill/On the Border	\$2.75	\$25			Gerber's (c.o.a.)	\$5.00	\$100		
Chuong Garden	\$5.00	\$30			Gi bert Jewelry (c.o.a.)	\$2.50	\$25		
Claire's	\$0.90	\$10			Gi bert Jewelry (c.o.a.)	\$7.50	\$75		
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$2.00	\$25			GNC	\$2.00	\$25		

Scrip Order Form continued on back

Symbaree (Children's Clothing)	\$3.25	\$25			Outback Steakhouse	\$1.25	\$25		
Mard Rock Cafe	\$2.50	\$25			Panera Bread	\$0.90	\$10		
Heart-N-Home	\$1.00	\$10			Payless Shoes	\$2.60	\$20		
Home Appliance	\$0.50	\$25			PF Chang China Bistro	\$1.75	\$25		
Home Appliance	\$1.00	\$100			Pier 1 Imports	\$2.25	\$25		
Home Depot	\$0.75	\$25			Piperlime	\$0.50	\$25		
Home Depot	\$3.00	\$100			Pizza Hut	\$0.90	\$10		
Hwyatt Hotels	\$7.25	\$25			Pottery Barn/Williams Sonoma	\$7.00	\$25		
Hy Vee	\$0.20	\$10			Sally Beauty Co.	\$3.00	\$25		
Hy-Vee	\$0.50	\$25			Saloon Pizza - eat in/only 2 toppings only	\$2.10	\$10.00		
Hy Vee	\$1.00	\$50			Sears	\$1.75	\$25		
Hy-Vee	\$2.00	\$100			Sears	\$7.00	\$100		
ITunes	\$0.75	\$15			Sears	\$17.50	\$250		
iTunes	\$1.25	\$25			Second St. Emporium	\$1.00	\$10		
J. Crew	\$3.25	\$25			Second St. Emporium	\$2.00	\$20		
J.C. Penny	\$1.50	\$25			Second St. Emporium	\$3.00	\$30		
J.C. Penny	\$6.00	\$100			Sephora	\$0.80	\$20		
Jo Ann Fabrica	\$1.20	\$20			Shoe Carnival	\$1.25	\$25		
K Mart	\$1.00	\$25			Shutterfly	\$3.50	\$25		
K Mart	\$2.00	\$50			Sport's World	\$1.50	\$15		
Kentucky Fried Chicken	\$0.45	\$5			Sport's World	\$2.00	\$20		
Kohl's	\$1.00	\$25			Staples	\$2.00	\$25		
Kohl's	\$4.00	\$100			Starbucks	\$0.70	\$10		
Kum & Go	\$0.50	\$10			Subway	\$0.30	\$10		
Kum & Go	\$1.75	\$25			Target	\$0.50	\$25		
Kum & Go	\$2.50	\$50			Target	\$2.00	\$100		
Land's End	\$3.00	\$25			Ted's Carwash 5 - \$1.00 washes	\$7.50	\$40		
Lower Car Wash (5 at option #2)	\$5.60	\$45			T.G.I. Friday's	\$2.25	\$25		
Leop's	\$1.00	\$10			T.J. Maxx/ Marshalls	\$1.75	\$25		
Limited (The Limited)	\$2.25	\$25			Toys /Kios /Babies-R- Us	\$0.20	\$20		
Long John Silver's	\$0.45	\$5			Under Armour	\$2.75	\$25		
Lowe's (also avail. in \$100 & \$500)	\$1.00	\$25			Walgreens	\$0.40	\$20		
Maurices	\$1.40	\$20			Wal-Mart	\$0.50	\$25		
McNards	\$0.75	\$25			Wal-Mart	\$2.00	\$100		
McNards	\$3.00	\$100			Wendy's	\$0.90	\$10		
Office Max	\$1.25	\$25			Younkers/Carson Pirie	\$2.00	\$25		
Old Chicago/Rock Bottom	\$1.50	\$25			Younkers/Carson Pirie	\$8.00	\$100		
Olive Garden/Red Lobster	\$2.25	\$25			Zappos.com	\$2.00	\$25		
Oswellers	\$2.00 \$5.00	\$20 \$50			Zappos.com	\$8.00	\$100		
Oswellers	\$12.00 \$100.00	\$100 \$1000			Questions: Call Erin Tustle 832-4171	Please look at our list of other cards!			

Alert: Parents, if you haven't been receiving emails from Sharon, it means she doesn't have your current email address. Please call her at the school office (832-1346) or email her at ssmith@stswc.com

Also....



Sign up for important updates from Sharon Smith.

Get information for **St Thomas Aquinas School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **STA Parents**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/stapa

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @stapa to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @stapa to (319) 774-1606.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/stapa on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.