



Welcome Back, St. Thomas!

Dear St. Thomas Families,

Welcome to the new school year!

There is something special about the energy on campus at the start of a new year. The halls are full, classrooms are lively, and we are reminded why all the work, planning and investment behind the scenes matter so much.

As a Board, we are incredibly proud of where St. Thomas is today and even more excited about where we are headed.

A Summer of Saying “Yes”

This was our fifth consecutive summer of significant campus work compressed into the familiar June 15–August 15 window. The pace was intense, timelines were tight and there were always surprises. Yet, time and again, we have been surrounded by people who find a way to say “yes.”

That spirit has made an enormous difference.

Our **Facilities and Technology Committee**, led by Board members, Greg Sargent and Katie Scinto, with the support of Patrick Polster and Jason Landon, has worked overtime. They coordinated projects, contractors and vendors, solved countless problems and, when necessary, simply rolled up their sleeves and got to work. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to St. Thomas.

We are equally grateful to the incredible group of contractors and partners who have become part of our St. Thomas family. **Towle Builders**, led by Bill Towle (Parent '20) and Justin Bloxsom, along with their electricians, plumbers, HVAC professionals and builders, consistently make us feel as though we are their only client.

Our painters, **NFU Painting**; flooring team, **Carpet Right**; glass installers, **Westport Glass**; security team, **Beacon Security**; window coating team, **Silver Solutions**; gate company, **Euro Fence**; shade company, **Laura's Draperies**; paving and drainage, **P&S/Mattera**; sound, **Pascom** and tree company, **Bartlett Tree**, have all contributed and many are still contributing in ways that will transform our campus.

Each of these partners has brought expertise, flexibility and, most importantly, a willingness to find a way forward.

A Campus Transformed

This summer we:

- Renovated and refreshed four classrooms and three offices in our 1921 building, including new flooring, necessary abatement and painting.
- Added HVAC to the entrance and library. UV coated a number of windows.
- Completely renovated our office complex, nursing spaces and vestibule entrance, with updated furnishings and a custom SSO desk designed by St. Thomas' parent, Evan Marsillio/**Sterling Custom Cabinetry**, still to be finalized.
- Redesigned our athletic field and landscaping under the leadership of current parents, Patrick Polster, Greg Sweeney/**Aqualawn** and STA alum, Matt Almy/**Oak & Stone**.
- Commissioned the Ruane Street electronic entrance gate, incorporating the talent of current parent, Andrea Espach, to ensure the St. Thomas identity she created in 2019 is represented as we enter our school.
- Implemented a new sound system in the Harding | Halas Arts & Athletic Center.
- Began planning for a new outdoor basketball/sport court.
- Completed significant work toward a safer, more functional and beautiful campus.

Much of this work has been made possible through the generosity of donor families and community partners. The generosity of our community whether through financial support, professional expertise, volunteer hours or simply being willing to step in and help is one of the things that makes St. Thomas so special.

When all is complete, we will have a functional and safe parking lot, a healthy field with enhanced landscaping, a new outdoor basketball / sport court, and a beautiful iron entrance gate along with refreshed and improved spaces throughout our campus.

We know that projects of this scale can sometimes bring inconvenience, and we appreciate our families' patience, particularly as the outdoor space renovation and final furnishing concludes.

An Exceptional Faculty

Most importantly, St. Thomas begins this year with an exceptional group of faculty and staff.

A special thank you to Ms. Strub for the tremendous work she did throughout the summer to recruit and bring together talented, energetic and dedicated educators and staff. We are fully staffed, and the energy in our hallways is palpable.

To our returning faculty and to those joining us for the first time: welcome. We are so happy you are here.

Building for the Future

While much of our summer work is visible, some of our most important work has happened behind the scenes.

The Board and **Strategic Planning Committee** have spent countless hours developing the next chapter of St. Thomas. Our strategic plan is now in its final approval process with NEASC and the Diocese of Bridgeport, and we look forward to sharing it with our community soon. The plan reflects the voices and aspirations of our families, faculty, alumni and broader community. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your ideas are helping to shape our future.

The Board has also worked closely with the administration on a comprehensive update to our Parent & Student Handbook, creating a clearer, more current and thoughtful framework for our community.

Here We Go!

For now, we simply want to say thank you.

All this work has one purpose: **to create an exceptional place for our students to learn, grow, lead and thrive.**

And as we look around St. Thomas today, we see that happening!

With gratitude and excitement,

St. Thomas Board of Directors

Erin Russell, Chair
Chris Gidez
John Gnibus
Paul Halas
Sarah Nocerino
Darcy Ronan
Greg Sargent
Katie Scinto
Tracy Strub