

“More” Notes for Parents



September 30, 2009
1st Quarter Progress Reports

From the Dean of Students' Office:

It is nice to finally have the boys back on campus. Our community is not the same without the students. The first four weeks have been very busy. We successfully completed our week-long student orientation. We have taken the Stanford Achievement exams. We have had three meetings with our student clubs and groups. The weather has even cooperated, providing comfortable temperatures. Yes, we have been busy!

We are pleased to report that the student groups have begun in earnest. The T.I.E.S. community service club has already completed their first project- A major cleanup of a nearby state park. The Science Club visited the *Bodies Revealed* exhibit at Foxwoods Resort and Casino. The Cooking Club has been busy making apple fritters and other hearty foods. The Autograph Club is busy soliciting autographs from celebrities worldwide and the Ping Pong Club has begun a tournament to crown the ping pong master of STM.

The Residential Life Curriculum has also been launched. So far, each dorm floor has formally met six times, covering topics such as Adjusting to Dorm Life, Living in a Residential Community, The Environment, Sustainability and Respect for Personal Property. Many dorm floors have made a commitment to recycling and energy conservation. Besides doing their part to save the environment, monies from the recycling will be used for each dorm floor's benefit. In the coming weeks, the floors will meet to discuss Diversity and Substance Abuse.

The Chancellors Club for September (students who have demonstrated exceptional moral and civic qualities by receiving zero disciplinary infractions) is the largest list in years. 80 students, or **51% of the student body**, earned this distinction. These students were rewarded with a dress-down day on September 30th.

We welcome and encourage communication. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments and/or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Viands, Dean of Students
Maura Howard, Assistant Dean

From the Academic Dean's Office:



The school year began with a five-day student orientation. This approach was designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of school policies and procedures in the classroom, as well as their residential life and their athletic and extracurricular activities. The investment paid off with much smoother transitions into a positive climate and stronger relationships. The faculty also invested time by continuing their training in *PROJECT CRISS*.

Sincerely,
Steve Davis, Academic Dean

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal to visit STM:

On Thursday October 8th, Connecticut's Attorney General will speak at 10:00am in Our Lady's Chapel. He plans to speak to our young men about public service and how government works. He also plans to provide ample time for questions. Feel free to join us as we have our first Distinguished Speaker of the year on campus.

Long Weekend (October 9th – October 13th)

There will be a long weekend from Friday October 9th, beginning at 12:00pm, until Tuesday October 13th. Please contact Mrs. Page to arrange travel if your son is going home that weekend. Note- Campus is still open and your son is more than welcome to stay at school; however, this is a nice time for your son to go home and refresh the batteries before the next break at Thanksgiving. All students need to be back on campus for study hall by 7:00pm on Tuesday October 13th. *There is a football game on Friday. Football players may go home following the game. Parents of football players should contact Mrs. Page to make special travel arrangements if your son is going home following the game.*

New Senior-PG Final Exam Exemption Policy:

The cure for the "senior slump" has evaded many a school and educator for years. This year, we are instituting a new policy - seniors and PG's will be exempt from taking a final exam in a course if their overall course average is 90% or higher by the end of the

fourth marking period. We are hoping this policy will motivate these young men to finish the year as strong as they began it.

Returning to STM from the Weekends:

Please note that when your son goes home for the weekend, he must return to school by 7:00pm. We understand that circumstances sometimes interfere with returning by 7:00pm (traffic, flat tire, etc...). If you believe that your son will be arriving to school late, please call the Administrator on Duty's pager at 860-340-1248 or leave a message on voicemail extension 101.

Wireless Network Update:

Currently, we are in the fundraising stage for our wireless network initiative. This new technology will enable the faculty and students to access resources via the school's intranet and the internet. Please contact the Development Office for more information on this important initiative.

From the Chaplain:

The year has begun very smoothly and the students have been cooperative and engaged in the various programs sponsored by the Chaplaincy. We celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit on the weekend of September 5th invoking the guidance and inspiration of the Spirit as we begin this new academic year. This special Mass beginning the academic year is an ancient tradition of the Church.

To recognize, celebrate and offer thanks for the courage, commitment and charisma of the Founder of St. Thomas More School, Mr. James Hanrahan, Sr., the school gathered for the Founder's Day Mass on September 14th. On this occasion we also gave thanks to all who have shown dedication to the vision and goals of the school. The musicians who assisted at this Mass made comments on the attentiveness and respect of the students—now we just need to encourage them to add their singing voices with greater confidence!

The mid-week dorm Masses have begun and they provide a nice opportunity for a small group of students to take time to focus and reflect. The class for those considering receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation began on Tuesday September 22nd. At this point, eight students have expressed interest in the program.

The Big Brother Program got underway on September 24th. This year we have over 25 students who were approved to be Big Brothers, but only 6 placements have been made. As interest at Oakdale Elementary School grows, the students will be placed with a Little Brother. It has been a very rewarding program for both the Big and Little Brothers in the past and we anticipate this year's participants will also gain a great deal from the experience.

Sincerely,
Fr. Richard Gross, School Chaplain

October 24th- Parent's Day & Homecoming

Join us for Parent's Day & Homecoming on Saturday October 24th. Campus events that day are:

- 9:00am – 12:00pm- Parent – Teacher Meetings
- 12:15pm- Headmaster's Address
- 12:30 – 2:00pm- Lunch in Dining Hall
- 1:00pm- Varsity Soccer vs. Providence Country Day
- 1:30pm- Open Gym Basketball Highlights
- 2:00pm- Varsity Football vs. Tabor Academy
- 4:00pm- Mass in Our Lady's Chapel

October 24th- Ninth Annual Founder's Dinner

Join us for our annual Founder's Dinner following Parent's Day events, held in the Uncas Ballroom at Mohegan Sun Casino. This year's dinner will honor the lifetime achievements of the late Mr. Richard Schnaidt. Contact the Development Office for more information about attending this event.

First STM Win for Mr. Davis

Mr. Davis won his first STM game as our new Head Football Coach. His team defeated a tough Gunnery School team 25-18, behind the efforts of post-graduates Terrell Williams, Ryan Brahm, Keith Crawford, Andy Marshalick and Bryce Childs.

Science Club to *Bodies Revealed* Exhibit:

Mr. Allen, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Kearney took their Science Club students to the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard, CT to view the exhibit *Bodies Revealed*. *Bodies Revealed* features real whole and partial human specimens that have been dissected and preserved through a process called polymer preservation. The process can take up to a full year. Through polymer preservation tissue is preserved permanently by using liquid silicone rubber that is treated and hardened. The tissue becomes a rubberized specimen that showcases the complexity of human bones, muscles, organs, nerves, and blood vessels.

This exhibit allows visitors an inside view into human organs and system, including skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory and circulatory systems. In order to relate to visitors, the specimens have been positioned into athletic and everyday activity poses.

Upcoming Events & Dates:

- Saturday October 3rd- SAT Exam
- Friday October 9th- Long Weekend Begins
- Tuesday October 13th- Long Weekend Ends @ 7pm
- Wednesday October 14th- PSAT for all Juniors
- Monday October 19th- National College Fair for all Seniors & PG's
- October 23rd- 1st Marking Period Ends

STM on the Web:

Please visit www.stmct.org to find out more information about your son's experience. The school's website features updated athletic, academic and residential life information. Under the PARENT & STUDENT portal, parents will find a detailed school calendar, school news, dining hall menus and nutritional information, special events, and the athlete of the week announcement.

Contacting Faculty and Staff:

Every faculty and staff member has an email address and voicemail extension. Links to all email addresses can be found on our website- www.stmct.org. Feel free to contact your son's teachers, coaches, dorm parents and advisor.



Chancellor's Club

September 2009

Rafael Arguelles
Amadou Bah
Kevin Baker
Stephen Barnes
Ben Bodziner
Tre Bowman
Ryan Brahm
Mark Brothers
Jonathan Brown
Joe Cardarelli
Alejandro Chavez
Yu-Tzu Chou
Matt Conway
Michael Cowee
Keith Crawford
Steven Davis
Andrew Douby
Sijabuliso Dube
Tochukwu Egesi
Brian Freeman
Reginald Gaunichaux
Jae Won Goh
Max Jeanphilippe
Daniel Johnson, Jr.
Hsiao Hsuan Juan
Jong Seo Ki
Yoon Seo Ki
Dong Hyun Kim
Seung Kyo Kim
Sung Hun Kim
Ryan Klingenberg
Parker Klorczyk
Paul Knudsen
Kawan Koonce
Jeremy Krueger
Jong Ho Lee
Nicholas Lewis
Chengchen Li
Tianyu Lin
Yi-Liang Lin

I-Hung Liu
Jia Cheng Lou
Min Young Maeng
Akbar Manka
Andrew Marshalick
Francisco Martinez
Ricardo Martinez-Pasini
Matthew Matera
Derrin McKnight-Carter
Edison Mei
Sang Jun Oh
Robert Ponte
Francisco Porras Rodriguez
Chris Potter
Maitland Rames
Jaquontee Sebastian
George Shaw
Yeong Jin Shin
Matthew Sieminski
Mati Siritrakulchai
Dominique Spann
Lake Spears
Hsin Li Sun
Peng Kai Sun
Devon Sutherland
Alex Terlizzi
Bruno Vaccarezza
Dominic Walmsley
Guang Chao Wang
Thomas Whipple, Jr.
Terrell Williams
Binglun Wu
Jinqiao Wu
Yu Chen Wu
Yilun Xu
Joon Mo Yang
Chen Xiao Yao
Li Wu Ying
Da Yang Yu
Scott Zakrzewski

