

“More” Notes for Parents



July 15th, 2008
Summer Academic Camp

From the Director:

While it is hard to fathom that the Summer Academic Camp has reached its halfway point, it comes as no surprise that the students are finding academic success.

In the classroom, the boys are learning the “STM Way” in terms of study and organizational skills. Specifically, they are learning two-column note-taking, margin notes, SQ3R, time management, test preparation, and notebook organization. These skills are fundamental as your son engages the “process of learning.” Your son will have a huge advantage should he return in the fall due to his introduction to these skills.

Our structured program coupled with the diligent effort of our students is producing outstanding results. While there is not an official honor roll list produced for the Progress Reports, **68%** of our students are on track to earn a spot on one of our four honor rolls (*Enclosed you will find an unofficial list of projected honor roll students*). I could not be more thrilled at the general performance of the boys thus far.

Enclosed please find a detailed progress report for each of your son’s courses. The report contains a percentage grade and an effort grade. The percentage grade defines his actual academic score while the effort grade represents his teacher’s reflection of his effort put forth in all areas of the class including preparation, participation and demeanor. Each teacher also provides a general course description and a student specific narrative explaining your son’s personal experience in the course.

While most students are finding success, we do have some who have not achieved up to their ability or our expectations. Students who have grades below seventy percent (70%) will be assigned to two days of **Mandatory Extra Help** for the remainder of the summer. Any student who has a grade below sixty percent (60%) will be assigned to Mandatory Extra Help Mandatory every day that it is offered. Extra Help runs from 12:05pm to 12:30pm every school day except Wednesday and Saturday. Mandatory Extra Help provides the students with additional guided study time to review the material that has

proved difficult for them. In addition to the Mandatory Extra Help, students who have a grade below sixty percent will also attend **Afternoon Study Hall** at 2:30pm for 45 minutes per class for four days a week. This time is to be used studying for any upcoming tests and for completing any outstanding assignments. It is our expectation that the additional study time will enable the students to find the type of academic success that they are capable of and that we expect.

The non-academic portion of the camp is going just as well. The intramural program has seen some spirited games of kickball, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, capture the flag, soccer and flag football. The second activity period has students playing basketball, beach volleyball, tennis, swimming, inner tubing, kayaking, canoeing and sailing on beautiful Gardner Lake. The weekend and Wednesday trips have also been well received with the weather cooperating all the time.

As the Summer Academic Camp winds down, I would like to invite you to our Annual Awards Night which will be held on Thursday July 31st at 7:00pm in Our Lady's Chapel. This awards ceremony will honor the students for their academic, athletic and civic achievements during the five-week program. Students may go home with their family following Awards Night (it should conclude around 8:30pm). *Please inform Mr. Columbus, Dean of Students, if you will be taking your son home that Thursday.* On Friday August 1st, those students not picked up Thursday may be picked up anytime after 8:30am. On this day, teachers will be available in their classrooms from 8:30 am until 11:00 am to answer any questions you may have.

The Admissions Office is in the process of finalizing our fall enrollment for the regular school year. Please contact Mr. Timothy Riordan, Director of Admissions, if you would like your son to continue his St. Thomas More School experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to a successful finish and to seeing you on July 31st or August 1st.

Sincerely,
Tim Viands, Director

Additional note for parents whose son is taking courses for make-up credit and not returning for regular fall enrollment- Please forward contact information to Mrs. Pauline Burdick, school registrar, ASAP so we can mail out his summer academic camp transcript to the receiving school.

Upcoming Events & Dates:

Lake Compounce Amusement Park- Sunday July 20th. Students will enjoy a day at Connecticut's best and largest amusement park. Visit

www.lakecompounce.com to see the activities that await your son.

Water Country USA- Sunday July 27th. The camp will travel via coach bus to Portsmouth, NH, to spend a day at the largest water park on the east coast.

Visit www.watercountry.com to see the array of activities and offered.

Intramural Championships- Thursday July 31st. The camp-long intramural league will culminate with the two top teams competing for the intramural league championship.

Lake Swim- Thursday July 31st. Interested students will attempt swimming across our own Gardner Lake.

Field Day- Wednesday July 30th. Intramural teams will compete head-to-head in the afternoon long event, culminating in the annual Apache Relay Race.

Awards Night- Thursday July 31st @ 7:00pm

End of Camp / Teacher Conferences- Friday August 1st (8:30 – 11:00am)

Camp News:

Campers of Week 1: Samuel Burkhardt and James McDowell. These students were awarded a St. Thomas More School athletic t-shirt for a job well done.

Campers of Week 2: Stephen Rooney, Erik Arakelian, and Pei-Lin Chan. These students were awarded St. Thomas More School athletic shorts for a job well done.

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.

