

“MORE” Notes for Parents



March 2009
3rd Marking Period Report Cards

From the Dean of Students' Office:

It is amazing that we are in the “home stretch.” The year has flown by and I am very proud of the growth the students have made. Equally, I could not be more pleased with the dedication of our faculty who have worked tirelessly at the end of the marking period with the students to help them get their grades up.

Things are at a fever pitch at St. Thomas More School. It is wonderful to see such energy and enthusiasm directed in so many areas. As it turns out, this season is the busiest of them all. Athletics, special events and assemblies pack our schedule. If I were to give this season a theme, it would be the “Season of Celebration.”

Proud highlights of the student-side of the School are:

- Mr. Modic and Mr. Allen took a group of 40 students to watch the PG Basketball Team play Bridgton Academy at Endicott College on Wednesday March 4. They were both very pleased with the students' support of the PG team and their exemplary behavior.
- The number of students earning “Chancellor’s Club” recognition continues to remain high. More pleasing is the addition of some new names to the list, which shows growth and dedication. While the honor roll recognizes the academic achievements of our students, the Chancellor’s Club distinguishes their moral accomplishments.
- More and more, students are taking ownership in their community and helping to set a positive school culture. Without being too specific, our students are doing a fantastic job thinking about the “other”
- person and looking out for each other. Whether it is shutting a door, picking up a lost item or helping a peer in need, our students have stepped up to the plate this year.

If previous years are any indication, the end of the year will be here before we know it. Soon, we will begin preparing for the 2009 – 2010 school year. I have already made roommate and advisor request forms available to the students. Mr. Allen is finalizing the RA assignments. Awards Day, Spring Spree, Confirmation, The Athletic Awards Night and Graduation are in the final stages of preparation. We are clearly very busy working to make it the best final weeks of school for our students.

Looking ahead, I ask that you coordinate your son's end-of-school departure plans with Mrs. Page soon. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. As always, do not hesitate to email or call me with any and all questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Viands, Dean of Students

***A Whole New Mind*, by Daniel Pink:**

I just finished reading one of the most interesting and enlightening books I can remember. *A Whole New Mind*, by Daniel Pink, is an in-depth look at what the future will demand in terms of thinking, working, relating and managing. As world dynamics change, Pink successfully argues the need to foster more right-brain, rather than left-brain, qualities. While there are many, Pink chooses six right-brain attributes that he feels will differentiate the successful from the unsuccessful in the future:

- Design- Moving from just functionality to aesthetics
- Story- Moving from making an argument to telling a compelling narrative
- Empathy- Identifying and relating to others
- Symphony- Moving beyond analysis to synthesis (Howard Gardner's book, *Five Minds of the Future*, fleshes out the idea of the synthesizing mind)
- Play- Understanding that daily moments of joy, laughter and fun directly correlate to high performance
- Meaning- Moving beyond comfort to finding the meaning and spirit in everything

Pink points out that the 20th century belonged to the left-brain analytical-thinking individual. This thinking built an economy and society based on analytical and technological capabilities. While these skills will still be necessary, they will not be sufficient. The 21st century, according to Pink, will belong to the right-brain- measured by creativity and empathy. Success will be found by the creators, empathizers, meaning makers, pattern recognizers, artists, inventors, designers, caregivers, storytellers, big picture thinkers and master teachers. He calls these people the "Creative Class." This book is a must-read for any educator; it has equal value for parents.

-Mr. Viands

Senior & PG's (End of Year Items)

It is an exciting time of year for these young men. Their hard work will come to fruition when they receive their diploma or PG certificate. It is also important for these young men to remain focused and concentrate on their academics. There have been incidents in the past where we have asked a senior or PG to permanently leave school for a momentary lapse of judgment in the waning weeks of school. Please help us by reinforcing the importance of "finishing" the year successfully with your son.

All seniors and PG's will take their final exams from Tuesday May 12th – Thursday May 14th. Seniors and PG's depart school on Thursday May 14th. Seniors will return Saturday morning for Graduation 2009. While we ask that all seniors depart on Thursday, this is not always possible for logistical reasons. Mr. Viands must grant permission, in advance, to any senior who needs to stay

on campus until Saturday May 16th. There will be some PG's (those who take 4 courses) who may be able to depart Wednesday afternoon. Parents and guardians are asked to coordinate travel plans as soon as possible with Mrs. Page.

From the School Chaplain:

There will be a wide variety of programs this quarter offered through the Chaplain's Office. The cultural program for March is a celebration of Caribbean music. The Carnival Trio brings their "Caribbean Steel Drum" program to campus - what a great way to rejoice that this long winter seems to be coming to an end! Not to forget that we are still in the Lenten Season, there will be a Lenten Service of Reconciliation in the final week of March and just before the Easter break there will be the Easter Assembly. Because of conflict with the Jewish High Holidays our plans to offer an interfaith panel had to be changed. Instead, part of that assembly will be a presentation on the extraordinary work of the Central Asian Institute which was founded by Greg Mortenson. Greg's amazing personal story and his wonderful work are told in the *New York Times* bestseller ***Three Cups of Tea***. Well worth reading! After the break we will have our first All School Talent Program. The April 23rd program should be a day to remember! April ends with Msgr. Thomas Bride, Vice General of the Diocese of Norwich, joining us on the occasion of the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation by 9 students. Of course the individual Masses for the dorms, the Confirmation preparation classes and the occasional student dinner help the weeks to pass all so quickly.

Sincerely,
Fr. Richard Gross, SJ

From the Academic Dean:

I hope this letter finds all of our families enjoying early spring. We celebrated our achievements with an All-School Assembly on Tuesday, March 17th. During this assembly, we recognized all of the fine work that our students have accomplished in and out of the classroom. Typically, the assembly is followed by a steak dinner at the Founder's house for all the students who earned a spot on an Honor Roll.

As we enter the fourth quarter it is important to begin planning for what lies ahead. The next eight weeks are full of exciting and important events as the seniors and post-graduates prepare for college, the juniors prepare for the SATs and the entire community readies for the spring athletic season, Spring Spree Day, Awards Day and Graduation. It is an exciting but busy time.

Our juniors are also preparing for the future. On April 3rd, the class will attend the College Fair in Hartford, Connecticut. This is one of the largest fairs in the area featuring almost four hundred different colleges and universities. This trip provides the students with a real experience to kick off their college selection process. In their English and math classes, they are preparing for the SAT test in May. The educator from Learning Skills is currently teaching their SAT program to registered students.

In the next few weeks, I will be meeting with all returning students to select courses for the 2009 – 2010 school year. As always, please feel free to contact your son's teachers or advisor with any questions or concerns. I wish you a relaxing spring and I look forward to seeing you at some of upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steve Davis, Academic Dean

College Placement Updates:

I am also excited about some of the new things that will be taking place in the College Placement Office in the next few months. I would like to announce that I will be one of the three college placement counselors. The College Placement Office continues to find better ways of making the college application process an exciting and rewarding venture with the ultimate goal being our students getting accepted into college. The College Placement Office will be introducing our students to a database program that allows you to plan and track your college application process. This system will allow our students, families and staff to manage, guide and plan their college future with the use of NAVIANCE: WorkspaceK12.

What exactly is NAVIANCE: WorkspaceK12? NAVIANCE is a web-based design program that allows student, parents and school counselors to communicate and to analyze student academic information. Students and parents will be able to review and manage critical information that is used for college admissions. It also provides a hands-on means to track your son's progress and also work closely with planning his future. For further information on NAVIANCE: WorkspaceK12 go to their website at www.naviance.com or contact Mr. Allen directly.

Another item worth mentioning is the upcoming National College Fair for juniors being held in Hartford, Connecticut in April. This is a wonderful opportunity for you as parents to explore future possibilities with your son. In discussions with your child include questions like: 1. What is required for success in life? 2. What are the characteristics you look for in a college? The most important aspect of this exercise is for you to open up a dialog with your teen about their dreams, aspirations, desires and goals for life. These questions should be followed up with: What are the skills and tools required to achieve these goals? The last question to discuss would be: Where do you go to acquire these skills and tools? To answer this question, alternatives include military services, trade schools, technical schools, community colleges, four year colleges, and universities or a combination of these resources. These are just some of the questions that you and your teen should start to research together to start thinking about and preparing for his future.

Upcoming Events & Dates:

Friday April 3 rd -	National College Fair for all Juniors
Thursday April 9 – Sunday 19 th	Grades Close for 4 th Qtr. Progress Reports
Saturday April 25 th -	Easter Break
Saturday May 2 nd -	Spring Spree / Alumni Weekend
Wednesday May 6 th -	SAT Testing for all Juniors
May 12 – 14 th	Awards Day
Thursday May 14 th	Chancellor's Hammer Field Day
Saturday May 16 th	Senior / PG Exams
May 27 – 29 th	Seniors and PG's Depart
	Graduation
	Undergraduate Exams
May 29 th	@ 2:30pm, SUMMER BEGINS!!!

From the Athletic Director:

The spring season has begun. Our first games are not until the end of the month. The teams are challenged because of the weather, they are adapting on a daily basis whether to practice inside or outside. All our teams are working hard toward successful seasons, I just hope the weather stays in our favor throughout the spring.

Sincerely,
Mr. Don Handler, Athletic Director

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.

STM Attendance Policy:

Now that we are 3/4 of the way through the school year, it is important to keep the school's attendance policy in mind. The school may deny credit once a student exceeds 15 absences. Please contact Mrs. Pauline Burdick, School Registrar, if you would like to get an updated absence count on your son. Attendance letters are enclosed in this mailing for students who are close to the 15 absence limit.

Summer Academic Camp 2009:

The 2009 Summer Academic Camp is scheduled to begin on Sunday June 29th, 2009. The five-week session is a unique opportunity for students to earn credit for courses already taken, to remediate skills in certain areas and to preview courses for the upcoming school year. The structure of the camp provides for academics in the morning and a "traditional" summer camp in the afternoon. Nightly study hall, resembling the study halls during the regular school year, is also held six nights a week. Wednesday half-day and Sunday full-day field trips are also programmed into the camp. A day-student program is also being added to this year's Summer Academic Camp. Please contact Mr. Timothy Riordan, Director of Admissions, for more information.

From the School Counselor:

I have been reinforcing my role as school counselor by attending a monthly workshop at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut, where local boarding school counselors can discuss and triage relevant issues. During the course of the academic year, there are regularly scheduled Residential Assistants (RA) meetings to discuss and address student concerns and residential life issues. This office has been a busy place for students to go to discuss their academic concerns, personal issues, coping with stress, conflict resolution, review prospects for college, and to seek advice on complicated situations.

In the following weeks, this office will be reviewing and interviewing RA's for next year. The final selection process will be done during the staff meeting prior to the Easter Break. Have a safe and wonderful Easter Break! Please feel free to contact me at mallen@stmct.org or (860) 859-1900 x123.

Mr. Mark Allen, School Counselor

From the Health Office:

Mrs. Lynn Cole has left the school to take a job that allows her to spend more time with her family. The school is thankful to Mrs. Cole for her years of service to the school, the students and the community. St. Thomas More School is a better place because of Lynn's dedication and caring.

After a thorough search, we have hired Mrs. Margaret Gayda as our next school nurse. A native of Waterford, CT, Mrs. Gayda comes highly recommended and qualified. She will begin her duties on April 6, 2009. Until such time, Mrs. Sue Davenport will assume all nursing duties. Please be understanding of the time constraints Sue will have and the learning curve of our new nurse.

Once Mrs. Gayda begins on April 6th, she can be contacted at:

Email: mgayda@stmct.org

Phone: 860-859-1900, extension 136

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.



Enclosed with this mailing you will find...:

- Your son's third marking period report card with comments from his teachers.
- A letter from your son's advisor.
- February Chancellor's Club
- 3rd Marking Period Chancellor's Club
- Your son's 3rd Marking Period Discipline Report, if applicable
- Attendance Letter- for those students who are close to the 15 absence limit

Athletic Notes:

Varsity Baseball (Head Coach- Mr. Gabe Rotman):

The baseball season is underway and we were finally able to get outside for the first time this week. The boys are eager to begin playing games and have been working hard in the gym. The team should be competitive this year with a good mix of both upperclassmen, and some underclassmen looking to contribute. Our first game of the season is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st at University of Hartford against the Watkinson School. During the first weekend in May, we will be traveling up to Maine, staying overnight and playing games on Friday and Saturday. I am looking forward to an enjoyable and successful season with the team.

JV Baseball (Head Coach- Mr. Dan Johnson):

The Junior Varsity baseball team finally had its first outdoor practice on Monday March 16. The players have been working hard indoors, in the gym, but were relieved and excited to finally get out and take some ground balls and pop-ups in the sunshine. The players are all looking forward to a fun-filled season and are hoping for a winning record. We know we will have a great time playing "America's past time," and the coaches and the players will be ready when the umpires finally yell, "Play Ball!"

Track & Field (Head Coach- Mr. Columbus):

The Chancellor Track team looks to build off its impressive 3rd place finish in SENE Conference last year. The team has a strong group of returnees that look to lead the team. That list includes Wei-Cha Chen, Seungbum Jin, Jun Jie Kang, Jong Seo Ki, Po-Cheng Lin, Yi Liang Lin, Mo Sun and Yon Kwon Park. The team has some promising newcomers such as, Andrew Douby, Tochukwu Egesi, Xi Lin, Jonathan Louis, Heshima Harris, Irving Fayman, Colin Foster, Reginald Gaunichaux, Brandon DaCosta and Bilal Pankey.

Overall the team looks to be strong in the sprints and the jumps and is showing promise in the distance and throwing events. The team will compete in numerous New England Prep School and locate high school meets including the Ledyard Relays. This meet is a new and exciting opportunity for the Chancellor's to compete against some of the top local teams in an all relay meet.

Lacrosse (Head Coach- Mr. Jon Hastings):

The lacrosse team has started and with the new additions to the team look poised to make a push in a very competitive SENE league. Bryan Philippon, Devlin Houlihan and Jake Lyons are the leading returnees with Chuck Shenberger, Zach Pierce, and Tom Kooris adding to a very good nucleus. The new lax players have been working hard to increase their talent level.

Varsity Basketball

The Basketball season ended with the Chancellors once again showing that they are always one of the top teams in the SENE. The team finished with a record of 15- 7 lead by the two big men, Zachary Pierce and Jonathan Louis. Both had great pushes at the end of the year. Zachary made great growth as a sophomore, and will be one of the future leaders. Collin Foster was also a major contributor throughout the year as an all-around player. He ran the point and 2 guard controlling the flow of the game. Da'Quan Grant, a freshman, also made great strides throughout the year. As he matures he will be a player not to be messed with. The Chancellors made it to their conference finals before falling to PCD.

Boating (Head Coach- Mr. Jason Tighe):

The spring season beckons all boaters to enjoy the unique challenging fun on the beautiful waters of our own Gardner Lake. Our students have the opportunity to use the sailboats, kayaks, canoes, and paddle-boats. We learn the basics of boating safety, proper equipment use and care as well as wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. We use the buddy system and everyone is required to wear a personal flotation device while engaged in the activity. We address the affect of wind and waves on the boating experience and how to best handle these conditions. We learn proper launch and recovery techniques of each type of boat. We will also greatly appreciate our interactive time with nature.

Dorm Blogs:

Kennedy 1 (Dorm Parents- Mr. Rotman and Mr. Matt Quinn):

The Kennedy One students have continued to build our community and develop strong friendships throughout the third quarter. They have continued to try and create a friendly and positive atmosphere, allowing even some newcomers to feel at home. The hall has done a nice job participating in the schools first ever color wars, and many of the Kennedy One students have enjoyed this activity so far. We had a Super Bowl party during the game, which the students seemed to really enjoy. During the third quarter it can start to become a little difficult living with each other and frustrations can mount over the long winter, but the students have done a nice job overcoming those obstacles. Over the start of the fourth quarter we will continue to cover more life skills in our residential meetings and have an upcoming NCAA National Championship party. It has been a great year so far and I hope the students finish it strong.

Sincerely,
Mr. Gabe Rotman

Mr. Matt Quinn

Kennedy 2 (Dorm Parents- Mr. Jelani and Mr. Gerowitz):

The year seems to be flying by; it is hard to believe that it is already March and spring is in the air. We have gotten through the most difficult stretch of the school year. We have a couple of events scheduled for the kids, movie nights and open gym lined up in addition to the annual Kennedy 2 March madness challenge. We are looking forward to more activities throughout the school year and thoroughly enjoy having your kids on the floor.

Sincerely,
Mr. Enrico Jelani

Mr. Mike Gerowitz

Edmunds 1 (Dorm Parents- Mr. and Mrs. Florencio):

It's an exciting time here on E1 at the end of the third quarter. Most of the young men have started to receive their college acceptance letters, and every day seems to bring more announcements of where the boys will be going next fall ... along with some interesting discussions of their new college rivalries. Now that March has arrived, much of the talk on the floor is of spring sports, the NCAA tournament and the upcoming MLB baseball season. Needless to say, the Red Sox / Yankees rivalry is heating up as usual, but with kids from across the country and the world on our floor, other teams are represented as well. Occasionally, talk of Easter break and plans for summer vacation can be heard. All of us are looking forward to some warmer weather and the sight of green grass after a long snowy winter. Graduation for the guys is now only weeks away and any talk of the big event brings smiles across the floor. Academically, the guys generally seem to understand what's at stake and are ready for the final push to the end of the school year.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Florencio

Edmunds 2 (Dorm Parents- Mr. and Mrs. L'Heureux):

Edmunds 2 remains the premier dorm floor at STM. There have been no major disciplinary problems on the floor. Students have been doing their work, as attested by the exemplary evening study halls and the fact that a number of doors were closed as a result of the third marking period grades. Students have been very positive and respectful to both myself and Mrs. L'Heureux.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. L'Heureux

Benes 1 (Dorm Parent- Mr. Hastings):

The Benes 1 dorm floor has been very active throughout the third quarter. Dorm meetings discussing a range of topics have kept the students engaged and a renewed sense of ownership in the dorm and community. The Super Bowl party the floor had went very well with the help of Mr. Tar who supplied some food as well as Mr. Hastings. The students were split between wanting the Cardinals or the Steelers to win with the Steelers fans ending up a bit happier than the others. Athletics for the winter ended, but many of the students on B1 have decided to play competitive sports in the spring as well. Jake Lyons, John Munsey, Marith Norodom, Dan Gauthier, and Jose Borbon came out for the lacrosse team and Brian Freeman and Dominic Walmsley are participating in baseball this spring. Mr. Hastings will be tag-teaming with Mr. Ladd to have an International Festival to give the students an opportunity to try foods from different countries around the world. The festival will be in April and is inspired by Jose and a number of Korean and Taiwanese students living on the dorm floor.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jonathan Hastings

Benes 2 (Dorm Parents- Mr. and Mrs. Ladd):

The members of our community on Benedict II have been getting along well. We have had meetings on racial discrimination and related issues, respect for property, and most recently mental health issues, such as depression. We talked about some of the warning signs of depression and how people change the way they look at things to overcome it. It was an interesting discussion. On some Mondays we spend some time playing dodge ball in the gym right before study hall as a change of pace. The boys know that this third term is an opportunity for a new beginning and for continued improvement on the previous term. I feel that we have built up an atmosphere of trust where conflicts are getting resolved before they escalate. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at gladd@stmct.org.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Ladd

Chancellors Club

February 2009

Hyungsun An
Kevin Baker
Thomas Capraro
Joe Cardarelli
Elliot Chandler
Shang-Wei Chen
Wei Chia Chen
Xiaohan Chen
Yu Tzu Chou
Brandon DaCosta
Steven Davis
Sijabuliso Dube
Todd Fleming
Nicholas Fournier
Brian Freeman
Edward Gaffney
Reginald Gaunichaux
Daniel Gauthier
Mark Gomez
Alvin Hageman
Robert Harrigan
Alejandro Iberri
Daniel Jackson
Jeffrey Janoski
Prosper Jeanphilippe
Daniel Johnson, Jr.
Jun Jie Kang
John Kerwin
Jong Seo Ki
Yoon Seo Ki
Dong Hee Kim
Sung Hun Kim
Ryan Klingenberg
Parker Klorczyk
Paul Knudsen
Thomas Kooris
Jeremy Krueger

Haemin Lee
Ho Chan Lee
Jae Won Lee
Sang Jun Lee
Po Cheng Lin
Jia Cheng Lou
Jonathan Louis
Yen Ting Lu
Jake Lyons
Michael Malia
Frank Marchiano
Sam Markle
Remy Menard
Marith Norodom
Sang Jun Oh
Harvey Pannell, Jr.
Nicholas Price
Kyle Quinn
Charles Shenberger
Yeong Jin Shin
Matthew Sieminski
Hsin Li Sun
Mo Sun
Devon Sutherland
Mac Swain
Zeming Teng
Guang Chao Wang
Chi Yang Wu
Yu Chen Wu
Li Wu Ying
Da Yang Wu
Scott Zakrzewski
Yu Shi Zhang
Wen Jie Zhong