



St. Thomas Aquinas Academy

COLORADO'S CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

442 South Pierson Street Lakewood, Colorado 80226 | www.aquinashomeschool.weebly.com

May 18, 2021

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Families,

Welcome, welcome to the end (or continuation) of another school year and the all-too-soon beginning of another. I pray that this letter finds you joyful as we come to the end of our Easter season in the next few days. I know joy is something that sounds like a foreign concept as we continue to remain in these days of masks and vaccines. But we are an Easter people, ever rejoicing in Our Almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ever adoring and trusting in the Holy Trinity's care and love of us, their children.

It is an understatement to say that this winter/spring has been a terrible challenge as our everyday living has been turned upside down and inside out. So much to challenge our resolve, but this is where our faithfulness and fidelity to God comes in. The proverbial "where the rubber meets the road" in our faithfulness to all that we hold to be our abiding truths in Our Lord; trust, charity, mercy, patience, wisdom... Never before in our lifetimes have we been challenged like we have this last year of 2020. Talk about no control or if there was any, it wasn't much. We placed ourselves and continue to place ourselves in the loving arms of Our Heavenly Father and surrender in peace to what comes next or at least that is the hope for each new day in a Catholic life in a pandemic. Well, summer will soon be upon us and maybe we will find more peace in the beautiful blooming world around us. The grass is so green and playful song of the birds are so welcome. Every early morning, I hear the American Robin singing his praises to God for another new day, and I am quickly reminded to do the same.

So onto our business. On the STAA website you will find the **enrollment forms** for **2021-22** which can be printed for each family that is enrolling, and attendance sheets that can be used for the all the children being schooled if they share the same days of study. Please submit your enrollment forms for the coming school year by **September 1st, 2021** or contact me if you would like an extension. All **attendance forms** for this **2020-21** school year are due on **June 30th, 2021**. If you **school year-round**, please use the June 30th date as way to mark the end of one school year and the begin of the next.

Your enrollment papers may be mailed to me or scanned and emailed, and you have the option to make your enrollment fee of \$30 per school year per family by making

Helen Swavely catswave7@gmail.com
Administrator 303.263.3289



payments online or you may pay the enrollment fee by check. Please make all checks payable to *Helen Swavely, STAA*. Once payment online is made, you can mail your enrollment papers to the address listed on the letterhead of this letter. Oh, and please if ever the enrollment fee of **\$30** is ever a hardship for your family, please contact me as there are scholarships that can be applied.

Thank you all again for being part of the STAA family and know you are in our family's daily prayers. May you all have a blessed and restful summer! Please never hesitate to contact me to assist you in navigating the state homeschooling laws. God Bless You and your families with a happy school year to come!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Helen M. Swavely'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Director, St. Thomas Aquinas Academy



May 2021

Dear STAA Families,

Good day, my friends in Christ. I wanted to update you on information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and STAA stand on this. I was informed a few weeks ago that some colleges and universities will be requiring students to be vaccinated with the new COVID vaccine in order to attend classes in the fall of this year. The representative at HSLDA that I spoke to about this said that this may be a requirement of all students at all school levels, elementary to college, for the coming school year. With that as a possibility, I wanted to assure you that St. Thomas Aquinas Academy remains unchanged regarding vaccinations. The state laws do not require independent school students to be vaccinated and we at STAA will never require that you vaccinate your children if your choice to participate in the exemptions. And speaking of exemptions the current exemption form for non-medical exemptions does not have COVID-19 on the list of vaccinations. I encourage you to write it in at the bottom of the list of vaccination exemptions. If you do not want to send in an updated vaccination exemption, please feel free to write a letter to include in your enrollment forms for this school year stating your exemption from the COVID vaccine. Also if your children have received the vaccine or any other vaccines, please feel free to send me your updated forms. The COVID vaccine is a point of contention for many of us, but please be assured that STAA respects each families decision to choose what is best for your family.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation, and as always, do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. Thank you dearly!

God's Blessings,
Helen M Swavely
Director, STAA

Links for Exemption Immunization forms for 2021-22:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UdHc39zCBmuyeBBjxShHa15mG-Ea9yFG/view>