

reCONNECT

SUMMER 2023 ST THOMAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN

In the back of your Bible you may have a map of the path that the Israelites took when God delivered them out of Egypt. As they made their way to the Promised Land, they took a few twists and turns that most of us would agree were not a direct route. The route they followed looks inefficient and seems to show vast confusion and a lack of planning.

However, we know that the Israelites were following God's commands. He told them when to turn left or right, when to follow a certain path and avoid another. It was under his directive that they made their way to their final destination. And when we think about God's all knowing sovereignty, we realize that the route did not show confusion or spontaneity, but was the well thought-out plan of God that existed in his mind long before he called his people to follow it. It was the fulfillment of his good and perfect plan.

Sometimes it seems as though our school is on a non-direct route. We have experienced tremendous joys and tremendous pain. We have laboured to build a new addition and then quickly run out of space. We have hired and trained beloved staff who have had to leave for various circumstances. Each year holds new blessings and new trials that seem to throw our path 'off course' and force us back to the drawing board.

However, we can have every confidence that just as he led the Israelites on their journey, he has been leading us on ours. Every step forward and step back is part of his good purpose. And we can trust that just as he promised he would lead the Israelites to where they needed to be, he will lead STCCS. We know that his plan for our school is far higher and wiser than our own, and we continue to seek his will for our school as we approach each new school year.



UPCOMING
EVENTS



VOLUNTEER
@ STCCS



FIRST
DAY

CONTACT US:

 (519) 633-0690



INFO@STTHOMASCHRISTIAN.ORG



UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at our first few community events of the year. Be sure to mark down these dates in your fall calendar!

Did you know that we have a Facebook Page dedicated to school events?

Check out [@STCCS](#) to keep up to date with what's going on in our community.



SEPTEMBER

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

We hope you will join us for our annual back to school bbq on **Friday, September 15th**. More details concerning location and time will be communicated during the first week of school. But please save this date to come out and fellowship with other parents, staff, and get to know our community better.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Our fundraising season of 2023-24 is kicking off with a community favourite. We hope you will join us on the field or in the stands on **Saturday, September 16th** for our co-ed baseball tournament. You can find all the information you need on our [@STCCS facebook page](#) and in your inbox in the first September Newsletter.

CHOCOLATE BARS

Chocolate bars are back! This is one of our most popular fundraising events that our elementary and middle school students love to participate in. We encourage you to help your children reach out to neighbours, friends, and family to sell as many chocolate bars as possible!

MINI PUTT TOURNAMENT

We hope you will join us for our first-ever mini putt tournament. This event is ideal for families as it's taking place on the first PD day of the year - **Friday, September 29th**. Keep an eye on the first newsletter in September for more details about this exciting event that will take place at the Putting Zoo here in St. Thomas! All ages welcome!

GRADUATING CLASSES OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Our students in our graduating classes - grades 8 and 12 - will each take part in an overnight trip in September to promote unity and teamwork as they begin their year together. Our grade 8 students will spend 2 nights at Camp Mini-Yo-We from **September 18th-20th** and our grade 12 students will spend one night in Point Peele from **September 27th-28th**. More details will be sent home to specific classes in a few weeks, but please mark these dates on your calendar if your child is in grade 8 or 12.

volunteering @STCCS

A message from the Parent Volunteer Committee:

An important aspect of our school community that helps us ensure the success of our students and our school is an engaged community. Our school is working towards increasing volunteerism at STCCS and increasing the community's connection with the school. As part of this process the Parent Volunteer Committee (or PVC) has been formed to share volunteer opportunities with the school community and organize volunteer workgroups. Currently the PVC is looking for parents and community members to participate in the following activities/opportunities: Back to School Barbecue, the Yearbook, In-School Reading Support at North Campus, Landscape Committee (North Campus), Hot Lunch Committee.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the school this year, including the above mentioned opportunities, please reach out by emailing parentpartnership@stthomaschristian.org or texting Heather at 519-860-4259.

Thank you,

Rachael Weesjes and Heather McCallum

Parent Partnership Committee 2023 Co-chairs

Coaching

We will also be looking for coaches this year for a variety of sports throughout all our grades. If you have a particular sport you would like to help coach, please let us know. Because our sport teams are dependent on the amount of interest we have from our students, a full list of teams is not currently available. But if you are excited about a certain area, please let us know by sending an email to Jen Pennings-

jenpennings@stthomaschristian.org.

Staff Update

Mrs. Zylstra

Please help us welcome Mrs. Aileen Zylstra to our North Campus Office Administrative Team. Aileen has been a member of our school community for the past 8 years and has served on the board of directors for the last 4 years. Aileen has been volunteering in our North Campus Office one day a week for the last several years and is excited to step into a permanent position. Please stop into our North Campus office to help welcome Aileen.

Mrs. Zylstra and Mrs. Groenenberg will be sharing their time in the office, each working 50% of the week.



Mrs. VanHarten

Mrs. Andrea VanHarten is excited to join our Learning Support Team. Mrs. VanHarten will provide learning support for both our North and South Campus students, focusing on students in our elementary grades.

Mrs. DeWaal

Mrs. Rachel DeWaal will continue in her role as part of our Learning Support Team, however she will also be joining our administration team. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. DeWaal into this leadership role at North Campus.

first DAY



FIRST DAY DROP OFF

On the first day of school, our **students in Grades 1-8** can enjoy some time together outside in the school yard until the bell rings at 8:30am. Please remember that supervised drop off begins at 8:10am.

Our **Kindergarten students** will be met at the Kindergarten Drop Off Area by a school staff member and will be lead inside to their classroom.

Our **High School students** can be dropped off at the front doors of our South Campus and may come directly inside. Staff will be waiting for them in the Learning Commons to greet them.

KINDERGARTEN

ALL kindergarten students are invited to attend the first day of school.

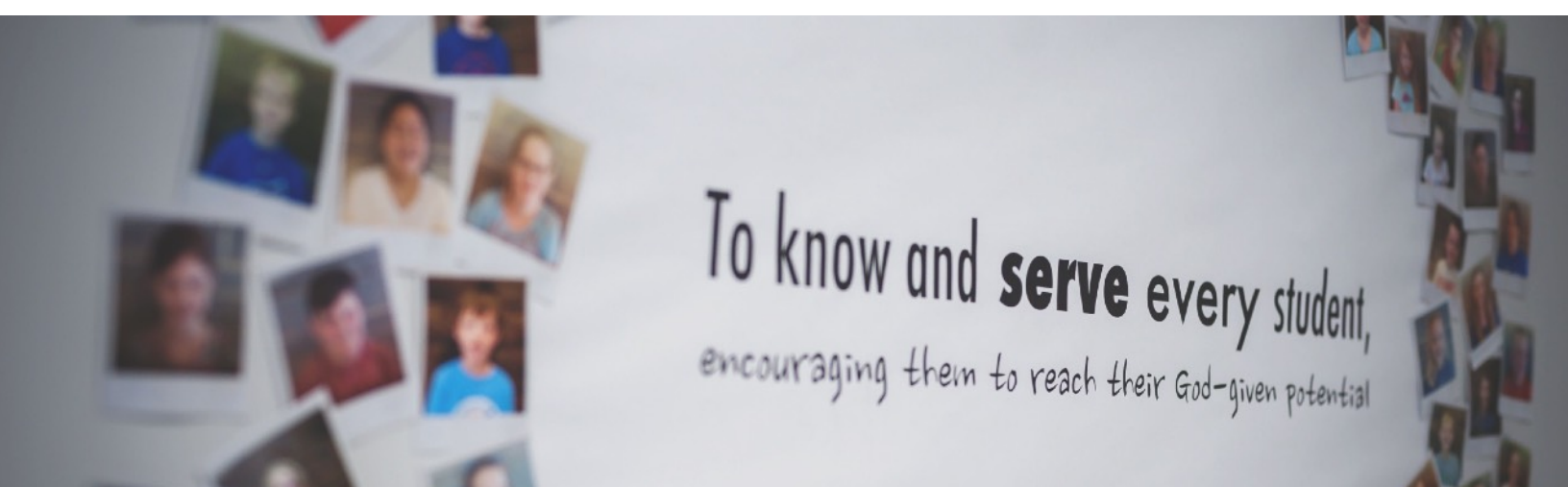
This year our part time kindergarten students will attend school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Due to the first day of school falling on a Tuesday, our part time Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for their first week.

We recognize that this may be overwhelming for some students so we encourage parents to use their own discretion when determining if their child will attend all three days. If you would like to only send your child for two days next week, please call the office to let us know.

CHAPEL

Our back to school chapel will take place on Tuesday morning at **9:30am at our South Campus** only. All parents are warmly welcomed to join us for the first South Campus chapel service of the year. We recognize that the timing between drop off and chapel is not ideal for parents, however we are prioritizing our students and their transition back to the classroom.

If you cannot make it to Tuesday's chapel, you are welcome to join us for our regularly scheduled weekly chapels beginning on Monday, September 11th at 8:45am at both campuses.



To know and **serve** every student,
encouraging them to reach their God-given potential