

# St. Thomas Aquinas CSS

## Grade Level Assembly



# Grade 9 Prayer

*As we begin our first year of high school we pray that our high school years will be filled with wonderful achievements.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Dear God, as we begin this experience, help us feel comfortable and relaxed in this new environment. We know we are here to receive a good education. We will learn both academically as well as spiritually. During our journey, may we have the confidence to share all our gifts and the courage and strength to live out who we truly are. Amen

*St Thomas Aquinas pray for us.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

# Grade 10 Prayer

*As we enter our second year of high school we feel a little more comfortable. We pray that this comfort will provide us with encouragement to follow our dreams and accomplish them.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Dear God, we pray that we never underestimate our capabilities. May we never hold back from seeking our dreams and making them a reality. We pray for the faith, confidence, strength, and determination to set our sights high and to achieve all that we dream of. May the next three years be filled with wonderful accomplishments and successes. May we do this together, as a community and as a family. Amen

*St Thomas Aquinas pray for us.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

# Grade 11 Prayer

*As we enter our third year of high school we pray for the insight and energy to make these last years successful.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Dear God, during this important year may we be constantly encouraged to do the best we can. As we feel more comfortable and confident as grade eleven students, help us to develop and nurture our own gifts. May we have the courage to stand up for what we believe in, and the compassion to reach out and help others. Give us the faith to be open to the voice of the Spirit. We pray that this year be filled with our greatest blessings and that we enjoy and share them, together as a community and as a family. Amen.

*St Thomas Aquinas pray for us.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

# Grade 12 Prayer

*As we enter our last year of high school we strive to make this a year filled with success.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

Dear God, as we faced this last year of high school, bless each of us with strength and enthusiasm. May we tackle this year with energy and a strong commitment to succeed. May we each do our personal best, giving all we can give. Finally, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May all our decisions be well thought out, filled with good counsel, and open to the Spirit. Amen

*St Thomas Aquinas pray for us.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

# Daily Schedule - Be on time!

**WARNING BELL 8:15 AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS 8:20 to 8:25 AM**

Period 1 8:25 am - 9:40 am

Period 2 9:44 am - 10:59 am

Period 3 11:03 am - 12:18 pm

Period 3 Lunch  
Grades 9 & 11 11:03 am - 11:53 am

Period 4 11:53 am - 1:08 pm

Period 4 Lunch  
Grades 10 & 12 12:18 pm - 1:08 pm

Period 5 1:12 pm - 2:27 pm



# Be informed, stay connected

- ▶ **STA Website & STA app**

- ▶ [sta.hcdsb.org](http://sta.hcdsb.org)

- ▶ **Twitter**

- ▶ @STAOakville
  - ▶ @ibstaoakville

- ▶ **Facebook**

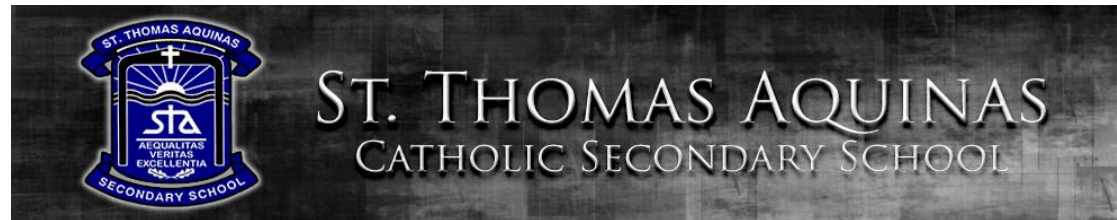
- ▶ St. Thomas Aquinas Oakville

- ▶ **YouTube**

- ▶ STA Oakville

- ▶ **Instagram**

- ▶ @Staoakvillehcdsb
  - ▶ @PrincipalMoro



# Safety Protocols

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

**Stay home if:**

**You are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 as per the **COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool** [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](#)**





# Safety Protocols

## **HCDSB COVID-19 Guide**

It is recommended that students continue to self-screen everyday before attending school using the **COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool** [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening)

**Students must stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.**



# Safety Protocols

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

Masks will not be required for students, staff and visitors in schools, or on student transportation.

Masks may be required if there is an increased risk of exposure or when required/directed by Public Health.

Masks may also be required as directed in the [COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](#)  
[COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](#)

Schools will continue to provide masks for students who choose to wear masks.



# Safety Protocols

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

You should continue to wear a mask if:

- You feel it is right for you.
- You are at high risk for severe illness.
- You are recovering COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- You are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Always follow the direction of the **COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool** [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/school-screening)



# Safety Protocols

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

Appropriate hand hygiene should always be followed.

Soap and water is preferred when hands are visibly soiled.

Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol if handwashing is not possible.

Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the school.



# Safety Protocol

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

**Appropriate respiratory etiquette should also be followed (sneezing/coughing into your elbow, discarding of used tissues in wastebaskets, etc.)**



# Safety Protocol

## HCDSB COVID-19 Guide

**Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT's) will be available in the main office.**



# Get Involved in Co-Curricular Activities!

## ATHLETICS

Cross Country  
Jr/Sr Boys Football  
Jr/Sr Basketball (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Girls Field Hockey  
Jr/Sr Volleyball (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Basketball (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Tennis (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Rugby (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Soccer (M/F)  
Jr/Sr Hockey (M/F)  
Girls Softball  
Cross Country  
Midget Boys' Basketball  
Track & Field

## Clubs / Teams / Committees

Art Club  
Athletic Council  
Best Buddies  
Breakfast Club  
Book Club  
Chess Club  
Choir  
Concert Band  
Dance Team  
DECA Business Club  
Eco Club  
Fishing Club  
French Club  
Graduation Committee  
Mock Trial Team  
Mathematics Contests

Physics Club  
Prism Action Committee  
Raiders for Life  
Rams (Mentors)  
Rock & Roll Club  
Social Justice Council  
SOMA  
Spanish Club  
Students of Service  
STArt Council  
Student Council  
Table Tennis Club  
Team Unbreakable  
Tech Crew  
Theatre Aquinas  
Wood Shop Club



**Go Raiders Go!**

# School Uniform Policy



- ▶ We proudly represent our STA community at school and outside school by wearing the full uniform.
- ▶ This includes from the time of arrival to the end of period 5, including **lunch periods**.
- ▶ [McCarthy Uniforms](#) is our uniform provider.
- ▶ [School Uniform Policy](#) can be found on the school web page.



# Attendance - You belong here!

*Research has shown a strong connection between attendance and achievement.*

- ▶ If you are absent: have your parent/guardian report your absence via the school messenger app.
- ▶ If you become ill during the day, report to the attendance office.
- ▶ Students cannot leave the building without being signed out through the attendance office.
- ▶ When students are signed out, they must leave the school building.





# Attendance - Unexplained Absences

- ▶ The day following an unexplained absence, the teacher will direct the student to the office.
- ▶ The vice principal will meet with the student and discuss progressive discipline.
- ▶ Parent/Guardian will be informed.



# Code of Conduct

## ▶ HCDSB Code of Conduct

- ▶ **Students** are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they must demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship through acceptable behaviour. Respect and responsibility are demonstrated when a student:
  - comes to school prepared, on time and ready to learn
  - shows respect for others and for those in authority
  - refrains from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others
  - follow the established rules and takes responsibility for his or her own actions

# Code of Conduct continued

- upholds the Ontario Human Rights Code and helps to create an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment
- refrains from:
  - using harmful language or behaviour which may be intentional or unintentional. The Ontario Human Rights Code focuses on impact. Even if a person does not explicitly object to the comment or behaviour, it can be construed as harassment and must be addressed appropriately
  - making epithets, remarks, jokes or innuendos related to a person's race, gender identify, gender expression, disability, sex, sexual orientation, creed, age, and/or any other Code-protected ground
  - posting or circulating offensive/harmful pictures, graffiti or materials, whether in print form, via e-mail or other electronic means
  - singling out a person by humiliating, demeaning, "teasing" or humor because they are a member of a Code-protected group
  - making comments ridiculing a person because of characteristics that are related to a Code-protected ground of discrimination (for example, this could include comments about a person's dress, speech or other practices that may be related to their sex, race, gender identity or creed)

## What to Do When You Witness Harmful Language or Behaviour?

### Four Steps to Responding to Discrimination

#### DISRUPT & NAME

- Stop the discriminatory language or behaviour.
- Identify the infringement on human dignity and name the behaviour.
- Be specific (e.g. that language sounds racist).
- Ensure that all partners who witnessed the incident hear you disrupting and naming it.

#### DOCUMENT & ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

- Record details of the incident.
- Meet all parties of the incident.
- Report to your Supervisor.
- Refer to the Code of Conduct for HCDSB to ensure accountability.



#### EXPLAIN & SUPPORT

- We all have a right to those things which are required by human dignity.
- Recognize and explain why the language is harmful in the context of Catholic Teaching and the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Support the student or staff who has experienced the discriminatory comment or behaviour.
- Ask the student or staff what they need to feel supported.

#### REFLECT & RESTORE

- Identify factors and systemic barriers to promote equity and justice.
- Prioritize the common good and restore community.
- Provide ongoing capacity building and education.

The HCDSB has established a four-step process for staff and students to follow when they witness harmful language or behaviour.

If you have experienced a hate or bias motivated incident, be sure to tell a trusted adult at the school or report the incident online.

# Fighting/Violence/Weapons

- Under no circumstances should one student strike another student with any object. This includes punching, kicking, shoving, slapping, or throwing an object.
- Whether intentional, playful, or otherwise, these actions will not be tolerated and will result in school consequences.
- Students are not permitted to bring weapons of any kind into the school. This includes multi-tool devices/pens (Swiss Army Tools) that have blades in them.

# Lockers

- ▶ Each student has been assigned a locker; no sharing of lockers.
- ▶ Must use a school issued lock; come to the office if you need one or reach out to your period 1 teacher.
- ▶ Keep them clean and organized; discard any garbage (food) immediately.
- ▶ Contact the office if you have forgotten your locker combination or need a new lock (replacement cost: \$8)





# Exterior Doors and Visitors

- ▶ Exterior doors will be kept locked all day with the exception of the main doors
- ▶ Do not prop open doors--they are locked for safety purposes.
- ▶ Visit your friends off school property.
- ▶ Visitors are not permitted on our property unless previously approved.
- ▶ Any visitors to our school (including parents/guardians) must sign in at the main office
- ▶ Unwanted visitors may be issued a trespass letter.



# Drills and Evacuations



- ▶ Multiple and varied drills throughout the year.
- ▶ Take all drills seriously; they could save your life.
- ▶ Remain calm and follow the instructions of staff.
- ▶ Remain silent.
- ▶ During a lockdown, if out of classroom - seek shelter or stay out of sight.
- ▶ Turn off all electronic devices - the school will notify parents - call 911 only if you have vital info.

# Smoking/Vaping/Electronic Cigarettes/Chewing Tobacco

- ▶ Provincial law makes it illegal to smoke, use chewing tobacco, or vape on school property
- ▶ Students are prohibited from smoking, use chewing tobacco, or vaping on school buses, in school buildings, on school grounds, in vehicles parked on school grounds, as well as during school activities, including field trips and sporting events.
- ▶ Students who commit a smoking infraction will meet with administration to discuss progressive discipline consequences. **NOTE:** possession of smoking related paraphernalia will be treated in the same manner.
- ▶ Repeated infractions may lead to school suspension and/or a ticket (\$300) from the Public Health Department Inspector.



# Bullying

- ▶ [Policy II-40 Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#)
- ▶ Bullying is defined as a form of (typically) repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.
- ▶ Behaviour can take different forms: physical, verbal, social or electronic (cyber bullying).
- ▶ Bullying will not be tolerated in any form. Remember that Social Media posts are PUBLIC
- ▶ Please report all concerns to a teacher or administrator who will follow-up in a timely manner.
- ▶ The school board is developing a form for students to report a hate or bias motivated incidents.



# Electronic Devices

- ▶ Policy I-43 Use of Technology and Digital Citizenship
- ▶ To be used for educational purposes - always follow the direction of the classroom teacher and school administration with respect to the use of electronic devices in the school.
- ▶ Respect all privacy laws.
- ▶ School is *not* responsible for lost or stolen devices.
- ▶ Return borrowed devices to your teacher or Mrs. Dennis in the library.



# Food Allergies/Medical Concerns/Cafeteria

- ▶ We have students with life threatening allergies to peanut and other tree nuts.
- ▶ Do not bring any food containing peanut or any tree nut to the school.
- ▶ Anyone with a medical condition (such as Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis, or Epilepsy) that has not completed the necessary paperwork, please pick up the forms after the assembly from the main office. If we have your info and nothing has changed, there is also a form that needs to be completed - also, pick up from office.
- ▶ School bags not permitted in the cafeteria.
- ▶ Uber eats and other food delivery services may only be delivered during lunch periods and drivers must be met outside the building (they are unapproved visitors).



# Respect All Staff

- ▶ Teachers, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria staff and school bus drivers provide a variety of valuable services for students. Students are expected to be respectful of all staff and always follow their direction.
- ▶ Commissionaires
  - ▶ Extra sets of eyes and ears to ensure the safety of all our staff and students.
  - ▶ Always follow their instructions.



# Community Behavior during lunch and after school

- ▶ Be respectful in the school community
- ▶ Students are easily identifiable in the school uniform
- ▶ Be aware of your language and your environment when in the public domain



# Caring Adults

- ▶ Student Services - Mr. McConville, Mrs. Webber, Mrs. Ferguson
- ▶ Student Success - Mr. Culina
- ▶ Special Education - Ms. Mulligan
- ▶ IB Department: Mrs. Power, Mrs. Subic
- ▶ Social Worker - Mrs. Sandovski
- ▶ CYC - Mrs. Da Silva
- ▶ Chaplain - Mrs. Harkin
- ▶ Custodian - Miss Maria
- ▶ Commissionaire - Donna Ernest
- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Coaches
- ▶ Administration (Principal and VP's) Mrs. Moro, Mr. Montoya, Mrs. Munro, Mrs. Montanari
- ▶ If you are unsure who to go to—just ask! Relationship building is important; we can't help if we don't know!



# Have a Fantastic Semester, Raiders!



A graphic featuring wooden blocks arranged to spell out the phrase "GOD BLESS YOU". The first block in the top row is red with a white heart icon, while the other blocks are white with black letters. The blocks are arranged in three rows: "GOD" on the top row, "BLESS" on the middle row, and "YOU" on the bottom row. The blocks are slightly offset to the right, creating a staggered effect.