



Dear members of the St. Thomas More community,

Since being named pastor at STM, I have been strongly convicted that the Lord has inspired me to share His message of unity and His call to oneness. As a result, I have been working with our STM leadership team in a process of helping the various ministries at St. Thomas More become “One STM.”

Several projects have been initiated in an effort to bring about our community becoming “One STM.” We hired MESH, a national branding and marketing firm, to help us create a new visual identity for our parish. Their work will provide us with a unified brand and a common logo that will be shared by all ministries through the STM community. We have also hired Grace Hebert Architects to develop a campus master plan for the physical property at St. Thomas More. They have begun a process of planning that will unify our campus through landscape, buildings, parking, and traffic flow.

I am writing today to share another exciting way St. Thomas More will become “One STM” through our ministry of Catholic Education. For more than 35 years, the STM Preschool and the STM “Big School” (K-8) have operated as two separate entities. Beginning this fall, the two will become one as St. Thomas More School will serve students from age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Mr. Brian Moscona will serve as the Principal responsible for all students and faculty for our Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program. Vice Principal Mrs. Ashley McDaniel will oversee grades PreK through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and Assistant Principal Mrs. Ashley Schade will oversee grades 3-8. Mrs. Gretchen Thibodeaux will serve as the Preschool Coordinator managing the daily operations and logistics for our preschool students and faculty.

The STM Leadership Team has spent a lot of time thinking and praying about this decision, and we are confident that this will bring about wonderful benefits for our students, parents, and teachers. The process of bringing all aspects of these two schools into one will take some time, and the unification will occur gradually. Most of the daily operations will remain the same. However, you will begin seeing benefits in August with regard to communication, calendars, finance, handbooks, and websites.

In the near future, we will schedule a Preschool Open House for our current Preschool parents. We will have more detailed information to present at that time, and we certainly want to be responsive to any questions and/or concerns that Preschool parents may have about this change in school structure. We are confident that with active collaboration among school personnel and parents, we can manage this change so that it is beneficial for all members of our community, most especially the young people whom you entrust to our care.

The Early Learning Center (ELC) will continue to serve students from twelve weeks of age through age 3 under the leadership of current ELC Director Ms. Amy Moran. The renovation of the former rectory was delayed due to permitting. However, great progress has been made, and we hope to open the doors of our new ELC building by this summer.

I have full confidence in the educational leaders at St. Thomas More to bring about this unification process of the two schools as we become “One STM.” Thank you for your continued support of St. Thomas More. May God bless you all as we continue our Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter.

God bless,

Fr. Michael