



# St. Thomas Academy

Redmond, Oregon

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2013-14 School Year Annual Report



## Where Catholic beliefs and academic come together to promote excellence in education.

### A Message from Crystal Nuñez-Mooney • Principal

Thank you for your support of St. Thomas Academy. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year providing the opportunity of a Catholic based education in Redmond. In fall of 2012, we moved into our new facility, which increased our visibility of an alternate educational option for the families of Central Oregon. We provide academic excellence for Catholic and non-Catholic children from preschool (3 years old) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

It is our goal to provide quality education that not only focuses on academics but the development of the whole child. In addition to quality classroom instruction, our students receive a moral education, learn about service and giving to others, and to love the Lord and all His children. In order for our children to excel in their educational experience they must feel safe, accepted and loved. At St. Thomas Academy our staff members are nurturing, aware, and highly qualified.

St. Thomas Academy owes its success over the past several years to our dedicated staff, volunteers, parents, students, Parishioners, and to those of you who have sponsored an event or child. It takes strong stakeholders who believe in our Mission and understand our needs to make our private Catholic School successful. We hope that you find this annual report to be inspirational, educational, and encouraging.

Thank you,

Crystal Nuñez-Mooney  
Principal

[cmooney@bendbroadband.com](mailto:cmooney@bendbroadband.com)



## Catholic Community Connections • Service

At St. Thomas Academy we strive for our students to acquire a sense of compassion and love for all people. It is important for the moral growth of a child that they witness and experience giving to those in need and in doing so with a kind heart. Our students gain a sense of global and community awareness by becoming stewards of the community.

During the 2013/14 school year our students donated a large amount of nonperishable items to St. Vincent De Paul during our Catholic Schools Week and Annual Bundle Up Drive. The fourth and fifth grade students became stewards of their learning by taking the donations to St. Vincent De Paul. Each student stocked the shelves with donations raised and toured the facility.

Every year we teach our children about compassion by caroling at assisted living facilities. The children prepare Christmas cards for seniors and spend time talking to the residents after their performance. It brings joy to the seniors to hear the songs they grew up with and to chat with wonderful children who are so jubilant to be in their presence.

Sister Fortunata is the leader of the Catholic Community Connections Program. She has a gift for discovering those in need and bringing our students and families together to aide their need. When we show our students that we care, they learn to love.

## Volunteers

St. Thomas Academy could not be where it is today without its volunteers. Parents, grandparents, Parishioners, and community members have given an enormous amount of time and commitment to making our school successful. The ways that an individual can volunteer are endless. Some donate time by working as a tutor, others donate time by helping make events successful. Each volunteer has passion and pride for our small community and helps bring smiles to our students' faces.

It is important to the faculty of St. Thomas that our students realize how impactful volunteers are. Throughout the year our kids write or draw letters of appreciation to those who have either helped educate a child or assisted in the growth of our school. Our volunteers contribute additional care and success to our school and we are thankful everyday for them.

## Our Featured Family

Adrionna, Pamela, Dakota



My husband and I came to Oregon simply to “live the good life,” and eventually retire down the road. God seemed to have other plans for us. Almost concurrently, we received the news that we may need to inherit three of our grandchildren. After several bouts of cancer, trouble with the law, a looming divorce, and literally no means to care for their children, my daughter and her soon-to-be ex-husband asked us to formally and legally adopt their three kids. During her illness, we had helped several times, once by taking the kids for six months and another time for almost a year while my daughter received treatment and her husband looked for work. Moving, we thought we would be closer to the kids, and the cancer was in submission and mom/dad seemed to be getting on their feet. When we got the call to adopt, Rick was 60 years old and I was 56 and unbeknown to us, the kids had become wards of the court in the State of California.

We were not as comfortable financially as we would have liked, to say the least, but I could not feasibly work with three young children. We had to consider the mortgage we still had in Washington (where we came from), our new mortgage here, and that we had maxed-out our credit cards to prepare a home for three very needy children. They barely had more than the clothes on their back and no toys when we got them. In their short five and three years, they had been bounced all over the country, and at times, lived in their car or at a local park. They needed us, and we took the call happily, if not a little anxiously.

That was in May of 2012. The twins were five and the little one was three years old. We had the summer together, but I still needed to figure out where they would attend school. I did not feel public school would be the right place to put the girls after such a rough beginning, and soon looked toward private schools. We knew the cost of such an endeavor, so we prayed about it. After much prayer and discussion, we felt we needed to give the girls a Christian foundation and decided to enroll them at St. Thomas Academy.

With that, the twins started kindergarten at St. Thomas in the fall of 2012. They had no pre-school or previous academics of any kind living with their birth parents and were well behind the other children in school. They barely knew their ABC's. Further, the oldest was wetting her bed and both the twins woke up twice a night with nightmares. All the girls hated what had happened to them, were mad at us for it, and made that very clear.

Since attending school at St. Thomas, the girls have become part of a larger family. They love their teacher and school staff, and have made solid friends. Both girls have learned to read and write and gladly take on their math assignments. During their first year Pamela was chosen Student of the Month and Adrionna was given an award for excellence in reading. Adrionna and Pamela want to be Kindergarten teachers when they “grow up”, which speaks volumes about their experiences at St. Thomas and towards the staff.

The twins are six years old going into first grade and the little one, Dakotah, is now four and is enrolled in Pre-K. St. Thomas has become everything to our whole family, both academically and spiritually. At home, the bedwetting has completely stopped, the tantrums have stopped and the nightmares are a vague memory to the girls. They love God and pray nightly that their parents are doing well. The school is a rock to the girls and they eagerly wait for school to start up again. St. Thomas is a vital part of their healing and grace, and the peace they feel now with such a harsh beginning to their life. Today they are happy, fun-loving, active girls.

St. Thomas will be a big part of the girls' saving grace. I have no doubt of this. We will continue the girls there at all cost until they continue on after fifth grade. Thanks to a small grant to help with tuition this year, enrolling the third child at St. Thomas will be a little less costly and is a wonderful help to us. God willing, the adoption for all three girls will finalize sometime in September 2014. We will always strive to give these girls the very best for their spiritual growth. St. Thomas will be a part of that love and care, and is already a welcome extension to our family.

In His name,

Rick and Wendy Raatz  
Adrionna, Pamela, and Dakotah

Donated by: WCP Solutions

# St. Thomas Academy Statistics

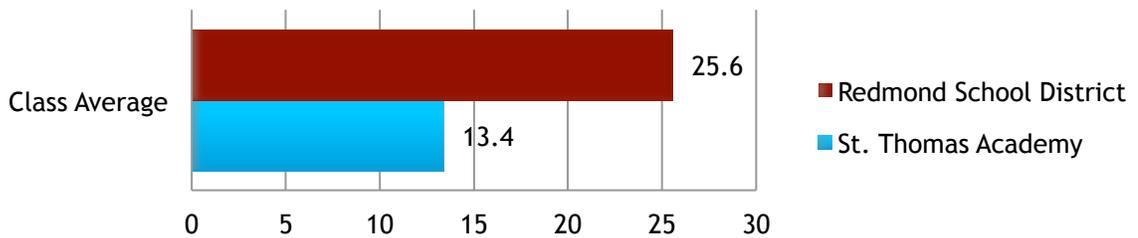
## Religious Preference



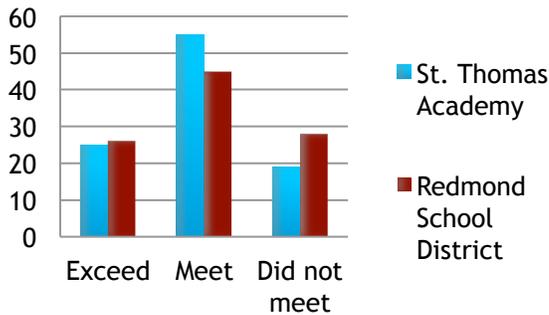
## Family Income



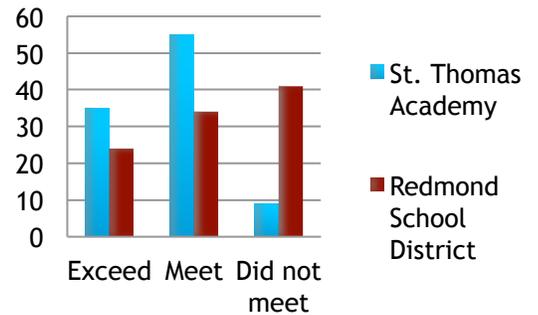
## Student-teacher Ratio



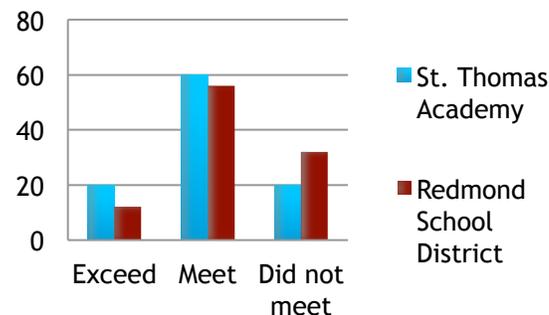
## Reading



## Math



## Science



The information on this page is an averaged by the Oregon State Department Education Report Cards on the Redmond School District elementary schools. The data from RSD is based on the 2012/13 school year. RSD state testing scores are averaged, the scores are based on 3-8, 11 grades for reading and math 5, 8, & 11 for science. St. Thomas Academy's average scores are based on the 2013/14 school year and are averaged from grades 3-5.

# Financial

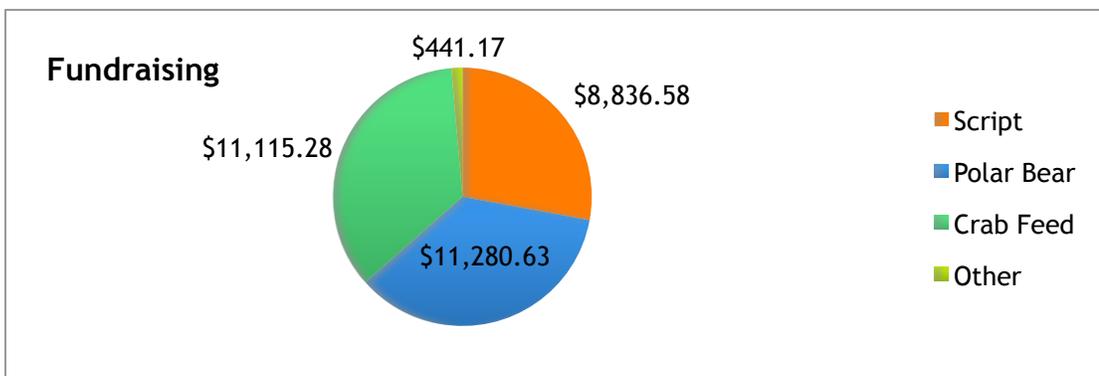
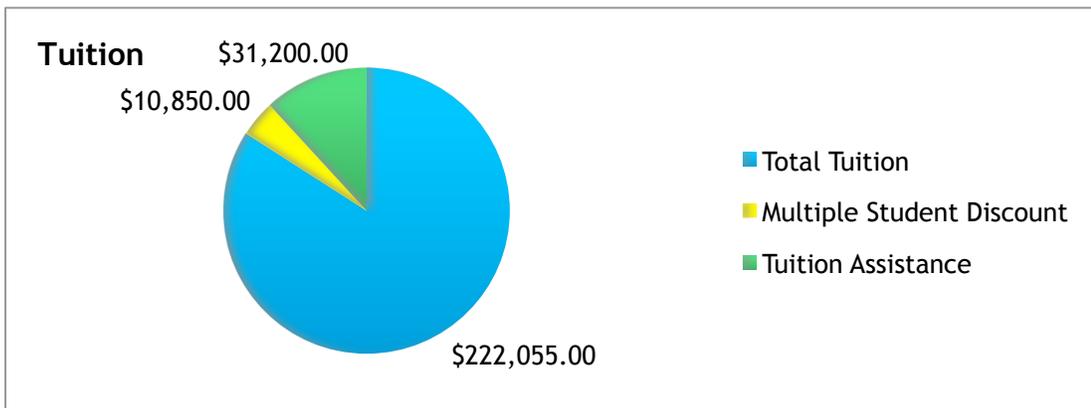
## June 2012-July 2013

### Revenues

Revenue Source	Budgeted Revenues	Actual Revenues
Tuition	\$223,835.00	\$251,571.61
Fundraising	\$32,985.00	\$31,673.66
General Donations	\$55,313.00	\$55,732.92
Tuition Assistance Contributions	\$10,892.00	\$10,892.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$321,245.00</b>	<b>\$349,870.93</b>

### Expenditures

Expenditure Source	Budgeted Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
Salary and Benefits	\$273,995.86	\$270,197.60
Equipment & Supplies	\$10,198.00	\$11,585.41
Curriculum	\$3,727.00	\$10,533.05
Debt to Parish from 2012	\$26,011.00	\$26,011.00
Tuition Assistance	\$31,200	\$23,345.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$390,986.86</b>	<b>\$341,672.06</b>



## Fundraising Goals from 2013/14

St. Thomas Academy had been carrying a \$26,011.00 debt to St. Thomas Parish from the 2011/12 school year. Towards the end of the school year, the school was unable to financially cover the cost of its teachers wages and benefits. The Parish generously covered the shortfall with the understanding that when the school was able to, they would be reimbursed. It is with much excitement that with the support of our stakeholders, STA was able to pay off the debt in full in August of 2014.

With curriculum and best practices for education always changing and improving it was imperative that we invested in new language arts curriculum for the teachers and students at St. Thomas Academy. The curriculum that the teachers were previously using was no longer on the State of Oregon's Approved Curriculum list. The teachers had been supplementing our curriculum and assessments to align with the needs of their students and State Standards.

After a year of investigating, research, and confirming with other Diocese, we opted to adapt the Houghton Mifflin Journey's Catholic Edition. The total cost of our new curriculum was originally 43,257.00. After the teaching staff reviewed and dissected the proposed purchase order, we were able to narrow the cost to \$20,153.00. We were able to make this purchase with the support of our sponsors and efforts of those who aided

## Fundraising Goals for 2014/15

The fundraising goal for this year is to fully fund the \$15,000 deficit in the 2014/15 school year budget. When we pass this goal, other items on our wish list include:

- Class set of Apple iPads (\$10,000)
- Class set of Apple MacBook Airs (\$30,000)
- Signage for our school with an electronic reader board (\$20,000)
- Class set of African Drums for Music Program (\$3,500.00)
- Security system with cameras and keycards (\$5,000)

This is simply a sample of what is needed at St. Thomas Academy. The Parent Advisory Council along with the teaching staff will help prioritize the list and select what the surplus of funds should go to. The prices are estimated costs and STA will research to find the best price option when the funds are raised.

**St. Thomas Academy would like to give a special thank you to our Sponsors and Donors as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.**

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