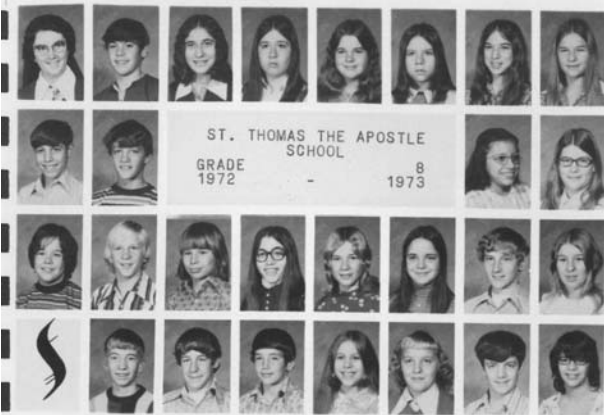


A Blast from the Past: STS Class of '73



Row 1: Sister ??, Mike Dibley, Patty Tarr-Pletcher, Kathy Miller, Jackie Campbell, Pam Pierpont, Sue Abel, Margret Irhig

Row 2: Robert McClelland, Pat Shea, Maria Bicknell, Georgiana Visingardi

Row 3: Luke Koons, Mike McLentic, Jack Master, Germaine DelPrete, Michele Kruis, Kristi Frodrosi, Charles Colbourn, Lisa Quorandillo

Row 4: Vince Treadway, John Chomer, Chris Conlisk, Darla Lenhart, Ruth ??, Joel Farrell, Julie Patanelli



STS Alumni! Thanks for re-connecting with us through the *Spartan Connection*. Due to financial constraints, this is our final issue. Please continue to stay connected via Facebook. **Become a fan of [StThomasTheApostleSchoolElkhart](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasTheApostleSchoolElkhart) and a friend of [StThomasElkhart](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasElkhart).**



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The Spartan Connection

St. Thomas School

St. Thomas
Alumni
Association
Newsletter

Winter
2010
Issue 7

Letter from the Principal



Dear St. Thomas Alumnus:

When I was a STS student back in the late 1980's, I never would have thought that I would follow in the footsteps of Sister Catherine Dolores, becoming the principal of St. Thomas School. But that is exactly what happened, and I couldn't be happier! I treasure the days when I was a student here at St. Thomas, but I have found I enjoy being the principal even more.

St. Thomas the Apostle School is thriving on many levels, but we are always looking to improve. Our available technology is good, but we want to stay focused on preparing our students to use the latest technology as it becomes available. We also hope to provide a foreign language curriculum for our students so that they will be prepared to excel in high school foreign language classes and eventually the workforce. A pre-K program would be beneficial for our school so we could prepare our young students for the challenges of Kindergarten and increase our enrollment. We have a strong Catholic

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identity at St. Thomas, and we want to make it even stronger by using our resources to provide a variety of services to others during these hard economic times. These are just a few ideas that encompass my vision of success for St. Thomas School. As a proud alumnus, I will work very hard to ensure that our school continues to thrive and continuously improve.

In my personal life, my wife Sara and I have recently been blessed with our second child, a daughter we named Vivian. We also have a 3 year old son, Cal, who will be a student here at St. Thomas before too long. If you are an STS alumnus, please know we are always interested in hearing from you and receiving updates on any exciting events in your life. Please encourage other alumni to stay connected with us by visiting the school website and the alumni Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Kolakovich

Christopher T. Kolakovich STS '90

A St. Thomas Family Legacy

There have been many families over the years who have walked the halls and left an impact on St. Thomas School. One such family is the Lucchese/Dibley bunch. John Lucchese, Jo (Lucchese) Dibley, Frank Lucchese, and Ralph Lucchese are siblings. Through their children and grandchildren you will find many St. Thomas graduates. Do you recognize any of these classmates?

First Generation

- Children of John and Kathy Lucchese: Michele, John, Dave, Gino, Greg, Matt '78, Pat '79, & Julie '80
- Children of Mike and Jo Dibley: Mary, Mike '74, Tony, Andy, Steve '78, Tim '80, & Tina '84
- Children of Frank and Kay Lucchese: Frank '79, Laura '80, Mike '84, & Gina '85
- Child of Ralph and Shellie Lucchese: Paul '90

Second Generation

- Children of Pat and Mary Lucchese: Gabby '11 and Sam '15
- Children of Mike Dibley: Michael, Andrea, Matt '00, Emily '03, Katie '01, David
- Children of Tim and Kim Dibley: Alyssa '05, Anna '07, Cassie '09, Spencer '11, Michaela '13, Josh '16, and Jessica '18
- Children of Frank and Tonja Lucchese: Ashley and Grant '15
- Children of Laura Lucchese: Vince, Alex and Michael
- Children of Scott and Gina (Lucchese) Duehning: Leah '15, Keely '15, McKenna '18



The tradition continues with future STS grads
Pictured above: Josh Dibley '16, Leah Duehning '15, Keely Duehning '15, Grant Lucchese '15, Spencer Dibley '11, Gabby Lucchese '11, Michaela Dibley '13, McKenna Duehning '18, Jessica Dibley '18, & Sam Lucchese '15. Also pictured Mia '15 & Kendall Crouch '17, grandchildren of Diane Turso, first cousin to the Lucchese/Dibley clan.

Visit our website at stselkhart.com/alumni.htm

Letter from Father Bill



GRADUATES OF SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL:

Recently, I showed a couple from the parish around so that they might see all the improvements made to our educational facilities. The husband just turned 100 and his wife of 65 years is now 93 years young. As they left the tour they said, "How

fortunate the children are to have such a school!" Have you had a chance to check out the expanded and renovated building?

There are many new beginnings happening in our parish, school and even our diocese. After 24 years Bishop D'Arcy was able to retire from administrative duties so as to enjoy just being a parish priest. Were you confirmed by him? Our current chief shepherd, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, came to us from the diocese of Harrisburg, PA. As you can imagine, he has brought many talents which will ensure more growth in the Kingdom of God.

One of your fellow graduates is now our new principal in the person of Chris Kolakovich. After teaching here for 11 years and completing his administrative license, he now sits in the office of his mentor, Dr. Fred Stump who retired after 9 years as our leader. How blessed we have been with such a smooth transition.

I consider it a privilege to now be in my 12th year as pastor. Many people have passed through these halls over the past 11 years and now proudly call Saint Thomas their alma mater.

May the Lord, in His goodness, bless you and your loved ones with His gifts of peace and strength during the remainder of this year and into 2011. Until we meet again, or for the first time, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Father Bill Sullivan

STS Innovation in the Classroom

St. Thomas School strives to improve every academic year. This year STS added technology and programming to benefit the students in both the primary and middle school grades.

Minds in Motion, a program designed to improve a child's balance, eye-hand coordination, and visual skills has been implemented in the two kindergarten classes. Every morning, each child participates in 15 steps that aid in developing learning capabilities. The entire circuit of activities, like having the kids

use their less dominant foot to walk across a balance beam, take 5 to 10 minutes. While engaging in these activities, children increase their ability to focus, sit, stand, and walk in a more controlled manner. Teachers have already noticed improvements in students handwriting. With continued success, *Minds in Motion* will be introduced at other primary grade levels.

STS also added *SmartBoard* technology already in place in grades 4 to 8 to our 3rd grade classrooms. *Smart Boards* are digital whiteboards that

are sensitive to touch and run through the teachers' classroom computers. Teachers can save and store information written on it. They can also access information downloaded from the Internet. The board recognizes the use of a non-ink pen, the user's hand, and a wireless mouse.

This technology has enabled the teachers and students to be much more effective in their teaching and learning. STS will continue to create innovative programs for our students in the future.



Ms. Barb Bremigan, fifth grade teacher, is celebrating her 20th year at Saint Thomas School. In fact, Ms. Bremigan has never taught anywhere except STS. Though she began her own education with the intent to pursue a career in music, we are grateful that the Holy Spirit guided her to become one of our most admired teachers. Still music influences her school life in the form of playing the trumpet for school Masses.

For Ms. Bremigan, each student represents a new beginning, and a challenge to become a highly-spiritual, well-educated contributor to our society. As a veteran teacher she feels blessed to participate in and be witness to the spiritual growth of so many children. While gaining a strong education is paramount to a school, developing strong moral character and a love of God within these students is most rewarding to her as an educator within the Catholic school system.

In her spare time, Ms. Bremigan enjoys traveling the world, amateur photography, and being outdoors, especially in her kayak. Most recently, she has visited Sweden, Norway, and Antarctica. She would like to encourage all STS alumni to post photos and updates on the STS Facebook page, as she loves hearing about her STS "children."

STS 8th graders Venture to Washington, D.C.



Do you recognize any familiar faces from the 1993 trip to Washington, D.C.? We were happy to identify most of the students but the story behind the dog remains a mystery!

The trip to our nation's capital has long been a favorite of our graduates and the STS Administration is pleased to reinstate the trip for this year's eighth grade class. Forty-five students and thirteen chaperones will depart Presidents' weekend, February 17th -21st, for a once-in-a-lifetime experience with their classmates. Until then, count on seeing many an eighth grader peddling, candy bars, spirit cups, candles and pasta dinner tickets as they fundraise for the fun!

Row 1: Sheila Kowlaski, Nicole Kramer, Angela Cataldo, Sara Shackelford, Meg Fisher, Diane Forman, Renee Searfoss, Terry Brady, Mirella Siciliano, Kathy Giel, Shay Mixer, Melissa Peterson, Andrew Knopick, David Wyncoff, ??.

Row 2: Melissa Lightner, Chris Maxey, Eric Vechera, Katie Walker, Mrs. Linda Hixon, Mrs. Jeanelle Brady, Mr. Walker, Mrs. Cataldo, Mrs. Joyce Forman, David Sample, Nick Franger, Moe Karabaeali, Aaron Irions, Shawn Delehanty, Jeff DiPiro.

Alumni: Remember When... the church had a fire in the early 1980s so Mass was celebrated in the school gym, or when our parish priest handed out report cards and reviewed them with us in front of the entire class?

Alumni Updates

STS '06 Grads Are Movin' Up :

Congratulations to the following STS Marian High School graduates as they enter their freshmen year of college and intended majors.

- Lauren Bonczek—University of Portland, Nursing Air Force ROTC
- Patrick Chi—Purdue University, Engineering
- Gabrielle DelPrete—Purdue University, Graphic Design
- Corinne Delucenay—Marian University, Pastoral Leadership
- Kassandra Fletcher—Holy Cross College
- Peter Hayes—Marian University, Art Education
- Kyle Koch—Indiana State, Mechanical Engineering

- Brittany Martin—DePauw University, Pre-Law and Journalism
- Regina Mauck—St. Mary's College, Art Education
- Lance Mulcahey—University of Notre Dame, Linguistics
- Sean Murphy—Xavier University, Business
- Alexandra Parr—Northwestern University, Radio/Film/TV
- Benjamin Plude—Purdue University, Education/Business
- Dylan Priller—Purdue University, Education/Business
- Chase Smith—Adrian College, Exercise Science
- Erin Smith—St. Mary's College, Liberal Arts

Weddings, Babies and More!

Andrew Knopick STS '93 wed Kate McHugh in Minneapolis, MN on September 11, 2010.

Kate (Knopick) STS '91 and Ryan Coates welcomed Leo Benjamin on September 3, 2010, their fifth child.

The Results Are In!

Frank Lucchese STS '79, is celebrating recent re-election to his second term as Elkhart County Commissioner.

Alumni are invited: To gather in the school's big gym Saturday, January 29th from 6:30-11:30 pm for Casino Night! Proceeds benefit STS YAC sports programs. Tickets are \$50 per couple and include a buffet dinner, dessert, snacks, beer/wine and soft drinks. *Must be 21 years and older.*