STA At-a-Glance

Week 3: September 15 - September 22, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Parents and students are invited to join us for our annual Homecoming event on **Thursday, September 17**.

- 3:30 - 5:00pm - Come and cheer on our Senior Girls Volleyball team in the STA gym.
- 5:00 - 7:00pm - Party in the Parking Lot! You'll enjoy: food trucks (by purchase), complimentary gelato from Dolce Amore, live music (DJ Kyprios), car display and a beer garden feat. Bridge Brewing

We can't wait to see you and your family there! Registration isn't required.

ARE YOU A CAR ENTHUSIAST?

Are you a car enthusiast with a collector or high-end car you'd like to display at Homecoming? Contact **Sandie Atkinson** in our Advancement Office to learn more. Cars will be on display from 4:00 - 7:00pm in the STA Parking Lot on Thursday, September 17.

OFFICE UPDATES

Accessing STA Information: the school's yearly **calendar** is posted on the school's **website**. Please ensure the **office** is informed of any address changes during the summer.
PLEASE NOTE: Administration Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Overdue Activity Fee
Student activity fees are past due. The forms were emailed to all families as part of the Welcome Back Package in August. The activity fee and form should be **returned to the office as soon as possible.**
If you have misplaced the form, please **email** the office and we will provide you a copy. Thank you for your prompt attention.

School Attendance Reminders
We require your help to ensure that we know the whereabouts of students at all times during the school day.
Email: **office@aquinas.org**

Absence from School

- Parents/guardians please email before 8:45 am every day to inform the office of your child's absence. Written notification is a Ministry requirement.
- If a student will be away from school for an extended period of time due to personal/family reasons, we require:
  - parent/guardian to email the office with the dates and reason for absence
  - student to complete an Extended Leave of Absence form. This can be collected from the office. The student must have all their teachers sign the form and submit it to the office before their leave of absence.
- If a student will be away from school for extracurricular activities (e.g. sports, dance, drama academies/clubs), please email the dates in advance.

Late Arrivals and Appointments

- If a student arrives late, they must sign in at the office before going to class.
- We require a valid reason from parent/guardian for a student arriving late (please email the office; refer to school handbook for examples).
- Unexcused lates will result in the student serving a lunchtime detention. Repeated tardiness will result in consequences involving administration.

STA Spirit Day - Thursday, September 17
Students can come dressed in **STA school colours (red, black, white or gold)** in exchange for a canned good or $2+. Collections will take place in first block and all proceeds go to the STA Campus Ministry. For those students who do not participate, full school uniform is required. Please remember to dress modestly as students who are not in compliance with the dress code may be asked to return home to change.

Attention Grade 9 students and parents: Take Our Kids to Work Day - Wednesday, November 4

Wednesday, November 4 is the provincial Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD). As part of the Career Education 9 curriculum, all Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to spend the day with a parent, guardian, or family member at their workplace. This experience allows students to observe and participate in the workplace, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into different careers and working environments. Participation is a mandatory component of the Career Education 9 curriculum, and students will complete a summative assignment reflecting on their experience following the event.

We are also looking for parents and guardians who may be able to host additional Grade 9 students at their workplace. Later this week, families will receive a letter and Google Form with more information. If you are able to welcome one or more students to your workplace, please complete the form to let us know. Thank you for supporting our Grade 9 students and helping make this a meaningful and valuable learning experience.

The Saints STAtion

If you need to return or exchange a recent online purchase of STA merchandise, the school store will be open from **3:00 - 4:00pm on September 14, 16 and 18** to facilitate the return. Please bring your item with you and it will be picked up **by** our supplier on **September 21**.

All communication about returns should continue to happen directly with our supplier, Martket Branding at **customercare@martketbranding.com** or **1 877 905 3652**.
More details about the next open window to order merchandise will happen in the Fall.

Attention for Grade 11 and 12 students:
LONDON • PARIS • BARCELONA!
STA EUROPE TRIP Spring 2027- JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
The excitement is growing - **25 STA students are already registered!**
Thinking of joining? Save $150 when you register **by October 12, 2026!**
Already registered? Bring a friend!
Refer **1 friend** → **$50** discount
Refer **2 friends** → **$100** discount
Experience **London, Paris and Barcelona** with your STA friends and create memories that will last a lifetime!
Mr. Domina

UPCOMING EVENTS

September:

16 - School Photo Day (in full uniform **with sweaters**)

17 and **25 -** Men's Hostel Ministry - Baked Goods or Sandwich Drop Off at 8:00 - 9:00am

17 - Spirit Day (School Colours: red, black, white and gold) and Homecoming 2026

22 - Grade 12 Parents Night at 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Grade 12 Students are encouraged to attend

24 - Meet the Teacher - Grade 8 Parents at 6:00pm - 8:00pm

28 - Grade 9 Immunization Clinic hosted by VCH

29 - Orange Shirt Day (orange shirts may be worn over the uniform kilt or trousers)

30 - SCHOOL CLOSED - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October

7 - Walkathon - EARLY DISMISSAL at 12:00pm

7-9 - Grade 11 Retreat to Camp Stillwood

MESSEGE FROM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Dear Parents/Guardians,

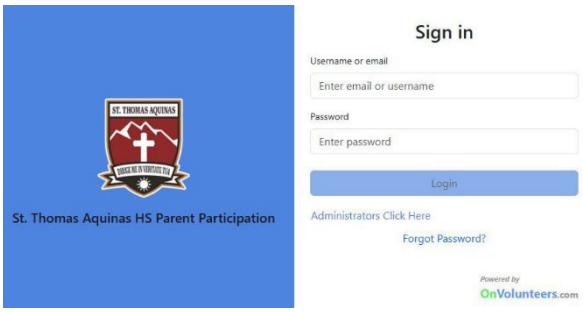
Welcome to STA Athletics for the 2026/27 Academic year. This fall, students have a plethora of options to choose from: Girls Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey, Gr 8 Rugby, Senior Boys Volleyball, Junior and Senior Boys Soccer, Cross Country and Swimming. Please see the **Term 1 Sign Up** which has information for the first practice, tryout or meeting for each sport. Students may try out or sign up for more than one sport. However, athletes must communicate directly with their coaches and teachers to balance team commitments with academic responsibilities.

Attendance Policy: Attendance during the school day is required to participate in athletics. Students with an absence on the day of a practice or game will not be permitted to participate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Mr. Allen**.

PARENT PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITES

STA Parent Participation Program (PPP) - New Website!
The **PPP** exists for parents to participate in activities and build community with other families. The program also provides a reduction of the monthly parent participation fee. Seasonal, full-time and part-time credits are available throughout the year. The parent participation organizers have launched a new website for this school year.



New Families: All **new families will be automatically uploaded** to the new portal. There is no need to send an email to parent participation.
New Web Site and Link: For parents who previously registered and volunteered at STA, please click **here** and then click on 'Forgot Password' to re-activate your account. PLEASE NOTE: This is a brand new website and URL. if you have saved the previous portal in your favourites, you will need to update it with this one.
Check the portal often as opportunities are regularly added.

Join the Cafeteria Team! – Volunteers Needed

Dear Parents,

Our team provides an essential service to our staff and students. We rely on parent support to make this service. For parents with daytime availability looking to connect with the school community while getting a peek into their child's day, this is a great opportunity!

We are finalizing our schedule and still have a few spots available. We offer two types of positions:

- **Full-Time:** A regular weekly shift from September to June (2.0 to 2.5 hours, depending on the day and your family's PPP requirement). This completely fulfills your annual PPP requirement.
- **On-Call (Part-Time):** Flexible coverage for parents unable to commit weekly, stepping in when managers or full-time volunteers need extra support.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Please contact **Claudia Montagut** (Cafeteria Coordinator) at if interested or have any questions.

Our annual **Walkathon** fundraiser will be held on **Wednesday, October 7,** and we are looking for volunteers in a variety of roles. If you are able to walk the route with our students, serve as a crossing guard, stamp hands at checkpoints, or help with our post-Walkathon lunch, please go to the **Parent Participation Portal** to register. You will be credited for your volunteer hours.

Also, we are looking for full-time **traffic duty volunteers** for this school year 2026-27. We have many shifts available (any adult family member can support the role so you can have some flexibility in your volunteering).
If you are interested, please email **Karen Lo**.

STA Parent Association Needs YOU!
Welcome Meeting - Thursday, September 17 at 9:30am at Boardroom
We welcome and encourage all parents to get involved and volunteer at our school. The primary focus of the STA Parent Association is to strengthen our school community by supporting annual events and activities at STA. We achieve this by involving ourselves with activities that connect students, parents and families. Monies raised by these activities are used for the improvement of our school or the enhancement of student extracurricular activities. Through these activities, the Parent Association also provides parents with opportunities to volunteer within our school community. Further details on the Parent Association can be found on the **website**.

AI WORKSHOP

OPTIONS SOLUTIONS
Educational Consultants

vaseem
THE AI GUY

Thriving with AI: A Workshop for Families

AI is already part of your family's world, shaping how students learn, how parents work, and how information is created and shared. Yet, most families have not had the opportunity to sit down together and explore how to use it thoughtfully, confidently, and responsibly.

Event Overview:
This interactive back-to-school experience brings parents and students together to build a shared AI toolbox for school, home, and the future.

Over 90 minutes, families will explore how AI works, where it can be genuinely helpful, and where greater care and critical thinking are required. Students will learn how to use AI as a tool that supports, rather than replaces, their own ideas, judgment, creativity, and learning. Parents will gain greater insight into how their children may be using AI and practical ways to guide productive tools to navigate AI.

Before the Workshop:
All workshop participants will receive a pre-workshop survey designed to gauge AI readiness, capturing current knowledge levels, concerns, and how teens are already using AI. The results will be used to tailor the session to Options families.

Together, parents and students will gain:

- A shared language for talking about AI
- Practical prompting tools and techniques
- Strategies for evaluating the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated information
- A clearer understanding of responsible AI use in school
- Family guidelines for privacy, judgment, boundaries, and digital responsibility
- Greater confidence using AI as a tool for learning, problem-solving, creativity, and preparation for the future
- Clarity on the future of AI in the workforce

Session Facilitator:
Options Solutions will host the online session facilitated by AI educator Vaseem Baig, based in Ontario. Vaseem is internationally recognized for his skill of helping individuals, families, and organizations build practical and responsible fluency with artificial intelligence. His approachable teaching style creates a welcoming environment where students and parents can explore AI together, ask honest questions, and develop skills they can begin using immediately.

After the Workshop:
We hope this workshop inspires ongoing family conversations about AI. One month later, we'll gather again on Nov. 3rd at 7:00 pm for a bonus 30-minute follow-up session where parents and students can ask new questions and continue the discussion.

Join Us:
This is a hands-on opportunity for families to experiment, ask questions, and learn alongside one another.

- Tuesday, Sept. 29th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Held via Zoom
- $75 + GST per family (includes the bonus follow-up session)
- Contact Options Solutions to register

www.optionssolutionsed.com info@optionssolutionsed.com 604-922-8456

Grade 11 Retreat to Camp Stillwood - October 7-9

The grade 11 retreat is happening from October 7 - 9. This retreat is a vital component of our school's program, we look forward to all of the students enjoying a fantastic opportunity to connect, reflect, and grow together as a community. All students in Grade 11 are expected to attend as this is a graduation requirement. Permission forms and more information will be given in religion classes this week.

STA Men's Hostel Ministry - Thursday, September 17 at 8:00 - 9:00am

Thursday morning we will begin our food collections for the Archdiocese of Vancouver's shelter. This is your opportunity to feed the hungry and help those in need by making sandwiches or baked goods at home. Then bring the food you make at home to the **STA Campus Ministry office** before school starts on Thursday. You can make as many as you like, 12 sandwiches or 12 baked goods equals 1 service hour. Please individually wrap each sandwich or baked good, and they MUST be home made to receive service hours. Thank you for your generosity in feeding the hungry!

STA CAFETERIA

Breakfast and lunch are available at the **STA School Cafeteria** every day!
All food is prepared daily, with a selection of daily menu items and daily specials. Students can purchase items with cash, debit or credit card. STA gift cards can also be purchased at the office and used in the cafeteria.
Breakfast items are bacon or sausage egg sandwiches, hash browns, tater tots and pastries.
Daily menu items include hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, poutine, a variety of salads, a variety of sandwiches and wraps, veggies & dip.
The weekly specials for September 16 – 18:
Wednesday, September 16 - BBQ chicken & rice, sushi rolls (California roll, yam roll, kappa roll, dynamite roll and chicken teriyaki roll)
Thursday, September 17 - Sir Thom burger, pulled pork sandwich with coleslaw
Friday, September 18 - Spanakopita with roasted potatoes & Greek salad, perogies with grilled onions, pasta & garlic bread, grilled cheese sandwich and fish and chips