

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

GRADUATION - 2010

DATE: April 12, 2010

TO: **The Graduates of 2010, The Thirty-Sixth Graduating Class of St. Thomas More**

FROM: Mrs. C. Spadoni, Head of Student Services

RE: GRADUATION EXERCISES – MONDAY, JUNE 28 AND TUESDAY, JUNE 29 2010

Dear Graduates of St. Thomas More:

This newsletter will provide you with important information about your Graduation, which is now only two months away. It will outline dates, times, locations, costs and procedures to be followed so please retain the newsletter for future reference. Be sure to show it to your parents.

ELIGIBILITY

The TENTATIVE LIST OF POTENTIAL GRADUATES has been posted on the Guidance window. Check to be sure your name is there. The list will be up-dated after Semester 2 mid-term reports.

The FINALIZED LIST will be posted after the Final Progress Reports are issued on Day 70 of this Semester (May 25).

To participate in the June Graduation ceremony at St. Thomas More, it must appear likely on the 70th day of the semester (May 25, 2010) that the student will qualify for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma at the end of the semester.

As well, the school requires successful achievement in the Grade 12 Religion program (or the Religion course taken in the Graduation year). If a student is not achieving success due to neglect of responsibility or absenteeism, as judged by the Principal, he/she shall not take part in the graduation exercises.

To qualify for a diploma, students must pass courses to earn 30 credits (including all compulsory ones), complete the 40 hours of Christian Service and pass either the OSSLT (the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) or the Ontario Literacy course.

It is imperative that every student pick up his/her report card at semester end to ensure that all requirements have been met and he/she has qualified for a diploma. If you require an official transcript, this should be available by mid-July. Please phone to give the Guidance Secretary two days notice if you require a transcript. Diplomas will be available in September of 2010 from the Guidance Office.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010
CITY WIDE SENIORS' MASS
1:00 P.M.
Cathedral of Christ the King

Students from all Catholic Secondary Schools will attend this celebration. Sixty (60) graduates from our school will represent S.T.M. at this Mass. Students will be allowed to "sign up". More details to follow. Attending students must be in full uniform. Only these students will be dismissed from classes.

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2010 – GRADUATION DAY

GRADUATION MASS

9:00 a.m.
Cathedral of Christ the King
Celebrant: Father Toby Collins

All graduates are expected to attend and to dress respectfully. Dress pants and shirts would be appropriate for boys. Parents are welcome to attend if they wish. Graduates are encouraged to car pool as parking at the Cathedral is limited, and most parking lots near the Convention Centre charge a fee for parking. Do not park in restricted areas.

GRADUATION BRUNCH

10:30 a.m.
Hamilton Convention Centre (on 10 MacNab St. S.)
Brunch follows the Mass. It is for Graduates only.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

12:15 p.m. (immediately following Brunch)
Hamilton Place

The mandatory rehearsal immediately follows the brunch. Graduates will line up at the Convention Centre. Rehearsal should be finished by 1:30 p.m.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

7:00 p.m.
Graduates must arrive at 6:15 p.m.
Hamilton Place
Honoured Guest: Most Reverend G.P. Bergi D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton

Students are expected to dress respectfully for this special ceremony.

Graduates must enter Hamilton Place through the door marked "graduate entrance" by the main doors. Graduates must present their ticket at the door and then proceed to "The Studio Theatre" to receive their gowns, stoles, caps and flowers. GRADUATES ARE NOT TO LEAVE THAT AREA.

The guest tickets that students receive are for RESERVED seats in Hamilton Place. Admission to Hamilton Place is by ticket only. Do not lose or forget these tickets.

Each graduate may receive up to 4 tickets. Please decide in advance how many you wish. As a fund-raiser for our charitable projects 2 extra tickets (in addition to the 4) may be obtained (while quantities last) for a donation of \$5.00 per ticket.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

GOWNS AND STOLES MAY NOT BE TAKEN HOME.

You must return your gown and stole immediately following the ceremony. These items will be collected in the studio theatre. Failure to return your gown and v-stole will result in your deposit cheque being cashed. Graduates may keep their caps and tassels.

PAYMENT & DEADLINES

GRADUATION ACTIVITY FEE (MASS, BRUNCH, REHEARSAL & CEREMONY)

COST FOR MALES: \$80.00

COST FOR FEMALES: \$90.00

EARLIEST PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY: Monday, May 3, 2010 at 2:50 p.m.

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Friday, May 7, 2010

The following **MUST** be submitted with your payment:

1. Your Parental Acknowledgement Letter
2. The \$100 gown deposit cheque (payable to STM; post-dated to June 29, 2010)

All fees must be paid in the Guidance Department by the deadline. These costs are necessary to cover Hamilton Place rental, flowers, gown rental, purchase of caps & tassels, printing, the souvenir, brunch etc. There is a different cost for males and females because each female carries a dozen roses. Meeting the deadline is essential so that gowns, caps and tassels may be ordered and rehearsal arrangements made. Ceremony tickets will be distributed as payment is made. Students must submit all documentation for their completed Christian Service hours before paying the Graduation fee.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010 – GRADUATION DINNER-DANCE

6:00 p.m. - Reception

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

8:30 to Midnight – Dance to DJ Sound Sensations

LIUNA STATION (360 James St. N.)

Graduation Dinner Dance Fee

COST PER TICKET: \$55.00

EARLIEST PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY: Monday, May 31, 2010

PAYMENT DEADLINE: Friday, June 4, 2010

All fees must be paid in the Guidance Department by the deadline. Graduates attending the ceremony are eligible to attend the dinner-dance and may bring one guest.

OTHER INFORMATION

CHRISTIAN SERVICE HOURS

- If they are completed, then the guidance office should have the documentation

- If you have not submitted the information, please do so immediately
- All students must have the 40 hours completed and recorded by guidance no later than MIDTERM OF SEMESTER 2 to be eligible to graduate
- Students wishing more information on Christian Service opportunities should check the bulletin boards in the forum and outside the chapel, or see Ms. D'Amico in the Chaplain's office. Appointment slips for Ms. D'Amico are available in guidance.

GRADUATION AWARDS

The Student Information Sheet is used by the Committee in the selecting of graduation award recipients. It is important that you complete this form and submit it with your Parental Acknowledgment Forms by May 7, 2010.

ACTIVITIES

Only the activities specifically listed in this newsletter are approved by the school. The school will not be responsible for any other activity, private or public. Parents are asked to indicate that they are aware of this on the Parental Acknowledgment Form. Should any other activities be organized there will be an additional permission form.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The consumption of alcohol WILL NOT be permitted at any grad activities. As at all school functions any student under the influence of alcohol will not be permitted to participate.

SCHOOL LETTER AWARD

Students must submit a School Letter Application form by May 3, 2010 if they wish to be considered for this award. You must have earned 1,100 points with a maximum of 500 points in any one area. Points must come from all 3 areas: Academics, Athletics and Activities. Applications are available from Student Services.

PHOTOGRAPHS DURING THE CEREMONY

This year we anticipate that 450 graduates will participate in the ceremony. Parents are reminded that no pictures may be taken during the ceremony itself. There will be ample opportunity to take pictures after the ceremony.

HOW TALL ARE YOU?

Everyone on the Grad List needs to complete the height form enclosed in this package and return it to GUIDANCE IMMEDIATELY!!!

VALEDICTORIAN

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE A GOOD VALEDICTORIAN? WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We need an articulate, good public speaker with a good Christian message. The valedictorian will also put the thoughts and feelings of your graduating class into words. Nomination papers are available in Guidance and must be returned no later than Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 2 p.m.

GRADUATION PICTURES (by Luxarte Studios)/QUOTES

*Everyone needs a picture for the yearbook. No obligation. Pictures will be taken at STM from May 10 – 14 & May 17 – 21. More information will follow. A grad quote may be submitted online at www.stmcss.org (under the links culture and then yearbook). Choose an appropriate quote.
There is a \$5 (cash) sitting fee.*

**MAY THE THIRTY-SIXTH GRADUATION
BE THE BEST YET!**