SAINT THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 19, 2026
THEME: SPARKS OF FAITH: UNITED IN LOVE AND SERVICE!
Website: st.cec.edu.bs

PRAYERS

Condolences are extended to members of our school family who lost loved ones recently. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

THE ROSARY

During the month of October, the rosary is recited during homeroom periods and in Religion classes. The rosary is a special prayer.

70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Saint Thomas More School continues to celebrate **70 Years of Excellence.** We are thankful to God for the lives that we have touched and the wonderful years of service our school has given to the Bahamian community.

D. E. A. R. (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ)

Our students will **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead from Tuesday – Friday between the hours of 8:45 a.m. – 8:55a.m. **There will be no movement on campus at this time**. Students are encouraged to have reading books available in their desks as well as in their school bags. Our members of staff will also read to our students over the P.A. system. We look forward to your complete support with our reading initiative.

SCHOOL FEES

School fee slips **should have already been submitted to the office**. School fees can be paid at the Royal Bank of Canada (Online only) or First Caribbean International Bank (Online only). **Credit Card and Debit Card payments can be made using Tuitionpay.io. Please remember to submit the proof of payment to the office.**

The proof of payment can be emailed to the following persons:

Dr. Renee Mortimer (Principal)	**rmortimer@cec.edu.bs**
Mrs. Santiala Ferguson (Vice Principal)	**sferguson@cec.edu.bs**
Mrs. Winifred Woods (Secretary)	**wwoods@cec.edu.bs**

SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE (2026-2027)

The school fee and due dates for the 2026 – 2027 academic school year at Saint Thomas More School are as follows:

TERM	TUITION	SPECIAL FEES	TOTAL	DUE DATE
1st term (2026-2027) (K to 6)	$1,002.00	$250.00	$1,252.00	**On or before June 30, 2026** **PAST DUE**
2nd term (2026-2027) (K to 5)	$1,002.00	$250.00	$1,252.00	**On or before December 1, 2026**
2nd term (2026-2027) (Gr. 6)	$1,002.00	***$375.00**	$1,377.00	**On or before December 1, 2026**
3rd term (2026-2027) (K to 6)	$1,002.00	$250.00	$1,252.00	**On or before March 1, 2027**

***Includes $250.00 for special fees and $125.00 for the graduation fee.**

School Fee for the Year (K – 5): $3,455..40
School Fee for the Year (Grade 6): $3,580.40

BANKING INSTRUCTIONS

Please see instructions below on school fee payment options for persons who have online banking with First Caribbean International Bank (FCIB) or Royal Bank of Canada (RBC).

FCIB School Fee Payments:
Account Name: RCANB Special Catholic School Account
Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 09786 1126917 (Palmdale)
Account Type: Checking

RBC School Fee Payments:
Account Name: RCANB Catholic Education Centre
Bank Transit Number & Account Number: 05745 2897445 (Palmdale)
Account Type: Checking

BANKS OTHER THAN FCIB OR RBC

***If you do not have online banking with FCIB or RBC then you should use your respective bank's internet banking OR mobile app to do a third-party online transfer/interbank transfer to FCIB or RBC.**

TUITIONPAY.IO (CREDIT CARD PLATFORM FOR THE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES)

INSTRUCTIONS

GO T0 TUITIONPAY.IO

- Click on **Make a Payment** at the top
- Scroll all the way to the bottom

LOGIN TO PAY (**For persons with Username & Password**) – Follow further Instructions. This is for persons paying the actual school fee amount.

MAKE A PAYMENT (**For persons without Username & Password)** This is for persons making Annual or Partial Payments (Payment Plan)

- **Fill in the "Complete Form"**
- **Select School (St. Cecilia's – St. Thomas More – Xavier's etc.)**
- **Invoice Number** (Insert 5 zeros!) This information can also be used for the Zip Code/P.O. Box)

NOTE: For student email, enter the students firstname.lastname@cec.edu.bs (Eg. jane.doe@cec.edu.bs)

SELECT TERM:

- First **(June 30th)**
- Second Term **(December 1st)**
- Third Term **(March 1st)**

SELECT GRADE (The grade that the student will be entering should be selected.)

SECOND PAGE – Complete the Parent Information

THIRD PAGE – Enter Credit/Debit Card Information

SUBMIT

For more information, please see the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) or check the website at cboe@cec.edu.bs for updates.

TUITION REFUND POLICY

The policy of the Catholic Board of Education regarding tuition refund is as follows:

If a student leaves **within 1 – 2 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to **75% refund on tuition**.

If a student leaves **within 3 – 4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to **50% refund on tuition**.

If a student leaves **after 4 weeks** from the start of the term, there is **NO REFUND**.

***REGISTRATION, TESTING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.**

SECURITY MEASURES

- A security officer is posted on campus from **8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m**., Monday through Friday.
- Please respect the authority of Mr. James Cepoudi who has been placed at Saint Thomas More School for your child's safety.
- The area on the side of the old church has been designated as **TEACHER PARKING**. Parents/guardians should find other places to park in the mornings and in the afternoons. The lanes in front of the pavilion area are for dropping off only. **Please do not ignore the "NO PARKING SIGNS".**

- Parents should be considerate when driving on the school grounds and obey the parking rules. **DO NOT BLOCK THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT GATES**. We have very few parking spaces, so please limit your time on campus. Drop your child off and allow him/her to walk to the class. Please do not block the entrance of the rectory. Father Junior must be able to move in and out freely, especially in the mornings and afternoons.

- Visitors on the campus of Saint Thomas More School are first asked to **"Sign in"** at the Security booth then proceed to the office.

- **Parents who are collecting students ahead of dismissal must report to the school's office to receive an early dismissal slip before proceeding to the classroom to collect the child.**

- **Parents who are sending someone to pick up their child before dismissal must send an email to administrators giving authorization for such person to take the child. Authorization must be given before the child is taken from the premises of the school.**

- **Parents are strongly advised not to leave valuable possessions in their car at any time. It is important to be proactive and prevent incidences of theft occurring on our campus.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS – HAIR (August 28, 2026 – June 11, 2027)

The policy handbook of Saint Thomas More School speaks about the hair of our scholars. **All** students must comply with the following rules and regulations:

GIRLS:

NO weave or hair extensions
NO hair beads or jewels
NO nail polish
NO hair coloring or dyes
***Braided hair is allowed but must be all natural – no shingles or locked styles!**

BOYS:

A traditional hair cut is short and neatly trimmed on all sides.
Hair should not be on the forehead of the child.
The hair length must be above the collar of the shirt.
(No afros or braided hair, no locs, designs, faddish paths, dyes, tails or buds)

***Students will not be allowed in class until the hair infractions have been corrected.**

SISTER MARY BENEDICT PRATT, O. S. B.

School will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 for Sister Mary Benedict Pratt's funeral which will be held at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church at 3:00 p.m. Scholars should be collected on time to allow members of staff to attend the funeral mass. Sister Mary Benedict Pratt, O. S. B. was the former Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

LITERACY DAY EXPO & FLAG RAISING ASSEMBLY

Our Literacy Day Expo & Flag Raising Assembly under the theme **"Island Hopping Through Stories"** is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. on the school grounds**. Students may wear a storybook character costume or a **gold**, **aquamarine** or **black** shirt along with long jeans (no holes) and tennis. Our scholars are encouraged to bring a minimum of **$20.00** to purchase a new story book. Logos Bookstore will be on campus. You are welcomed to join us for the assembly.

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH ANNUAL BAZAAR AND RAFFLE

The Parish Community of Saint Thomas More Church will hold its **Annual Bazaar and Raffle** on **Saturday, October 31, 2026 from Noon until 10:00 p.m.** There are ten (10) prizes including the top prize which is a 2026 Chevrolet Groove. Raffle books are available in the school's office.

All raffle books along with the funds should be returned to the school's office **on or before Thursday, October 29, 2026. The school's office will also be opened during the Mid-term break on Friday, October 30, 2026 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to receive raffle books. Please note that the raffle will be drawn** at **10:00 p.m**. **on the bazaar date.** Please come out to the Bazaar and enjoy conch fritters, hot dogs, hoop-la, Bingo and the like. **Thank you for your usual support.**

SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH RAFFLE INCENTIVES

The incentives for the top three (3) sellers over fifty (50) books are as follows:

1st Prize	**$700.00 School Fee Credit**
2nd Prize	**$600.00 School Fee Credit**
3rd Prize	**$500.00 School Fee Credit**

OPEN HOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRESS REPORTS

Open house and distribution of progress reports will take place on **Thursday, October 22, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** in your child's classroom**. Please note that the distribution of progress reports will not begin until 1:30 p.m.** Parents should examine these reports thoroughly and adhere to any recommendations for improvement. **Students may leave once the progress report card has been collected**.

***Progress reports that are picked up show children that parents care about their academic success.**

***Students with outstanding school fees for the first term will not be allowed to collect progress report cards.**

POPPIES

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch receives poppies from its Headquarters located in Ottawa, Canada every year so that the legacy of Remembrance Day and the Poppy remains intact throughout the Bahamas. These poppies are sold for the purpose to care for our elderly Bahamian World War II Patrons.

Students are encouraged to support the sale of poppies. Remembrance Sunday is on *November 8, 2026.* **Traditional poppies, buttons and stickers are available. A donation of $1.00 - $2.00** will be accepted. **Thank you for your support!**

MID-TERM BREAK

School will be closed from **Friday, October 30, 2026– Monday, November 2, 2026** for the Mid-term break. Classes resume on *Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Please remember to set your clocks **back one hour** before going to bed on **Saturday, October 31, 2026.** Time changes on *Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 2:00 a.m.*

IN-CLASS PROCEDURES

- The lunch order is taken in the classroom and sent to the kitchen.
- All food items should be ordered during the homeroom period. Lunch is eaten in the classrooms and students are allowed to go outside for recess.
- **Fast food lunches or cooked food are not allowed on campus.**

FRUIT, VEGETABLE AND WATER INITIATIVE

Saint Thomas More School continues with the **fruit-vegetable-water initiative** at break time. We are focusing on healthy food choices. Every student at break time is encouraged to eat fruits, vegetables and drink water. Other snacks such as yogurt, fruit snacks and nuts can be eaten during the lunch period. We look forward to your complete cooperation.

CANCER SHIRTS

Saint Thomas More School has partnered with the Gennie Dean Caring and Sharing Cancer Support Group. Cancer shirts are available in children sizes. The cost is $15.00 per shirt. **The last "Pink Friday" is October 23, 2026. Students may wear their pink shirts, long jeans (no holes) and tennis for $2.00.**

BASKETBALL SEASON

The basketball season opened on **Friday, October 2, 2026**. All parents, guardians and students are encouraged to attend the games at **Loyola Hall** beginning at **4:30 p.m**. to support **Team "Sparks"**. The entrance fee is as follows**: $3.00 (Adults); $2.00 (Children under 12). Students going on the bus are asked to dress in their P. E. shirt, long jeans, and tennis.** The bus leaves the campus at 2:15 p.m. The cost for taking the bus is $5.00. Parents should collect students from the hall by 7:00 p.m. **Consent forms are available in the office**. The basketball schedule is listed below:

Friday, October 23, 2026
Girls: STM & STC **Boys: SFJ & STM**

Thursday, October 29, 2026
Girls: XLS & STM **Boys: STM & XLS**

Friday, November 6, 2026
Girls: SFJ & STM **Boys: STC & STM**

Thursday, November 12, 2026
PLAYOFFS

Tuesday November 17, 2026
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday, November 19, 2026
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday, November 20, 2026
CHAMPIONSHIPS (IF NECESSARY)

SICKNESS PROTOCOLS

- **Children with a fever, cough, runny nose or congestion are not allowed in school regardless of a possible history of allergies or asthma.**

- A child who is **off sick** for any reason should not return to school until he/she is **free of all symptoms.**

- **When a doctor's letter confirming that a child is fit to return to school has been requested, a copy of this letter must be reviewed by the school nurse before the child can be admitted to school.**

- **Students are encouraged to keep masks in their school bags as they will be needed if the scholar becomes sick during school hours.**

- All medical information is **private and confidential**.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

It is important for all scholars to be healthy in the school environment. Students should **remain at home** if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (Above 100.4° F)
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Persistent Cough
- Fatigue/Lethargy
- Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing
- Body Aches/Pain
- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea

PROFILE OF THE BAHAMAS CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION GRADUATE

- *A Christian Leader*
- *An Academically Capable Person*
- *A Centered, Well Rounded Person*
- *A Loving Person*
- *A Lifelong Learner*
- *A Healthy Person*
- *An Environmentally Conscious Person*
- *A Financially Adept Person*

POLICY ON ABUSE

The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the school. Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the school reserves the right to require the withdrawal of the student if it determines that the parent or student partnership with the school is 'irretrievably broken'.

'Irretrievably broken' includes (but is not limited to) offenses including an assault, a threat whether written, spoken or by the Internet or inflammatory statements that harm the reputation of another. Disrespectful actions or words towards teachers, staff, parents, students or other school employees or visitors will result in suspension and probation or in serious cases that cause injury to persons or reputation, dismissal from the institution.

The school also reserves the right to place a student on probation or suspension or take whatever action it deems necessary for the safety of the school body where it is confirmed that the student was involved in a serious incident outside of school and allowing the student on campus could give rise to a serious incident during school.

MEDICATION

Only prescribed medication will be issued from the school's office. The medication should be sent in a Ziploc bag that is labelled and should have the correct dosage and spoon. The medicine should be collected at the end of the day. **Over the counter medication without a proper label will not be allowed at school.**

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

After school care runs from 3:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday. If you are interested, please see Ms. Chea. The cost is **$10.00 per day**. Persons who are not engaged in an afternoon activity will automatically be **placed in after care at 3:30 p.m. and charged the daily rate**. After school care provides students with homework assistance for all subjects.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs are now in progress. Please see the club leaders for additional information.

COLD WEATHER

Please be advised that only **buttoned-down navy-blue jackets or sweaters** should be worn during the cold season. ***Hooded sweaters and jackets are discouraged at Saint Thomas More School. Jackets ($45.00) and P. E. kits ($30.00) are available in the school's office.**

G. L. A. T. RESULTS

G. L. A. T. results for the year 2026 are available in the school's office. Parents/guardians will sign for the results.

BIRTHDAYS

Parents should request permission from the classroom teacher to have cupcakes on the occasion of a child's birthday. Forms are available from the classroom teacher and the school's office. **A kind donation of a new storybook to the school's library is requested of students choosing to celebrate their birthdays at school.**

***NO MASCOTS!** **NO BALLOONS**! **NO PARTY BAGS!**

CANS 4 KIDS

Saint Thomas More School has teamed up with **Cans 4 Kids** Bahamas. We are asking all families to get on board by saving your aluminum cans and bringing them to school. Let us help to keep our Bahamas clean and teach our children about the need to reduce, reuse and recycle. Your donations of cans should be communicated to the classroom teacher. Thank you for your support of this initiative.

POWERSCHOOL

The parent portal is open. This system will help you to track your child's grades. New parents should have received login access to view the program. Please email Mrs. Ferguson on sferguson@cec.edu.bs to set up your PowerSchool account.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students should be collected **no later than 15 minutes** after dismissal unless they are engaged in a supervised after school activity. Please pick up our scholars on time.

CHERYL'S KITCHEN

The breakfast and lunch program have been outsourced to Mrs. Cheryl Ford-Major and her team. All matters dealing with breakfast, lunch and snacks should be addressed in the kitchen.

Breakfast is served from 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. at a cost of $3.00. Tuna, sausage, mackerel, corned beef, grits and pancakes are offered. Eggs are available upon request. Parents are allowed to purchase breakfast from the kitchen. Lunch orders are taken during the homeroom period.

Students who arrive late and wish to order lunch should proceed to the kitchen to place their orders.

OCTOBER LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19	20	21	22	23
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	Hot Patties Sandwiches Early Dismissal at Noon	Nuggets & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	Pizza
26	27	28	29	30
Cheese Burger or Hot Dog & Fries	BBQ Meatballs, Macaroni and Cheese & Veg.	Chicken & Fries	Curry Chicken, White Rice & Veg.	**Mid-Term Break**

FAST FOOD LUNCHES SUCH AS MCDONALD'S, WENDY'S AND THE LIKE ARE NOT ALLOWED.
COOKED FOOD SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT ONTO THE CAMPUS.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER **CLEANLINESS**

21 **Literacy Assembly and Reading Expo/Flag Raising @ 10:00 a.m.**
(Summer Reading Challenge Projects are on display.)
22 **Distribution of Progress Report Cards; 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
23 **Grade Level Retreat – Grade 6**
23 **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
28 ***70th Anniversary T-Shirts, long jeans (no holes), tennis***
29 **FUN DAY**
29 **Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
30-2 (Nov.) **MID-TERM BREAK**
31 **Saint Thomas More Church Raffle and Fair**

NOVEMBER **KINDNESS**

1	**Feast of All Saints**
2	**Feast of All Souls**
3	**School resumes at 8:30 a.m.**
3-27	Spelling Contest Eliminations in Schools
4	**Founders' Day**
	137 Years of Catholic Education in the Bahamas
6	**Monthly Mass; 9:00 a.m.**
6	**Game Day at Loyola Hall, Gladstone Road; 4:30 p.m.**
7	**Block Party & Scavenger Hunt**
11	**Staff Meeting/Professional Development**
	(Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.)
11	**P. T. A. Meeting; 6:00 p.m.**
12	**Basketball Playoffs, Loyola Hall; 4:30 p.m.**
13	**Grade Level Retreat (Grade 5)**
14	**World Diabetes Day**
20	**Grade Level Retreat (Grade 4)**
17	**Writing Final Examination**
17	**Basketball Championships Begin at Loyola Hall; 4:30 p.m.**
18	**Language Arts Final Examination**
19	**Mathematics Final Examination**
19	**Basketball Championships Continue at Loyola Hall; 4:30 p.m.**
20	**World Children's Day**
20	**Basketball Championships at Loyola Hall (If Necessary)**
22	**FEAST OF ST. CECILIA**
22	**FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**
26	**HARVEST SERVICE**
27	**70th Anniversary T-Shirts, long jeans (no holes), tennis**
29	**First Sunday of Advent**

DECEMBER **FAIRNESS**

1	**WORLD AIDS DAY**
1	**First Day of Second Term - School Fees are due.**
	(K-5: $1,252.00; Grade 6: $1,377.00)
3	**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**
6	**Second Sunday of Advent**
8	**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
8	**Mass at 9:00 a.m.**
8	**MARY STAR OF THE SEA FEAST DAY**
8	**Christmas Production; Loyola Hall (TENTATIVE)**
13	**Third Sunday of Advent**
16	**ADVENT PARTY & WHEELS DAY (Donations to Charities)**
17	***70th Anniversary T-Shirts, long jeans (no holes)and tennis***
18	**Carol Service at 9:00 a.m.**
18	**Christmas Vacation begins at 12:00 p.m.**
18	**Distribution of Report Cards; 9:00 a.m. – 12: 00 p.m.**
13	**Third Sunday of Advent**
20	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
25	**CHRISTMAS DAY**
28	**BOXING DAY HOLIDAY**

JANUARY **ENTHUSIASM**

1	**NEW YEARS'S DAY HOLIDAY**
4	**School resumes at 8:30 a.m.**
4-29	**Registration for Admission to Catholic Schools (Kindergarten)**
11	**Majority Rule Holiday (NO SCHOOL)**
12	**School Resumes at 8:30 a.m.**
15	**Grade Level Retreat (Grade 3)**
18	**Aquinas College Entrance Examination (Grade 6)** **Parents should drop and collect their child.**
24	Saint Francis de Sales Feast Day
26	**60th Annual Archdiocesan Spelling Contest**
28	Saint Thomas Aquinas Feast Day
29	**Saint Augustine's Entrance Examination (Grade 6) (Tentative)** **Parents should drop and collect their child.**
29	***70th Anniversary T-Shirts, long jeans (no holes) and tennis***
31-6 (Feb.)	**Catholic Schools' Week**