



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL



An Artist's Conception

LEGACY OF LIGHT: RENAISSANCE

Case Statement & Objectives

**“EXCELLENCE HONORS GOD
AND INSPIRES PEOPLE”**

LUX IN TENEBRIS



LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE: CASE STATEMENT

St. Thomas Aquinas High School strives to be “New Hampshire’s High School of Excellence” and the school of choice for families, producing outstanding outcomes balanced on a rigorous study of faith and reason within a college preparatory environment.

Vision is the art of seeing what is often invisible to others. In 1960, seven School Sisters of Notre Dame, two Diocesan Priests and one coach acted with courage, perseverance, and trust to pursue a vision that, ultimately, would benefit thousands of students. Sixty years later, St. Thomas Aquinas High School stands as a testament to the Lord’s provision of hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11) and as a pillar of Catholic faith, service, and education in the Seacoast.

Our past, current and future successes rest upon the shoulders of our founders. They have created a history and tradition that fosters great pride that runs deep within our great institution. By building upon their efforts, we honor God, inspire people, and reflect the transformative work of our namesake, the great Thomas Aquinas himself.

As a school community, we are committed to consistently enrolling a student body of 500 talented young men and women, positioning us as a robust, rigorous high school that will offer strong academic opportunities, successful state and regional championship caliber athletic teams, and vibrant student clubs to fulfill a diverse set of interests.

The 2020 “Legacy of Light” campaign was appropriately paused during the COVID-19 global pandemic while all resources and energy were redirected toward developing a strategic re-opening plan. Led by President Dan Soller and Principal Paul Marquis, the Aquinas 2020-21 Task Force for Transition crafted and executed a detailed, comprehensive plan that led to successful in-person education for the entirety of the school year. STA’s efforts and successes truly highlighted the school as “Best in Class” during the 2020-21 school year.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School is now poised to reignite its efforts with the “Legacy of Light Renaissance Campaign.” Our Campaign goal is to raise the funds necessary to preserve and enhance St. Thomas Aquinas High School’s reputation of being a leader in Catholic education. We have identified \$7 million dollars as the goal by which we can transform our vision into reality.

By the conclusion of the 2023-2024 academic year, we will direct those funds toward improving several key areas:

- ❖ Academic and Scholastic Excellence
- ❖ Ministry and Mission
- ❖ Athletics and the Arts
- ❖ Campus and Spaces

St. Thomas Aquinas High School depends upon support from community members, alumni and alumnae, friends, and family members to truly be a “School of Excellence.” We ask you to support us as we propel St. Thomas Aquinas High School into greater regional and national prominence and launch Saints Pride forward for the next 60 years and beyond.

LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE



Academic and Scholastic Excellence

Technology
Curriculum Development
Faculty Professional Development

Ministry and Mission

Statues and Arches
Aquinas Fund and Endowment Growth
Naming Rights and Campus Signs
Hall of Honor/Hallway of Honor
St. Thomas Aquinas "Library"
Scholarships and Financial Aid
St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture Series

Athletics and the Arts

Our Lady of Victory Stadium and Athletic Complex Development and Completion
Lighting and Sound System for Performing Arts
Athletic Training Facility

Campus and Property

Classroom Improvements
Technology Center
Girls' Locker Room
Chapel Renovation
Center Circle and Flagpole
Atrium Entrance



LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE

Academic and Scholastic Excellence

- ❖ Technology
 - Update technology and improve technological proficiencies for faculty and staff so that they can be innovative and better prepare students to be digitally literate in an increasingly electronic world
 - Ensure learning platform matches School of Excellence
 - Improve technology so that the system better aligns with STA's academic vision to provide exceptional, rigorous academics in preparation and pursuit of extraordinary student outcomes
- ❖ Curriculum Development
 - Extend Winterterm-like courses throughout the year
 - Providing internships in the Seacoast for seniors that carry academic credit and bring experiential opportunities
 - Expand the number of college credit-bearing courses
 - Online college courses allow our students to continue in disciplines after exhausting our curriculum, open our curriculum to extensive elective opportunities, and demonstrate a rigorous course selection for seniors as they apply to their colleges and universities of choice
- ❖ Faculty Professional Development
 - Supporting graduate degrees
 - Highly qualified and educated faculty have a direct impact on the daily academic experience in the classroom; our goal is to have 80 percent or more of all faculty with a graduate degree (Master's or terminal degree)
 - Supporting certificates and credentials
 - Various teaching and professional certificates and credentials bring expertise to faculty and staff, and allow us to explore creative, innovative ways to advance the mission.
 - Supporting professional conferences
 - Professional development opportunities, conference, and online events have direct benefits for everyone, and participation and involvement in professional organizations across the state, region, and nation bring visibility to STA
 - Support a strategic compensation plan
 - Attract and retain highly qualified faculty who support the Catholic mission

LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE

Ministry and Mission

- ❖ Statues
 - St. Thomas Aquinas
 - Our namesake and patron Saint is a Doctor of the Church. It is a high priority to have a prominent statue in his honor to highlight our mission and its attention to Faith and Reason
- ❖ Naming Rights and Campus Signs
 - Naming rights provide to crucial benefits to STA: it is a most appropriate way to honor our faculty, staff, alumni/ae, families, and friends who have contributed so greatly to our School of Excellence, and it is an opportunity for signage to assist all visitors in navigating our campus; we can honor families and individuals by naming:
 - Benches and outdoor seating areas
 - Trees and garden areas
 - Brick pathways
 - Individual classrooms
- ❖ Hall of Fame/Hallway of Honor
 - Create space that elevates our community
- ❖ St. Thomas Aquinas Library
 - Create space to honor our namesake and patron saint
 - A site where past, present, and future families can reflect on the school's legacy and history
- ❖ Scholarships and Financial Aid
 - As a private, Catholic College Preparatory School, STA seeks to offer robust financial aid and support existing scholarships that allow families access and opportunities to be a Saint





LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE

Athletics and the Arts

- ❖ Our Lady of Victory Stadium and Athletic Complex
 - Baseball and Softball
 - Dugouts
 - Batting Cages
 - Artificial turf field
 - Providing artificial turf to the baseball and softball fields unifies our athletic complex as a cohesive, state-of-the-art playing surface for all outdoor athletics
 - Track
 - Pole vault equipment
 - High jump equipment
- ❖ Lighting and Sound System for Performing Arts
- ❖ Athletic Training Facility
 - Increased square footage and contemporary equipment will allow additional training opportunities while enhancing the safety and efficacy of athletic programming

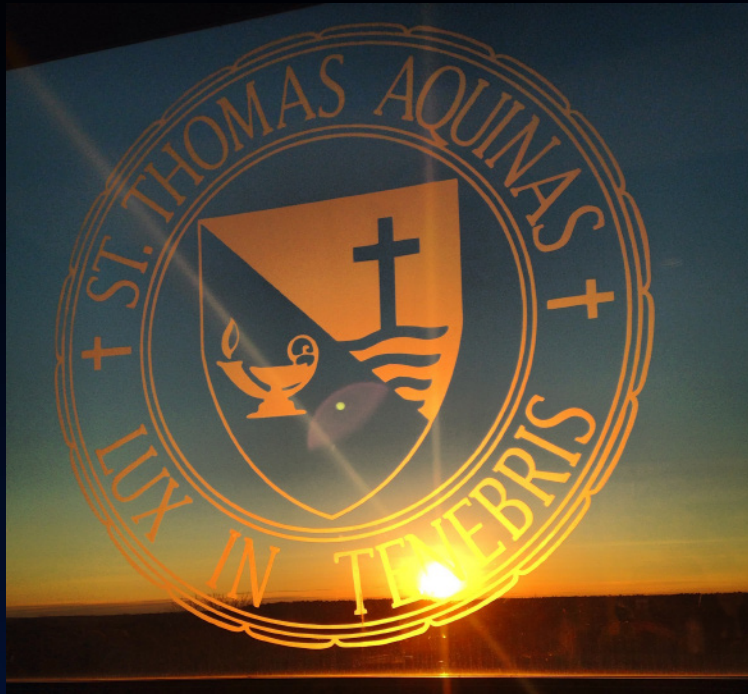


LEGACY OF LIGHT RENAISSANCE

Campus and Property

- ❖ Classroom Improvements
 - Renovate and refurbish classrooms
- ❖ Technology Center
 - Provide the latest technology and equipment to enhance digital and electronic arts, robotics and engineering, and provide exceptional academic opportunities
- ❖ Girls' Locker Room
 - In keeping with our proud athletic tradition of excellence, our Girls' locker Room will be the location of pre-game preparation and post-game recuperation
- ❖ Chapel Renovation
 - The Spiritual Center of campus is our Chapel, and it will be optimized to allow for worship, prayer, and reflection
- ❖ Center Circle and Flagpole
 - With proximity to the Atrium Entrance, the location of the Center Circle is poised to be the literal and figurative heart of the campus
- ❖ Glass Welcome Atrium
 - Students, families, and visitors will enter the Main Building through an inviting Glass Welcome Atrium that is suitable for an institution the caliber of St. Thomas Aquinas High School





CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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