



SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS  
HIGH SCHOOL

April 8, 2020

Dear STA Families,

The STA Regional Education Committee is hopeful that you are safe and managing to adjust to these challenging new circumstances in which we all find ourselves. We hope that you are prayerfully able to face the difficulties big and small but that you are able to enjoy the blessings that do present themselves.

We can advise that the Regional Education Committee is continuing to meet remotely to address the needs of the school, and to assist the administration when required. To that point, we are touching base to address a few questions that we have been receiving as we thought that you all may appreciate the answers.

**Why are we continuing to collect Parent Participation Fees when there is no opportunity to work in lieu of paying the fee?**

The Participation Fees are fees charged by the school and are needed to run the school. This separate fee category exists so as to create potential opportunity for parents to do work at the school that STA would otherwise have to pay outside workers to do. This program was created in an effort to keep tuition costs and fees down. These work opportunities are based on available jobs needed at the school. These opportunities are not a right and the fees are owed if any agreed upon work is not performed. For this portion of the fees, there just exists the potential to work instead of paying the money.

**Why are you continuing to cash monthly tuition cheques when school is not fully in session and the students are not in the building?**

We are continuing to cash cheques as we continue to run the school and experience costs including salaries and building costs. STA is continuing to provide a full education in spite of the social isolation required during these unprecedented times. STA is providing structure for our students with daily lessons following their timetable. Our teachers are providing real time instruction and extra help is also available. There is a

skeletal staff running the school from the building while most are at home. This is necessary given that registration is open, university and personal counselling is continuing, LRC is functioning and the IT requirements have increased. Additionally, there are building related costs in spite of the students not being present. There are fixed costs regardless of student presence including insurance, HVAC, municipal utilities charges and many more. There have also been additional costs related to this form of remote learning. We assure you that STA continues to run the finances with efficiency and responsibility.

If payment of your school fees and tuition has become difficult, please contact Regional Education Committee Member Mr. Frankie Tsang-Wing at [staacctr@gmail.com](mailto:staacctr@gmail.com). All communication will be strictly confidential.

Sincerely,

The STA Regional Education Committee