



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

A child's learning and success in school can be directly impacted by communication and language skills. A child's overall future success can be improved greatly through the early identification of communication disorders, establishment of their causes, and subsequent intervention. Speech and language disorders can adversely affect every aspect of a child's experience at school, if not addressed. You can imagine how significantly some of these struggles could impact a child's learning. St. Thomas Aquinas is committed to the success of your children. Our goal is to take a pro-active approach in helping children achieve their highest potential in life. Therefore, we are conducting communication screenings at the Lower School on October 2-3, 2019. I encourage you to take a moment to read the brief descriptions below to help you determine whether or not to have your child screened. The screenings will be completed by Achieve Hearing and Rehabilitation; the cost is \$35.

**Language**

- Trouble understanding age-appropriate vocabulary
- Expressive language difficulty – forming sentences, communicating information verbally and in writing
- Receptive language difficulty – comprehending verbal and written information

**Auditory/Language Processing**

- Difficulty following verbal or multi-step instructions or difficulty repeating information, distinguishing between similar sounding letters and words, remembering important details, or attending to a short story

**Pragmatics**

- Difficulty with social communication skills – following the rules of conversation, taking turns in conversation, understanding verbal and non-verbal signals, staying on topic, knowing what to say in common situations, detecting sarcasm, understanding figurative language, knowing how close to stand next to someone when speaking

**Voice**

- Trouble producing an appropriate voice - consistently hoarse, breathy, hypernasal, or hyponasal

**Fluency/Stuttering**

- Difficulty producing speech that is smooth and effortless – repeats sounds, words, or syllables; gets stuck on words

**Speech**

- Articulation difficulty - producing age-appropriate speech sounds

**Oral Motor Functioning, Eating, and Swallowing**

- Trouble speaking clearly, drooling
- Difficulty chewing/swallowing, substantially restrictive food preferences; may demonstrate food-related anxiety
- Chew with mouth open, food falls out of mouth while eating

We strongly recommend that your child participate in the communication screening if you have a concern about any of the areas noted above. In some cases a child's teacher may recommend that a child be screened based on observations here at school. Please see the attached permission form and checklists (note the different checklists for PK and K-2.) Only children whose parents have signed the permission form will be screened. Please attach your payment to the signed form and return it along with the appropriate checklist to the front desk **no later than Friday, September 27, 2019**. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, the Lower School Counselor Padmini Dayal, or me should you have any questions.

Best Regards,  
Lauren Roberts, Lower School Principal  
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School