

St. Thomas Aquinas Social Media Agreement Form

It is the goal of the St. Thomas Aquinas Youth group adult team to keep all students and parents aware of youth group activities and events through the use of social media (STA Website and App, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) and text messages (including GroupMe). Respect and safety of your child is of the utmost concern of the St. Thomas Aquinas staff.

Please read the Diocesan Social Media Policy/Guidelines listed below and complete this agreement form. By supplying the St. Thomas Aquinas staff with your child's information, as well as your own, you are consenting to your child's receipt of group text messages in relation to activities and events of the St. Thomas Aquinas high school youth group, as well as to the use of photographic images/videos of your child for social media use (STA Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). If you supply your own information, you will receive the same information being provided to your youth at the same time it is sent to your child via STAY notifications on the St. Thomas Wichita App, Facebook, email, or text message, or bulletin updates.

Social Media Policy

The use of social media is becoming increasingly popular and, is being used as a tool to communicate important information. If utilized by a ministry, social media should be used as a means of effective communication and education rather than for befriending people or socializing. Every effort must be made to provide a safe and secure environment and to avoid the appearance of impropriety when using the internet and other social media as a ministry tool.

- Social media may not be utilized for personal correspondence with minors or students.
- When social media is used for sending ministry related information, correspondence with minors or students (including texting, IM/chat or messaging), should always include the minor's or student's parent or guardian. The correspondence with parents does not need to be via the same technology (i.e. if a minor receives a reminder via Twitter, parents can receive it in a printed form, or via email or automated notification). When communicating with youth via electronic communication, the primary purpose shall be for providing information related to a ministry or event and not for socialization or other personal interaction. Counseling of youth through such communication methods is prohibited.
- Acceptable hours of communication with youth via electronic communications are between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Communication outside of the acceptable hours may be used only in emergency situations or to communicate time sensitive information related to the ministry or ministry related event.
- Employees may not post or distribute personal identifiable information including pictures of any child under the age of eighteen *without verifiable consent of a parent or guardian*. Personal identifiable information includes full name, photos, home address, email address, telephone number or any information that would allow someone to identify or contact a child. "Tagging" pictures is *only allowed with verifiable parental consent*.

Name of High School Youth Participant: _____

Phone number of youth participant (*for text message updates*): _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone number of parent/guardian (*for text message updates*): _____

Email of parent/guardian: _____

____ I hereby authorize the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, specifically St. Thomas Aquinas staff, to utilize my child's phone number for use of texting event and meeting activity updates. In giving my consent, I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Catholic Diocese of Wichita and its agents from any and all responsibility or liability.

____ I hereby authorize the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, specifically St. Thomas Aquinas staff, to utilize photographic and/or video images of my child for use of social media specifically for the high school youth group. In giving my consent, I hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Catholic Diocese of Wichita and its agents from any and all responsibility or liability.

Please accept my signature below as my parental/guardian consent to the above items.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date