

## **Voluntary Pre-School Program**

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School was awarded highest placement of a VPK religious exempt school in 2010. This means that our students scored higher than any other religious VPK schools within Osceola County.

The VPK program is FREE for all four-year-olds born on or before September 1 who reside in Florida and has high quality standards that include:

- Qualified instructors
- Age appropriate curriculum with a strong emphasis on early literacy skills
- Manageable class sizes

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) began as a constitutional amendment passed by Florida voters in November 2002 and signed into law January 2, 2005. It is designed to prepare every four-year old in Florida for Kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. The VPK program gives each child an opportunity to perform better in school and through life with quality programs that include high literacy standards, accountability, appropriate curriculum, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes, and qualified instructors. All eligible four-year-olds are entitled to participate in one of the VPK programs options.

## **STEP UP FOR STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP**

Step Up For Students is an initiative of the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program. The innovation program provides k-12 education scholarships for qualifying low-income students who are entering kindergarten or first grade or attended public school the previous year. The scholarships give low-income parents the opportunity to choose the K-12 school that best meets their children's needs. The scholarship covers up to \$4,011 for private school tuition and books or up to \$500 in transportation costs to an out-of-district public school.

You may qualify for a scholarship if:

Your child is entering 2<sup>nd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and attended a Florida public school for the entire previous school year OR is entering kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Your household income meets the qualifying factors on the [www.stepupforstudents.org](http://www.stepupforstudents.org) web site.

## **McKay Scholarship**

The McKay scholarship is a school choice scholarship that allows students with Individual Educational Plans (IEP) with the public school to attend private school. Our school has a resource teacher on staff to assist with meeting the needs of all of our students.

If you are interested in any of these scholarship opportunities or in enrolling your child in our school please call the school to make an appointment for a personal tour.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School  
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