

**St. Thomas Aquinas High School
Peer Leadership**

Dear Junior,

The selection process for the STA Peer Leadership program will begin on **Tuesday, February 4, 2020**. Those juniors who are selected will be enrolled in the peer leadership course for the 2020-2021 school year. The Religion 4/Peer Leadership course focuses on peer relationships by using problem solving skills, group cohesion exercises, role-playing and small group discussion.

Peer Leaders are **required** to attend a three day workshop in late August/early September, a two day mid-winter workshop in January, Junior Peer Leadership Training and a Peer Leadership Closure Workshop. **These activities are a part of the PL class and supersede all extra curricular activities.** Dates of these events will be given in advance to allow for notification and schedule changes. Peer Leadership counts as your Religion requirement for senior year. In this course, peer leaders are committed to meet with a peer teacher daily for one class period throughout the year to improve leadership and communication skills and to develop a greater awareness of group process. **A textbook, daily journal, periodic tests/quizzes, mid-term and final exams are academic requirements.** In the second quarter, peer leaders will begin to co-lead a weekly freshmen discussion group. The STA Peer Leadership program advocates a "substance-free" philosophy and modeling positive behavior to the BGA community. It requires that all peer leaders commit to this policy by signing a No Use Contract (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping).

Applicants must have a **2.5** or better GPA to be eligible to apply to the Peer Leadership program. Anyone interested in applying must be certain that his or her schedule will allow for this course (see your school counselor, if unsure). If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete an application and return it to the School Counseling Office by **Monday, February 10, 2020 by 8 a.m.** Applications will not be accepted after this date.

The application process for peer leadership consists of the following steps:

1. A completed application, which must be signed by a parent/guardian and student;
2. An individual interview with two peer teachers; (*sign-up when you return application*)
3. An observed small group discussion with other applicants.

Lastly, a recommendation sheet listing all applicants will be given to teachers and current peer leaders for confidential feedback.

If you have any questions, feel free to see me! Thank you for your interest in Peer Leadership!

Sincerely,

Mr. Terence J. Reilly
Peer Leadership Coordinator

PL APPLICATION

PLACE PHOTO
HERE
(required)

Name: _____

Student Number: _____ Homeroom/Homeroom Teacher: _____

Lunch Period: _____ Religion Teacher: _____ Date: _____

Peer Leadership Contract

If I am selected as a peer leader, I understand that I am a role model and a positive leader to freshmen and other students and agree to behave accordingly (follow all policies in student handbook). I have read the requirements and expectations of this program and understand the commitment of my time and responsibility to the program. In addition, I realize that Peer Leadership is an academic class and that it supersedes all extra-curricular activities. It will be my responsibility to handle any schedule conflicts. I understand that Peer Leadership is a drug, alcohol and tobacco free program and I agree to uphold the commitment of a No Use Policy. I also understand the importance of confidentiality and agree to follow this policy. **If I do not comply with the requirements and policies of the Peer Leadership program, I acknowledge that my grade will be affected and/or I will be asked to withdraw from the class.**

Student's Signature

Parental Permission

My child _____ has permission to participate in the peer leadership program for the school year 2020-2021 should she/he be selected. I have read the requirements and expectations and fully understand the commitment of the program. **I also understand that should my selected senior not adhere to these policies and requirements, their grade will be affected and/or he/she will be asked to withdraw from the class.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Peer Leadership Application

Please answer the following questions with honesty and thoroughness. You may use the back of the page if necessary.

1. What is Peer Leadership? Why is it important to the STA community? Who does it impact at STA? In what ways? What have you heard/know about the class?
2. Specifically, what do you hope to **gain** from this program? What is your motivation for applying?
3. Did you have Peer Leadership as a freshman? If **so**, what did you learn from the experience? Was it a positive or negative experience? Why? If **not**, how did you feel about not having Peer Leadership? How/What did you hear about Peer Leadership?
4. List your hobbies and extra-curricular activities. Include any organizations or clubs in which you have participated in this year. Also, list any out of school activities.

5. Peer leadership requires the commitment of time and energy for the entire year. How do you plan to manage your time to meet your responsibilities to peer leadership? Be specific.

6. How do you handle group work? Explain your role/demeanor when it comes to group work

7. What would you most like to be remembered for in your lifetime?

Number of days you were absent this year: _____ Explain reasons for any absences.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Thanks for Applying!

PEER LEADERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

There are three parts to the selection process. Each part is scored by at least two peer teachers to determine an average for that part. Confidential recommendation sheets are distributed to the faculty and present peer leaders. The final selection is based on the participant's score and recommendations.

***PLEASE NOTE: THE SCORES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE NOT SHARED WITH ANYONE (including students and/or their parents). INFORMATION IS ONLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PEER TEACHERS FOR SELECTION PURPOSES.**

- **APPLICATION: PART 1**

- *Applications can be picked up in the counseling office starting Feb.4th. All completed applications must be returned no later than 8:00 am on Feb. 10th.*
- *Applications must have a picture and a parent/guardian signature along with completed answers to be considered acceptable.*
- *Applications are also available on the STA website under Academics/Peer Leadership.*
- *Applications are judged on clarity of answers, neatness, promptness of submission and the time and effort put into answering the questions.*

- **INTERVIEW: PART 2**

- *Interviews are scheduled on Friday, February 14 (2:15 - 6:00 pm) & Saturday, February 15 (8 am - 2 pm). After turning in an application, participants must sign - up for an interview time. The Sign - Up sheet is in the counseling office next to the RETURN BOX.*
- *Interviews are conducted at STA (location will be posted). Participants are asked to be on time and can expect the interview to last about 15 minutes.*
- *Interviews are conducted by two peer teachers. Questions are focused on aspects of the peer leadership program philosophy.*
- *Interviewees are judged on punctuality, clarity of answers and verbal and non verbal communication.*

- **GROUP OBSERVATION: PART 3**

- *Groups are scheduled after school, Tuesday, Feb. 18th and Wednesday, Feb. 19th.*
- *Each participant is assigned a specific date, time and group by Mr. Reilly*
- *Participants are given a group task and are observed by peer teachers*
- *Participants are judged on punctuality, communication (listening, eye contact, clarity, respectfulness, etc.) and group skills.*

PEER LEADERSHIP PERSONAL INTERVIEWS: 2020

Friday, Feb. 14th 2:15 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, Feb. 15th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

The peer leadership personal interview is the second step in the Peer Leadership Selection process. All applicants must sign-up for an interview. Please schedule your interview when you return your completed application to the Counseling Office. There will be a sign - up sheet provided with specific time slots next to the return bin. Check your other responsibilities before you sign up for your specific time slot. If anyone has a problem with scheduling an interview, see Mr. Reilly in the Guidance Office.

Interviews will last about 15 minutes and are

MANDATORY