



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*



August 05 – 11, 2019

*Celebrating 108 years of educational excellence in Covington
and
339 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world*



Again, welcome to 2019-20 school year – the beginning of the ninth year of our second century of life! I'm glad last week's mammoth newsletter didn't scare you off! I tried to make this one shorter!

As we begin a new year of Lasallian education, I invite you to reflect on the icon we have chosen for the year: **Brother James Miller, FSC**. To Lasallians, this icon is most appropriate, because in December, Pope Francis will beatify Brother James – the penultimate step before official Catholic sainthood!

Brother James was martyred on February 13, 1982, at the age of 37, in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Born into a family of farmers in Wisconsin in 1944, he attended Pacelli High School in the city of Stevens Point, where he met the Brothers for the first time. He eventually joined the Brothers, took vows, and was assigned to Cretin High School in Saint Paul, MN for three years. There, besides teaching classes in Spanish, English and Religion, he supervised school maintenance and he coached American-style football.

In August 1960 after making perpetual vows, he went to Bluefields, Nicaragua and then to Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua in 1974, where he was the Director. Under his leadership, the school population grew from 300 to 800 students. He also accepted the task of supervising the construction of ten new rural schools. His religious superiors ordered him to leave Nicaragua in July 1979 during the time of the Sandinista revolution. It was feared that since he worked for the Somoza government he might be at risk. For that reason, he returned to the United States and again taught at Cretin High School.

He was then sent to Guatemala, in January 1981 to teach at the secondary school in Huehuetenango and also at the Indian Center, where young indigenous Mayans from rural areas studied and trained in agriculture.

Over the next few months, I'll expand on this inspirational story and what led to Brother James's journey to Catholic sainthood. And in honor of his beatification in December of this year, we remember him and his courageous life – and ask his intercession with Almighty God to help us continue our Lasallian Mission.

Brother James Miller reminds us what a courageous and committed man can do with God's help.

Blessed Brother James Miller! Help us live courageously!

Mon, Aug 5 – Faculty Meetings

- **TDIH:** In 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 105th Street in Cleveland. Little did they know what they started!
- **TDIH:** In 1850, French writer Guy de Maupassant, who probably had the greatest impact upon the development of short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. Clever plots, clear style, and surprise endings characterize his stories. Read de Maupassant! “The Necklace” & “Piece of String” are classic!
- **National Underwear Day:** I’ll let you “briefly” (sorry!) decide if you’re going to celebrate this – or not! DYK that sales of men's underwear - a discretionary purchase - is used by some Wall Street execs measure how people feel financially. When sales decline, it's usually indicates the economy is headed for a fall. Who knew? Help the economy by purchasing underwear!
- **Oyster Day:** Indulge in this LA favorite – if you can find them with the algae bloom! Some facts:
 - There are over 100 species of true oysters traditionally named after body of water where found.
 - The largest oyster-producing body of water is Chesapeake Bay.
 - Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
 - Two billion lbs are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl

Tue, Aug 6 – Faculty Meetings

- **Feast of the Transfiguration:** *In a resplendent cloud, the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father’s voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him. May we listen to the Lord on this first day of school – and every day!*
- **TDIH:** In 1945, at 8:16 am Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops world's first atom bomb, over city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people die as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would die by end of year from effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used.
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! ‘Nuff said!
- **National Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email or see below for more information)**
- **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (5:30 – 7:30):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest wolves. Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon and all who will help tonight.



Wed, Aug 7 – Teacher/Staff Preparation Day

- **Purple Heart Day:** Today in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created of the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.

- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.
- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? What do we older people do when even mainstream society can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email or see below for more info)**

Thu, Aug 8 (Full Day for all; Orientation Assembly; periods A B C D only)

- **This Day in History: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 92 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an active and important member of the SPS community through his friendly, generous, concerned and



Student Council had a productive retreat last week as they prepare many activities for the school year.

compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!

- **TDIH:** In 1786, US Congress chooses the dollar as the money unit for the US.
- **Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day – self-explanatory!**
- Students must be in their Block A class by 8:00 am. **Traffic has not gotten any better of late, so please allow plenty of time for prompt arrival.**
- **Important Info about Uniforms for Thursday, August 8:** On Thu, August 8, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thu, Aug 09. How will you know? Refer to class schedule that you should have received by now. If you have not received a schedule, contact me.
- Students only need to bring materials for periods A B C & D on August 8. Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.
- **Yearbook Distribution for Class of 2019 – 5-6 pm in cafeteria. We look forward to welcoming back the Class of 2019 before they leave for the next phase of their lives!**

Fri, Aug 9 (Orientation Assembly schedule; periods E F G A only meet today)

- **TDIH:** In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon resigned at noon as the 37th president of the United States. He is the only president ever to resign. Vice-President Gerald Ford became the 38th president. Ford, the

first president who came to the office through appointment rather than election, had replaced Spiro Agnew as vice president only eight months before. In a political scandal independent of the Nixon administration's wrongdoings in the Watergate affair, Agnew had been forced to resign in disgrace after he was charged with income tax evasion and political corruption.

- **Book Lover's Day:** What a great day at the beginning of the school year!
- **Important Info about Uniforms for Friday, August 9:** On Fri, Aug9, students with religion class in E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pics. Students who had their pics taken on Thu wear regular uniforms.
- Students only need to bring materials for periods E F G & A on August 9. Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.



Sat, Aug 10

- **TDIH:** In 1776, news of the July 4th Declaration of Independence reaches King George III of England.
- **TDIH II:** In 1945, Japan announces it will surrender, following the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.
- **National S'mores Day!** Celebrate the opening of school and make some s'mores with the family!

Sun, Aug 11

- **TDIH: In 1951** - The first major league baseball game to be televised in color was broadcast. The Brooklyn Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves 8-1.
- **TDIH: 1994**, the longest major league baseball work stoppage begins, causing cancellation of the 1994 World Series (the world shrugged.)

Rise Up, O Men of God

I draw the following to your attention (in alphabetical order, not order of importance):

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study, and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not arrive to class with their homework must attend assignment hall after school.**

ATHLETIC CALL-OUTS:

- **8th Grade Football:** A meeting will be held in the old gym on Thursday, August 8 after school. The first practice is Friday, August 9 after school. Meet at the locker rooms outside of the gym at 3:30 wearing St. Paul's PE or Football gym gear. You must turn your physical form into the office in order to participate.
- **The Cross Country team** invites any interested runners to come out and join the team. Please see Ms. Allen in Room 116 for schedules, team information, and any other information you may need. The team practices daily from 3:30-5:30, with competition on Saturdays. Come join the Running Wolves for an exciting season.
- **Swim Team:** Any student interested in joining the St. Paul's Swim Team for the 2019-20 school year, please contact Mrs. Rachel Peak via email at rachelp@stpauls.com. Practices will begin August 12, so be sure to have an updated physical on file!
- Covington Orthopedic clinic and Sports Medicine Institute, 19343 Sunshine Ave., Covington, LA 70433, will offer free physicals on Saturday, August 17, 7:30 am. Any St. Paul's student wishing to participate in a sport must have a completed physical on file.

ATTENDANCE: Please following all SPS attendance regulations as found in the Student-Parent Handbook and make Suzie's job as easy as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

BAND: Become a Marching Wolf, one of the premier organizations around! See Mr. Andrew Moran, band director, in the band room. Beginners welcome! We are at 96 Marching Wolves! That's wonderful, but I want 101 in honor of the 101 years of Christian Brother ownership of Saint Paul's.

BOOK STORE:

**ST PAUL'S
MOTHER'S CLUB BOOKSTORE**



**Back to School "Book Week"
at the Bookstore:**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Saturday, August 3rd
9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Monday - Wednesday, August 5th - 7th
7:00 am - 12:30 pm	Thursday & Friday, August 8th & 9th

School Supplies Packs will be available for pick up starting Saturday, August 3rd!

Regular Bookstore Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 8:15 am, 11:00 am -12:30 pm

Friday of a Home Football Game - 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

PE Uniforms, Outerwear,
Sack Packs, New and Old
St. Paul's Apparel, Ladies
Apparel, Socks, Used
Uniforms, School Supplies
and Much More...

Your one stop
shop for just
about everything
you need!



CAFETERIA: Students may bring their lunch or purchase lunch from the cafeteria. If the latter, they must have money in their account. You may add funds either in person or on line (<http://www.schoolcafe.org/online-payment-instructions/>) Students will need their IDs to purchase. We will give them a temporary ID in class on Thu. Again, for those families experiencing difficult financial times, the free and reduced lunch/ breakfast program can help. You can pick up applications **from the cafeteria manager or me**. This does not embarrass your son, as no one knows. It's all very confidential.

CALENDAR for 2019 – 20: Here is the basic calendar. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.

Mon - Tues, Aug 5 & 6	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 7	Teacher Prep Day
Thurs, Aug 8	School Opens with full day of instruction
Mon, Aug 19	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30)
Thu, Aug 22	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 23	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 26	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Fri, Aug 30	Lasallian Formation Day for Faculty (no classes for students)
Mon, Sep 02	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 11	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 11	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:00)
Mon, Oct 21	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Nov 02	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 04	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 25 - 29	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Dec 02	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 16-19	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 19	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 06	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Jan 09 - 10	Senior Retreat
Mon, Jan 20	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 03	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 21	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 24 -28	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 02	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 13	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 10 – 17	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 20	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 29 – May 01	Senior Final Exams
Thu, May 14	Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 16	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tues – Fri, May 19 - 22	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Mon, May 25	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tues, May 26	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case of emergency closings, we will take student make-up days from scheduled holidays. **Note that school begins with all students reporting on Thursday, August 8 for a full instructional day.** Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school.

CAR LINES: There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder's Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or by the BAC is OK. Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Students may use their phones during lunch but only outside. We will enforce the no cell phone ban during class time and inside buildings unless teachers have given permission for in building use. If you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour – not during class time. With our campus wide Wi-Fi, he can use his phone to surf the internet if needed. And, yes, our security firewalls are in effect.



DADS' CLUB: If you would like to be included on the SPS Dads' Club email list to keep informed about upcoming meetings and events, please email spdadsclub@gmail.com or shea.duet@gmail.com. The Dads' Club meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm, at the Abita Brewery. You can also join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/> The following is just some of the work done by the dads on July 27:

- Pressure washed the facade and courtyard of the retired Brothers house.
- Primed and repainted the entry way arch lettering.
- Cleaned the roof of the chapel.
- Pressure washed tables, benches, plaza areas, exterior stairs, and sidewalks throughout the campus.
- Took down decorative lighting for later repair.
- Trimmed hedges, beds and shrubs.
- Cleaned and trimmed the island brush (much to the ire of the ducks).
- Cleaned all campus signage.
- Cleaned school building entryways and mats.
- Cleaned the roofs of three buses.
- Cleaned three statues around campus.
- Power washed trashcans.
- Cleaned all sidewalks with leaf blowers
- Who knows what else that we did not see happening as dads and sons swarmed all over the campus
- As Trevor wrote: *It goes without saying that dads were an immense service to the school at a very busy and critical time, just before we welcome our students back to campus. Their help is a huge boost to all of us at St. Paul's and an encouraging sign of your faith in our common mission of educating their sons.*

DANCES:

- **Back to School:** Save the date: **SPS/SSA Back to School Dances is Friday, August 16.** Stay tuned for theme and costume details.
 - **8th and 9th Grades:** St. Paul's Briggs Assembly Center. 8th arrive at 7 PM for a Social, 9th arrive at 7:30 PM. Dance lasts from 7:30-9PM
 - **10th, 11th, and 12th Grades:** St. Scholastica Academy Gym. Dance lasts from 7-9PM.
- **Homecoming Dances:** The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, September 21. The Senior High (grades 10 – 12) Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, September 28.

DRESS CODE: Students must comply with the dress code beginning Aug 8. **WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR.** Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

DRIVER'S LICENSE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE: Your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building. I feel terrible when a parent waits two hours at the DMV only to be turned away b/c the son does not have his proof of attendance. This is a legislative act; don't blame me!

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS: The St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court's Elections Department is seeking to recruit and train high school seniors as certified election commissioners. Students can earn between \$100 and \$300 per election. With elections scheduled in St. Tammany in October and November, **commissioner certification classes will begin in August! For that reason, we must reach this year's senior class when the school year begins.** For more information about serving as an Election Commissioner, contact the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court's Election Department at (985) 809-8700 or www.StTammanyClerk.org
Seniors can also get more information from their Civics teacher this year, Mr. Moser or Mr. Scoriels.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) is issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com. This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student's request. Your son's email will be printed on the schedule that you receive. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, let us know if you change email address.** Check spam filter as sometimes our emails end up there.



Marching Wolves ham it up before picture taking day.

ENROLLMENT: We open this year with a very healthy enrollment. I am humbled and proud that so many parents are willing to entrust their sons to us and make the sacrifices necessary to do so. **Stress with your son that he is being given a gift – a gift that others want. He must use this gift wisely and make good choices.**

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Clubs and teams are already forming. Encourage your son to get involved. Research shows correlations between academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. We will be informing our students about how to become involved.

HELPING SPS: Don't forget – If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase! We also collect Box Tops for Education (have your son bring them to his math teacher) and we receive a portion of sales from Amazon Prime. These are painless ways to help SPS.

ID CARDS: Students must wear their ID cards on a lanyard every day. No one has to pay for an ID card unless you want an extra one. We will give one to your son on picture day. You will have to pay for a replacement if he loses the one we give him or if for some reason you want an extra one.

JAZZ 'N ROLL: J n R XXVIII is Sat evening, Nov 02. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273. More info to come, but mark your calendars!

LATE STARTS: We will have 9 am starts on the following days for faculty meetings. I hope this helps you schedule doctor appointments, etc., which minimize missed class time. Here are the 9:00 am start dates:

- Sept 16
- Oct 21
- Oct 25
- Dec 2
- Feb 3
- Mar 9
- Apr 20

Also, **note that there are no classes for students on Friday, August 30 and Monday, November 4.** Please use these days, too, for appointments, etc.

LAST FEW WEEKS:

- **New Teachers:** Our new teachers spent last week in getting oriented to SPS and being introduced to the Lasallian Mission, along with new teachers from the Lasallian schools of NO (Can you name them?)
- **FAB** spent last week preparing with Joe and Trevor.
- **Teacher Meetings:** Thanks to those who prepared our time together this week. We are ready – I think.
- **The Mothers Club** deserves a shout out, as bookstore open long hours this week. They will also provide us with great lunches during our meetings and supply our classrooms with necessities such as tissue and wipes.
- **Physical Plant Staff** deserve a shout out as they worked hard with last minute repairs and cleaning.
- **Football Team** has been working hard all summer and held an 8th Grade Sign Up and Varsity Spirit Night last Tuesday. Lots of blue and gold apparel was in evidence.
- **The new gym floor** was restored to pristine status last week.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle for another great issue.
- **Summer Camps:** Kudos to Craig and Keren Davis and all the camp staff for a well-organized and successful summer camp season. Kudos and thanks to Gordon Carmadelle for Drama Camp, Julie Beck for Robotics Camp, Elizabeth and Shannon for Math Camps, Julie, Randy Ford and HOSA Wolves for Biomed camp, Gina Hall and Mary Pierson for Success programs for incoming students. It's been a busy summer.
- **Meet the Band was a hit!** A great show with great music. Thanks MWs and Golden Blues!

LET US REMEMBER....: Four years ago, Brother Jeffrey Calligan encouraged us “to return to a practice of hundreds of years in our Lasallian family - that of creating a moment of silence after the leader calls the community to remember the presence of God before going on to any other vocal prayer.” We will continue this excellent practice, a custom, Brother Jeffrey wrote, “that dates itself to the time of De La Salle and his first companions.” “That moment of silence,” he continued, “helped the street kids of his schools to learn that God is in the quiet and silence of our heart and our being together.” It’s a good way to start family prayer time, too, especially grace before meals. By so doing, you continue a practice that has transformed lives since 1680.

LOST & FOUND: Insist that your son show responsibility for belongings. Please mark his clothing with his name to facilitate return of lost items. The lost and found locker is outside the School Attendance Office.

MINI-SCHEDULE NIGHT: We will hold our annual mini-schedule for parents on Monday, August 26, beginning at 6:30. Come follow your son’s schedule with ten-minute classes and meet his teachers. This is always a popular event, so place it on your calendars. Thanks!



New 8TH & 9TH GRADE STUDENTS: Our Lasallian Student Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8th graders and NEW 9th graders on Tue, August 6, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. **BRING A COPY OF YOUR SCHEDULE.** Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS. Do not worry, however, if you cannot make it. We will “orient” you when school begins. Please RSVP by emailing our Lasallian Youth Leader moderator, Mr. Jeff Ramon, at j.ramon@stpauls.com so we can plan supper accordingly.

NEW PARENT RECEPTION & INFORMATION MEETING: We will hold a welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** on Mon, Aug 19 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 and will be over by 8:00. We hope you will be with us! I will send out more info this week. The Mothers Club will hold a welcoming reception on Thu, Sep 12, at 6:00 for new moms. Come get involved!

NEWS WORTH NOTING:

- A new study by researchers in Seattle has found adolescents with chronic or severe depression are at a higher risk of developing a cannabis-use problem at 18. Here's the link: https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2017/07/17/Cannabis-use-at-18-linked-to-depression-in-young-teens/3671500317250/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=3
- The suicide rate among 10- to 14-year-olds doubled between 2007 and 2014, for the first time surpassing the death rate in that age group from car crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here's the link: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/07/14/america-sees-alarmspike-middle-school-suicide-rate/479478001/>

PLUSPORTALS is our on-line grade and homework site. New students should have received an email with your unique log in code. Please activate your account and check it regularly.

SCHOOL MASS: Our first all-school mass is Thursday, Aug 15 – Feast of the Assumption. **DRESS UNIFORM required** -- white long sleeved shirt, school tie, long khaki pants, & brown belt.

SCHOOL SAFETY: School safety remains paramount for all of us. Promote safety with your son. In our faculty meetings, we reviewed all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – and it is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear. Encourage your sons to report, too. **All visitors to campus must sign in and receive a Visitor's Pass. You may not just wander the campus. Thanks for understanding this procedure.** Our prayers rise to heaven for a safe school year and the elimination of violence of all kinds in our schools – and in all of society.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES: **Class schedules were emailed last week if tuition payments were current.** If you request a change, read info on the schedule sent and follow directions. Changes will be made for only serious reasons. A change fee will be charged.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site (www.stpauls.com). Just click on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son's schedule. While we encourage you to shop at the Mothers Club bookstore, **if you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

SCHOOL ZONE CELL PHONE BAN: State law prohibits motorists from using hand held wireless communications devices while traveling through school zones during posted hours. The law includes use of a cellular/wireless device for engaging in a voice call, accessing, reading, or posting to a social networking site, and/or writing, sending, or reading a text-based communication. The school zone cell phone ban does not apply if the device is being used to report an emergency, is being used in a hands-free manner, or while the vehicle is lawfully parked. Upon first violation of the school zone ban the fine is \$175, subsequent violations can be up to \$500, and if a crash occurs during the time of the violation, the judge can increase the fine.

SENIOR WEEK: SW is right around the corner! The Senior Class Moms will be sending senior parents an email with specifics, but here is the basic plan:

- Tue, Aug 20 – Senior BBQ (5:30-7:30) -- Wolf Dome Note: This is correct time. I had an error last week.
- Thu, Aug 22 – March through the Arch (8 am)
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior – Parent continental breakfast 8:30
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior Unity Day /Ring Ceremony Practice: 9:30 – 2:00 (maybe earlier if we finish)
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior Ring Ceremony at **6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center;
- Fri, Aug 23 – Senior Ring Holiday – no classes for senior

SENIOR PORTRAITS: Expressions Photography will be at St. Paul’s School to photograph the senior class of 2020 on **Tuesday, August 6** and **Wednesday, August 7**. Each senior will be photographed in cap and gown and tuxedo (both will be provided by Expressions). Here are the details:

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- **When:** Seniors/parents will receive an email with the designated date (either 8/6 or 8/7) and time. It is important to arrive promptly so your scheduled group can be photographed in a timely manner.
 - **Where:** Lobby area of New Gym
 - **What to wear:** Plain white tee-shirt and shorts (any kind is fine as long as they are in good repair). Seniors should be **clean-shaven** and have an **appropriate school-length haircut**. Facial hair will show if not properly shaved. (Moms are welcomed to attend)
 - **Portraits:** Senior proofs/order form will be mailed to your home address within the next three weeks. An email will be sent to notify families when proofs are mailed. If you do NOT receive proofs within a reasonable amount of time, please call the studio.
 - **Return** completed order form and proofs to Expressions.
 - **Select tux pose** that will be used for the yearbook (even if you DO NOT order portraits, a tux pose MUST be selected).

STUDENT HOSTS: Some Student Hosts will help our new students for the first few days. The hosts will wear their student host shirts instead of the blue uniform shirt – except on picture day.

STUDENT DRIVING: We will be vigilant and pro-active at dismissal concerning student drivers. Both the Covington PD AND SPS will issue tickets to offenders. Our driving policy has a series of fines for infractions, in addition to other disciplinary action, and leading to loss of driving to school privilege. Take heed!

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK: The signature card indicating that you and your son have read and agree to abide by the Handbook is due on Thursday, Aug 08. The handbook is on our web site home page.

STUDENT PICTURES: Ordering pictures is optional. If you want to order, have your son bring the order form and check with him to picture taking on Thu or Fri. **Senior parents: these pictures are NOT the senior portraits**, which will be taken this week on Aug 6 and 7.

SUSTAINED SILENT READING: Shortly after the start of school, we will begin daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) during the first 15 minutes of Block 2. During this time, everyone in the school (students, teachers, administrators, and staff) will read silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying textbooks or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for

pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and over the years has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved standardized test scores, increased background knowledge on a wide range of topics, and increased reading time out of school. Students should bring their own reading material, but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared on Wednesday and every day thereafter. **You might want to consider initiating a family SSR time, too!** I will keep you posted as to how things go.

TELEPHONES: We are installing a new telephone system – which is taking longer than expected! It's been a challenge at times to reach us by phone. We still have a couple of days before full service is restored. Please be patient if you call. Voice mail has not yet been completely installed. Emails are best at this point. Thanks for your patience. Also, extensions will change, so we will publish new ones as soon as available.



Library computers await return of students on August 8!

TRAFFIC FLOW ON CAMPUS: If you drop off or pick up your son, you will meet road congestion in the morning and afternoon around our campus. We ask your help in improving the traffic flow and safety:

- Consider an alternate pick up location for your son other than Founder's Circle. These include the drop off area by the Gene Bennett Sports Complex, the parking lot on the corner of 13th and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11th Avenue. You can drive through these parking lots or wait in a parking space there without holding up traffic elsewhere.

- DO NOT pick up your son using the shoulder of 11th Avenue. This is a dangerous area with poor visibility and further backs up traffic when you stop to load or unload.
- If you use the LaSalle Drive (main entrance) car line, please wait to the left so that thru traffic can still move through our campus using the right lane.
- Coordinate with your son about where and when you will meet him in the afternoon. If he is not present when you drive through, please proceed to a parking lot and wait for him there. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.
- Remind your son to be on the lookout for your car as you drive up.

Our primary concern is safety, so please adhere to all speed limit and traffic rules in the school area. We are working closely with the Covington Police Department to find solutions to traffic around school. Working together, we can improve both safety and circulation around our campus.

UNIFORMS: Reminders:

- Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) in Covington sells the uniform shirts, ties, and socks. Students may only wear white SPS socks.
- Mothers' Club bookstore sells sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc.
- Khaki pants/shorts may come from any vendor as long as they are NOT cargo pants and are standard tan khaki color, not green or brown.
- There is no uniform shoe but no sandals, etc. are allowed. The more conservative the better.
- We have a "dress uniform" which will be worn on special occasions: LONG khaki pants, dress white shirt (any brand is OK even if it has a small logo), dress socks, belt, SCHOOL TIE, and any shoe that is not a tennis/athletic shoe.
- Students must wear ID cards DAILY. This is a safety measure.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: At Saint Paul's, we stress community involvement. I encourage our students to volunteer – which research has shown boosts self esteem and helps the community. Here is an excellent opportunity, which relies on SPS students every year:

- ***Volunteer for the Mash!*** The Parenting Center's 31st Annual Monster Mash, **Saturday, October 19**, Bogue Falaya Park in Covington. They need over 150 volunteers to make this event a success. Come alone; bring a friend or the whole gang. Monster Mash is a great opportunity for students to receive their **SERVICE HOURS**. To volunteer, contact **Marlise Borelly or Juli Chastaine**; 985-898-4670; mborelly@stph.org; <https://tinyurl.com/MonsterMash2019>

WEEKLY HUMOR: Some jokes to start off the school year:

- *Last night I dreamt I wrote The Lord of the Rings. Then I realized I was just Tolkien in my sleep.*
- *Why does Sweden have barcodes on all of its ships? So they can Scan-di-navy-in.*
- *What pencil did Shakespeare write with? 2B.*
- *Who is the King of the classroom? The ruler.*
- *I am close friends with 25 letters of the alphabet... I don't know Y.*
- *I avoid clichés like the plague.*
- *Last night my classroom was broken into and all of the dictionaries were stolen. I'm lost for words.*

- *I've never met a three, but I have... metaphor.*
- *You can throw an envelope as far as you want, but it'll still be stationary.*
- *I've been working on a Scandinavian joke. But it's not quite Finnish.*
- *What do you call a belt made from watches? A waist of time.*
- *Why can't you run in a campsite but only ran? Because it passed tents.*
- *What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator!*
- *Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize? For being "out standing" in his field.*
- *What do you call a Frenchman in sandals? Philippe Philoppe.*
- *How do you get Pikachu on a bus? You poke him on.*
- *How many eggs do French folk have for breakfast? One. Because one egg is un œuf.*
- *I don't think I deserved zero on this test! Teacher: I agree, but that's the lowest mark I could give you.*
- *I will always tell you to follow your dreams, but I'll never let you sleep in class.*
- *What did the ghost teacher say to the class? "Look at the board and I will go through it again."*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead

August

- 8 – ABCD – Assembly Schedule w/Extended Lunch
- 9 – EFGA – Assembly Schedule w/Extended Lunch
- 12 – BCDE – Assembly Schedule
- 13 – FGAB – President's Assembly
- 14 – CDEF
- 15 – GABC – Mass Schedule – Dress Uniform Day
- 16 – DEFG
- 19 – ABCD
- 20 – EFGA – Pack Time – Get Involved Day (Extended Lunch)
- 21 – BCDE
- 22 – FGAB – Seniors March Through the Arch (8); Ring Ceremony (6:30)
- 23 – CDEF – Senior Ring Holiday
- 26 – GABC
- 27 – DEFG – President's Assembly
- 28 – ABCD
- 29 – EFGA
- 30 – Lasallian Formation Day

September

- 3 – BCDE – Pack Time
- 4 – FGAB
- 5 – CDEF
- 6 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG
- 10 – ABCD – President's Assembly/ Appreciation Lunch
- 11 – EFGA
- 12 – BCDE
- 13 – FGAB - Special Assembly Schedule/Snack Day
- 16 – CDEF – Late Start (9)
- 17 – GABC – Pack Time

- 18 – DEFG
- 19 – ABCD
- 20 – EFGA
- 23 – BCDE
- 24 – FGAB
- 25 – CDEF
- 26 – GABC – President’s Assembly
- 27 – DEF – Homecoming Activities
- 30 – GABC



Band practices formation at camp last week! Thanks, Marching Wolves!

October

- 1 – DEFG - Pack Time/ seniors in ACT test
- 2 – ABCD
- 3 – EFGA
- 4 – BCDE
- 7 – FGAB
- 8 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
- 9 – GABC
- 10 – DEFG
- 11 – AB – End of First Quarter/Grandparents Day
- 14 – CDEF – Snack Day
- 15 – GABC – Pack Time / Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- 16 – DEFG – PSAT to Select Students

17 – ABCD
18 – EFGA
21 – BCDE – Late Start (9)
22 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
23 – CDEF
24 – GABC
25 – DEFG – Late Start for Faculty Wellness Day
28 – ABCD
29 – EFGA – Pack Time
30 – BCDE
31 – FGAB

November

1 – CDEF – Mass Schedule – Dress Uniform Day
4 – Archdiocese Faculty Formation Day – students do not report to school
5 – GABC – 8th Grade HR Breakfast
6 – DEFG – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
7 – ABCD – 10th HR Breakfast
8 – EFGA – 11th HR Breakfast
11 – BCDE – Veterans Day Assembly
12 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
13 – CDEF – 12 HR Breakfast
14 – GABC
15 – DEFG
18 – ABCD – Seniors at Archbishop’s Day
19 – EFGA – Pack Time
20 – BCDE
21 – FGAB
22 – CDEF

December

2 – GABC – Late Start (9)
3 – DEFG – Pack Time
4 – ABCD
5 – EFGA – Snack Day
6 – BCDE
9 – FGABC
10 – DEFG – President’s Assembly
11 – ABCDE
12 – FGABC
13 – DEFG + Period A Exam Review
16 - 19 Exam Schedules

Whew! That’s enough for now! I’m sure I’ve forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

As usual, I’ll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can’t listen to anymore since it ceased broadcasting and took down its website but I still LOL when thinking about it): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating a Great Start for 2019 - 20 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

“Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”

~ St. John Baptist de La Salle (Meditation 99.2)



*Have a great Lasallian Opening of School!
...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will,
remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing the Mission,
and living courageously.*

