



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



**August 12 - 18, 2019**

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

Welcome to the first full week of the 2019 - 20 school year. We had a smooth opening. Thanks!



*Seniors began their final SPS year with a prayer service in Our Lady of Peace Chapel.*

Our beginning of the year faculty meetings last week provided me with memorable moments. We began meetings on Aug 5 with Student Council President Paxton Ballard reminding us of the power of teacher / student relationships – especially in terms of helping students get involved with SPS life. Paxton exhorted the faculty to continue being older brothers and sisters to our students, which is in the finest Lasallian tradition, and to help him and the student council keep the SPS tradition of excellence. Throughout the meetings, our various presenters referred to Saint La Salle's belief that the school must be a place of salvation: both earthly salvation and eternal salvation. And, of course, we covered practical rules, regulations, practices, and policies.

So what does all of the above have to do with you as parents? Well, I humbly submit the following:

- Just as Paxton stressed teacher / student relationships, your relationship with your son is critical to your success as a parent – and with teenagers, that's not always easy! But help him involved with SPS life!
- Just as Saint La Salle wanted his schools to be places of salvation, **your home** must also be a place of salvation – both earthly and heavenly.
- Just as the school community invoked Our Lady of the Star two years ago to “guide us to God”, you, as parents, must be the “star” that guides your sons to God.
- Just as we last year remembered our Founding Brothers, you must help your son appreciate the foundational members of your family – and the sacrifices that were made to afford him all that he has today.
- Just as this year we remember soon-to-be-beatified Brother James Miller, we must live courageously each day, making the right choices even in the face of peer and societal pressure.
- And just as we went over policies and procedures with teachers, you as parents must make clear your rules for and expectations of your sons.

In my newsletter to teachers this week, I reminded them of what Christian Brother Superior General Brother Robert said to the Lasallian world three years ago: *if anything is to get done, it's up to the Lasallian world family to do it*. Similarly, it's up to you as parent, if your son is to be the man God is calling him to be.

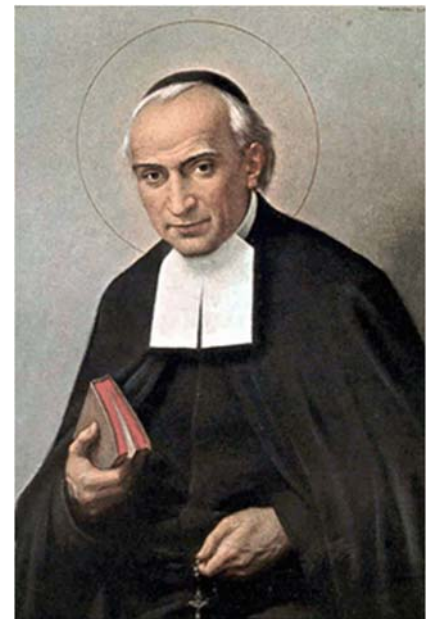
**Let's pray for and support each other as we begin our new school year, the 109<sup>th</sup> year of SPS history, thus continuing the Lasallian tradition of transforming lives since 1680.**

## Mon, Aug 12 (Assembly; B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** In 1877, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and made the first sound recording
- **TDIH:** In 1981, IBM releases its first personal computer (PC), a Model 5150 that had a whopping 16K memory and used 5.25 inch floppy discs (who remembers these?) Today's most basic phone can do more!
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* premieres in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto!
- **TDIH:** In 1961, East Germany begins construction of the Berlin Wall.
- **World Elephant Day:** Celebrate the elephant today!
- **Middle Child Day:** As a middle child myself, I'll celebrate!
- **Cross Country begins regular practice**

## Tue, Aug 13 – Feast of Saint Brother Benilde, FSC (President's Assembly; F G A B)

- Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Brother Benilde (1805-1862) -- the very person after whom Benilde Hall is named. His story should inspire us all. Doing the common things in an uncommon way led to Benilde's sainthood. This was our theme five years ago, and I don't want us to forget it. When you pass Benilde Hall, ask this wonderful Christian Brother saint to assist you in doing the common things in an uncommonly good way! But what else do you really know about St. Benilde? We ask him in prayer several times a day to help us to do ordinary things extraordinarily well. But, what do you really know about him?
- Did you know he was born a hunchback and was unable to straighten out his right leg?
- Did you know that he was bullied in school because of his appearance?
- Did you know that that once the boys in his school found out how intelligent he was they called on him to help with their studies?
- Did you know that he was only 4'9" tall?
- Did you know that while in his early 30's he was already principal of a school?
- Did you know that he inspired over two hundred young men to become Christian Brothers?
- Did you know he learned sign language to help the students in his school who were deaf?
- Did you know he buried the dead, fed the hungry, visited the sick, and conducted night classes for adults?
- The many things St. Benilde did for the young to give them a human and Christian education seem quite extraordinary, but he had a very humble beginning. Although he was quite intelligent, initially the Brothers did not allow him to teach because of his appearance.. For two years, following the Novitiate, he served in the community of Aurillac as a domestic Brother. He was given the assignment of cleaning the house, taking care of the vegetable garden, clean dishes and preparing the community meals. He did all of these very ordinary things very well. Eventually, he was allowed to teach and in a very short time, he became a great leader and good example to all the Brothers. He was a man of extraordinary charity. He died when he was only 57, his reputation for holiness spread rapidly and he was the first teaching Brother canonized by the Catholic Church in 1967.
- **TDIH:** In 1521 - Present day Mexico City was captured by Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez from the Aztecs



- **First President's Assembly** (in gym). I meet with the entire student body every other Tuesday. I spend most of the period recognizing their accomplishments (and occasionally calling them to task when we fall short), but I also use the time to review SPS and Lasallian history – and introduce a piece of classical music (which they love, of course!) Today we will honor and welcome the Class of 2024 – our newest Wolves. I hope your son comes home today and says nice things about the assembly!
- **Theater Season Preview** (7 pm) Director Gordon Carmadelle will announce the year's production and highlight the program. All are invited to the theater for season two of the Carmadelle era!

### Wed, Aug 14 (Regular; C D E F)

- **Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe.** Born in Poland in 1894, Maximilian became a Franciscan. After earning a doctorate in theology, Maximilian did missionary work in Japan and India, returning to Poland in 1936 due to ill health. In 1941, he was arrested by the Nazis and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where on July 31, 1941, in a reprisal for one prisoner's escape, ten men were *chosen to die*. *Father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father. He was the last to die, enduring two weeks of starvation, thirst, and neglect. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982.*
- **TDIH:** On this day in 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the Social Security Act.
- **TDIH:** In 1914, the American-built Panama Canal is inaugurated with the passage of the US vessel *Ancon*.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, the Empire of Japan informs the US of its surrender, thus ending WW II.
- **Navajo Code Talkers Day:** Today celebrates the young Navajo men who transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of WWII and played a vital role in helping America win the war.
- **Creamsicle Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat!
- **Cross Country:** final day to join the team

### Thu, Aug 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption (Mass schedule; dress uniform day; G A B C)

- **Today's Solemnity** celebrates Mary being assumed body and soul into Heaven at her death and being crowned Queen of Heaven. The Dogma of the Assumption was proclaimed infallibly by Pope Pius XII in 1950. May our Blessed Mother shower our school with her protection!
- **TDIH:** In 1914, the American-built Panama Canal, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific, is inaugurated with the passage of the U.S. vessel *Ancon*, a cargo and passenger ship.
- **TDIH:** In 1877, Thomas Edison wrote to president of the Telegraph Co in Pittsburgh. The letter stated that the word, "hello" would be a more appropriate greeting than "ahoy" when answering the telephone – which was the way people were answering. I like "ahoy" – and think I'll start answering the phone that way, thus scaring off callers!
- **Mass:** This morning we will have our first all school mass with Father Matthew Clark from St. Joseph Abbey as celebrate.
- **National Relaxation Day:** Self-explanatory! Celebrate, but only after 3:15!
- **Lemon Meringue Pie Day:** Enjoy this iconic dessert today!



*Assumption of the Virgin*  
 Francesco Botticini  
 1446-1497



### Fri, Aug 16 (Regular; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** Baseball great Babe Ruth (aka The Bambino & The Sultan of Swat) and rock star icon Elvis Presley (The King) died in 1948 & 1977, respectively, at ages 53 & 42, respectively.
- **TDIH:** In 1812, General William Hull surrenders Fort Detroit to the British without a fight. In 1814, Hull was court-martialed for cowardice and neglect of duty in the surrender and sentenced to die. Because of his service in the revolution, however, President James Madison remitted the sentence.
- **National Tell A Joke Day:** Celebrate today by telling jokes! I've done my part below.
- **Back to School Dances:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at SPS; 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at SSA



*Pre-freshmen listen to yours truly at assembly on first day. They were great!*

### Sat, Aug 17

- **TDIH:** In 1978, The *Double Eagle II* completes the first transatlantic balloon flight when it lands in a barley field near Paris, 137 hours after lifting off from Preque Isle, Maine.
- **TDIH:** In 1969, “the grooviest event in music history”--the Woodstock Music Festival--closes after 3 days of peace, love and rock 'n' roll [and a lot more, too!] in upstate New York.
- **TDIH:** In 1896, prospectors find gold in Alaska, setting off the Klondike gold rush.
- **TDIH:** In 1969, Hurricane Camille devastates the Gulf Coast. We pray for a safe year!
- **Black Cat Appreciation:** If you don't like cats, read Edgar Allen Poe's “The Black Cat” instead!
- **Free Physicals for Athletes and Band Member:** 8 am at Covington Orthopedic

### Sun, Aug 18

- **TDIH:** In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, is ratified by Tennessee, giving it the two-thirds majority of state ratification necessary to make it the law of the land.
- **TDIH:** In 1963, James Meredith becomes first African American to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

- **Bad Poetry Day:** This day was started by a group of cynics who, after all of the “good poetry” they were forced to read in high school, wanted payback. They want people to celebrate this day by gathering with friends, writing bad poetry, and sending the poetry to their high school English teachers! So with apologies to the late Brother Hilary, the best high school English teacher ever who I was privileged to have for three years, here are two really bad poems.

My doggy pees on all the trees  
and poops on all the flowers.  
He does no tricks like fetching sticks,  
just licks himself for hours.

T' was in a restaurant they met  
Romeo and Juliet  
He had no dough to pay the debt  
So Romie owed what Julie 'et!

# Rise Up, O Men of God

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

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**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 are sent to assignment hall.**

**AFTER SCHOOL ISSUES:** Assignment Hall (see below) and detention will soon be in operation. Parents, stress with your sons the need to do homework and follow rules. If your son does end up in AH or detention, establish a procedure for him to follow so you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH students to call their parents. We'll provide a phone if needed.

**ASSIGNMENT HALL:** AH will be in full swing this week. We will send students to AH if they report to class without their homework. They will stay in AH after school until they finish the homework. AH is not a punishment but a helping structure. Please stress with your son the need to complete his homework on time and to bring it to class.

## **ATHLETICS:**

- **8th Grade Football** has started.
- **The Cross Country team** invites any interested runners to come out and join the team. Wednesday is the deadline. 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.



- **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](mailto:rachelp@stpauls.com). Practices will begin August 12 at PAC, 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 – 10:30 am. Any St. Paul's student wishing to participate in a sport must have a completed physical on file. Forms can be found under the athletic tab on our website.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook, which is posted on PlusPortals. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.



*Juniors renew friendships with donuts in the library on opening day!*

**BOOK STORE:** All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Our regular bookstore hours of operation have started:

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am
- M – F: 11:15 am - 12:45 pm
- By appointment. Email [spsbookstore16@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com)

**PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds not help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$50,000 worth of school projects this past year.

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**CAFETERIA:** 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.

Thu, Aug 15	All-school mass; DRESS UNIFORM
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.

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**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 PHONES:**

- **State Law:** Motorists are prohibited from using any type of hand held wireless communications device while traveling through schools 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, fines can be increased.
- **School Cell Phone Policy:** students may use their phones during lunch but only outside. If you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour. Disciplinary action and fines will continue for violation of this policy. 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



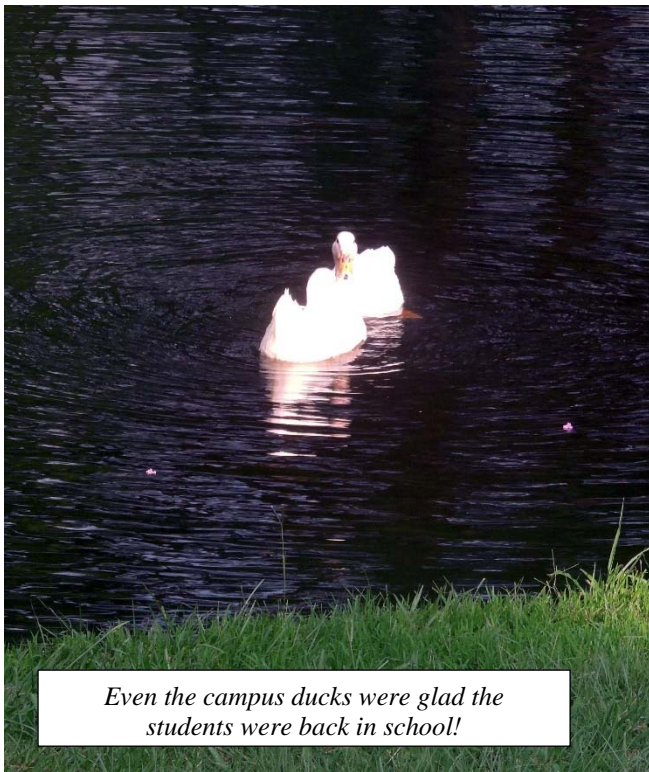
**DADS' CLUB:** If you would like to be included on the SPS Dads' Club email list to keep informed about upcoming meetings and events, please email [spdadsclub@gmail.com](mailto:spdadsclub@gmail.com) or [shea.duet@gmail.com](mailto:shea.duet@gmail.com). The Dads' Club meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm, at the Abita Brewery. You can also join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/>

## ***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

### **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.

**Note:** we expect students to comply with rules and regulations of events at other schools. We expect students to respect staff from other schools. We will take disciplinary action against SPS students who do not uphold our standards while they attend such events. This applies BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER the event.



*Even the campus ducks were glad the students were back in school!*

**DRESS CODE:** Students must comply with the dress code. 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 doesn't have his proof of attendance. This is a legislative act; don't blame me!

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Clubs and teams have begun forming. Get Involved Day, which will introduce our students to a wide variety of activities, will be on Aug 22. Encourage your son to get involved. So far we've had callouts for all sorts of activities. Research shows correlations between academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. So far, we've had call outs for football, cross country, swimming, the Guerilla Wolves Video Club, the Liturgical Band, the Marching Wolves, the Paper Wolf Newspaper, Student Hosts – to name just a few.

**HANDBOOK SIGNATURE CARD:** are overdue! Detentions are looming!

**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.

### ***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**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 Week Musings**

- **Faculty Meetings:** Kudos to all who made our time together efficient, meaningful and enjoyable!
- **Senior Portraits:** A new venue (gym lobby) created a few issues, but all was handled well and no class time used.
- **Student Pictures:** Thanks to Mimi for a smooth operation! The boys looked great in their uniforms.
- **Physical Plant:** Don and crew responded to every request – the school was ready for the students on Thu.
- **New Student Orientation:** Congrats to Shannon, et al who conducted a well-organized evening for our new Wolves.
- **Mothers' Club Bookstore:** The moms outdid themselves with service, selection, and smiles!
- **Bulletin Boards:** Thanks to Karen for decorating many of heretofore (haven't used that word in a while!) underutilized bulletin boards.
- **Orientation Assemblies:** Two down; one to go. Thanks for taking them seriously.
- **Class of 2019 Yearbook Day:** Many grads showed up (in varying degrees of sartorial demise!) to get yearbooks and pictures of them receiving diplomas. They also received a picture receiving diplomas from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony five years ago. Quite a contrast that produced laughs – and a visible

reminder of how quickly the years passed. They agreed: SPS was a great place to grow up. It was good to see them. Godspeed Class of 2019! Thanks to Al, Danielle, Karen, Mimi, Renee and Paul for giving up part of their evening to organize the event.

- **Stadium Pressure Washing:** In blazing hot temps, SPS parent Tony Seruntine did an excellent job!
- **Lighting Upgrades:** Thanks to Mark Daigle, father of Nikia '18, for the following lighting improvements:
  - Jahncke Entrance: new LEDs brightly proclaim Saint Paul's School
  - Founders Oak: after a hiatus of many years, the iconic campus tree is again beautifully lit
- **Thanks to Student Hosts Brady Billiot, Hal Fox, Sean Hightower, Alex Klocek & Andrew Lacoste** for being the welcoming committee on the opening day of school.
- **Baseball Ring Ceremony:** Our state champion Wolves received their rings at a celebration on Sat night. Congrats!
- **Thanks to the Hadskey Family of Northshore Sign Gypsies, for the GREAT Welcome Back Wolves**
- **Thanks to Development/Alumni offices for the well-received popsicle treat on Friday!**



*Seniors prepare to take senior portraits last week!*

**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 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!

**OFFICE DEPOT:** Make sure you give SPS's name whenever you check out at Office Depot.

### ***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**ORIENTATION ASSEMBLIES:** Please discuss with your son the orientation assemblies. He had two last week and one this week on Monday. They cover:

- A chapel prayer service
- A meeting with the counseling department
- A meeting with Coach Ken Sears to review expectations of conduct. **Note: during this assembly, Coach Sears conducted the Archdiocesan-mandated Child Protection/Safe Environment presentation which informs students about the dangers of abuse, how to prevent it, and what to do if it is suspected.** Please discuss this with your son. **We also strongly address bullying – which we will not tolerate.**

**PICTURES:** It's not too late to order school pictures! If you did not send an order form with your son last week, you can do so this week. Just have him bring it to the admin building. If you lost your order form, you can print one from our web site or have your son pick one up in the admin building.

**PLUSPORTALS:** Please activate your account and check PP regularly for important info about your son's grades and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, PlusPortals administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.* In addition, please adjust your setting to allow you to receive emails from school. It's very annoying when we get an PlusPortals email with a question but your setting won't accept our response.

**SCHOOL MASS:** Our first all-school mass is Thursday, Aug 15, AT 9:30 – Feast of the Assumption. **DRESS UNIFORM required** -- white long sleeved shirt, school tie, long khaki pants, & brown belt. **And, yes, we have room for parents who would like to join us for mass.**

### ***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**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.

**SENIOR WEEK:** SW is fast approaching! The Senior Class Moms have sent out an email with specifics, but here's the basic plan:

- Tue, Aug 20 – Senior BBQ (5:30-7:30) under the Wolf Dome
- Thu, Aug 22 – March through the Arch at 8 am (seniors must arrive by 7:15 in school dress uniform)
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior – Parent continental breakfast 8:30
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior Unity Day /Ring Ceremony Practice: 9:30 – 2:00 (I'll dismiss earlier if we finish)
- Thu, Aug 22 – Senior Ring Ceremony at **6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center (lasts about 90 minutes).  
Note: ALL seniors are expected to attend, even if they are not getting a ring – which is perfectly OK. If you wish to use a family ring (father, brother, etc.) or state championship ring, that is perfectly OK, too. You can bring these rings to the Administration Building and we will present on Thursday evening at the ceremony.
- Note: **Saint Paul's DOES NOT approve of any unchaperoned, post-ceremony party where alcohol or other drugs are available to students. Parents – please be vigilant!**
- Fri, Aug 23 – Senior Ring Holiday – no classes for seniors

**STUDENT COUNCIL:** Any pre-Freshman who wishes to run for class office should see Dr. d'Hemecourt in room L204 to get a Candidate Form. Forms and speeches are due Wednesday, August 21. Campaigning will take place on Thursday, with speeches and voting being held on Friday, August 23.

The first General Meeting of Student Council will be held Monday during the first half of lunch in Mrs. Case's room (107). All students are welcome to attend.



*Seniors chillaxin' on first day (get your foot off the table, Mason!)*

**STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESSES:** We issued each student a unique Saint Paul's email address through which we will communicate with him. If a student asks about how to get to his new email, there's a link on Edline in the bottom right, it says **St. Paul's Gmail access**. The temporary password for all students is **stpauls1**.

**SILENT SUSTAINED READING:** On Monday, we 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 were instructed to 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 Monday and every day thereafter.** He should bring a PRINTED READING MATERIAL – not electronic material **You might want to consider initiating a family SSR time, too!** I'll keep you posted as to how things go.

### ***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at  
Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana  
Twitter @SPSWolfpack

**SOCIAL MEDIA II:** Parents, please speak with your sons about responsible social media use. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



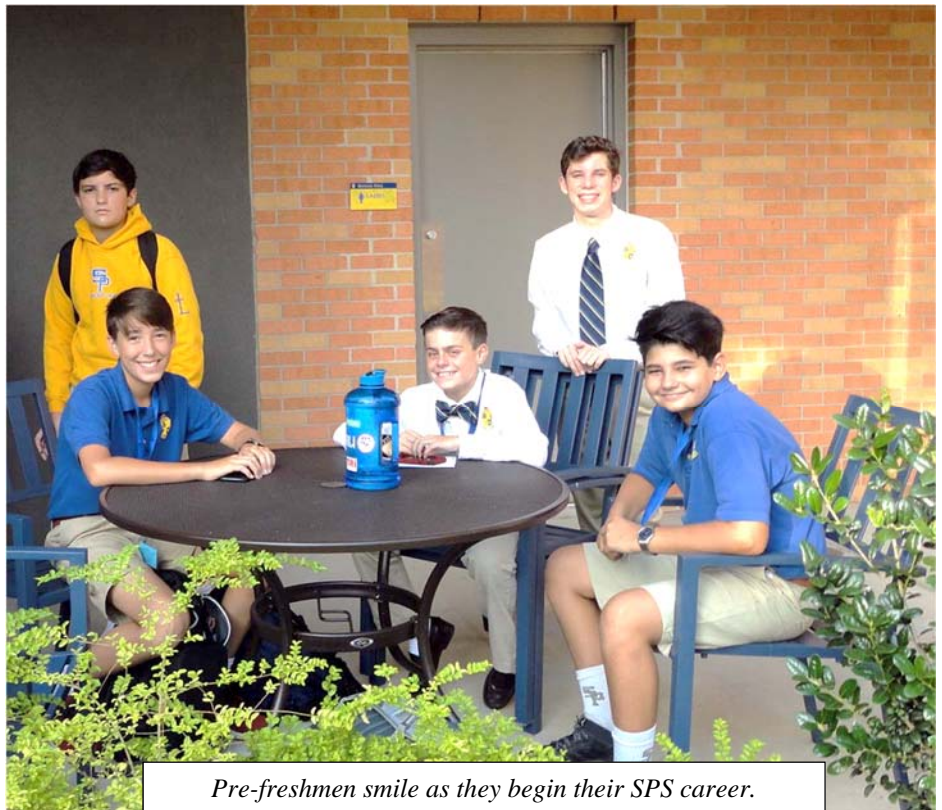
Our primary concern is safety, so please adhere to all speed limit and traffic rules in the school area. We are working closely with the Covington Police Department to find solutions to traffic around school. Working together, we can improve both safety and circulation around our campus.

**UNIFORMS:** Reminders:

- Uniform shirts, ties, and socks are sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) in Covington. Only white SPS socks are allowed.
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc. are sold by the Mothers Club bookstore.
- 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 now 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.
- ID cards must be worn 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 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Monster Mash, **Saturday, October 19**, Bogue Falaya Park in Covington. Over 150 volunteers are needed 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](mailto:Marlise Borelly) or [Juli Chastaine](mailto:Juli Chastaine); 985-898-4670; [mborelly@stph.org](mailto:mborelly@stph.org); <https://tinyurl.com/MonsterMash2019>



**YEARBOOK:** The Conifer 2019 will be distributed during pack time on Tuesday, August 20, to students who purchased yearbooks. A limited supply of yearbooks will be available for \$75 starting Monday, August 26. Please email yearbook adviser Mimi Monteiro at [m.monteiro@stpauls.com](mailto:m.monteiro@stpauls.com) to add your name to the waiting list. The Yearbook Staff did a fantastic job documenting a spectacular year at St. Paul's School.

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

**WEEKLY HUMOR:** In honor Black Cat Day on Sat & World Elephant Day on Mon, with apologies:

- *What's the difference between a black cat and a comma? One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other a pause at the end of its clause!*
- *What do you use to comb a black cat? A catacomb!*
- *What has more lives than a black cat? A frog because it croaks every night!*
- *Where does a black cat go when it loses its tail? The retail store!*
- *Why did the judge dismiss the jury of black cats? Because each was guilty of purrjury!*
- *Why did the black cat run from the tree? Because it was afraid of the bark!*
- *How do black cats end a fight? They hiss & make up!*
- *What car does a rich black cat drive? A Catillac!*
- *What is the cat's favorite magazine? Good Mousekeeping!*
- *Why don't black cats play poker in the jungle? Too many cheetahs!*
- *How does the black cat always get its own way? With some friendly purrsuasion!*
- *What is a black cat's favorite subject in school? HISStory!*
- *Where is one place that your black cat can sit, but you can't? Your lap!*
- *Why are black cats better than babies? Because you only have to change a litter box once a day!*
- *How many cats can you put into an empty haunted house? One. After that, the house isn't empty!*
- *Is it bad luck if a black cat follows you? That depends on whether you're a man or a mouse!*
- *Why did the black cat put oil on the mouse? Because it squeaked!*
- *Why are elephants so wrinkled? Because it takes too long to iron them.*
- *How do you keep an elephant from charging? You take away its credit cards.*
- *How do you keep an elephant from charging? You take away its power adapter.*
- *What's the best thing to do if an elephant sneezes? Get out of the way.*
- *What do you do with a blue elephant? Tell it funny jokes.*
- *Why did the elephant cross the road? It was the chicken's day off.*
- *What time is it when five elephants are chasing you? Five after one.*
- *What wears glass slippers and weighs over 2 tons? Cinder-elephant.*
- *What was the elephant's favorite sport? Squash!*
- *How do you get down from an elephant? You don't. You get down from geese.*
- *What kind of elephants live at the North Pole? Really cold ones.*
- *What's the difference between an African elephant and an Asian elephant? About 5,000 miles.*
- *What did the peanut say to the elephant? Nothing – peanuts can't talk.*
- *How do you raise a baby elephant? With a forklift.*
- *Why don't African elephants like to play Go Fish? Too many cheetahs.*
- *What happened to the elephant who ran away with the circus? The police made him bring it back.*
- *How can you tell if an elephant is in the refrigerator? The door won't close.*

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

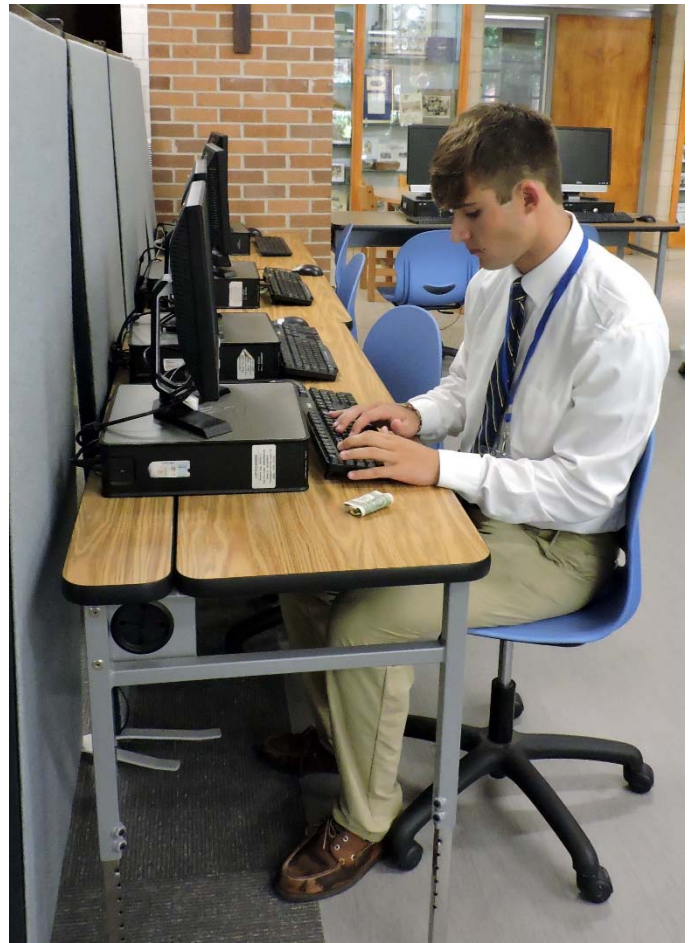
## A Look Ahead

### August

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 Faculty Formation Day – students do not report to school

### 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



*This student gets down to work right away!*

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***



## **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 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast
- 6 – DEFG – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast
- 7 – ABCD – 10<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 8 – EFGA – 11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 11 – BCDE – Veterans Day Assembly
- 12 – FGAB – President's Assembly
- 13 – CDEF – 12 HR Breakfast
- 14 – GABC
- 15 – DEFG
- 18 – ABCD – Seniors Day with Archbishop Aymond
- 19 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 20 – BCDE
- 21 – FGAB
- 22 – CDEF

***Dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15!***

## **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 miss listening to while writing the newsletter since it no longer broadcasts but I still LOL thinking about it!): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Pray that we continue to 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

Off to a Great Start for 2019 - 20 as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President /CEO 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.***

***Did I mention we have a dress uniform day this Thursday, August 15?***

