



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
and



340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
August 10 – August 16, 2020

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A Prayer for the Start of the School Year

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways. At the beginning of this new school we implore your mercy: bless the students, teachers, and staff of our Catholic schools that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son Jesus. Expand the horizons of our minds, that we may grow in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge; deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways; and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need. Glory and praise to you, Lord God, in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen

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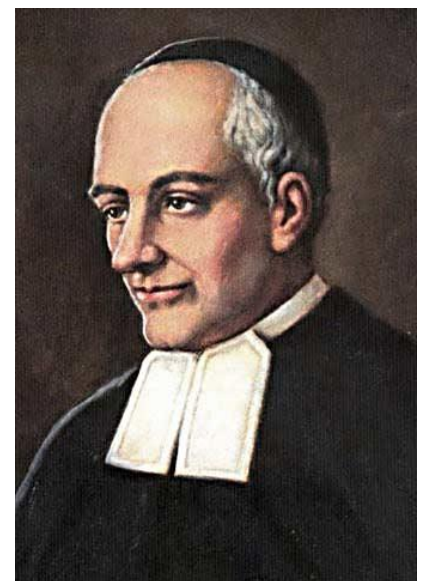
Welcome to the first full week of the 2020 - 21 school year. All things considered, we've had a smooth opening. The students have been very cooperative with our COVID-19 re-opening plan.

Again, first and foremost, I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well, protected from any debilitating effects of COVID-19. And I hope you are rejoicing with me that Saint Paul's and the other five Catholic schools in western St. Tammany are open with on-campus instruction with the approval of Children's Hospital, the Louisiana Department of Education and the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

As we begin a new year of Lasallian education, I invite you to reflect on the icon we have chosen for the year: **Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, FSC**. While you will learn more about Brother Scubilion (1797 – 1867) in the weeks to come, know that he was a French Brother who spend 34 years of his religious life ministering the enslaved people on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1989.

From the Christian Brothers Website (www.lasalle.org): *As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, Jean Bernard Rousseau was serving as a catechist when he was introduced to the Brothers, who had just opened a school in a nearby town. He entered the Paris novitiate in 1822.*

After ten years in elementary schools throughout France, Brother Scubilion left France in 1833 to dedicate the remaining thirty-four years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Remembered as the "catechist of the slaves," he inaugurated



evening classes for them, which were well attended, even after a long day of exhausting labor. He devised special programs and techniques, suited to their needs and abilities, in order to teach the essentials of Christian doctrine and morality, and prepare them to receive the sacraments. He won them over by his kindly manner and his respect for them.

After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he continued to care for them and to help them adapt to their new life of freedom and responsibility. In the last years of his life, despite failing health, he assisted the local pastor in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging vocations, and even effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated everywhere on the island as a saint.

Over the next few months, I'll be expanding on this inspirational story and what led to Brother Scubilion's journey to Catholic sainthood. Let us remember him and his courageous life – and ask his intercession with Almighty God to help us continue our Lasallian Mission.

I will be stressing the story of Brother Scubilion with our students this year – and showing them what a courageous and committed man can do with God's help.



Thanks to Hadskey Family for the Welcome Back to School sign!

Mon, Aug 10 (Video Assembly; E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** 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!
- **Pictures** for students in periods E, F G religion. Dress uniforms for these guys.

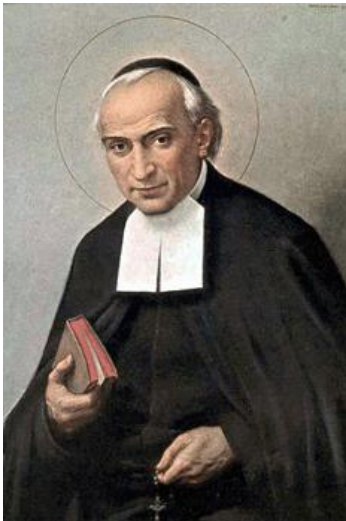
Tue, Aug 11 (B C D E)

- **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.)

Wed, Aug 12 (F G A B)

- **TDIH: 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, WI. 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!

Thu, Aug 13 – Feast of Saint Brother Benilde, FSC (C D E F)



- 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 four 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 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?

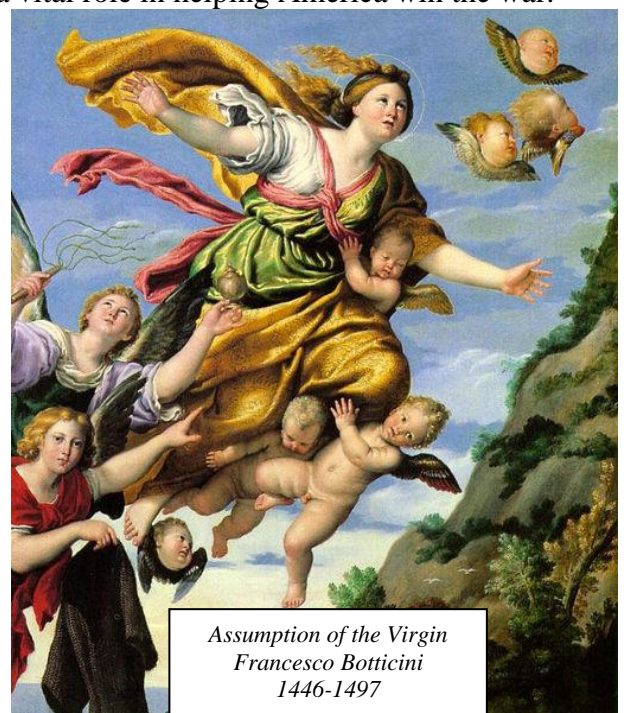
- Did you know he learned sign language to help the students in his school who were deaf?
- Did you know he buried the dead, fed the hungry, visited the sick, and conducted adult night classes?
- The many things St. Benilde did for the young to give them a human and Christian education seem quite extraordinary, 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, doing dishes and preparing 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 at 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, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured present day Mexico City from the Aztecs.

Fri, Aug 14 (G A B C)

- **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*.
- **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!

Sat, Aug 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption

- **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/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



Assumption of the Virgin
Francesco Botticini
1446-1497

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!

- **Relaxation Day:** Self-explanatory! Celebrate! It's Sat!
- **Lemon Meringue Pie Day:** Enjoy this iconic dessert !

Sun, Aug 16

- **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.

Blessed Brother Scubilion! Help us respect all people!



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 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. Students will be sent 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:

- **Football:** The earliest the varsity season can begin is Oct 9. 8th grade will begin with conditioning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Actual practice is on “hold” until the LHSAA approves.
- **Cross Country** is allowed to practice, according to the LHSAA. Please see Coach Al Nastasi in the alumni office for details.
- **Swim Team:** Any swimmers interested in joining the Aqua Wolves for the 2020 season should contact Mrs. Rachel Peak at rachelp@stpauls.com for info regarding this year's team and schedule.
- **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 rules as printed in the handbook which is posted on Plus Portals. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the 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

PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore. Proceeds help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs.

CAFETERIA: Again, for those families experiencing difficult financial times, the free and reduced lunch/ breakfast program can help. This does not embarrass your son, as no one knows. It's all very confidential. You can apply on line by clicking:

<http://www.schoolcafe.org/>

Also, each morning the students must indicate which lunch they want: sandwich or hot lunch. Here is the August menu to help your son decide:

[https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://www.schoolcafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-August-Menu.HS_HYBRIDLUNCH .pdf&hl=en](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=http://www.schoolcafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-August-Menu.HS_HYBRIDLUNCH.pdf&hl=en)

CALENDAR FOR 2020-21: Here is our calendar for next year. The calendar assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 will result in alteration of the calendar.

- M-W, Aug 03-05 Faculty meetings/prep days
- Thurs, Aug 6 School Opens **with full day of instruction**
- Mon, Aug 24 Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30) -- Tentative
- Mon, Sep 7 Labor Day Holiday
- Fri, Oct 2 In-service for faculty (no classes for students)



Dedicated moms kept the bookstore open and stocked last week!

- Fri, Oct 9 End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
 - Mon, Oct 19 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 -- Tentative
 - Sat, Oct 31 Open House for Prospective Students (1 – 3 pm) -- Tentative
 - Tues, Nov 3 Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
 - Mon-Fri, Nov 23 - 27 Thanksgiving Holidays
 - Mon, Nov 30 Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
 - Mon - Thu, Dec 14-17 Semester Exams
 - Thu, Dec 17 Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
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- Mon, Jan 4 Classes resume & Second Semester begins
 - Jan 6-8 Senior Retreat
 - Mon, Jan 18 Martin Luther King Holiday
 - Mon, Feb 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
 - Fri, Feb 12 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
 - Mon-Fri, Feb 15-19 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
 - Mon, Feb 22 Classes resume
 - Fri, Mar 12 End of Third Quarter
 - Fri – Fri Apr 2-9 Easter Holidays
 - Mon, Apr 12 Classes resume from Easter Holidays
 - Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30 Senior Final Exams
 - Thu, May 13 Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
 - Sat, May 15 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
 - Tues – Fri, May 18-21 Final Exams for 9 - 11
 - Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Day
 - Tues, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Exam
Day/Faculty Records Day
 - Note that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177.

In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. **Note that school begins on Thursday, August 6 for a full instructional day.** Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school. Thank you for recognizing the need to make the most use of our academic time.

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



Student Council President Davis Lagarde gave a stirring welcome to faculty last week.

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

DRESS CODE: Students must be in compliance with the dress code – and this includes wearing masks. We are not granting exceptions. 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!

ENROLLMENT: We open this year with a very healthy enrollment – in spite of COVID-19 and after having graduated a very large class. 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. **Please 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 will soon begin forming, following COVID-19 guidelines. Get Involved Day is tentatively scheduled for August 18. More info on this next week.

HANDBOOK SIGNATURE CARD: The signed cards are now overdue! Students who have not turned in the card will receive detention. I am disappointed at how many seniors have not turned in their handbook card!

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)
- We also receive a portion of sales from Amazon Prime.
- These are painless ways to help SPS.

HOMECOMING DANCES: At the present time, homecoming dances are cancelled. As soon as we are allowed to hold large social events, we will discuss scheduling dances for the students, but the current regulations will not allow for these types of events.



Trey and Caleb (I think!) prepare to take senior portraits (sans mask, of course!)

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 gave 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.

LASALLIAN CATHOLIC ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LCAP): This fall, SPS will be evaluated as to our fidelity to the Lasallian Catholic Mission of the Brothers. You will hear more about this in future newsletters, but in mid-August, all parents will be asked to complete a survey about your perception of our fidelity to Mission. We are counting on your helping us become an even better Lasallian Catholic school.

LACROSSE: Athletic Director Craig Ketelsen announced last week the appointment of Coach John Meibaum as the new head coach of defending

state champion Lacrosse Wolves. I am grateful to John, father of 2020 alumnus and star lacrosse player Jarrett, for his willingness to assume this important position, which became vacant with the resignation over the summer of Roger Bacon. Geaux LAX Wolves!

LASALLIAN WORLD: From our Institute's website: *On Aug 4, a massive explosion ripped through central Beirut, killing hundreds of people and injuring thousands more. The blast rocked the Lebanese capital's port area, flattened buildings, and caused significant damage to the three Lasallian schools in that city: Collège Sacre Coeur-Frères Gemmayzé, Collège Notre Dame, and École Saint Vincent de Paul.*

Already extremely fragile politically and reeling from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, this catastrophe was the tipping point which has overwhelmed the people of Beirut. As a result, these events seriously compromise the capacity of our academic centers to provide students with an education. For this reason, the De La Salle Brothers have launched an emergency appeal. All donations contributed to this campaign will go directly to educational services and humanitarian relief in Beirut. Your contribution will ensure La Salle's enduring presence in Lebanon.

Saint Paul's will send a donation from our Mission Fund to aid our Beirut Lasallians. If you wish to see a video of the damage to the Brothers' Residence, click here: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/beirut-blast/>

LAST WEEK MUSINGS

- **Faculty Meetings:** Kudos to all who made our time together efficient, meaningful and enjoyable!
- **Football:** 8th grade sign up went well; team pics on Sat were postponed. Let's hope there is a season!
- **Senior Portraits:** The gym lobby venue worked well, and all was handled well with 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 all who conducted an organized evening for our new Wolves.
- **Mothers' Club Bookstore:** The moms outdid themselves with service, selection, and smiles – all while wearing masks and observing social distancing.
- **Bulletin Boards:** Thanks to Karen & Jeaneen for decorating many of heretofore (haven't used that word in a while!) underutilized bulletin boards.
- **Class of 2020 Yearbook Day:** Unfortunately, due to COVID 19, this memorable event is postponed until later in the fall when yearbooks finally arrive. They were also delayed due to the virus.
- **Stadium Pressure Washing:** In blazing hot temps, SPS Maintenance Crew did an excellent job! Now, we just hope we can use the bleachers this year as we await word from the LHSAA on the sports season!
- **Thanks to the Hadskey Family for the welcome back to school signage!**

LOST & FOUND: We are already finding shirts, books, lunch boxes, etc. left around campus. PLEASE stress responsibility with your son. And please CLEARLY mark his clothing with his name to facilitate return of lost items. BTW, the lost and found locker is located outside the School Attendance Office.

MINI-SCHEDULE NIGHT ON AUG 24 -- TENTATIVE: We will probably have to re-design this event or postpone it completely, which is too bad because it is always a popular event.. Stay tuned.

NEED MORE INFO? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, Assistant Principal Joe Dickens, or Curriculum Coordinator Lee Pierre. For discipline, attendance, or dress code, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit "reply" to this email!**

NEW PARENT RECEPTION & INFORMATION MEETING: In view of current COVID restrictions, we are unable to host a welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** on Mon, Aug 17 as we had planned. Instead, we are producing a video of what would have been communicated in that meeting and will be sending it to all new parents.

PICTURES: It's not too late to order school pictures. An order form was mailed to you and one is posted on our web site. If you wish to order pictures, please have your son bring the order form and check with him to the administration building.

PHYSICALS: No student may participate in our athletic program or our band program without the necessary paperwork having been completed, including an LHSAA official physical form.

PLUS PORTALS: Please activate your account and check PP regularly for important info about your son's grades and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Plus Portals administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1944 if you need assistance.* And please adjust your setting to allow you to receive emails from school. It's very annoying when we get a Plus Portals email with a question but your setting won't accept our response.

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 – and wear a mask. 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 – and COVID 19 has again forced alterations. We will soon send out an email to senior parents with details. We never thought we would still have so many restrictions on social gatherings, but that is the reality. Accordingly, the BBQ is postponed until further notice and we are attempting to combine the ring ceremony with March through the Arch – in the evening. Thank you for your understanding. Seniors will still have their ring holiday on Friday, Aug 21.

A senior chills during lunch at Benilde Hall.



STUDENT COUNCIL: Campaigning and elections for Class President & Vice-President for grades 8 through 12 will be held the week of August 17. Qualifying will begin on August 10. Listen to announcements and watch your student email for further information.



Lots of smiles during picture taking! It's not too late to order if you didn't do so last week.

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 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 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.

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.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Campaigning and elections for Class President & Vice-President for grades 8 through 12 will be held the week of August 17. Qualifying will begin on August 10. Listen to announcements and watch your student email for further information.

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE CARD: All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, **students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them. This card is now overdue.**

SUMMER READING: All students should be finishing their summer reading.

TRAFFIC FLOW ON CAMPUS: If you drop off or pick up your son, you will meet road congestion 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:

- 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.
- MASKS must be worn daily. This, too, is a safety measure,

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

- *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 the 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 and make up!*
- *What kind of car does a fat black cat drive? A Catillac!*
- *What is the cat's favourite 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 favourite 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 fork lift.*
- *How do you catch an elephant? Act like a peanut.*
- *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.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A LOOK AHEAD: Period Rotation for August and September:

August

- 10 – EFGA – Extended First Period – First SSR
- 11 – BCDE – Extended First Period
- 12 – FGAB
- 13 – CDEF
- 14 – GABC

- 17 – DEFG
- 18 – ABCD – First Pack Time/Get Involved Day
- 19 – EFGA
- 20 – BCDE – Combined Senior March through the Arch and Ring Ceremony (6:30 pm)
- 21 – FGAB – Senior Holiday
- 24 – CDEF
- 25 – GABC – Virtual Assembly
- 26 – DEFG
- 27 – ABCD
- 28 – EFGA
- 31 – BCDE

September

- 1 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 2 – CDEF
- 3 – GABC
- 4 – DEFG
- 8 – ABCD – V. Assembly
- 9 – EFGA
- 10 – BCDE
- 11 – FGAB
- 14 – CDEF
- 15 – GABC – Pack Time
- 16 – DEFG
- 17 – ABCD
- 18 – EFGA
- 21 – BCDE
- 22 – FGAB
- 23 – CDEF
- 24 – GABC
- 25 – DEFG
- 28 – ABCD
- 29 – EFGA
- 30 – BCDE – LCAP Begins



Alumni Director Al Nastasi greets a new student in front of the Development / Alumni Office.

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 2020-21 as the 17th 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,
living courageously, and respecting all people.***

