



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world



August 17 - 23, 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!

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Welcome to the second full week of the 2020-21 school year. On behalf of the Christian Brothers and the school administration, thank you for ALL you are doing in these challenging times. Again, I hope all is well with you and your family and that all are safe and well!



Mr. Paul Kelly, President/CEO of De La Salle in New Orleans, sent the following message to the whole DLS community last Friday. I offer his words to you as sentiments from my own heart, but I don't think I could write them any better, so I am stealing, uh, "borrowing" from Paul! Here is what President Kelly wrote:

Now more than ever, we count on our community, our students, our faculty and staff, our parents, and our alumni, to make the necessary sacrifices and adjustments to ensure that our mission and ministry continue unabated throughout this school year.

Now more than ever, we rely upon a talented, versatile, and dedicated faculty to shoulder unique responsibilities, to instruct students, some of whom are in classrooms, some of whom are at home, to monitor not only our students' emotional temperatures, as we have always done, but also now to take their physical temperatures. Now more than ever, we need everyone to do their part. While the future remains uncertain, the Lasallian Mission is clear.

No matter the complexity of the challenges, the shape of the obstacles, or the nature of the difficulties, we will work diligently and creatively to educate our amazing students on the bedrock of our Lasallian Core Principles: faith in the God's presence, quality education, concern for the poor social justice, inclusivity, and respect for all persons.

We will sometimes fall short of our goals, as we all do. When we do fall short, we will reflect, respond and revitalize. We will recognize our shortcomings as what they are: as the siblings of our successes, as the outcomes that similarly serve for inspiration and improvement. We thank you for your commitment to our school and to our student body. Your pride in us is equal to our desire to make you proud of us. We ask St. John Baptist de La Salle, and all of you, to pray for us as we begin this school year. We strive to keep Jesus alive and, in our hearts, forever.

And to that, I say "Amen!" Long live Lasallian education – in Covington, on Saint Charles Avenue in NO, and in 80 countries throughout the world! Thank you, President Kelly, for your inspiring words!

Mon, Aug 17 (D E F G) – Our new schedule begins today with slightly shorter classes, more passing time, two lunch periods, and a slightly earlier dismissal to better comply with COVID restrictions. Here is what it looks like for today:

1st Block 8:00AM—9:35AM (Announcements/CNN + 80 minutes)
2nd Block 9:45AM—11:05AM
3rdBlock 11:15AM—1:05PM
1st Lunch -- 11:05AM—11:35AM
2nd Lunch -- 12:35PM—1:05PM
4th Block 1:15PM—2:50PM (15min for SSR) (NOTE NEW DISMISSAL TIME!)

- **This Day in History:** 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!
- **New Parent Reception/Information Meeting:** This annual event was scheduled for this evening. Obviously, we can't hold it, so we did a video instead. Thanks to Mimi Montiero and the development team for coordinating the video. New this year are two student interns who will be working in development, helping with the technology. Zach van Zandt and Adam Philippe took all of the individual videos and edited them together into a smoothly flowing video. Congrats and thanks, Adam and Zach! We will send the video to parents today.



Mrs. Suzy checks in a student behind protective Plexiglas shield!

Tue, Aug 18 (A B C D)

- **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 Ole Miss.
- **Dads' Club Meeting -- CANCELLED**
- **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 gather with friends, writing bad poetry, and sending the poetry to high school English teachers! 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!

Wed, Aug 19 (E F G A)

- **TDIH:** *In 1812, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution defeats British frigate Guerrière in a furious engagement off coast of Nova Scotia. Witnesses claim that British shot bounced off the Constitution's sides, as if the ship were made of iron rather than wood. By the war's end, "Old Ironsides" destroyed or captured seven more British ships. The success of the USS Constitution against the supposedly invincible Royal Navy provided a tremendous boost in morale for the young American republic.* (History Channel website)
- **"Black Cow" Root Beer Float Day:** With vanilla ice cream, coppery root beer, and frothy foam, a root beer float is a classic. Root beer was manufactured, bottled, and sold starting in 1880. Legend has it that 13 years later, the root beer float, often referred to as a black cow, was invented when Frank Wisner of Cripple Creek, CO floated vanilla ice cream on top of his root beer. The full moon allowed him to glimpse the snow on top of nearby Cow Mountain. The tasty treat was tremendously popular among the town's children, who then called it a "black cow." Note: several dates claim to be the "national celebration day" -- obviously, people want an excuse to indulge!

Thu, Aug 20 (B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1920, seven men, including legendary all-around athlete and football star Jim Thorpe, meet in Canton, Ohio to organize a professional football league. The meeting led to the creation of the American Professional Football Conference (APFC), the forerunner to the hugely successful NFL
- **TDIH:** In 1977, the space probe *Voyager 2* was launched. It continues to explore to this day, and is now more than 7 billion miles from Earth.
- **Radio Day:** Listen to a radio today! My favorite? WQXR – all classical out of NY.
- **Mosquito Day:** In 1897, Sir Ronald Ross, a British doctor working in India, linked that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. Kill all the mosquitoes you can find today!
- **Honey Bee Day:** Unlike Mosquito Day, do not kill any honey bees today.
- **March through the Arch / Ring Ceremony (6:30 pm – see below for info)**

Fri, Aug 21 (F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1959, Hawaii enters the Union as the 50th state.

- **TDIH:** In 2017, a rare solar eclipse occurred over Covington; SPS students donned special glasses to view the eclipse in Founders Circle.
- **TDIH:** In 2004, American swimmer Michael Phelps wins his eighth medal of the 2004 Athens Olympics. As we all know by now, Phelps became the most medaled contestant in modern Olympian history.
- **National Spumoni Day:** This Italian dessert is made from layers of ice cream, whipped cream, candied fruit, and nuts. It is typically has three layers of flavor: chocolate, pistachio, and cherry. Each layer of ice cream is mixed with fruits and nuts. Spumoni **should always be sliced, never scooped.**
- **Poet's Day:** Celebrate poets today! Write a poem! Read a poem! Hug a poet!
- **Senior Ring Holiday**

Sat, Aug 22 (Feast of the Queenship of Mary)

- **TDIH:** In 1989, Nolan Ryan of Texas Rangers registers 5,000 career Ks – a first!
- **TDIH:** In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt becomes first president to ride in an automobile.
- **Be an Angel Day:** Be like angels today and do one small act of service for someone; be a blessing in someone's life!

Sun, Aug 23

- **TDIH:** Legendary Pete Rose is banned from baseball for betting on the game.
- **TDIH:** In 1814, first lady Dolley (yes, that's the correct spelling) Madison saves a portrait of George Washington from being looted by British troops during the war of 1812.

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.**

ADMISSIONS FOR 2021-22: No, that's not a mistake. We, along with all private high schools, have begun recruiting for next year. As usual, I count on you for your help in spreading the good news about SPS and inviting your friends and neighbors to come take a look at Lasallian education on the Northshore. The two best avenues are:

- **Shadow Days:** Due to COVID, we have had to scrap our traditional SDs. We will now conduct a series of small group tours for parents and sons. Check our website or call our office for details. Encourage your friends, relatives, and neighbors to come take a look!

- Open House: We will run a true Open House, which is tentatively set for Sat, October 31. Families can come anytime between 1 and 3 to tour the campus and speak with students, teachers, and administrators.
- Spread the word, especially to public school families who don't realize we start the admission process this early.

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 has started. Students go to AH if they come to class without 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. 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 activities throughout the year.

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)

Applying for your child(ren)'s school meal benefits is now faster, safer & easier than ever. To apply please visit our website at: www.schoolcafe.org and click on the link "**Click Here to Apply for Reduced/Free Lunch**" on the home page to begin your application. This service is provided to you **free of charge** by School Food & Nutrition Services of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Entering your application online is quicker, easier, and more accurate than filling out a paper application. Our step-by-step process and guided help makes applying for school meals simpler and easier to understand than ever before. Processing times are faster; therefore benefits are applied quicker too!

Listed below is what you will need to provide during the on-line application process:

- The names and incomes of every member of your household
- The school, grade, & birthdate of every student in your household
- Your social security number and electronic signature
- A valid email address and phone number for communication purposes about the status of the application.

If you have any questions, call the School Food & Nutrition Services office at (504) 596-3434.

CALENDAR FOR 2020-21: Here is our calendar for this 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 .

- M-W, Aug 03-05 Faculty meetings/prep days
- Thurs, Aug 6 School Opens **for students with last names A – G**
- **Fri, Aug 7 School Opens for students with last names H - Z**
- 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)
- 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

- 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.

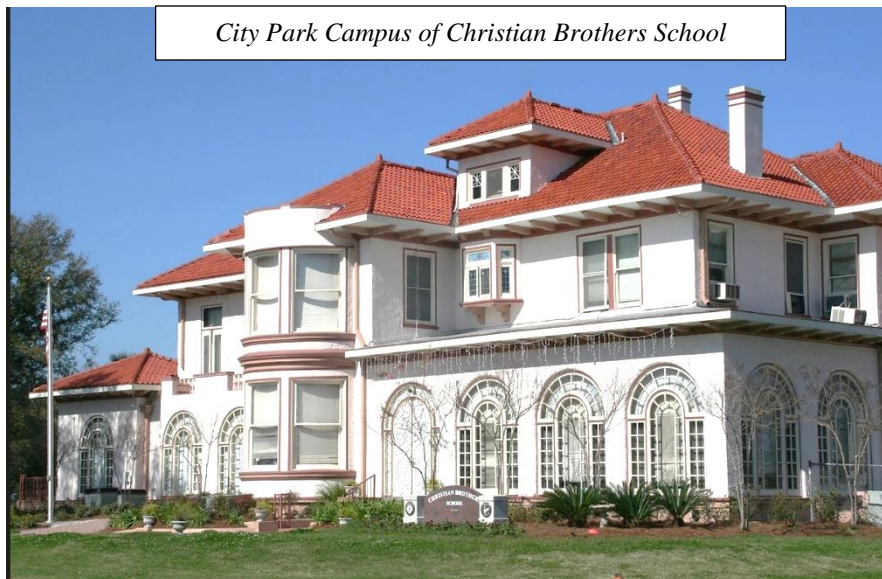
In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school. Thank you for recognizing the need to make the most use of our academic time.

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 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 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, fines can be increased.
- SPS Law: 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

City Park Campus of Christian Brothers School



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SCHOOL (CITY PARK) BROTHERS COMMUNITY:

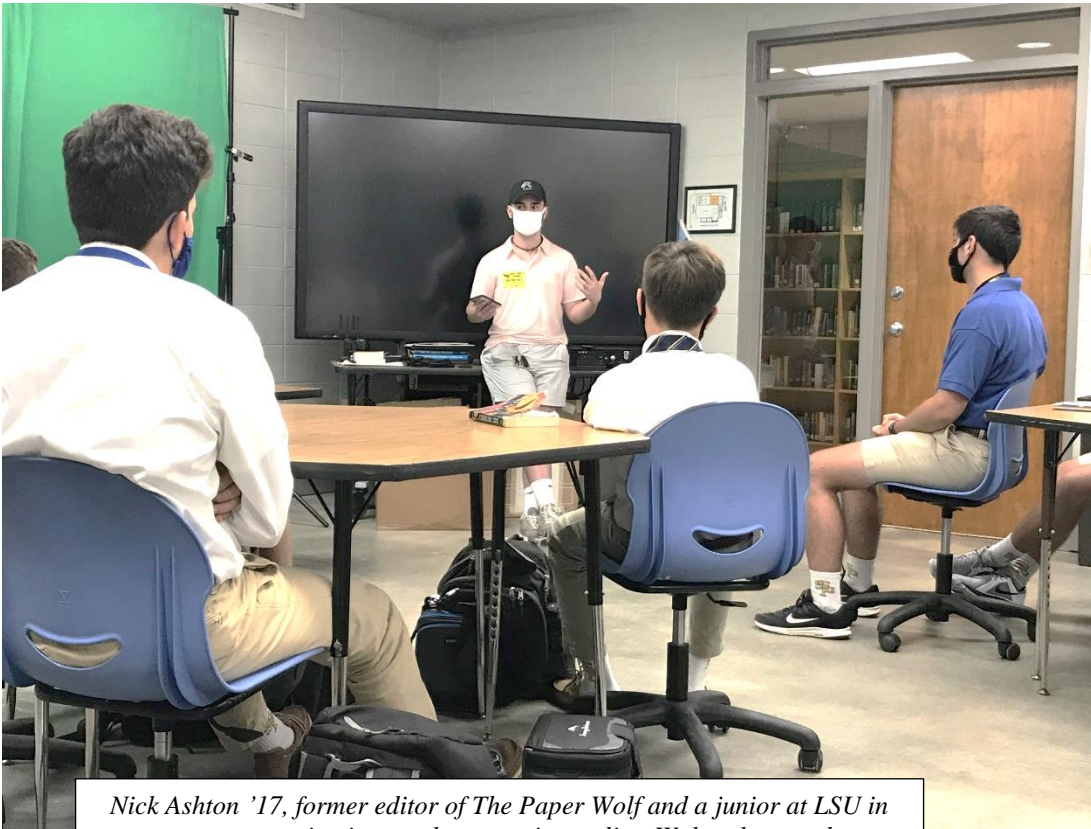
As the last Brothers Community in New Orleans, the Community has been temporarily closed due to COVID. If you have been to the CBS City Park campus, you know that the five Brothers (all retired) lived in the upstairs part of the building (the old McFadden Mansion). Because of the movement of the students through the building, our Provincial Staff deemed it safest to re-assign the Brothers and temporarily close the community. Thus,

Brothers Gale Condit (whom most of you remember), Brother Larry Konersman, Brother John Mai and Brother Michael Livaudais (who taught at SPS in the 1970's) have moved to the retirement home at Mont La Salle in Napa, CA. **And Saint Paul's Retirement Community is blessed to receive Brother Thomas Ward, FSC.** Brother Thomas is no stranger to SPS. He was a student at Saint Paul's before joining the Brothers. He taught reading here for many years in the 70's and 80's. BTW, Brother Thomas celebrated his 100th birthday over the summer! While Brother Ralph didn't make it (but came close!), we now have a genuine centenarian! Welcome, Brother Thomas and Godspeed to the other Brothers as they relocate to Napa.

COVID PROTECTION LAYER: We are adding an additional layer of protection by installing Caspr in-duct air filtration units for each HVAC System in the school – over 100 units. These units will “scrub” the air and eliminate 99.96% of any virus, unhealthy air, germs, bacteria, mold, and mildew along with odors. It will treat all the offices, ductwork, bathrooms, fixtures, hallways, door handles, handrails, seating, desks, offices, workstations & showroom areas, too. In short, it will “clean” all currently HVAC conditioned space.

Such equipment does not come cheap. Fortunately, we, along with all the private schools in St. Tammany, qualified for federal funds from the CARES Act. Even so, our allocation was not enough to pay for units for every HVAC unit on campus. Fortunately, the local distributors of these devices are two SPS alums from 1996: Nick Licata and Ryan Hazzard. Both said they wanted to “give something back to SPS” so they donated enough equipment to cover the whole campus! Our only out of pocket expense was the installation, performed by our HVAC Service Company. I am extremely grateful to Nick and Ryan!

COVID CLEARINGHOUSE PERSON: Athletic Trainer Chris Stipe has agreed to be our COVID Clearinghouse Person. As an employee of Children's Hospital, Chris is well-versed with protocols, as he is responsible for implementing COVID Protocols with our sports team. He has been invaluable, responding to parental concerns and advising us when isolation/quarantines are needed. He is on duty in the infirmary room in the counseling center from 8-10 each morning. Trainer and Children's Hospital employee Abbie Duhe will be working with Chris in this endeavor.



Nick Ashton '17, former editor of The Paper Wolf and a junior at LSU in mass communication, spoke to our journalism Wolves last week.

DRESS CODE:
Students must be in compliance with the dress code – which includes temperature bracelets and masks. 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 here in the admin bldg. 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 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 admin building. I feel terrible when a parent waits hours at 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!

GET INVOLVED DAY: Get Involved Day, which will introduce our students to a wide variety of activities, had to be postponed. We are committed to having as many of our traditional extracurricular activities as possible.

HAND SANITIZER: Much our hand sanitizing products were purchased through the St. Tammany Parish School Board. An SPS parent vended the rest. The solution is 70% alcohol, with glycerin, hydrogen peroxide, purified water, and fragrance as inactive agents.

HANDBOOK AND COVID SIGNATURE SHEETS: The signed forms are now overdue! Students who have not turned in the card will receive detention.

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) or use the new Box Tops App. Download the new Box Tops App and scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Here is a video explaining how it works. <https://youtu.be/Hh94b2BvFK4>

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

HOMEcomings 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.

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 soon, but in mid-August, all parents will be asked to complete a survey about your perception of our fidelity to the Lasallian Mission. We are counting on your helping us become an even better Lasallian Catholic school.

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW:

- **COVID Procedures:** Thanks for helping your sons be faithful to these: screen him before he leaves for school, make sure he has his temperature bracelet and mask, reinforce the need to socially distance and encourage compliance with our sanitation efforts. Thank you!
- **Assignment Hall:** I actually had customers last week! They were very cooperative! Remember that your son will be sent to AH if he doesn't have his homework for the due day.
- **Ken Sear's video assembly** on Tuesday was well done as he addressed some very difficult issues. I hope your son told you about it. Please reinforce our messages, especially about safety, vaping, violence, and social media usage at every opportunity.
- **SSR:** Encourage your son to take SSR seriously and come prepared with reading material. Thanks for good modeling and attention to this important activity.
- **Dances:** Our back to school dances had to be cancelled. The boys would have had a good time had we been allowed to hold them! I know the student council is disappointed, so any words of encouragement to them is helpful.
- **St. Benilde Feast:** Thanks to Campus Ministry and Religion Department for paying respect to Saint Benilde on his feast day last Thursday! May our saintly brother intercede with almighty God to help us do the ordinary in extraordinary ways!
- **Student Council:** Congrats to SC for designing online elections and candidate qualifying last week.
- **Football Team Pictures:** The team looked great on Sat for pics – let's just hope they have a season!

LOST & FOUND: We are already finding shirts, books, lunch boxes, etc. left around campus. PLEASE stress responsibility with your. 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.

MASKS v. GAITERS: An email received last week from Children's Hospital, our official COVID medical partner: *We have new information that suggests gaiters might not be an optimal choice for face coverings due to the type of material in which they are usually produced. Until we have more info, we strongly recommend the use of traditional masks.* Accordingly, we are instituting a "no gaiter" policy, only traditional masks.

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.

PLUS PORTALS: Please activate your account and check Edline 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**

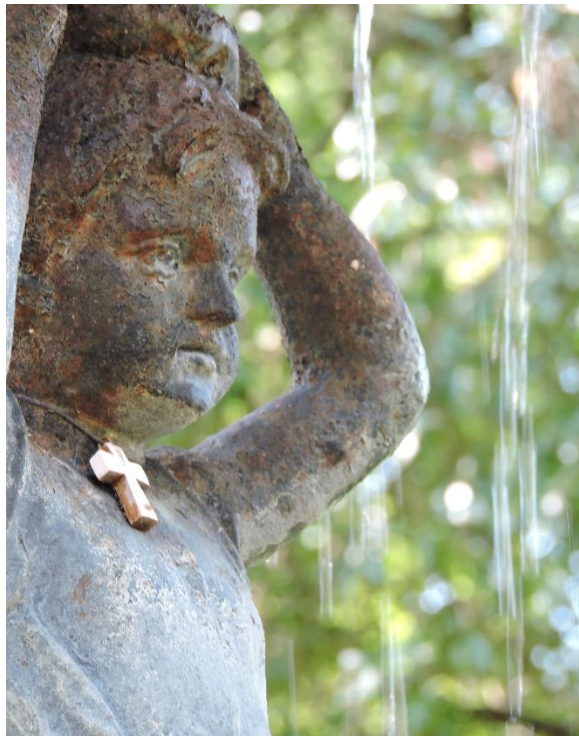
SENIOR STUFF: This was supposed to be Senior Week, when we honor the Class of 2021. As with so many other things, COVID 19 has wreaked havoc with our traditional ceremonies and activities. Thus, here is the pared-down schedule:

- Senior BBQ – postponed until large social gatherings are allowed
- Senior Unity Day – postponed until large social gatherings are allowed
- March through the Arch – will take place in the EVENING (6:30) and will be used for ring distribution. Parents will line the road as seniors march by and receive their rings at the oak tree.
- Ring Ceremony – will now be part of the evening (6:30 pm) March through the Arch. If using a family ring, please bring it to the administration building. Thanks.
- Senior Ring Holiday will still be Friday, August 21.
- **I am counting on senior parents to understand the necessity for these actions. We would LOVE to have our traditional ceremonies, but they are just not allowed by civil authorities under the current Phase II restrictions imposed by Governor John Bel Edwards.**
- **Senior Shirts:** Mr. Scoriels is now taking orders for white Senior polo shirts which are worn on Fridays. Cost is \$30 cash or check made out to St. Paul’s. Deadline for order is Thu, August 20.

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 EMAIL ADDRESSES: We issued each student a unique Saint Paul's email address through which we will communicate with him.



A senior retreat cross hangs on the statue in the Ben Bragg Memorial Fountain.

SUSTAINED SILENT READING (SSR): On Monday, we began 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.

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/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, masks, and temp bracelets must be worn DAILY. This is a safety measure.**

VISITOR’S PASS: You may not just wander the campus. You must sign in at the Administration Building, the Attendance Office, or the Counseling Office to obtain a pass to be on campus during school hours. 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.

WEEKLY HUMOR: In honor of Honey Bee & Mosquito Day, here are some bee and mosquito jokes:

- *Who do you call when mosquitoes attack? The SWAT team.*
- *What do you get if you cross the Lone Ranger with an insect? The Masked-quito!*
- *What has antlers and sucks blood? A moose-quito!*
- *What is a mosquito's favorite sport? Skin-diving! What's the difference between a lawyer and a mosquito?*
- *Why are mosquitos religious? They prey on you!*
- *Why did the mosquito go to the dentist? To improve his bite! How do you know if you have a tough mosquito? You slap him and he slaps you back!*
- *What is the most religious insect? A mosque-ito!*
- *What's the difference between a Mosquito and a fly? A mosquito can fly, but a fly can't mosquito!*
- *Q: What do you call a bee who's had a spell put on him? A: bee-witched!*
- *Q: Why do bees buzz? A: Because they can't whistle*
- *Q: What letter makes honey? A: B*
- *Q: What goes zzub, zzub? A: A bee flying backwards!*
- *Q: What are the cleverest bees? A: Spelling bees!*
- *Q: What bee is good for your health? A: Vitamin bee!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



Our new faculty members are off to a great start!
Bottom, L-R: Gabe Emerson '12 (Math), Amanda Duplantier (Counseling), Alex Lacour (Math)
Middle: Travis Smith (English), Christian Bobak (Religion), Brother Javier Hansen (Religion)
Chase Hawthorne (Science)

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



A student patiently waits his turn for pictures last Monday – the final day of picture taking.

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!

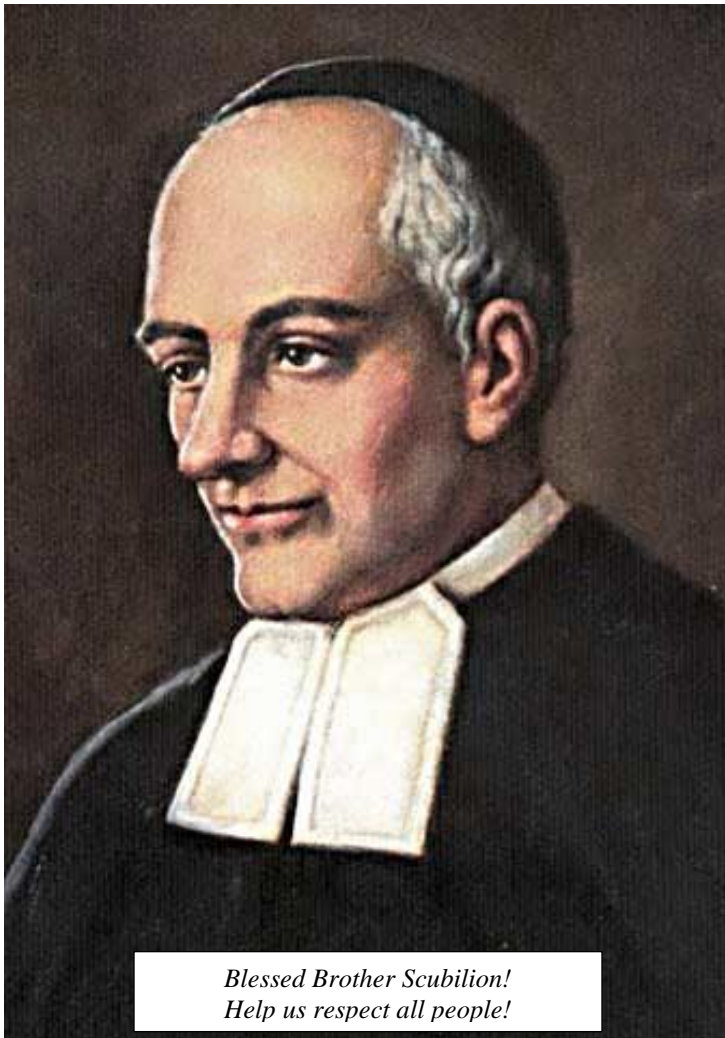
Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Off to a Great Start for 2020 – 21 (all things considered) as the 17th Christian Brother President /CEO of Saint Paul’s School

*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.*

“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)



*Blessed Brother Scubilion!
Help us respect all people!*

Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, FSC 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.

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



Wash your
hands often



Wear a cloth
face cover



Cover your coughs
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space
between you and
your friends



cdc.gov/coronavirus

