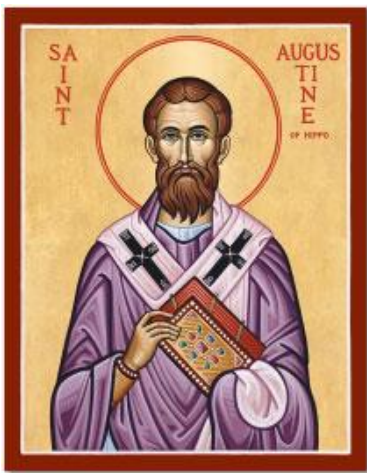


From Dr. RaeNell Houston, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans:
All Catholic schools will be closed Monday and Tuesday, and we will continue to monitor the weather forecast to have the most up to date information to make decisions for the remainder of the week.

Obviously, this includes Saint Paul's, so we will close at least Monday and Tuesday – and communicate with you about the rest of the week. Since the newsletter was finished before Dr. Houston's announcement, I have left it intact – including class rotation, which may change. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!



The President's Hebdomadal **Blue-Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of Educational Excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian Tradition Throughout the World
August 24 – 31, 2020



This week, we celebrate the feast of St. Augustine -- a most influential scholar saint. His story offers us much inspiration. From Catholic Online: *Augustine is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a life of loose living, parties, and worldly ambitions. His turnaround and conversion have inspired many who struggle with a particular vice they long to break.*

This son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent years in wicked living. One of the most intelligent men who ever lived and brought up Christian, his sins of impurity and pride darkened his mind. Through prayers of his mother and St. Ambrose's preaching, Augustine became convinced that Christianity was the true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day he heard about two men who had converted, and he felt terribly ashamed. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!"

Augustine cried, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Then he heard a child singing, "Take and read!" Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage. It was just what he needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it!

He was baptized, became a priest, bishop, Catholic writer, Founder of religious priests, and great saint. He had the following written in large letters in his room: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." Augustine overcame heresies, practiced poverty, supported the poor, preached often and prayed with fervor until his death. His holy life made up for the sins he committed. The following prayer by Augustine is beautiful:

Late have I loved You, O Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved You! For behold, you were within me and I outside, and I sought you outside. In my unloveliness, I fell upon these lovely things that you had made. Thou were with me and I was not with You. I was kept from You by those things, yet had they not been from You, they would not have been at all. You did call and cry to me to break open my deafness. I tasted You, and now hunger and thirst for You; You touched me, and I burn for Your peace.

Saint Augustine! Pray for us!

Mon, Aug 24 (C D E F)

- **This Day in History:** In 79, Mount Vesuvius erupts in southern Italy, devastating the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.
- **TDIH:** In 1814, during War of 1812 between US and England, British troops enter Washington, D.C. and burn the White House in retaliation for American attack on city of York in Ontario, Canada, in June 1812.
- **Strange Music Day:** Strange Music Day was started by Patrick Grant, a Julliard graduate and professional musician. The purpose of Strange Music Day is to listen to music you have never heard before, just for the heck of it. Have fun today and listen to something different! I think I'll ask some students for suggestions!
- **Waffle Day:** Today marks the anniversary of the first waffle iron patent in 1869. Eat a waffle today! Or just keep changing your mind about things -- get it? Waffling?
- **Parent-Teacher Mini-Schedule Night (6:30) – POSTPONED!**

Tue, Aug 25 (G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1944, French General Jacques LeClerc enters Paris, freeing it from German control during WW II.
- **On this date in 1718, French immigrants founded the city of New Orleans.** Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville named the settlement for Philippe II, Duke of Orléans. The duke was the regent of France, ruling in place of King Louis XV, who was only a boy. The French had claimed the Louisiana Territory in 1682, and the location of New Orleans — at the mouth of the Mississippi — meant that it was prime real estate for controlling America's large interior waterway. Though NO never lost French character, Native American, African, and Spanish cultures blended in.
- France sent a starter population of slaves, prisoners, and bonded servants. They arrived in New Orleans to find a mosquito-ridden swamp that was surrounded by hostile Native Americans, and prone to hurricanes. The new settlers threatened to revolt, so the French government sent 90 female convicts straight from the Paris jails. These ladies of questionable repute were chaperoned by a group of Ursuline nuns until they could be married off to the men who awaited them.
- Two engineers laid out plans for the original walled village, which later came to be known as the French Quarter or the *Vieux Carré* — the Old City. Though it's called the French Quarter, the architecture of the area is mostly Spanish in influence, since fire destroyed most of the original buildings in the 18th century. By that time, the city was under the control of the Spanish, who rebuilt the quarter. New Orleans became an American city in 1803, when Napoleon sold Louisiana to the United States government.



A student waits for classes to begin.

- Tom Robbins wrote, in *Jitterbug Perfume* (1984): "Louisiana in September was like an obscene phone call from nature. The air — moist, sultry, secretive, and far from fresh — felt as if it were being exhaled into one's face. Sometimes it even sounded like heavy breathing. Honeysuckle, swamp flowers, magnolia, and the mystery smell of the river scented the atmosphere, amplifying the intrusion of organic sleaze. It was aphrodisiac and repressive, soft and violent at the same time. In New Orleans, in the French Quarter, miles from the barking lungs of alligators, the air maintained this quality of breath, although here it acquired a tinge of metallic halitosis, due to fumes expelled by tourist buses, trucks delivering Dixie beer, and, on Decatur Street, a mass-transit motor coach named Desire.
- **Kiss & Make Up Day** – a great day to end a spat, fight, argument, or feud. And it can be fun! The “kiss” is optional, but everyone is encouraged today to “bury the hatchet” over an argument or disagreement.
- **Banana Split Day** celebrates the invention of this treat in 1904. Splurge ‘n eat a Banana Split today!
- **Virtual President’s Assembly:** I miss my assemblies with the students. Accordingly, I am going to try a virtual one this morning. I’m using Google Meet in order to “share the screen” with my power point slides. Naturally, I will be including classical music! I’ll keep this one fairly short in order to test the technology and become comfortable with the process myself. Wish me luck! My faithful sound men (Zachrey Gros and Brian Lea) are ready and willing to help.

Wed, Aug 26 (D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1974, Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic, dies at age of 72.
- **TDIH:** In 1939, the first televised major league baseball game airs on station W2XBS, later to become WNBC-TV. Announcer Red Barber called the game between the Cin’nati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field.
- **National Dog Day:** Give Fideaux an extra treat today and appreciate your pet!
- **Toilet Paper Day:** Did you know the US spends almost \$10 billion a year on this stuff? And Charmin holds a toilet paper wedding dress contest each year with 10,000 ladies participating!
- **President’s Annual Fund Dinner -- CANCELED:** If COVID-19 had not arrived, tonight we would have thanked our \$1000 and over donors with a special dinner in the BAC. The Student Hosts would have helped serving and then would have been assigned to the various tables to speak to our supporters about SPS Lasallian education. They are always a hit with the guests. I cannot stress enough the gratitude we should have toward our financial supporters. We could not have the school we do without them. We need them!



Seniors practice social distancing before school.

Thu, Aug 27 (A B C D).

- Memorial of **St. Monica** – Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Monica -- a special one for all moms, as Monica prayed for years for the conversion of her son, Augustine, who strayed far from the path of righteousness. Her persistent prayer paid off and Augustine became one of the greatest saints in the church. Thanks, St. Monica!
- **TDIH:** Brother Ralph Baltz, a member of our retired Christian Brothers Community until his passing in March, would have turned 100 today! We pause today to remember him and his dedication to the Lasallian Mission. **In Brother's honor and memory, we will distribute popsicles to all at lunch – which is what Brother Ralph would have wanted.**
- **TDIH:** In 1910, Mother Teresa is born. In honor of her birth, coincidentally on the same day as Brother Ralph's birth, I reprint a famous prayer which is purported to be hers. It's always worth re-reading:



*People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
Give the best you have and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*



A senior smiles as he marches through the arch last Thursday.

Fri, Aug 28 (E F G A) -- Memorial of St. Augustine (see above)

- **TDIH:** In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech – one of the best known in US History, second only to Lincoln’s 1863 “Gettysburg Address” – on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to about 250,000 people attending the March on Washington. He ended his stirring 16-minute speech with his vision of the fruit of racial harmony: *“When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”* The speech is worth a YouTube view.

Sat, Aug 29

- **TDIH:** In 2012, Tropical Storm Isaac bashes south LA; SPS closes for four days!
- **More Herbs, Less Salt Day:** Pretty self-explanatory! Stay healthy!

- **TDIH:** In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastates south Louisiana and floods New Orleans. Some would prefer to erase memory of this dark time in our history, I think it important that we remember how far we have come in the past 15 years – and celebrate the tenacity and drive of those who helped make recovery possible. We remain grateful



Wolf Dome Katrina damage.

to the incredible support from so many people who helped in the aftermath of the storm to welcome displaced students, care for our own students, and keep hope alive on our campus -- all while dealing with their own issues and challenges. Their work at that difficult time was in the finest tradition of heroic Lasallian education. Post-storm, Computer Applications II Class, under the direction of long time SPS computer whiz Weese Petersen, published a book about what the boys learned from the storm – some funny, some insightful, some poignant. Here are some excerpts: *I learned:*

- *that my brother gets aggravated after 10 hours of riding in a car.*
- *that relatives can get annoying and they bring friends when they stay with you.*
- *that relatives eat a lot when depressed.*
- *that family is more important than you.*
- *that having my family and friends is the only real thing that matters in my life.*
- *that I should be thankful*
- *that I take many things for granite [sic] like yesterday I was mad because I didn't get my way then I thought that many lost everything.*
- *that everything can be survived.*
- *that if you think you have it bad, someone somewhere has it worse.*
- *that chainsaws are dangerous.*
- *that rakes are not my friend.*
- *that having 25 rambling Irish people in my house is not cool.*
- *that Gatlinburg doesn't have many girls.*
- *that pine trees fall easily.*
- *that my parents are incredible motivators.*
- *that my father likes martial law.*
- *that my uncle is mechanically incompetent.*
- *that living with grandparents is not always enjoyable*
- *not to drive to Slidell at 10 pm when there is a 7 pm curfew.*
- *that 35 people in one house can get on your nerves.*

- *that there are a lot of good looking girls at Texas A & M.*
- *that you don't realize the value of what you have until you lose it.*
- *that poor people are less fortunate than us in a situation like this.*
- *to watch your head when climbing through fallen trees.*
- *that my grandparents are not as bad as I thought they were.*
- *that my family turned out to be pretty cool.*

**May our remembrance of Katrina today elicit prayers for all those affected by storms.
And may Our Lady of Prompt Succor hasten to keep us safe from the ravages of storms.**

Sun, Aug 30

- **TDIH:** In 1893, Huey Pierce Long ("The Kingfish") was born in Winnfield, LA.
- **TDIH:** In 1967, the Senate confirmed Thurgood Marshall as first African-American Supreme Court justice.
- **Marshmallow Toasting Day:** OK, you were healthy yesterday with less salt, so you can splurge today and toast a marshmallow. Or make some 'smores for the family!
- **Slinky Day:** The humble Slinky was invented in the 1940's by Navy engineer Richard James. It proved an immediate hit, quickly became a favorite toy. **Slinky Day** should be spent doing slinky tricks, watching Slinkies race down staircases, or untangling the things as they inevitably knot, twist and spiral!
- **Frankenstein Day:** This day is in honor of author Mary Wollenstone Shelley who was born on August 30, 1797. She wrote the novel Frankenstein in 1818.



*Our Lady of Prompt Succor!
Hasten to help us!*

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

AFTER SCHOOL: The library is open until 4 pm, Monday - Friday, to accommodate students waiting for rides. It's environmentally friendly and welcoming for students to wait and start on their homework.

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) -- Postponed
- 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.

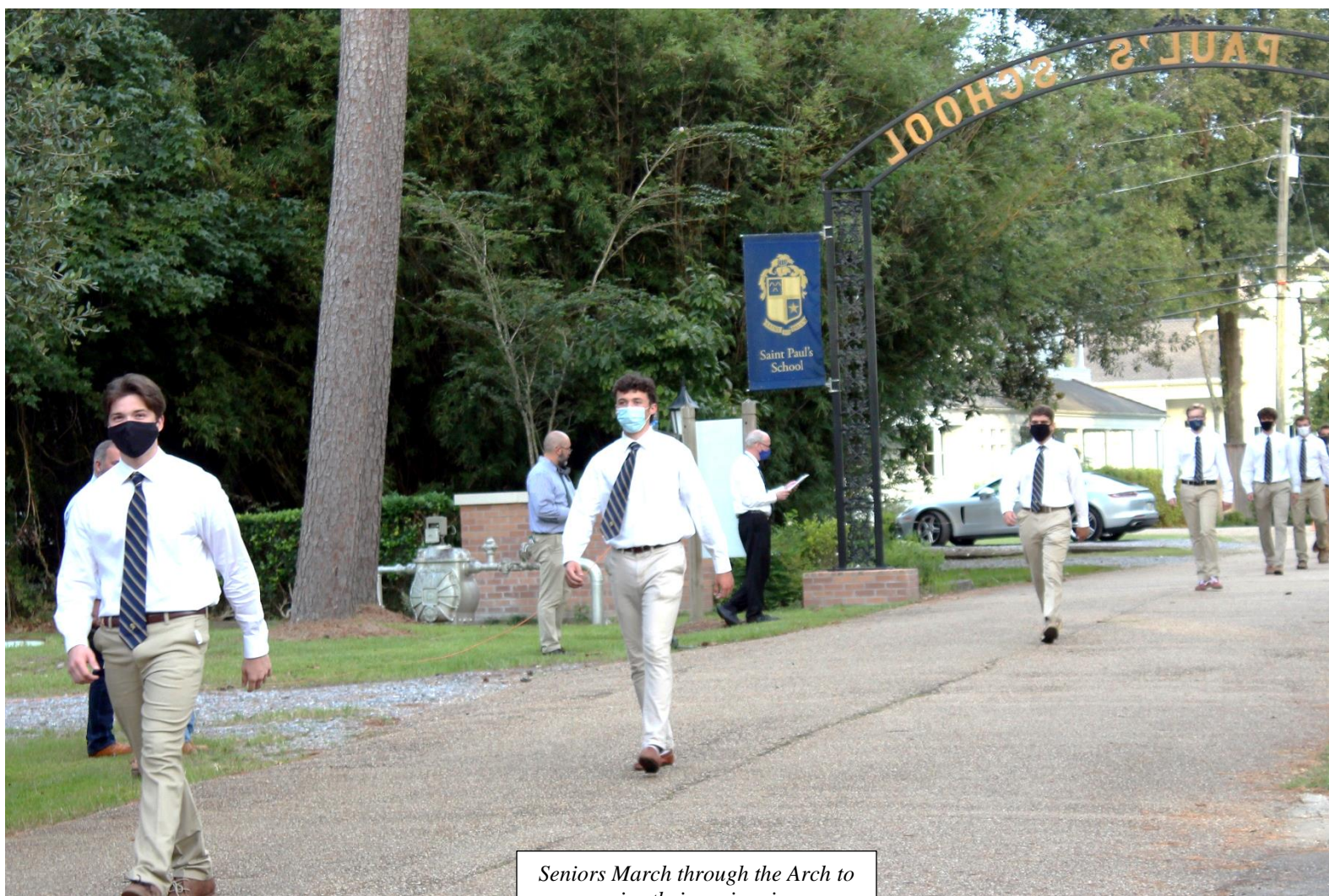
CAR LINES: There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder's Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in 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

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS: With two named storms in the Gulf of Mexico, allow me to comment on emergency or weather-related closings. Ordinarily, our procedure is to follow the civil parish. Thus, Saint Paul's School would follow the same decision of closure as the public-school system of St. Tammany Parish. The announcement concerning emergency closures would be broadcast on local television stations in the metropolitan area of NO when possible and texted to parents and students. With the public schools not in session, however, we cannot follow their lead. Thus, last Friday, Trevor and I ZOOMED with the Heads of School of SSA and Archbishop Hannan. The three schools agreed to jointly decide if any alteration of school schedule needs to be made. We will meet regularly beginning Monday to monitor the weather and civil advice. School messaging will be activated with updated information and situations unique to SPS. For multi-day closings, Saint Paul's reserves the right to re-open when our situation warrants. In the meantime, we pray:

Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!



*Seniors March through the Arch to
receive their senior rings.
(Pic by Zachrey Gros)*

COVID PROTECTION LAYER: We have added 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. 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.

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.**



Congrats to Riley Hnatyshyn for winning Spring Creek golf tournament!

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!

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.

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.

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.

LACROSSE: Coach Meibaum will have an 8th Grade and New Player Call Out for Lacrosse on Friday August 28th after school under the Wolf Dome. This will allow new players opportunity to sign up for this season. Social Distancing and Mask Use will be followed.

LASALLIAN CATHOLIC ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LCAP): Last week, we sent parents a link to an important survey, part of our Lasallian Catholic Assessment which evaluates SPS's fidelity to the Lasallian Catholic Mission of the Brothers. Please take ten minutes to complete the survey if you have not already done so. Your input is an important part of the process. We are counting on your helping us become an even better Lasallian Catholic school.

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.

MASKS v. GAITERS: An email received 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 – POSTPONED! Too bad, as this is always a popular event. We are working on Plan B.

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 VIDEO: Parents of new students should have received this video last week.

POSTPONEMENTS: The following have been postponed due to COVID 19 restrictions:

- Get Involved Day in August
- Grandparent Day in October
- Mini-Schedule (meet the teachers) on August 24
- Homecoming Dances in September
- Start of football season in August
- Start of many extracurricular activities
- We hope to re-schedule or begin these events as soon as possible.

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 RINGS: Mr. Haynes, the Josten's representative, will be here on Wednesday, August 26, during both lunch periods in the conference room of the Administration Building to deal with any ring issues you may have with your ring if it was purchased from Josten's.

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.

SUSTAINED SILENT READING (SSR): we have begun daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) during 15 minutes of Block 4. During this time, everyone in the school 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 after school. If he is not present when you drive through, proceed to a parking lot and wait for him. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.
- Remind your son to look 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.



Mr. Simpson's sophomore religion classes learn about history of SPS through campus tours.

WEEKLY HUMOR: In honor of Banana Split day on Tue, here are some banana jokes:

- *What would you call two banana skins? A pair of slippers!*
- *What do you do if you see a blue banana? Try to cheer it up.*
- *What's worse than a monkey eating bananas? A monkey going bananas.*
- *What's yellow and always points to the north? A magnetic banana.*
- *What is yellow and goes bzzzzzz? An electric banana.*
- *How do monkeys get down the stairs? A: They slide down the banana-ster!*
- *What did the banana say to the monkey? Nothing, bananas can't talk!*
- *What kind of a key opens a banana? A monkey!*
- *Why did the monkey like the banana? Because it had appeal!*
- *Why are bananas never lonely? Because they hang around in bunches.*
- *Why did the kid keep falling off his bike? It had a banana seat.*
- *What do you say if someone steps on a banana peel? Well I guess he didn't find that appealing!*
- *Why did the banana go to the hospital? Because it wasn't peeling very well*
- *Why did the banana fail his driving test? He kept peeling out.*
- *Why did the man lose his job in a fruit packing firm? He kept throwing the bent bananas away.*
- *How did the Mother Banana spoil the Baby Banana? She left him out in the sun too long.*

- *Why don't bananas snore? Because they don't want to wake up the rest of the bunch.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

YEARBOOKS: The 2019-20 Conifer yearbooks are usually distributed during this coming week. Due to COVID 19, however, the book was delayed and won't be ready until November. It will be worth the wait! Any questions should be directed to yearbook moderator Mrs. Mimi Monteiro in the Development Office.



Two seniors await start of March through the Arch.

A LOOK AHEAD: Period Rotation for August and September:

August

- 24 – CDEF
- 25 – GABC – Virtual President's 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



Mug of the Week: thanks to the parent who sent me this pic! I agree!

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. Let's end with prayer:

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!

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

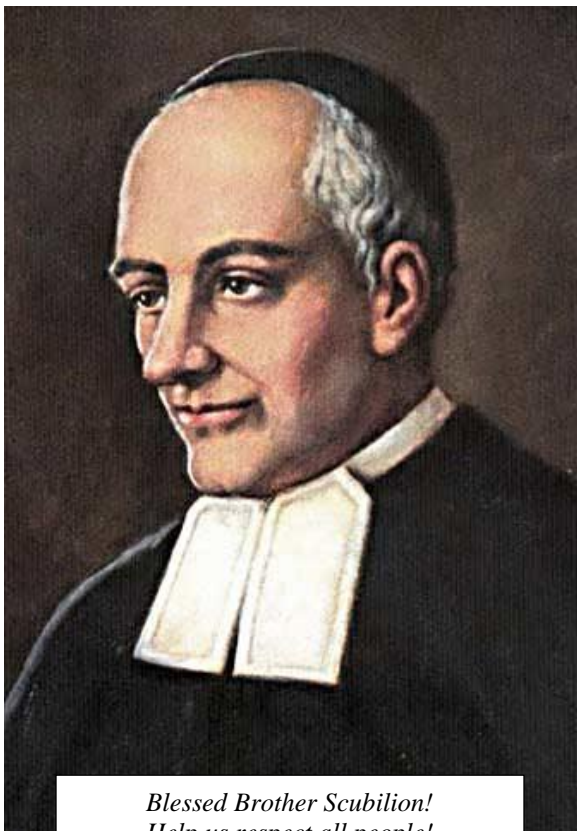


Have a great Lasallian Opening of School!

...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 spent 34 years of his religious life ministering to 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

