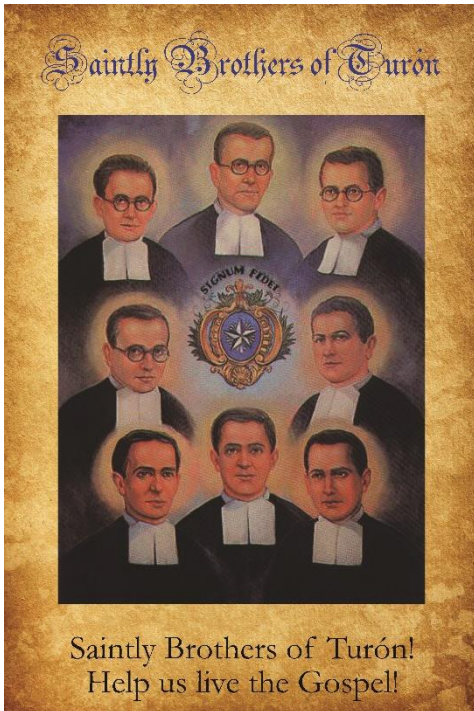




*The President's Hebdomadal Newsletter*  
*Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington*  
*341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world*  
*August 09 – August 15, 2021*



Welcome to the first full week of the 2021 - 22 school year. All things considered; we've had a smooth opening. The students have been very cooperative with all we have asked of them.

I continue to hope and pray that you and your family are safe and well. 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 Department of Catholic Education 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: **Sainly Christian Brother Martyrs of Turón.** While you will learn more about these Brothers in the weeks to come, know that they were Spanish Brothers who steadfastly continued providing Lasallian education in the midst of a secular, fascist Spanish government in the 1930's.

From the Christian Brothers Website ([www.lasalle.org](http://www.lasalle.org)): *In 1934 Turón, Spain was the center of anti-government and anticlerical hostility prior to the Spanish Civil War. The Brothers' school then was an irritant to the radicals in charge of the town because of the religious influence it exerted on the young. The Brothers were known to defy the ban on teaching religion and they openly escorted students to Mass.*

*On the First Friday of October, the authorities broke into the Brothers' house on the pretext that arms had been hidden. The Brothers were preparing to celebrate Mass. They and their chaplain were arrested, detained over the weekend without trial, and then in the middle of the night were marched out to the cemetery where they were summarily shot. Brother Cirilo, the Director, was 46 years old and Brother Marciano, the cook, was 39. Brother Julián was 32 and all the rest were in their twenties. They were arrested, detained, and executed as a community, victims of the hatred and violence against the Church. They witnessed by their death to the Gospel faith they so courageously professed and so effectively communicated to their students.*

Let us remember the Sainly Brother Martyrs of Turon and their courageous lives – and ask their intercession with Almighty God to help us continue our Lasallian Mission. **Stress the story of the Sainly Brothers of Turon with your sons this year – and learn what courageous people must do.**

**Sainly Brothers of Turon! Help us live the Gospel!**

### Mon, Aug 9 (B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon resigned at noon as the 37th president of the US -- the only president ever to resign. Vice-President Gerald Ford became the 38<sup>th</sup> president. Ford, the first president who came to the office through appointment rather than election, had replaced Spiro Agnew as vice president only eight months before. In a political scandal independent of the Nixon administration's wrongdoings in the Watergate affair, Agnew had been forced to resign in disgrace after he was charged with income tax evasion and political corruption.
- **Book Lover's Day:** What a great day at the beginning of the school year

### Tue, Aug 10 (Assembly; F G A B)

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

### Wed, Aug 11 (C D E F)

- **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.)

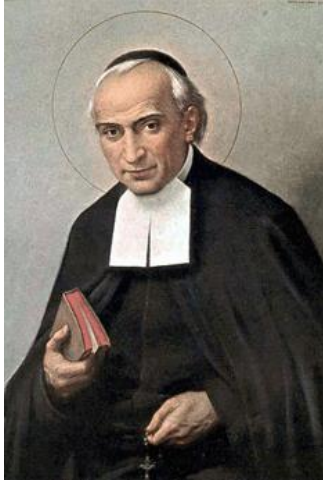


### Thu, Aug 12 (G A B C)

- **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 phones 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!
- **Yearbook Distribution for the Class of 2021 (5 in the cafeteria)**
- **National Guard/Ochsner Hospital COVID Vaccination Clinic (3 – 7 in the new gym.) This is open to all and is strictly voluntary.**

## Fri, Aug 13 – Feast of Saint Brother Benilde, FSC (D E F G)

- 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 he inspired over 200 young men to become Brothers?
  - Did you know he learned sign language to help students who were deaf?
  - Did you know he buried the dead, fed the hungry, visited the sick, and conducted night classes for adults?
- The many things St. Benilde did for the young to give them a human and Christian education seem quite extraordinary, but he had a very humble beginning. Although he was quite intelligent, initially the Brothers did not allow him to teach because of his appearance. For two years, following the Novitiate, he served in the community of Aurillac as a domestic Brother. He was given the assignment of cleaning the house, taking care of the vegetable garden, 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 in 1967 by the Church.
  - **TDIH:** In 1521, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured present day Mexico City from Aztecs.
  - **Back to School Dance – postponed due to COVID**

## Sat, Aug 14

- **Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe.** Born in Poland in 1894, Maximilian became a Franciscan. After earning a doctorate in theology, he 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, US vessel Ancon is first ship to pass through the American-built Panama Canal.
- **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!

## Sun, 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 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 Sunday!
- **Lemon Meringue Pie Day:** Enjoy this iconic dessert!



*Assumption of the Virgin*  
Francesco Botticini  
1446-1497

# 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 have their homework in class are sent to assignment hall.**

**AFTER SCHOOL:** The Library will remain open to students until 4 pm. If your son is looking for a comfortable place to wait for his ride and get a jump on his homework, this is a good option for him.

**AFTER SCHOOL ISSUES:** Assignment Hall (see below) and detention are 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:** 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. **FREE PHYSICALS WILL BE OFFERED ON SAT, AUG 28. DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**

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



**BAND HALL HISTORY:** The new band building continues to take shape, although weather has delayed things a bit. Some band hall history: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type

games and a snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.

The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will

provide expanded space, restrooms, acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in early fall of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? **PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE NEW BAND HALL IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!** No gift is too small! (Not shouting; just emphasizing!)

**BENILDE HALL:** Three years ago this week, we began occupying the newly renovated Benilde Hall. It was challenging, but the benefits outweighed the challenges. More classrooms, better restrooms, an elevator, improved lighting and HVAC, additional ingress and egress, student services, and more. In case you don't know its history, Benilde Hall was built in 1959 under the presidency of the late Brother Cassian Lange. The second and third floors were dorms for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. The bottom floor had study halls and rec rooms. When SPS dropped 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the first two floors were converted into classrooms. Interesting trivia: Trevor had one of those non-air-conditioned classrooms and bought a window unit – making it one of the few air-conditioned classrooms on campus. It was cool but loud! The third floor remained a dorm for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When we dropped 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the third floor became the band room! (Imagine lugging instruments up three flights of stairs!) The current band room was a rec hall for the boarders. When the number of boarders started dropping, we moved the rec hall into La Salle Hall and converted the third floor to classrooms. And now we have the latest (and last – at least for me!) incarnation of that storied (pun) building! Saint Benilde! Thank you for helping us turn that ordinary building into an extraordinary one! I am most grateful to those who have already responded.

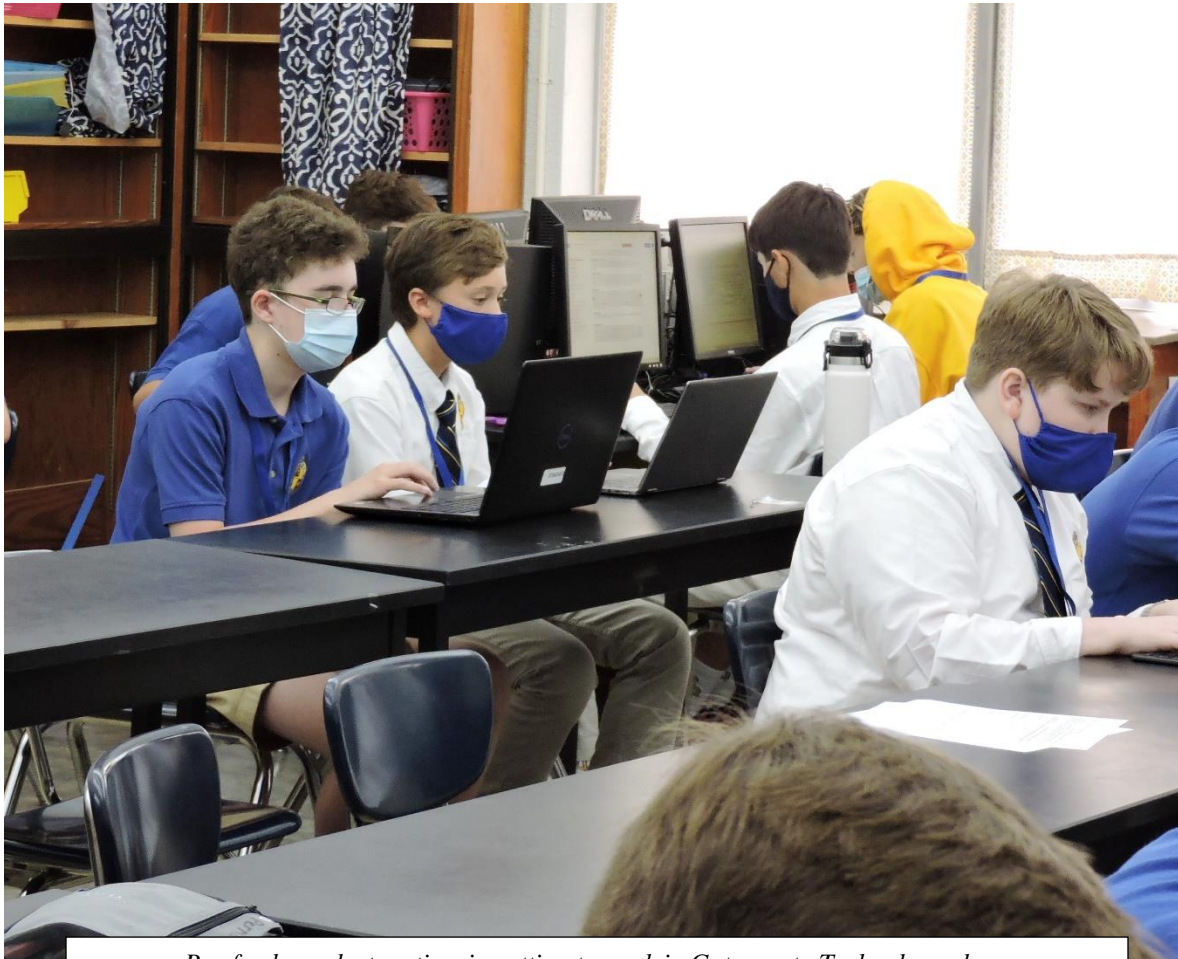
**BOOK STORE:** The Mothers' Club Bookstore will be open:

- Mon, Aug 2            9:00am to 3:00pm
- Tue, Aug 3            9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Wed, Aug 4            9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Thu, Aug 5            Bookstore Regular Hours (7:30 am to 8:15 am & 11:00 am to 12:30 pm)
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible.** Proceeds not only help fund wonderful activities throughout the year, but the proceeds also help with campus needs.



## CAFETERIA:

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Saint Paul's does not directly manage the food service program; we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not Saint Paul's.
- **Breakfast and lunch are FREE this year! If a student wants more than one lunch, though, he must pay for the additional lunch along with any "extras" he wants (ice cream, etc.)**
- Students may not "order out", e.g., pizza, or have lunches delivered. **WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHESES TO STUDENTS.** Please do not ask us to do so.
- Students participating in the cafeteria program must put money in their account. Students may NOT "charge" if no money is on account.
- Students **MUST** use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria.
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments that will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.



*Pre-freshmen lost no time in getting to work in Gateway to Technology class.*

**CALENDAR FOR 2021 - 22: The calendar assumes full operation. Any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or other natural disasters may result in alteration of the calendar.**

Mon - Tues, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thurs, Aug 5	School Opens <b>with a full day of instruction</b>
Mon, Aug 16	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30 – tentative)
Thu, Aug 19	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, & Evening Ring Ceremony
Fri, Aug 20	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 23	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Friday, Oct 01	Fall Break—no classes for students
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:00)
Mon, Oct 18	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 30	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 08	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 29	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 07	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 -Mar. 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 7	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 11	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 25	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29	Senior Final Exams
Thu, May 12	Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tues – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tues, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Please do not schedule vacations during school time. Note that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177. In case of closings, we will make up days from holidays. **School begins with all students on Thu, Aug 5th for a full instructional day (8 – 3).** Also, 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.



*Seniors enjoy first lunch of the school year!*

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

#### **CELL PHONES:**

- **State Law:** Motorists are prohibited from using any type of hand held wireless communications device while traveling through schools zones during posted hours. The law includes use of a cellular/wireless device for engaging in a voice call, accessing, reading, or posting to a social networking site, and/or writing, sending, or reading a text-based communication. The school zone cell phone ban does not apply if the device is being used to report an emergency, is being used in a hands-free manner, or while the vehicle is lawfully parked. Upon first violation of the school zone ban the fine is \$175, subsequent violations can be up to \$500, and if a crash occurs during the time of the violation, fines can be increased.
- **School Cell Phone Policy:** students may use their phones during lunch but only outside. If you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour. Disciplinary action and fines will continue for violation of this policy. With our campus wide wi-fi, he can use his phone to surf the internet if needed. And, yes, our security firewalls are in effect



*Student Ambassadors Pepe, Zach, Walker, Cavin, & Grant welcomed new students to campus on Thursday.*

**COGNIA:** Cognia is the national accrediting agency for schools. Being Cognia certified is a big deal. Cognia re-evaluates each school every five years – and this is the fifth year for SPS. Part of the evaluation is a survey of our stakeholders – in this case, our parents. Assistant Principal Joe Dickens has already sent you the link to the survey. **PLEASE COMPLETE IT THIS WEEK. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF SPS (AND MY JOB!).** Here is the link again:

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/168577/7932>

**DADS' CLUB:** Thanks to Dads' Club for a great work day on July 24. They (plus Trevor) managed to:

- Weed-eat the island
- Clean all campus signage
- Power wash Founder's Circle, the pavilions, several sidewalks and curbs
- Power-blow the leaves off chapel roof and clean gutters
- Repair the pond fountain
- Clean the statues around campus
- Clean brick benches in several locations

This work is a huge help in helping us prepare the campus for school opening next week. Congratulations and thanks to Chris Brown for organizing this event, the first since his assuming the leadership of the DC.

If you would like to be included on the SPS Dads' Club email list to keep informed about upcoming meetings and events, please email [spdadsclub@gmail.com](mailto:spdadsclub@gmail.com). Also, if you would like to subscribe to the

Dads' Club calendar or Facebook page, please see: Join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/> Subscribe to our calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=spdadsclub%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

**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 about dress code. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts and khaki shorts 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. Just call Andrea in the Admin Bldg.**

**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. 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.



*Pre-freshmen enjoy pizza and brotherhood at orientation last 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.

**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.



*Roch's mom assists with his senior graduation pic last week.*

## LAST WEEK MUSINGS

- **Faculty Meetings:** Our time together was efficient, meaningful and enjoyable! And the MC had delicious lunches and snacks for us, too! Thanks, MC!
- **Football:** Picture taking went well in spite of the weather.
- **Senior Portraits:** The gym venue worked well, and all was handled well with no class time used.
- **Student Pictures:** All went well! The boys looked great in dress uniforms.
- **Physical Plant:** Don and crew responded to every request – the school was ready for the students.
- **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. Thanks, MC!
- **Bulletin Boards:** The school building was nicely decorated, thanks to Adm Assistant Jeaneen Schmitt and Student Council moderator Joanna Case. They decorated many of heretofore (haven't used that word in a while!) underutilized bulletin boards, picking up the excellent work that Karen Hebert used to do.
- **Student Council Retreat:** The Council spent quality time on Sat planning – and hoping for the best.
- **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.

**MASKS:** From Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. RaeNell Houston: *As part of the emergency order issued by Governor John Bel Edwards, all schools including Catholic schools must implement mandates issued by local and state governmental authorities as they address the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to protect the health and well-being of all members of our school communities and to preserve our ability to provide in-person learning for our children, we will implement various mitigation efforts, including masking. If we do not, we risk not only the health and safety of our school communities but also our operations as we could be forced to shut down by governing bodies for failing to comply. We would also lose all protections from liability should someone choose to file any lawsuit against a school after contracting COVID-19 on a school campus.*

## **MINI-SCHEDULE NIGHT ON AUG 24 – POSTPONED DUE TO COVID: Sorry!**

**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  
-- CANCELLED:** In view of COVID restrictions, we are unable to host a welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** on Mon, Aug 16 as we had planned. Sorry!



*Pre-freshmen ready to begin their SPS journey!*

# Saint Paul's School Portrait Day



Individual links will be sent out by Barberito Photographers shortly after pictures are taken. If you do not receive a link within 2 weeks, please reach out to Barberito Photographers.



• [Contact@barberitophotographers.com](mailto:Contact@barberitophotographers.com)

• (504) 455- 6818

• [www.barberitophotographers.com](http://www.barberitophotographers.com)

**PICTURES:** I APOLOGIZE for erroneous info in last week's newsletter. Ordering pics will be different this year. You will soon receive a link to order online – if you wish.



*Christian and Sam lead their group of new students on a campus tour during orientation last Tue night.*

**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. Promote safety with your son. In our meetings, faculty reviewed all safety procedures that we have – and they are many. Safety is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or safety threat. 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:** Note the following **upcoming senior events in Senior Week, Aug 16 – 20**. Again, these are all **TENTATIVE** in case something changes:

- **Senior Class BBQ, Tue, Aug 17, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required. This is for seniors only. As it is an outdoor event, masks are optional.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 19, at 8:15 a.m.** Senior parents are encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors. SPS dress uniform required for seniors. Again, since this is an outdoor event, masks are optional.
- **Senior-Parent Continental OUTDOOR Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We will have limited outdoor seating.) Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by complimentary lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. I will dismiss them following practice – usually around 2 pm (or earlier if they cooperate!) Seniors may remain in dress uniform or change to regular school uniform after the breakfast. They must wear masks while indoors.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. **We are limiting attendance to senior parents.** ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are receiving a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used. **Seniors' dress for the ceremony is ANY dress shirt, tie, slacks, shoes and socks – and masks.**
- **Masks will be required of EVERYONE attending.**
- **Fri, Aug 20, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**



*Lots of smiles during picture taking! Online ordering info will be sent soon.*

**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 Thursday, 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 every day for SSR.** 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-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 13<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. You can drive through these parking lots or wait in a parking space there without holding up traffic elsewhere.
- DO NOT pick up your son using the shoulder of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is a dangerous area with poor visibility and further backs up traffic when you stop to load or unload.
- If you use the LaSalle Drive (main entrance) car line, please wait to the left so that thru traffic can still move through our campus using the right lane.

- Coordinate with your son about where and when you will meet him in the afternoon. If he is not present when you drive through, please proceed to a parking lot and wait for him there. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.
- Remind your son to be on the lookout for your car as you drive up.

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

**UNIFORMS:** Reminders:

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

**WEEKLY HUMOR:** In honor Black Cat Day on Sat & World Elephant Day this week, 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:** Here are the period rotations for the first semester (assuming no interruptions) to help you plan. If your son needs a driver's license or doctor appointment, try to schedule it during a "no school" day. I am always disappointed when we return from a week holiday and a student misses the first day of class to go get his license. PLEASE respect the academic time we have with your son.

### **August**

- 5 – ABCD - First Day of School – Pictures during religion periods
- 6 – EFGA – Pictures during religion periods
- 9 – BCDE
- 10 – FGAB –President's Assembly
- 11 – CDEF
- 12 – GABC
- 13 – DEFG – Mass; dress uniform
- 16 – ABCD – New Parent Reception Canceled
- 17 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 18 – BCDE
- 19 – FGAB – MTA/ Senior Unity Day
- 20 – CDEF – Senior Ring Holiday
- 23 – GABC – Mini-Schedule Night Postponed
- 24 – DEFG – President's Assembly / Shadow Day
- 25 – ABCD

26 – EFGA  
27 – BCDE  
30 – FGAB  
31- CDEF

### **September**

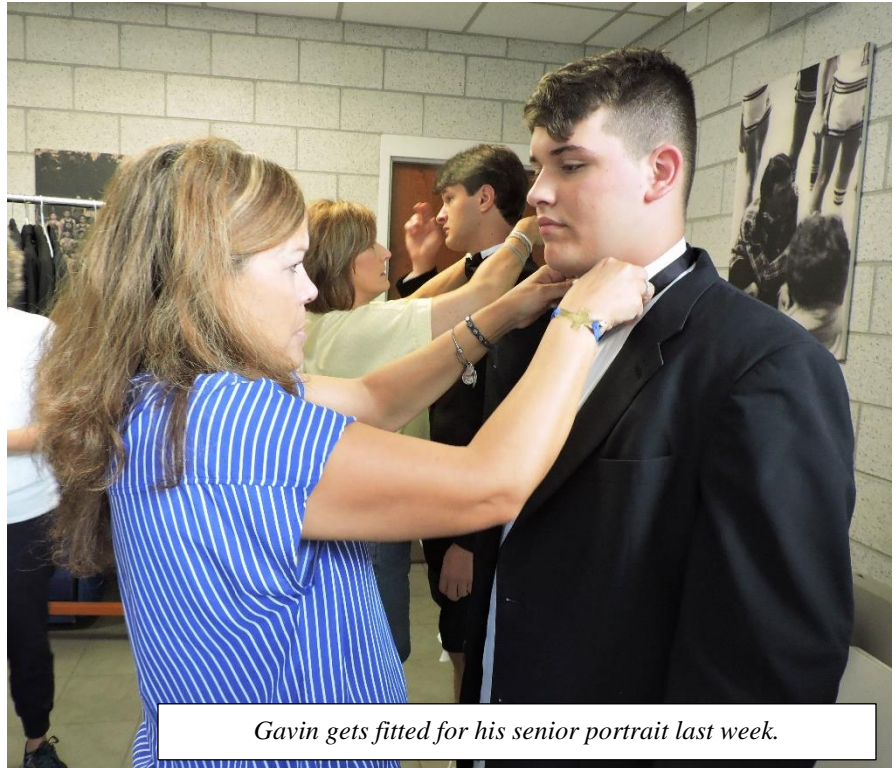
1 – GABC  
2 – DEFG  
3 – ABCD  
6 – Labor Day Holiday  
7 – EFGA – Pack Time  
8 – BCDE  
9 – FGAB  
10 – CDEF  
13 – GABC – Late (9 am) Start  
14 – DEFG – Assembly  
15 – ABCD  
16 – EFGA  
17 – BCDE– Fun Lunch for 8th

Graders during E

20 – FGAB – Fun Lunch for 9th Graders during B  
21 – CDEF – Fun Lunch for 10th During F  
22 – GABC – Fun Lunch for 11th during C  
23 – DEFG – Fun Lunch for 12th during G  
24 – ABC – Special Schedule  
27 - DEFG  
28 - ABCD – President’s Assembly  
29 – EFGA  
30 – BCDE

### **October**

1 – Fall Break  
4 - FGAB  
5 – CDEF - Pack Time  
6 - GABC  
7 – DEFG - Mass  
8 – AB - End of Quarter 1 11:00 Dismissal for Grandparents Day  
11 - CDEF  
12 – GABC - President’s Assembly  
13 – DEFG - PSAT test  
14 – ABCD  
15 - EFGA  
18 – BCDE - Late Start  
19 – FGAB - Pack Time



20 – CDEF  
21 – GABC  
22 – DEFG  
25 - ABCD  
26 – EFGA - President's Assembly  
27 – BCDE  
28 - FGAB  
29 – CDEF

### **November**

1 – GABC- Mass  
2 – DEFG - Pack Time  
3 - ABCD  
4 – EFGA - 8th Grade HR Breakfast  
5 – BCDE - 9th Grade HR Breakfast  
8 - Archdiocese Formation Day  
9 – FGAB - President's Assembly  
10 – CDEF - 10th HR Breakfast  
11 – GABC -11th HR Breakfast  
12 – DEFG - 12th HR Breakfast  
15 - ABCD  
16 – EFGA - Pack Time  
17 – BCDE  
18 – FGAB  
19 – CDEF  
29 - GABC  
30 – DEFG - Pack Time – Luminarias



*Campus flora are in full bloom to greet our students!*

### **December**

1 – ABCD  
2 – EFGA  
3 - BCDE  
6 – FGAB - Late Start  
7 – CDEF- President's Assembly  
8 – GABC  
9 – DEFG  
10 - ABCD  
13 - Mass  
13-16 – First Semester Exams

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 2021- 22 as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President /CEO of Saint Paul's School

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

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



***Have a great Lasallian Opening of School!***

***...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing the Mission, living courageously, respecting all people, and living the Gospel.***

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***Please join me in prayer for our new school year. Here is one you can use:***

### **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 year, 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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