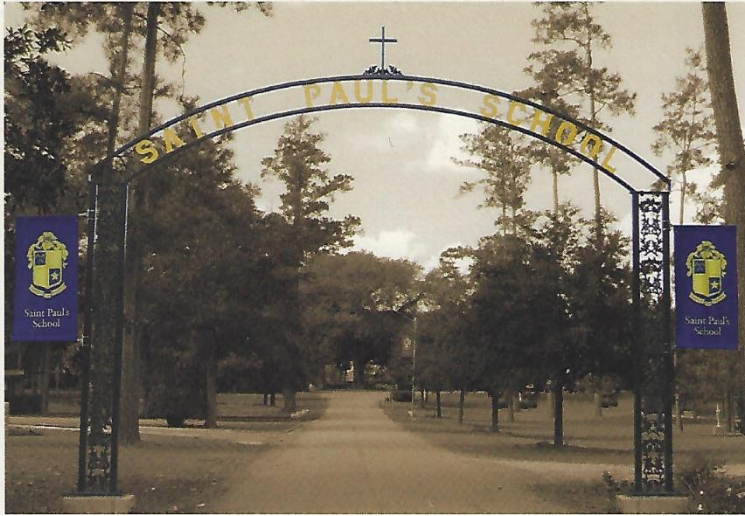




The President's Hebdomadal Newsletter
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
August 16 – 22, 2021



Mr. Rick Bonaldi, father of Jack '18 and Sam '25, is currently in seminary training for ministry. As part of his studies, he is writing / delivering Pastoral Prayers at 11 am Sunday services at St. Timothy's in Mandeville. Since I have been encouraging us to pray for the opening of school, Rick sent me a copy of the Prayer he delivered last Sunday. I offer it, with his permission, to all:

Heavenly Father: This is the day you've made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. You are our sovereign Creator, ruling and governing over world with justice and

equity. Even in the midst of pandemic, you are in control, working all things to accomplish glory for your name, which is the greatest good for us. Although this is a difficult truth to understand, give us the spiritual eyes to see beyond what is happening.

Father, thank you for the gift of your grace. It is through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus that we have everlasting hope and unwavering confidence. Thank you that we have an eternity secured for us in the promises of the Gospel. Help us, to remember and know who you are and that we belong to you always. We ask for mercy and for healing in this broken world.

Father, as the school year begins, we pray for our teachers. Give them grace and the ability to teach effectively, grant them patience and understanding. Help them to teach with the mind of Christ. May they have a strong sense of your calling that will give them lasting passion and perseverance through the school year, may you comfort them and assure them of your delight over them. Help them and us, not to base their worth and value on their performance or even their students' performance, but rather— in the finished work of the cross. May all that they do as teachers come from gratitude, in response to the amazing grace they've received in Christ.

Father, be with schools and their administrations. Give them wisdom and discernment to make decisions that will provide a safe and healthy learning environment. We also pray for schools that are under-resourced or students who don't have proper means. Help us as church, to be generous to those in need.

Father, we lift up our families who also teach their children, learning from home. We ask for grace and wisdom. Grant us all, patience and endurance with our spouses and our children. Help us to find a rhythm and balance to this new normal. We pray for your provision, and favor.

Most of all, help us as parents and grandparents, not to lose faith—but to look to you and cling to you for help. Almighty God, we really need your help. We continue to look to you in humble reliance. Give us wisdom in how to lead our families to honor and glorify you in the midst of this pandemic.

Finally, we pray for the vaccines and their effective use and administration. As a blessing not to be abused by politicians. Help us to wait patiently and build us up in faith and obedience in these trying times. We pray, we lament, we fast, for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic. Almighty God, your will be done. Thank you that we can rest in your love and grace. Glory and praise to you, Lord God, Holy Spirit and in Christ Jesus forever and ever.

Thank you, Rick! May your prayer rain down grace and blessing upon SPS – and all schools!

Mon, Aug 16 (A B C D)

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

Tue, Aug 17 (Wolf Packs; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1978, The *Double Eagle II* completes the first transatlantic balloon flight when it lands in a barley field near Paris, 137 hours after lifting off from Preque Isle, Maine.
- **TDIH:** In 1969, “the grooviest event in music history” -- the Woodstock Music Festival-- closes after 3 days of peace, love and rock 'n' roll [and a lot more, too!] in upstate NY.
- **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!



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

- **Black Cat Appreciation:** If you don't like cats, read Edgar Allen Poe's "The Black Cat" instead!
- **Get Involved Day** – See below for more info

Wed, Aug 18 (B C D E)

- **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.

- **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!

Thu, Aug 19 (F G A B)

- **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!
- **March through the Arch / Senior Unity Day / Ring Ceremony** (see below for info)

Fri, Aug 20 (G A B C) – Senior ring holiday

- **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.



Seniors concentrate on televised St. Benilde prayer service last Friday.

- **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:** We need these incredible creatures? Unlike Mosquito Day, do not kill honey bees.

Sat, Aug 21

- **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, USA 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.
- **Spumoni Day:** This Italian dessert is made from layers of ice cream, whipped cream, candied fruit, and nuts. It 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!

Sun, Aug 22

- **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!



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.**

AMAZON SMILE: Last week we received a check for \$496.08 from AS. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Select SPS! Thanks!

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.



Biology students involved in last week's lesson.



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!)

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: From Trevor: *We have temporarily suspended breakfast and lunch cafeteria service due to a cafeteria staff member testing positive for COVID-19 and the subsequent quarantine of the rest of the staff. We hope to resume breakfast and lunch service on Monday, August 23. I apologize for the inconvenience this must have caused for many of you. Please make sure your son comes to school with a bag lunch all next week. Our student council will be selling a limited number of Chick-fil-A sandwiches or pizzas at each lunch, beginning on Monday, for those who forget their bag lunch on a given day. Also beginning Monday, students may pre-order these items for subsequent days. Drinks are available at the vending machines on campus. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate the opening of school under challenging circumstances.*

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 **with a full day of instruction**
- Mon, Aug 16
- 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. 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.

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.

- **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

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://e provesurveys.advanced.org/surveys/#!/action/168577/7932>

COVID IN COVINGTON:

- From an email sent by Covington District E Councilman Mark Verret last week: *The escalating COVID numbers are very disturbing. Last week, St. Tammany Parish Hospital outpaced their previous high for COVID census. The previous week, they had 76 patients in COVID care, and last Monday it shot to 94. According to hospital administration, it is completely unheard of for the hospital to have over half of its patients in for a single reason, but that is where they are. Quite frankly, the hospital is stating that they are admitting 17 to 20 new COVID patients a day, and with an exponential surge to our average daily case count per 100,000 residents, Louisiana is currently ranked as the highest in the country. At this time, single-dose vaccinations in St. Tammany have risen steadily for the last two weeks to 47%, but the COVID increase here in St. Tammany is overwhelming with a nearly 10-fold increase.*
- Mayor Mark Johnson emailed that Coastal Environmental Services, due to shortage of workers in quarantine or sick, is suspending recycling in Covington until this surge passes, will delay the collection of green waste, and will have only one pickup day (Wednesdays.)
- Mayor Mark also wrote that Public Works is severely short-handed and asks us to “**please be mindful of our current challenges in cutting grass, cleaning ditches, sewer line repairs, water line repairs, street repairs and / or projects of any kind.**”
- And here at SPS, cafeteria service has been suspended this week due to the staff being quarantined and Archdiocesan Food Service being unable to supply us with a substitute staff.

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. 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 other private schools, qualified for federal funds from the CARES and EANS Acts.

COVID CLEARINGHOUSE PERSON: Athletic Trainer Chris Stipe is our COVID Clearinghouse Person. As an employee of Children’s Hospital, Chris is well-versed with current 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 – 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. 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.**

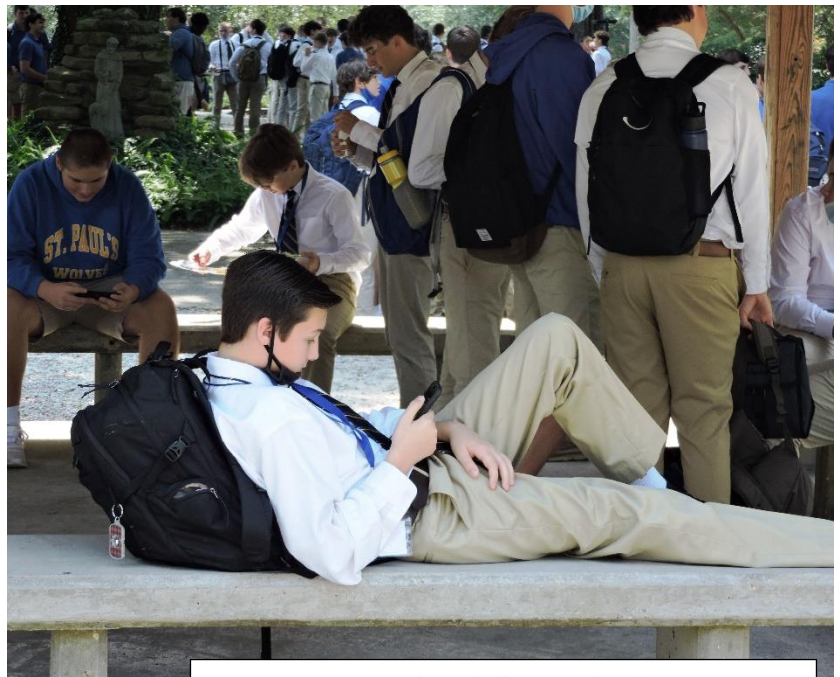
DRIVER'S LICENSE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE: Your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building. This is a legislative act; don't blame me!

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.**

GET INVOLVED DAY: This Tuesday, we will hold our annual Get Involved Day, when our numerous clubs, sports, and activities recruit new members. Our plethora of activities hold something for all. Encourage your son to explore new horizons and take a chance on a new activity. BTW, drama auditions are currently being held for the fall play. Actors, sound, light, stage managers, set builders are all needed.

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.



A student chillaxes at lunch!

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.

LAST WEEK IN REVIEW:

- **Adoration:** Thanks, Religion Dept, for keeping Christ central to our lives.
- **Alumni Board:** Al Nastasi & crew met last week to plan events that are COVID safe.
- **COVID Procedures:** Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Remember: our main goal is to keep SPS OPEN – and we can only do that by complying with the mandates of the LA Departments of Education and Health and the Department of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese. WE CANNOT IGNORE THESE MANDATES.
- **Assignment Hall:** I actually had customers last week! They were very cooperative! Encourage your son to do his homework!
- **Safe Environment Assembly:** Ken Sears did a great job addressing some very difficult issues. I hope your son told you about them. Please reinforce his messages, especially about safety, vaping, bullying, abuse, and social media usage, at every opportunity.
- **Lunch:** The Archdiocesan Food Service has closed the cafeteria for this week due to the staff being quarantined. They do not have extra staff, so your son must “brown bag” it for a week. He will survive.
- **SSR:** I hope your son is enjoying SSR time and is using the opportunity to improve his reading skills.
- **St. Benilde:** Thanks to Campus Ministry for paying respect to Saint Benilde on his feast day! May our saintly brother intercede with almighty God to help us do the ordinary in extraordinary ways! And thanks to Development for providing ice-pop treats to the boys in honor of St. Benilde!
- **Don and the Physical Plant** deserve a special shout out. They are working EXTREMELY hard to keep us safe, responding to requests all day long – proving once again, that sergeants make things happen!
- **Yearbook Distribution:** We again had to cancel yearbook distribution for the Class of 2021 as books did not arrive. The factory is experiencing labor shortages and can’t give us a definite ship date.

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!

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

(504) 455- 6818

www.barberitophotographers.com

PICTURES: I APOLOGIZE for erroneous info about picture ordering. Ordering pics will be different this year. You will soon receive a link to order online – if you wish.

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.



Sophs enjoy ice pops in honor of St. Benilde's Feast Day on Friday!

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 NO indoor

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 the indoor evening Ring Ceremony.**
- **Fri, Aug 20, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

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.**

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 SPS on Social Media to see the latest pics and posts of all the great 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. We have already dealt with an inappropriate post. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media.

STUDENT COUNCIL:

- Prefreshman Class Officer Elections for Pres & VP will be this Friday, Aug 20. Info was emailed to each prefreshman. Contact Dr. d'Hemecourt for more info at s.dhemecourt@stpauls.com
- Any senior or junior who wishes to nominate a student in his grade at SSA to be on the SPS Homecoming Court should see Mrs. Case in room 107 or email her at j.case@stpauls.com. Paperwork is due Monday, August 23.

TRAFFIC FLOW ON CAMPUS: If you drop off or pick up your son, you will meet road congestion around our campus. We ask your help in improving the traffic flow and safety:

- Consider an alternate pick-up location for your son other than Founder's Circle. These include the drop off area by the Gene Bennett Sports Complex, the parking lot on the corner of 13th and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11th Avenue. You can drive through these parking lots or wait in a parking space there without holding up traffic elsewhere.
- DO NOT pick up your son using the shoulder of 11th Avenue. This is a dangerous area with poor visibility and further backs up traffic when you stop to load or unload.
- If you use the LaSalle Drive (main entrance) car line, please wait to the left so that thru traffic can still move through our campus using the right lane.
- Coordinate with your son about where and when you will meet him in the afternoon. If he is not present when you drive through, please proceed to a parking lot and wait for him there. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.
- Remind your son to be on the lookout for your car as you drive up.
- Our primary concern is safety, so please adhere to all speed limit and traffic rules in the school area. We are working closely with the Covington Police Department to find solutions to traffic around school. Working together, we can improve both safety and circulation around our campus.



Seniors enjoy each other and ice pops in honor of St. Benilde's Feast Day. Since they were eating and outside, they temporarily doffed their masks and socially distanced after pic was snapped.

TUTORING: Our National Honor Society is beginning FREE tutoring during lunch periods, Monday through Thursday in the library. Subjects offered are Science, Math, and English. Encourage your son to take advantage of this free service and to stay on top of his academic progress.

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,

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 Day & Mosquito Day, here are some bee and mosquito jokes:

- *Who do you call when mosquitoes attack? SWAT teams.*
- *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!*

WOLF PACKS: We begin WPs on Tue -- a time to practice a quality of Lasallian education: building relationships. Each student is assignment to a multi-level Wolf Pack, led by a staff member. Most students stay with that staff member throughout their SPS career. We address various issues during the twenty-minute meeting. On Tue, we will discuss the value of involvement in preparation for Get Involved Day during lunch.

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

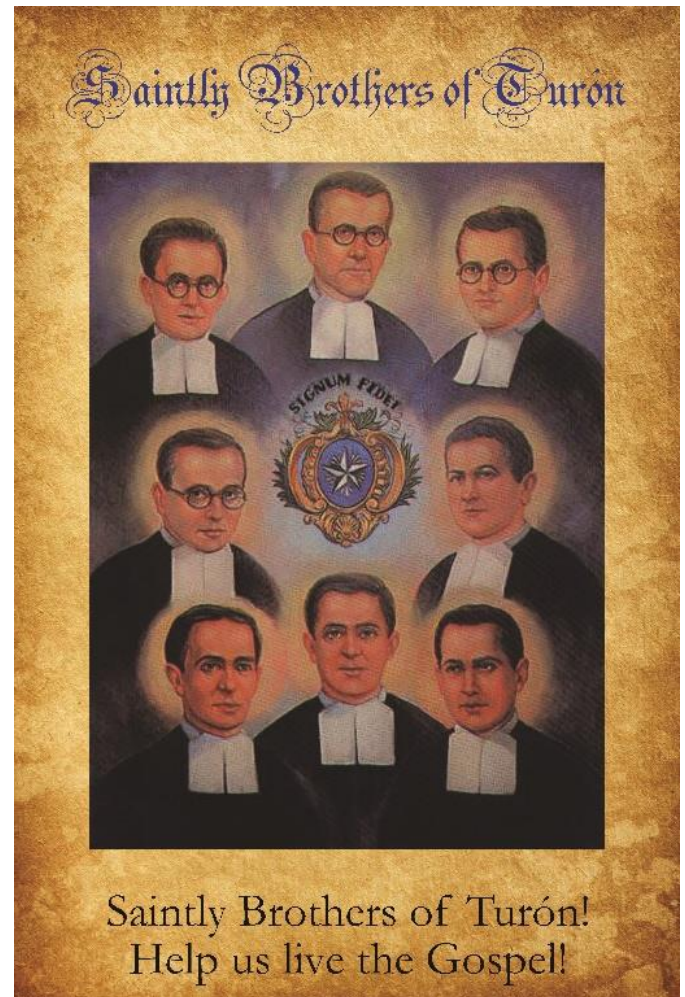
16 – ABCD – New Parent Reception Canceled
17 – EFGA – Pack Time
18 – BCDE
19 – FGAB – MTA/ Senior Unity Day
20 – CDEF – Senior Ring Holiday
23 – GABC – Mini-Schedule Night Postponed
24 – DEFG – President's Assembly / Shadow Day
25 – ABCD
26 – EFGA
27 – BCDE
30 – FGAB
31- CDEF

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

December

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA
- 3 - BCDE
- 6 – FGAB - Late Start



Campus flora are in full bloom to greet our students!

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

Made It to Mid-August of 2021 as the 17th Christian Brother President /CEO of Saint Paul's School

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

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



Have a great Lasallian Opening of School!

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



