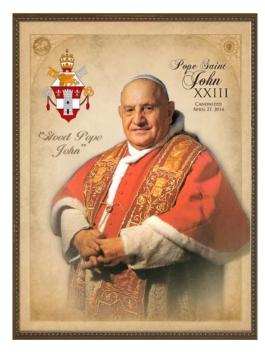


The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon (again!) Newsletter Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington 341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world October 11 – 17, 2021 – the first week of the second quarter!



Welcome to the 10^{th} week of the 2021 - 22 school year and the start of the second quarter!

Monday, Oct 11, we celebrate the Feast of St. Pope John XXIII. (1881 – 1963) -- one of the most influential popes in recent history, changing the Church forever. As Pope, he immediately began to change the Vatican culture. He visited the sick, the poor, and prisoners. He apologized for episodes of Church anti-Semitism. Pope John XXIII was expected to only serve a short time and that he would make no significant changes to Church practice. However, Pope John XXIII did many things that created sensation in the streets and pews. Perhaps his most influential decision was the call for an ecumenical council, known as Vatican II. This council altered many practices of the classic Church with new emphasis on ecumenism and a new liturgy. In his last months, he offered to negotiate peace between Soviet Union and the US, then at the height of the Cold War. The offer, although declined, was popular in both countries. In the wake of the news, John XXIII was the first pope to be honored as the Time Magazine Man of the Year. At his death in June of 1963, the world mourned John XXIII and President Lyndon Johnson



posthumously awarded him a Presidential Medal of Freedom. His feast day is October 11. This special feast day is intended as a commemoration of the opening of the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962. Here are some more memorable quotations from Saint Pope John:

- Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do
- The family is the first essential cell of human society.
- Peace on Earth can never be established, never guaranteed, except by the diligent observance of the divinely established order.
- Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage.
- Whoever has a heart full of love always has something to give.
- See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.
- Prayer is raising the mind to God. We must always remember this. The actual words matter less.
- Saint Pope John XXIII! Pray for us!

Mon, Oct 11 (G A B C)

- Columbus Day or Indigenous People Day (in some states) Observed today
- This Day in History: In 1962, Pope John XXIII convenes Vatican II —the first council in 92 years -- to bring spiritual rebirth to Catholicism and cultivate greater unity with other religions.
- **Southern Food Heritage Day:** Eat your favorite southern food.
- Basketball Tryouts for Grades 9 12

Tue, Oct 12 (D E F G followed by SPS Birthday Celebration!)

- **TDIH:** In 1492, after a 33-day voyage, Christopher Columbus made his first landfall in the New World in the Bahamas. He named the first land sighted San Salvador, claiming it in the name of the Spanish Crown. Columbus was seeking a western sea route from Europe to Asia and believed he had found an island of the Indies. He thus called the first island natives he met "Indians."
- **Moment of Frustration Day**: Everyone is supposed to go outside at noon GMT (6 AM CST) and SCREAM away frustrations! You may not scream AT someone (sorry!), just scream in general! Perhaps we should end the first quarter with a communal scream, thus chasing away 1st quarter frustration! Enjoy!
- **Gumbo Day:** After you've screamed away your frustration, enjoy this iconic south Louisiana treat! BTW, did you know that "gumbo" is the African word for okra? Well, now you do.
- **SPS Birthday Celebration:** This afternoon, we will celebrate BD 110 which was postponed from Sep 14. We will begin with a last block assembly, followed by a short parade, followed by snacks (of course!) from the Mothers Club. It's a great way to celebrate the start of the 2nd quarter and our illustrious 110 year heritage!

Wed, Oct 13 (A B C D – PSAT administered today; good luck, Wolves!)

- TDIH: In 1792, the cornerstone of the White House is laid and in 1775, the Continental Congress authorizes construction of the first American naval force—the precursor to the US Navy.
- Calling all Brits!
 Celebrate this iconic
 British dish that dates to
 the 1700s, made with
 flour, eggs, butter, milk,
 and pan drippings from
 roast beef & most often
 served with beef or
 chicken, and lots of
 gravy. A traditional staple
 of the British Sunday
 lunch, Yorkshire Pudding
 is still common today.



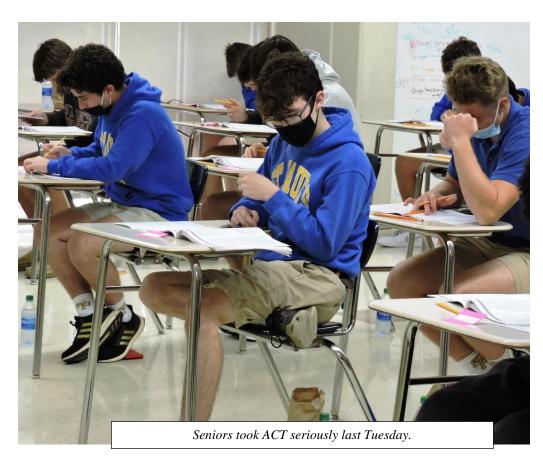
- **Music Day**: Enjoy music today in all of its varied forms, and share your favorite music with others. I'll be happy to lend some classical selections! Or even better, why not make some music of your own?
- **Football:** 9th & JV v. Northshore
- COGNIA Accreditation Begins

Thu, Oct 14 (E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1912, a fanatic shot former President Theodore Roosevelt while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by a thick overcoat, a glasses case and a folded speech in his breast pocket, which slowed the bullet. Though wounded, he insisted on making the speech with the bullet lodged in his chest and did not go to hospital until the speech ended. A rugged outdoorsman, he fully recovered in two weeks
- **TDIH:** In 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis begins, bringing the US & Russia to the brink of nuclear war. I remember "Atomic bomb drills" in grammar school! We really thought we'd survive by hiding under desks!
- Dessert Day! Who knew? Treat yourself to some special dessert tonight!
- Cross Country: Wolves run in STA-Rollette Chiropractic Invitational in Hammond
- **Football:** 8th v. Brother Martin; Varsity v. Northshore at Pearl River HS

Fri, Oct 15 (B C D E): FACULTY WELLNESS DAY (6:30-10:30 IN BAC)

Saint Teresa of Ávila. Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, a prominent 16th century Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun, writer, and theologian. She was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered to be, along with John of the Cross, a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. Happy Feast Day to the Carmelite Sisters on River Road in Covington!



• Pro-Life Day of Silent

Solidarity: we pray in a special way today for an end to abortion.

- **Hand Washing Day:** Wash hands often one of the best disease defenses.
- Grouch Day: You may be a grouch today but you must go back to being nice tomorrow!
- Basketball: Gold/Blue game (4)

Sat, Oct 16

- **Dictionary Day:** In 1758, Noah Webster, the Father of the American Dictionary, was born. In his honor, read a dictionary today; learn words!
- **TDIH:** In 2016, Pope Francis canonized Brother Solomon Leclercq, FSC, making him an official saint of the Church. I hope all remember the story of St Solomon, but here is a summary from "Seven De La Salle Brothers": Once the monarchy was overthrown early in the French Revolution, the next target was the Church. In 1790 the Civil Constitution of the Clergy gave the state complete control over the Church in France. In order to continue to function, priests and religious were forced to take an oath to support the constitution. Most of the Brothers refused and so were forced gradually to abandon their schools and

communities. Eventually the Christian Brothers were deprived altogether of legal status in France. On 15 August 1792, Brother Solomon sat alone in his Paris school. He had been asked to mind the house while other Brothers left the turbulent city for the safety of the suburb. A loud knock on the door was the first sound of warning. Soldiers demanded to search the house. It was a thorough search for incriminating documents, and, though they found nothing, Brother Solomon was ordered to collect his belongings and follow them. Under escort, he walked a short distance to where a sort of tribunal had been set up, and where his arrival seemed to be expected. The interrogation was formal, ending with the question: 'have you taken the oath?' The answer was: 'No'. That was all.... It was all pre-arranged. A massacre gang was assembled at the Champ de Mars 'to give effect to the will of the people'. They had been commissioned to do the deed in return for money and the clothes of the victims.



Brother Solomon was martyred on September 2, 1792, the first Brother of the Christian Schools to be martyred, and the first to be beatified. Brother Solomon chose his religious vocation and Catholic faith over obedience to the anti-clerical French government. Let us pray: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for the gift of St. Brother Solomon to our Institute. We pray that his example of humble service and fidelity inspire us to live our own commitments in the same manner. Show us the ones who are in need of our talents and presence. Grant us the generosity, wisdom, and courage to respond accordingly. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

• Cross Country: JV & Varsity in St. Thomas Aquinas - Rollette Chiropractic Invitational in Hammond

Sun, Oct 17

- If today were not a Sunday, we would be celebrating the feast of **Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque**, a 17th Century French Roman Catholic nun and mystic, who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart. We wish St. Margaret Mary Parish in Slidell a happy feast day!
- Wear Something Gaudy Day: "gaudy" refers to something bright, cheap, showy, outlandish, or otherwise not in good taste. It's a Sunday, so be as gaudy as you want!
- Pasta Day: Enjoy one of more than 600 varieties of pasta today! Ciao!



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

ACT ACADEMY: Preparation for success on the ACT is a marathon, not a sprint. DAILY practice is ideal, starting in 8th grade. MANY materials (often free!) are available. Here is a good one: the ACT Academy. ACT Academy has a wealth of free prep. It grows each year and has turned into the *Khan Academy* for ACT. Encourage your sons to prep for ACT regularly. Here is the link: https://academy.act.org/



ADMISSIONS FOR 2022 – 23: Under different circumstance, we, along with all Catholic high schools, would be beginning our admissions season in accordance with the Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation guidelines. Obviously, COVID and IDA have complicated things. Thus:

• Shadow Days: Due to COVID and Ida, we have scrapped our traditional SDs – as we did last year. And as we did last year, we will replace them with a series of small group tours for parents and sons. Those tours have begun, so spread the word. Just call SPS to arrange a tour.

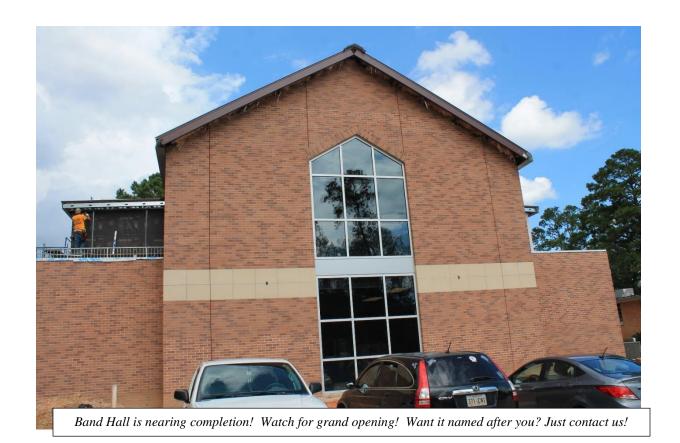
- Open House: Our Open House is Sat, Oct 30, from 1 − 3 pm. Encourage prospective families to come. Please ask them to register for a time slot on our website, but walk-ins are welcome!
 - PLEASE spread the word, especially to public school families who don't realize we start the admission process early. I count on you to spread the good news about SPS and inviting your friends and neighbors to come take a look at Lasallian education on the Northshore.

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.

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.

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: As you replace storm-damaged items via Amazon Smile, remember that AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Select SPS!



BAND HALL HISTORY: The work nears completion! Some band hall history: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a "recreation center" for the 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.

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

BLUE RIBBON LATEST:

- If you did not read the newspaper article last week, here is the link: https://www.nola.com/news/communities/st_tammany/article_06241fa2-215f-11ec-bc6e-abe74d275afa.html
- On Wednesday, yours truly will appear before the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in Baton Rouge as BESE recognizes the eight Louisiana schools who earned BRs this year. SPS and SSA are the only two private schools to be so honored this year.
- And read the following letter which was sent to us last week by US Dept of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona:



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION WASHINGTON, DC 20202

IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL IN COVINGTON, LOUISIANA AS A 2021 EXEMPLARY HIGH PERFORMING NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

September 21, 2021

Congratulations on your recognition as a 2021 Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School! Your school is an inspiring example of teachers, staff, administrators, parents and families, and community leaders all working together through challenging circumstances to prepare our Nation's students to succeed in school and to lead thriving lives.

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to acknowledge your unwavering commitment to the well-being of every child and your thoughtful innovations in teaching and learning that will help your students realize their potential and succeed in a global economy. Your efforts also have made your school an engine of excellence.

As a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School, you are proof that with high expectations, intensive collaboration, and dedication to every student's academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs, it is possible for every student in America to receive an education that prepares them for a rapidly changing world. You demonstrate what is possible when committed educators create vibrant cultures of learning and provide challenging content in supportive classrooms. Your commitment to your students creates possibilities for the next generation—no matter their background or circumstance.

I invite you to send two representatives from your school and your superintendent to the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards ceremony. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments in Washington, DC, on November 4-5, 2021, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. The ceremony will also be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person.

Congratulations on your accomplishments and for rising to the challenge of achieving excellence in education. I commend your tireless dedication and recognize the difficult, yet essential work that you perform in preparing students for successful futures. You remind us that through determination and effort, anything is possible. I wish you and your students continued success in the years ahead, and I urge you to continue to challenge your school community to be the very best.

Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.

Muga & Cardon



CALENDAR EDITS: We are adjusting our calendar to eliminate the Fall Break Day on Oct 2, the Archdiocesan Formation Day on Nov 8, and the start of Christmas holidays on Dec 17. These are now school days, which Christmas holidays beginning after exams on Dec. 17th.

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, Oct 18
 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7

• Sat, Oct 30 Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)

Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26
 Thanksgiving Holidays

Mon, Nov 29 Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday

Mon - Fri, Dec 13-17 Semester Exams

• Fri, Dec 17 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
 Mon-Fri, Feb 28 -Mar. 04
 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
 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 – as we did with Ida. Please do not schedule vacations during school time.

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 onl**y – 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.

COTILLION: The first class for the High School Cotillion is on October 17 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Tchefuncta Country Club. The young gentlemen of St. Paul's can continue learning life skills to help them succeed in our High School Cotillion program. *NFO IS IN THE FLYER*.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF JUNIOR COTILLIONS® Northshore Chapter







High School Cotillion Program

The High School Cotillion Program is a licensed program of NLJC® designed specifically for high school students in the 9th through 12th grades. New etiquette and character development topics which are pertinent to the high school years, such interviewing for scholarships and jobs, positive self-esteem, handling peer-pressure and etiquette in the era of social distancing will be presented and discussed at each class. This program will bridge the gap for today's high schooler between their education and the real world in a meaningful way.

Life skills topics covered include:

Job and Scholarship Interviews

Social Etiquette

Register to vote

Electronic Etiquette

Modern Manners

· Tip in a restaurant

· Tip in a restaurant

Reputation and ImageCharacter Development

Business Etiquette

Write a check

Make a budget

Dining Etiquette

Social Media Do's and Don'ts

Diversity and Inclusion

Networking

Many more topics

Interested in enrolling your student? For more information and to enroll, please visit our website at www.nljc.com/chapter/northshore or contact the Director, Catherine Lagarde at catherine.lagarde@nljc.com or (504) 884-6575.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE: Here is the response of Dr. RaeNell Houston, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans to Dr. Cade Brumley's proposed new quarantine guidelines: Last week the Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Public Health released a letter to school system leaders in response to the Louisiana Department of Education's change in posture regarding COVID-19 isolation and quarantine guidelines. The public health recommendations of LDH/OPH have not changed, remain aligned with CDC guidelines, and does not endorse the parent choice option. Click here to access a copy of the LDH/OPH letter. After consultation with LDH/OPH staff and community healthcare providers, we have determined that Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will continue implementing COVID-19 isolation and quarantine guidelines established by the Louisiana Department of Health. Based on last year's experiences, we believe that these guidelines will give us the best opportunity to prioritize in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Naturally, Saint Paul's will comply.



DRESS CODE: Students must be in compliance with the dress code – and this includes wearing masks. We are not granting exceptions to the mask requirement so please don't ask. 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, preowned 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.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS: As with Ida, I remind all of our emergency or weather-related closing policy — which is to follow both the civil parish and / or the directives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Thus, if needed (and we hope it's not), Saint Paul's School will follow the same decision of closure as the public school system of St. Tammany Parish. School messaging will also 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, even if the public school remain closed, as was the case in Hurricane Katrina. In the meantime, we pray.

COGNIA: Our five-year Cognia Accreditation visit begins Wed. Cognia, which used to be Advanced Ed, which used to be Southern Association, is our regional accrediting agency. Being accredited is EXTREMELY important in the educational world. We owe Joe Dickens a huge vote of thanks for all the prep work he did for this visit. Cooperate with him and the focus group meetings that will take place this coming week.

HELPING SPS: Don't forget: here are painless way to help SPS:

- If you shop at Office Depot, 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.

LAST WEEK:

- ACT: Congrats to counselors for a flawless test administration to our seniors.
- **Bubbling:** Students pre-bubbled test answer sheets last week in preparation for this week's PSAT.
- **Football:** Great wins by 9th & JV. & Varsity over Covington; the brown jug is back where is belongs!
- Michael's Jersey Retirement: We honored Michael Doherty on Friday night by retiring his #36 jersey after his terrible injury several years ago on the field. Thanks to all who made it so meaningful. Here is a link to NOLA story: https://www.nola.com/sports/high_schools/article_b796d6f6-2918-11ec-9e11-579ae5bf2b0c.html
- Golf Tournament: A golfing success! Well done, Al et al! A good time as passed by all.
- **Homecoming Dance:** The junior high Wolves enjoyed their first HC dance on Sat. Again, thanks for Student Council for arranging for a Covide-safe venue and enjoyable evening.
- Marching Wolves: Great Battle of the Bands with CHS on Friday night! Well done, Andrew and MWs!
- Mass: Thanks, Jeff, for the great effort to have Father Matthew celebrate an all-school mass. May the grace of the Eucharist sustain us in these trying times! Outdoor venue was good but warm!
- **Yearbook:** Special congrats to Mimi Montiero and *The Conifer* staff for an outstanding yearbook, distributed last week. Most people realize the herculean efforts involved in yearbook production. She and the staff deserve gratitude for producing an outstanding book which faithfully memorializes 2020 21. Kudos, Mimi and staff! Thank you! Aaron, you have big shoes to fill, but we are confident you are up to the task!

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: Governor John Bel Edwards has extended the mask mandate until October 27. He specifically identified schools as falling under the mandate. The order was reinforced by 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. Saint Paul's will comply, continuing to enforce masking while indoors.

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.

Sam Francis, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help. My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1901 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit "reply" to this email!

OCTOBERFEST: Saint Paul's first Oktoberfest has been re-scheduled for Saturday, December 4 on Saint Paul's campus. Dust off your dirndl dress, launder your lederhosen and join us for an EPIC day of stein slurping with your best mates! The German-inspired, family-friendly celebration will make its oom-pah, inaugural arrival with contest traditions for stein-carrying, pretzel-whistling, and strudel-eating, along with a dancing, live entertainment and an array of authentic, Bavarian food. General admission is \$5 per person. Children 6 and under are free. Check out our sponsorship opportunities today at www.stpauls.com



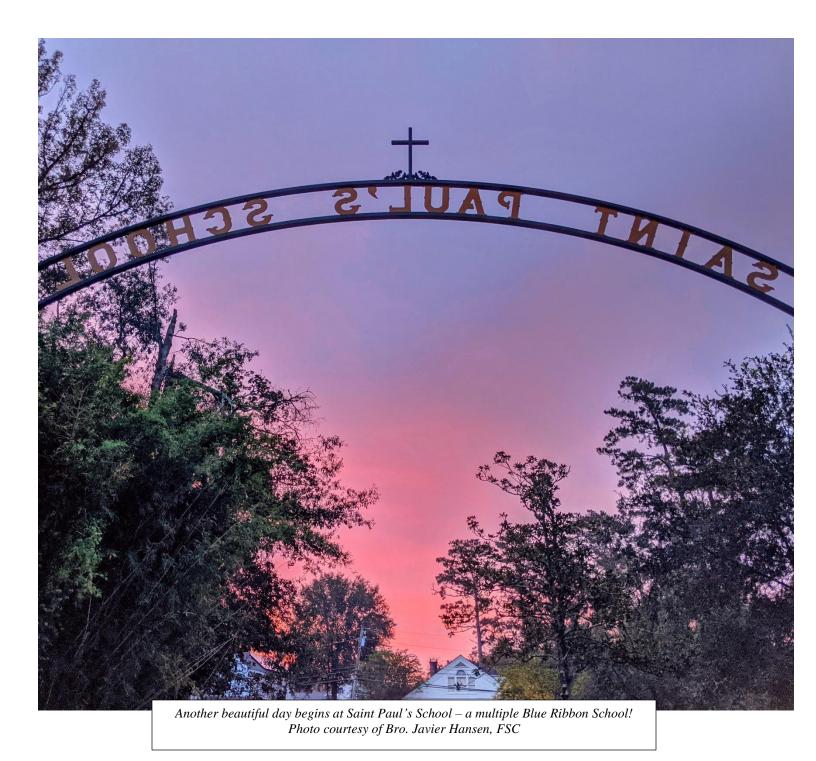


OLL'S FESTIVAL OF THE LAKE: Our Lady of the Lake Festival is back this year on November 5th, 6th and 7th. Please visit our website for entertainment schedule, tickets and volunteering. Here is the link: www.Festivalofthelake.com

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES ON OCT 18, 5 – 7 PM. MORE INFO TO COME.

PLUS-PORTALS: Please activate your account (if you have not yet done so) 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.

REPORT CARDS AND SEMESTER GRADES: We will email first quarter report cards on Friday. Check your spam folder if you don't receive it. Remember: the first quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade, with the second quarter accounting for 40% and the semester exam accounting for 20%. The only grade that really counts is the SEMESTER grade – that's the one that goes on transcripts and is used to calculate grade point average.



SCHOOL SAFETY: School safety remains paramount for all. Promote safety with your son. 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.

SILENT SUSTAINED READING: SSR occurs during the first 15 minutes of Block 2, when everyone reads 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, speak with your sons about social media use. We have already dealt with issues. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media. And read about Tic Toc!

SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the two-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington?
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for cars?

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets." The Mayor is asking everyone to "relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Please reinforce this with students whenever possible. I do so with parents. And please set a good example yourself, as in the words of Saint La Salle: "Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."

TIC TOC SCHOOL VANDALISM: TIC TOC (don't ask me to explain it; ask your son) is encouraging school bathroom vandalism. And their latest is even worse: encouraging students to slap teachers! Just google it. Unfortunately, and this is the embarrassing part, it hit SPS recently, with soap dispensers being ripped off of walls – in our newly constructed buildings, no less! PLEASE speak with your son about this and have him report any vandalism about which he knows. SERIOUS disciplinary measures will be imposed.

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.

TUTORING: Our National Honor Society has begun 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!

WOLF PACKS: We began WPs before Ida -- 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.



WEEKLY HUMOR: Some dessert jokes in honor of Dessert Day on Thursday:

- Why did the ice cream truck break down? Because of the Rocky Road.
- Why did the pie go to a dentist? Because he needed a filling!
- What did the newspaper say to the ice cream? What's the scoop?
- Why did the cookie cry? Because his mother was a wafer so long! \
- When is a birthday cake like a golf ball? When it's been sliced.
- How do you learn how to make ice cream? In Sundae School.
- When should a cookie go to the doctor? When it feels crummy.
- Why did the students eat their homework? Because the teacher said that it was a piece of cake.
- How did Reese eat her ice cream? Witherspoon.
- What is a monkey's favorite cookie? Chocolate chimp!
- Why couldn't the teddy bear finish dessert? He was stuffed.
- How do astronauts eat their ice creams? In floats!
- Why do basketball players love cookies? They can dunk them!
- Why do we cook bacon and bake cookies?
- Bert and Ernie are sitting outside one day on Sesame Street. Bert turns to Ernie and asks, "Hey Ernie, wanna go get some ice cream?" Ernie replies, "Sure Bert." [Get it? Sherbet? Hilarious!]



A LOOK AHEAD: Here are the period rotations for the first semester (assuming no more 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.**

First Semester Period Rotation – REVISED, POST-IDA

October

- 11 GABC Start of 2nd quarter
- 12 DEFG- President's Assembly
- 13 ABCD- PSAT test
- 14 EFGA
- 15 BCDE
- 18 FGAB Late Start; parent-teacher conferences 5 7 pm in the BAC
- 19 CDEF- Pack Time
- 20 GABC
- 21 DEFG
- 22 ABCD
- 25 EFGA
- 26 BCDE- President's Assembly
- 27 FGAB
- 28 CDEF
- 29 GABC- Seniors at Archbishop's Day

November

- 1 DEFG- Mass
- 2 ABCD Pack Time
- 3 EFGA
- 4 BCDE- 8th Grade HR Breakfast / Level Meetings
- 5 FGAB 9th Grade HR Breakfast / Level Meetings
- 8 CDEF Archdiocese Formation Day CANCELLED; Full day of class
- 9 GABC President's Assembly
- 10 DEFG 10th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings
- 11 ABCD -11th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings
- 12 EFGA 12th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings
- 15 BCDE
- 16 FGAB Pack Time
- 17 CDEF Fall food drive begins
- 18 GABC
- 19 DEFG
- 29 ABCD
- 30 EFGA Pack Time Luminarias



Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!

December

- 1 − BCDE
- 2 FGAB
- 3 CDEF
- 6 GABC Late Start
- 7 EEFG- President's Assembly
- 8 ABCD Mass Immaculate Conception
- 9 EFGA
- 10 BCDE
- 13 FGAB
- 14-17 First Semester Exams. Christmas holidays begin after exams on the 17th approximately 11:45ish.

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question. 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 recover and help those in need! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing – in spite of Ida and COVID! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Made it to End of Another First Quarter 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)

Let's end with Prayer with our Lasallian Prayer for Peace:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace!



Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, living courageously, respecting all people, and living the Gospel!

Saint Paul's School





Saint Paul's School

2021 National Merit SemiFinalists





2021 National Merit Commended Scholars







Marco Vargas

Blake Weimer

