



**The Weekly Newsletter**  
**Celebrating 111 years of educational excellence in Covington**  
**342 Years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world**  
**May 15-21**



Welcome to the 8th week of the 4th Quarter.

## **Schedule of Events for Next Week:**

**Mon, May 15 (BCDE)**

**Tues, May 16 (FGAB)**

Level Awards for 9-11

**Wednesday, May 17 (CDEFG)**

**Thurs, May 18 (Period A Exam)**

9-11 Exams

Letter Jacket Measuring in New Gym Lobby

**Fri, May 19 (Periods B&C Exams)**

9-11 Exams

Lacrosse Banquet in BAC

**Sat, May 20**

**Sun, May 21**

**This Day in History:** We are taking a break from TDIH this week.

**BROTHER RAY:** Last Tuesday we inurned Brother Ray in the Saint John Baptist de La Salle columbarium on the grounds of St. Joseph Abbey. It was a quiet and small ceremony attended by family and a few others. Mr. Dickens and I represented the greater Saint Paul's community at the inurnment. Brother Ray rests alongside his fellow Brothers from the Saint Paul's Brothers Community in a space designated by the Abbey for Christian Brothers.

The relationship between the Benedictine Abbey community and the Lasallian Christian Brothers dates back over a century when the Brothers purchased Saint Paul's School from the Benedictine monks in 1918. The monks had previously founded Saint Paul's in 1911.

The strong relationship between Saint Paul's and the Abbey continues to this day. The

Benedictines have always served as chaplains to the Brothers living in community at Saint Paul's. They also staff school chaplains for our students. In addition, monks from the Abbey continue to serve at the Sunday Mass in our chapel. Until we outgrew the Abbey Church a few years ago, Saint Paul's senior classes would graduate in that magnificent space.

When the New Orleans-Santa Fe District of the Brothers merged with the San Francisco District a few years ago, the Brothers closed their motherhouse in Lafayette. Most Brothers prior to that closing are buried there. Since that time, Brothers on the eastern side of the new San Francisco – New Orleans District have been inurned at St. Joseph Abbey, cementing for eternity the bond between these two Catholic communities on the north shore.

Brother Ray loved the Abbey and had many close friends among the monks. I know that he is exactly where he would want to be.

***Eternal rest grant unto Brother Ray, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.***

*Below: Brother Ray rests in the St. John Baptist de La Salle columbarium at St. Joseph Abbey.*



## General Information and Recognitions:

**STRATEGIC PLAN SURVEY** – Thank you to all who took the time to answer the survey. Your responses are an important source of data that will help drive our strategic plan for the next five years. Faculty and administrators also gave input in the process. The administration will meet with the consultants over the summer to draft the plan and then we will submit it to the Board of Trustees for their review and approval.

**YEARBOOK ORDERS:** Time is running out! Do not forget to order your 2022-2023 yearbooks. Please go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) to purchase a yearbook. Senior parents, the due date for Senior Ads is May 15th. Please order your Senior Ads before time runs out. Go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com) to purchase and create your senior ad.

**SUMMER CAMPS:** Summer camp registration is now open. Please help us get the word out regarding our quality athletic and academic programs for boys ages 8-14: <https://www.stpauls.com/student-life/summer-camp/>.



**REGINA MATRUM AWARD (Catholic Mother of the Year):** Congratulations to senior mom Mrs. Lisa Gennusa Flood who was recently awarded the Regina Matrum Award by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Around here we have known her as mom to Ryan '17, Christopher '19, and now Trevor '23. Now the whole Archdiocese knows what we have known for years. If you know these three boys, you know how deserving she is.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY:** And while we are celebrating Lisa's award, I extend my thanks and best wishes to all mothers of our students on this Mother's Day. Thanks for all you do for your sons and especially for entrusting them to us for their high school education.

**NEW STUDENT COUNCIL AT WORK:** Every year the new SC does an end-of-year service project on the campus. This year they offered to clean up and trim the iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) beds between the LaSalle Hall and Benilde Hall. I am most appreciative to the young men who showed



up on two afternoons to help with this beatification project done just in time for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion and Senior Graduation. Thanks Student Council!

*Below: Student Council at Work on the Iron Plant Beds.*



**2022-2023 STUDENT COUNCIL:** While I am on the Student Council it is appropriate that I thank this year’s council for their hard work to make this post-Covid year such a success. Thanks also to Mrs. Case and Dr. d’Hemecourt for moderating the Student Council.

**Executive Board:**

President Ben Barousse  
Vice President Ethan Wilson  
Secretary Sam Gold  
Treasurer Grant Voyles

**Class of 2023:**

President Peter Verges  
Vice President Christina Cowley  
Secretary Mason Schwal

**Class of 2024:**

President Jacob Strecker  
Vice President Peyton Kilgore  
Secretary Kaiden Klebba

**Class of 2025:**

President Noah Comeaux  
Vice President Connor Russo  
Secretary Andrew Danenhower



**SAD PASSING:** We got word this week that Mr. Russell Wilcox, longtime member of the Saint Paul's maintenance staff, died last week. Mr. Wilcox served at Saint Paul's for 18 years before his retirement in 2016. Mr. Wilcox knew the SPS campus inside and out and was a faithful assistant to then Maintenance Director, Brother Terence. Please keep Mr. Wilcox and his family in your prayers.

**SENIOR GRAD NIGHT:** Thanks to the Mothers Club who organized and hosted the Senior Night event last week. This gathering provided one last opportunity for the class to get together on campus for fun and fellowship before the commencement on Saturday. A good time was had by all.



*Above: Seniors enjoy food and fun at Senior Night.*





*Left: Seniors Killian Henderson and Ian Schaffett with their Senior Night hall.*

**OUR LADY OF PEACE GROTTO:** This grotto is dedicated to Brother Ray's parents. Years ago, Brother noticed a similar grotto in Madisonville. He commissioned Brother Alfred Baltz to build a similar grotto on our campus. Today the grotto needs refurbishment. I regret not getting to this task before Brother Ray passed. Several dads responded to my request for help. Thanks. I look forward to getting started on the refurbishment once the chapel roof work is finished.



*Left: Shawn Conney and his fellow seniors at the grotto last weekend.*

**ATHLETIC AWARDS:** Last Wednesday morning we all gathered for a special awards ceremony in the Gene Bennett Sports Complex to honor the school's top athletes. According to Athletic Director Sam Francis, the Wolves had over 650 students participate in at least one sport.

This year SPS teams combined to earn seven district titles, two regional championships, one parish title, two regional titles, and three state championships. In addition, four students were individual state champions and 46 seniors were named all-academic athletes.

At the awards ceremony the school's major athletic awards for the 2022-23 school year were presented by members of the coaching staff. The outstanding athlete award combines all the Lasallian values — leadership, dedication, academic achievement and strength of character with the ability to perform masterfully on the field or court.

Underclassmen awarded "The Outstanding Athlete Award" included Ethan Ballard, Cody Corales, Jackson Peak, and Brennan Keim.

Several members of the Class of 2023 were honored with the school's traditional athletic awards. Landry Barker earned the C.L. Marcotte Award for being the best scholar-athlete in the Class of 2023.

The Eddie Polk Memorial Award recognizes the dedication, sportsmanship and commitment to the ideals of a Lasallian athlete. Jacob Johnson was the recipient of this award.

The Jason Whittle Memorial Award is awarded to the seniors who continually demonstrate enthusiasm, team spirit, selflessness and sacrifice for the betterment of the team and their teammates. Winners for 2023 were Dylan Buckel and Sam Gold.

Kade Anderson and Joshua Kellum earned the Jimmy Dunn Memorial Award for the best all-around athletes.



*Pictured L to R, first row: Joshua Kellum, Landry Barker, Kade Anderson, Dylan Buckel, Sam Gold, Jacob Johnson; second row: Ethan Ballard, Cooper Winchester, Jackson Peak, Brennan Keim, and Cody Corales*



**SPEAKING OF ATHLETICS:** The SPS maintenance crew spent many hours this week completing high cleaning on the new gym, old gym, and weight room and lobbies. This was difficult and scary work from on top of a high lift. Along the way the men used the lift to rearrange the banners and signs and to add (finally) the new state championship banners to the new gym. Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Maya also repaired the damaged George Boudreaux '65 sign and repositioned it to a more prominent location. Thanks to Sargent Pressley and his crew for taking on this added work just in time for the events that were held in those spaces.



*Left: High cleaning of the new gym by members of the SPS Maintenance Department.*

*Below: Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Maya give a thumbs up to finishing the work in the new gym.*





**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** For those who want to avoid the hassle of shopping for school supplies, the Mothers' Club is offering 2023-2024 school supply boxes via Ramrock. Order online at [www.ramrockschoolsupplies.com](http://www.ramrockschoolsupplies.com). A list of items included in the supply box is located on the Ramrock site. Questions can be sent to [spsbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore@gmail.com) or [mary@ramrockschoolsupplies.com](mailto:mary@ramrockschoolsupplies.com)

Please notice that ALL orders MUST be picked up from Saint Paul's Wolf Den during Back to School Week from Friday, August 4 – Wednesday, August 9 excluding Sunday, August 6. See the attachment for more details.

**BOOK STORE:** All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours:

- Monday – Friday 7:30 A.M. to 8:15 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
- By appointment. Email [spsbookstore16@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com)
- All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!



*Left: Some of the many State Championship banners hang in the New Gym.*

**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.**

**MISSING ART:** Three weeks ago, we had the annual art show of student art in the Briggs Assembly Center. After the show a student noticed that one of his pieces was missing. It is a blue monochromatic painting of an outstretched hand. The canvas is inches 20 inches wide x 10 inches high. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this painting, please let me know. The student artist also asks that if anyone took a picture of the piece to please share the image since he did not photograph the art before it went missing and would at least like a photo of his work. Thanks.

**AFTER SCHOOL:** The Library remains 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.



**CALENDAR FOR SPRING SEMESTER:**

Thurs – Tues, May 18-23 Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11  
 Wed, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day  
 Thurs, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

**PHYSICS CLASS: Observations on the nature of electricity.**



*St. Paul's Physics students observe the nature of electricity by creating static charges with balloons, cellophane tape, combs, and other items. They used the charged items to cause free electrons to migrate in other objects such as paper and aluminum cans. They were also able to 'bend' a stream of water due to the polarized nature of water molecules.*



**ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. For clarity, we offer the following:** Almost all private schools conduct annual funds; many are high-pressure; ours is not – but we need your support to keep it from being high-pressure. · The Annual Fund funds tactical, short-term projects, e.g., technology, special programs, etc. The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation, the \$4.5 million new gym, the \$4 million Benilde Hall renovation, the \$2.5 million music building, and now the \$1.2 million track and field replacement/upgrade)

- · You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars.  
WONDERFUL!
- · Gifts of stock are welcome.
- · No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small! What’s important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- · If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund to increase participation?
- · Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so.  
Many thanks!

**FIX IT CLUB:** Did you know that SPS has a Fix It Club where students learn handy-man skills from Mr. Arbo and then use these skills to fix various items that may need repair around campus?



This club is a win-win for students and the school, providing a needed service to the school while learning valuable life skills under the expert supervision of knowledgeable faculty. Among their tasks so far, they installed a new sink in the teacher's lounge, assembled a couple of the new picnic tables, and repaired a broken lamp for Ms. Case. They had 'training' meetings to learn about general repair on items including bicycles, a microwave, and strands of Christmas lights.



*Left and Above: Members of the St. Paul's Fix It Club repair the caulk for the sinks and counter in a bathroom in LaSalle Hall. The students practiced with cardboard before putting their new skills to work to help improve their campus.*

**CAMPUS UPDATE PART II – TRACK AND FIELD:**



Three weeks ago work began on the replacement of the existing track and field at Hunter Stadium. The field will receive its third carpet of artificial turf since this work was first completed in 2009. The track will be resurfaced as well. Several improvements and upgrades to the facility are part of the replacement plan. These include the addition of an impact pad below the surface of the grass and a new infill product called BrockFILL™. This product is a highly engineered wood particle infill specifically designed to improve traction and reduce artificial turf heat. Gone will be the little rubber particles that end up in your wash cycles!

*Left: Football uprights in a field of limestone await the new turf.*



These two upgrades will significantly improve the safety and usability of the field, especially during the heat of summer. We will also add turf in the south D-zone, giving field users additional warm up and practice space. Also, and equally important to our PE and track athletes, the track will be completely replaced as well, bringing the entire facility a major facelift and extending the life of this much used facility.

This facility is used every day by PE and other classes as well as seasonally for practices and games/meets by football, cross country, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and track and field. Since it is an all-weather facility it can be used when many events on a natural field would have to be canceled. We also use the facility for numerous summer camps and school activities such as field days and pep rallies. It is the most widely used facility on our campus!

Last, during a recent inspection we discovered major termite damage to the press box at Hunter Stadium. Work was just completed to make the structure safe for use again in the upcoming football season.

**Interested in helping fund these repairs and improvements? Several naming opportunities are available!**



*Left: Leveling of the limestone subsurface is underway. Next up: laying the underlayment impact pad.*

**ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS:** We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just



provide me with the information. I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support. I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

### **CAMPUS UPDATE PART III: OUR LADY OF PEACE STUDENT CHAPEL**

A few weeks ago, I wrote about roof leaks at OLP Chapel that caused extensive ceiling damage. Upon further inspection it was discovered that the roof was in urgent need of replacement. Last Monday work began to replace the roof of the chapel. You will notice barricades around the chapel during this time. I apologize for the inconvenience but this work must be done as soon as possible to avoid further damage to the interior of the building.

**Interested in helping fund these repairs and improvements to the chapel? Please give me a call.**

*Below: The majestic Dixon Oak shades the roofers as they continue their work.*





**DRIVING:** I call the following to your attention:

**Please watch for Paula and other fowl as you drive through campus!**

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.

- **Safe Driving:** Parents –let's set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

**EASY AND PAINLESS WAYS TO HELP SAINT PAUL'S:** Don't forget:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!

- Box Tops for Education – redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.

**OFF TO FRANCE:** Congratulations to senior Evan Leaber who won a scholarship from the WW2 Museum to attend Normandy Academy in July. This opportunity opened to him because of his participation in National History Day at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Below is a description on the program.

Students spend 2 days in New Orleans at the Higgins Hotel experiencing all that the National World War II Museum and the city of New Orleans has to offer. They will get to tour the museum and see Beyond All Boundaries, a 4-D film experience narrated by Tom Hanks; meet a WWII veteran; have an exclusive session to see artifacts from the vault; and hear from museum professionals as well as a college professor from Nicholls State University. They will get to ride on a New Orleans streetcar, go on a tour of the French Quarter and enjoy New Orleans cuisine.

When the students get to France, they will spend a day touring some of the sights of Paris before going on to Normandy. They will stay in the historic city of Bayeux for a week where they will get to tour the medieval city and see the Bayeux Tapestry among other experiences. They will have the opportunity to eat at several restaurants to experience French cuisine.

To get an up-close view of the events and places involved in the Battle of Normandy, the students will spend several days visiting the landing beaches of D-Day, important sites related to German occupation

and/or the Allied invasion, museums and several cemeteries. They will also get to talk to a member of the French Resistance from the war and have dinner with her. Before leaving Normandy, students will visit the American cemetery and give a presentation on the service member they researched before placing flowers on his/her grave.

**LOST & FOUND:** Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Stress with your sons to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside the Attendance Office.

**UNIFORM SHIRTS:** We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

**TUTORING:** Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in Mrs. Pool’s room in La Salle Hall for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service. Essay proofreading services are also provided. It is not embarrassing to go for tutoring! NHS members have been working with peers since August!

**EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION, COMMENCEMENT EXERSIZES, AND ACADEMIC AWARDS:** Too much to report this week. I am saving the best for the last newsletter next week. If you would like to view the graduation, a copy of the live stream is available on our website.

If I may be of assistance please do not hesitate to call or write.

Live Jesus in our Hearts.... Forever!

Trevor C. Watkins, AFSC  
Interim President





## Next Year's Calendar:

### Saint Paul's School 2023 - 2024 Calendar

Fri - Mon, Aug 4 & 7	Teacher Meetings
Tues, Aug 8	Teacher Prep Day
Wed, Aug 9	School Opens <b>with full day of instruction</b>
Mon, Aug 21	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30)
Thu, Aug 24	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 25	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 28	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 04	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 06	Fall Break Holiday
Fri, Oct 13	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 13	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:00)
Mon, Oct 23	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 28	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 06	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students) (tentative)
Mon-Fri, Nov 20 - 24	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 27	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri - Wed, Dec 15-20	Semester Exams
Wed, Dec 20	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Wed, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 15	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 05	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 09	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 12 -16	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 19	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 8	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri, Mar 29 – Apr 05	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 08	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Mon-Thu, Apr 29 – May 02	Senior Final Exams
Thu, May 16	Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 18	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Fri – Wed, May 17 - 22	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Thu, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Fri, 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.