



The Weekly Newsletter
Celebrating 111 years of educational excellence in Covington
342 Years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 2-8, 2023

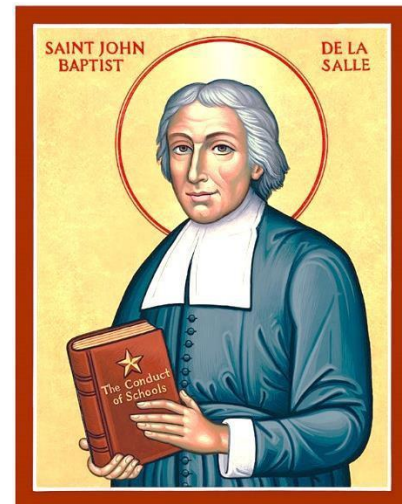


Over the next few weeks, I'll be "pinch-hitting" for Brother Ray as he continues his cancer treatments. While I hope the weekly newsletter continues to be informative, you'll notice that it will be more concise (somewhat, I'm an English teacher too!). I would be remiss if I attempted to replicate Brother Ray's style, eloquence, and sense of humor. I will, however, continue to include schedules, events, and formation pieces. I wish you a blessed New Year and eagerly anticipate the return of the boys on Tuesday. Thank you for entrusting your son to our care.

Joe Dickens
Principal

I begin by offering you words from our Founder. St. John Baptist de La Salle closes his meditation to the Brothers for Jan 1 by bluntly asking:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*



He then reminds the Brothers (and us today) to make the following resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- *By your good conduct, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.*

These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to Lasallian teachers today and even to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given to them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day.

Mon, Jan 2 (No classes)

Tues, Jan 3 (A B C D)

- **Soccer:** JV/V @ Baton Rouge Magnet

Wed, Jan 4 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **Wrestling:** JV/V Dual @ Live Oak

Thurs, Jan 5 (B C D E)

- **Soccer:** The Wolves @ the prestigious Tampa Invitational through the weekend! Geaux Wolves!
- **Basketball:** The Basketball Wolves in the French Settlement Tournament through the weekend.

Fri, Jan 6 (FGAB)

Sat, Jan 7

Commitment Day:

Applicants for next year will test today. Every Catholic high school in the Archdiocese does this. We use the test for placement; some schools use it for admission decisions. Wherever a student tests, that school becomes the school of first choice and other schools may not recruit them until admission decisions are issued in late February. Hence, this is called Commitment Day. Pray for a good showing.

Other:

I'm excited to announce our new SRO, Officer Lance Toups, who will begin on Tuesday. Officer Toups comes to us highly credentialed with over 20 years of experience and most recently served as a detective for the Covington Police Department. I look forward to welcoming him formally and introducing him to the students at Wednesday's assembly. Do not be alarmed when you see a police vehicle and officer and campus! Officer Toups is now part of our staff.

KHAN ACADEMY: A great New Year's Resolution! Preparation for success in classes and on standardized testing 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 Khan Academy. Khan Academy has a wealth of free prep in various subjects from math to social studies to standardized and AP testing. It grows each year and has turned into an incredible free resource. Encourage your sons to use it regularly. Here is the link:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

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.

ADMISSIONS FOR 2023-24: I am pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to you for spreading the good news about SPS to your friends and neighbors. The next step in the process is Commitment Testing next Sat, Jan 07. **Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test. We base admissions on the total elementary school record. Since we give priority in admissions to those who attend testing, encourage anyone still considering SPS to apply and attend testing on Sat. This is not a final step anyone's part – it just keeps the door open.**

ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- 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 and now the \$2.5 million band building.)
- 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 so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

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.

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.**

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

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45
- By appointment. Email spsbookstore16@gmail.com
- All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!

CALENDAR FOR SPRING SEMESTER:

Tues, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 16	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 06	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 17	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 20 - 24	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 27	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 10	End of Third Quarter
Mar 20-24	Senior Retreat (tentative)
Fri – Fri Apr 07 – 14	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 17	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 26 – 28	Senior Final Exams
Thurs, May 11	Pre-Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30)
Sat, May 13	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
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

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING: Only Saint Paul's outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

DRIVING: I call the following to your attention:

- **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 start 2022 with a resolution for safe driving! 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.

GRADES, EXAMS, REPORT CARDS, HONOR ROLL BREAKFASTS, ETC.

- **Report Cards** will be emailed on Jan 5, although grades were accessible on Plus Portals for a while. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - *Jan 18 – 8th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 19 – 9th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 20 --10th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 26 – 11th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 27 – 12th HR Breakfast*
- All breakfasts last from 7:45 – 8:20 Note: HR is based on **Second QUARTER (not semester) grades.**

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget – here are painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2022 - 23 Yes, it is time to start thinking about next year! Shortly after Christmas, we will begin registering current students for 2022-23. Here's the process:

- Re-registration for 2023-2024 begins the last two weeks of January for current 8th graders and the first two weeks of February for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Please pay attention to the deadlines and the \$300 fee so we can plan accordingly for next year.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on the website.

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! Teenagers often do not understand that one irresponsible post can follow them and damage their reputation for years.

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

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!**

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.

VAPING: Unfortunately, vaping is on the rise, even among our students. The health message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can't police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

Second Semester Period Rotation

January

- 3 – ABCD – Classes Resume
- 4 – EFGA – President’s Assembly (Wed.)
- 5 – BCDE
- 6 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF
- 10 – GABC – Pack Time – Sudden Impact/Falk. G Block
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – ABCD – late start*
- 13 – EFGA
- 16 – MLK Holiday
- 17 – BCDE – President’s Assembly
- 18 – FGAB – 8th HR Breakfast
- 19 – CDEF – 9th HR Breakfast
- 20 – GABC – 10th HR Breakfast
- 23 – DEFG
- 24 – ABCD – Pack Time
- 25 – EFGA – Mass – Feast of St. Paul (dress uniform day)/Snack Day
- 26 – BCDE – 11th HR Breakfast – Sudden Impact/Falk. B Block
- 27 – FGAB - 12th HR Breakfast
- 30 – CDEF
- 31 – GABC – President’s Assembly

February

- 1 – DEFG
- 2 – ABCD – 9th-grade retreat/**Career Day for Juniors**
- 3 – EFGA – 9th-grade retreat
- 6 – BCDE – Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7 in BAC/9th-grade retreat
- 7 – FGAB – Pack Time – 9th-grade retreat
- 8 – CDEF – Pre-ACT 10
- 9 – GABC – Pre-ACT 9
- 10 – DEFG – Pre-ACT 8
- 13 – ABCD – 9 AM late start (Super Bowl)
- 14 – EFGA – President’s Assembly (dress uniform day)/Snack day
- 15 – BCDE – Junior Retreat
- 16 – FGAB – Junior Retreat
- 17 – Faculty retreat (no classes)
- 27 – CDEF
- 28 – GABC – Pack Time

March

- 1 – DEFG

2 – ABCD
3 – EFGA
6 – BCDE
7 – FGAB – Junior in-school ACT
8 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
9 – GABC – Core Pack Breakfast/Late start
10 – DEFG – End of 3rd Quarter
13 – ABCD
14 – EFG – SSA Challenge/1 PM Activities in Stadium*
15 – ABCD
16 – EFGA – late start*/5 Core Meal
17 – BCDE – Mass (dress uniform day)/Snack day
20-24 – Senior Retreats*
20 – FGAB
21 – CDEF
22 – GABC
23 – DEFG – 8th HR Breakfast
24 – ABCD – 9th HR Breakfast
27 – EFGA
28 – BCDE – President’s Assembly
29 – FGAB – 10th HR Breakfast
30 – CDEF – 11th HR Breakfast
31- GABC – 12th HR Breakfast

April

1 – Junior-Senior Prom
3 – DEFG
4 – ABCD – Pack Time*
5 – EFGA – Passion Play for Juniors
6 – BCDE – Mandatum (dress uniform day)
7 - 14 – Easter Holidays
17-21 – Leadership Week
17 – FGAB
18 – CDEF – Leadership Breakfast/Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Snack Day
19 – GABC
20 – DEFG – Leadership Guest Speaker
21 – ABCD – Year in Review Assembly
24 – EFGA – Last Pack Time for Seniors; Class Level Elections
25 – BCDE – President’s Assembly (last for seniors)
26 – FGAB – Senior Exams
27 – CDEF – Senior Exams
28 – GABC – Senior Exams

May

1 – DEFG – Mass (dress uniform day)
2 – ABCD – Pack Time (last one)

- 3 – EFGA
- 4 – BCDE – late start*
- 5 – FGAB
- 8 – CDEF – 8th Grade Exams
- 9 – GABC – Last President’s Assembly / 8th Grade Exams
- 10 – DEFG – 8th Grade Exams/Senior Grad Night
- 11 – ABCD – Athletic Awards/8th Grade Promotion
- 12 – EFGA – Academic Awards – dress uniform day
- 13 – 12th Grade Graduation
- 15 – BCDE
- 16 – FGAB
- 17 – CDEFG*
- 18-23 – Final Exams
- 23 – Last Day of School – 11:30 Dismissal/ Faculty Luncheon

Mark Twain’s Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*



.... by 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! Let’s give it our best this week and begin 2022 with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon.