



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Monday! I hope this email finds everyone doing well and looking forward to the beginning of our new school year. As mentioned in my last newsletter, I am sharing the latest information regarding our efforts to help keep our SPA community safe and healthy as we continue to deal with all of the challenges of the Delta variant.

A decision has been made by the Administration of St. Paul the Apostle School to implement mandatory weekly COVID testing of all faculty, staff and students. This decision is being fully supported by Paul Escala, the ADLA Superintendent of Catholic Schools. We will be working with PMH Laboratory, Inc. *Please take some time to review the information below that they have shared with us.*

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Information from PMH Laboratory, Inc:

PMH Laboratory, Inc. is a high complexity diagnostic testing laboratory. We are currently performing RT-PCR and antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2. PMH has been performing SARS-CoV-2 testing for organizations, schools, and private events since

May 2020. We send our healthcare staff to businesses/organizations/schools to do On-Site Testing for COVID-19. All services are billed to the participant's health insurance, including employer group plans, individual/family plans, Medicare, Medicaid, and State Health Exchanges. PMH does not charge the employer/organization to host the event.

PMH Laboratory utilizes Thermo Scientific Taq-Pac and Sequoia as our COVID-19 antigen testing platforms. They are both Real-Time PCR test methods with 99% sensitivity and 99% specificity rates, making our platform highly sensitive. This sensitivity allows PMH to accurately report active COVID-19 infections. PMH also performs antibody testing using the Abbott ARCHITECT i1000SR instrumentation. IgG testing helps determine whether a person has had prior exposure to COVID-19. Abbott sensitivity rate 99.6%. Abbott IgG test is one of the most successful antibody tests available on the market. Proper testing can assist in helping to keep your school safe.

Below is a breakdown how we would like to organize all our testing events:

It is required that all Employees/Faculty/Students complete a "*Patient Consent*" form prior to the event, and attach a copy of their insurance card front/back. For every test event the participant will need to provide the "*Patient Consent*" form (It is recommended that the participant make a copy of the original, sign and date it on the day of testing).

Blanket Consent form: Parents giving the school authorization to test their child with PMH Laboratory for COVID-19. PMH will require a copy of the Blanket Consent Form. Students will be required to provide a copy of the original "Patient Consent" form for future testing.

Through the CARE's Act, PMH offers the Uninsured program; the parent signs the affidavit stating the student does not have health coverage. These forms are collected by the PMH nurse on the day of the event.

The testing will take place at the school location.

Participants will be scheduled at 2-minute increments.

Day of testing:

Each participant will provide the attending nurse their "*Patient Consent*" form attached with a copy of their insurance card front/back. The Uninsured form will need to be attached to the student consent form with a copy of a government ID (if this is a student, the parent must provide a copy of their ID).

Results:

Upon completion of testing, an auto-email will be generated to the participant's email

with a link and access code.

PMH will provide the client with a user and password to view the overall health of the testing population.

Billing:

I would like to reassure you that per the CARES ACT, you are not responsible for any payment. If your explanation of benefits shows a patient responsibility, then your insurance carrier has processed your claim incorrectly. Please be advised we are requesting these claims be reprocessed per the CARES ACT. The CARES ACT requires no cost sharing to the patient, no prior authorization, and no network requirements.

Note: PMH bills Blue Cross / Blue Shield for COVID-19 tests. When BCBS processes the claim, BCBS will process and pay based on their fee schedule, and send PMH notification on some claims (but not all) that PMH will need to adjust the unpaid portion.

Since this is COVID testing and PMH is not allowed to balance bill the patient, we accept what the carrier pays as payment in full. Unfortunately, Blue Cross / Blue Shield has chosen to send these payments to the patient and not to PMH. If BCBS would send payments directly to PMH, this would be a transparent process to the patient. Since BCBS have chosen to send the payment directly to the patient, we just need for the patient to forward the payment to PMH along with the Explanation of Benefits, and then we will adjust the remaining amount and bring the account to zero.

Links to our forms:

[Patient Consent Form](#)

[Blanket Consent Form](#)

[Uninsured Program Cares Act](#)

[Notice of Privacy Practice](#)

End of PMH information

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**We have been told that student testing will NOT be done with a nasal swab, but with a saliva swab. On the Patient Consent Form, please mark RT-PCR COVID Swab Test and Oropharyngeal Swab (Mouth).** This should help to ease student test anxiety. So that we are well prepared to begin testing when classes begin on Tuesday, August 24, we respectfully request that you download, complete, and sign the required documents. You can either place them in an envelope and give them to your student(s), or personally deliver them in an envelope to the homeroom teachers when you walk

your child to his/her classroom on the first day of school. In order to help expedite the testing process, PMH Laboratory has asked us to prepare a spreadsheet with faculty, staff, and student names, as well as insurance information. This spreadsheet will be sent to them before the first day of testing. It should also be noted that the Administration has directed all faculty/staff to be vaccinated before returning to campus this week. Anyone not vaccinated will be tested twice weekly for COVID.

It is our hope that all we are doing will help to ease some of the worry you might have about the current pandemic and the well-being of your children. Please reach out to Nurse Anderson at [vanderson@sp-apostle.org](mailto:vanderson@sp-apostle.org) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you next week when classes begin!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky  
Principal

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NEW FRIENDLY FACES AT SPA!**

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*Best of luck!*

When school ended last June we bid a fond farewell to Mr. Patrick Boyd, Ms. Caitlin Maher, Ms. Wilma Plucinski, and Ms. Cindy Zhang. At the end of September, we will also be saying goodbye to Coach Keith Mortimer as he and his wife leave CA to be closer to their family. We are grateful for the years of dedication and service that these teachers so generously shared with us, and will always remember them with gratitude and love as they begin teaching positions in new locations, leave CA for a new home, or simply dedicate their time and attention to taking care of family. May God bless them all abundantly!

This year, we ask all of our families to extend a warm welcome to some new members of our SPA faculty:

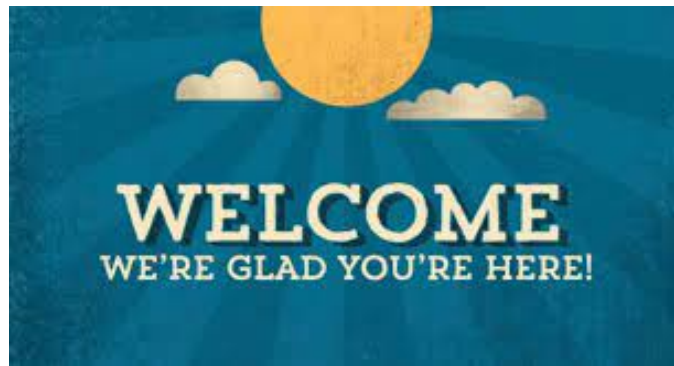
- Ron Aggabao 6th – 8th grade Music Teacher
- Jim Casey K – 5th grade Music Teacher
- Joshua Clarke PE Teacher/Asst. Athletic Director
- Michael Doreza Dimaya 6th – 7th grade Science Teacher
- Enrique Lopez Director of Education Technology

They are excited to join the faculty and staff of St. Paul the Apostle School, and we look forward to having them share their time and expertise with our

community!

## NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION SOCIAL

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On behalf of the SPA community, I'd like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families! We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a special "New Parent Orientation" social to be held on Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the school garden. This evening is set aside with you in mind to help you become acquainted with our SPA community. We will be able to introduce you to members of the administration, some school staff, and members of our PWC Board. We hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. This is also a great time to meet other families new to SPA! Light refreshments will be served. We hope you are able to join us!

## AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

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After-School Care will be available for our students beginning the first day of school. An email regarding this information will be sent to all school families. Please complete the registration forms and return them to Mayora Hiney at [mhiney@sp-apostle.org](mailto:mhiney@sp-apostle.org) before the first day of school.



## SPA YEARBOOK UPDATE!

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We have finally received our 2020-2021 SPA yearbooks! They are currently being labeled with the names of students who purchased a yearbook and will be distributed to the classrooms for distribution on the first day of school. The Class of 2021 graduates will be able to pick up their yearbooks from the school office beginning Tuesday of this week.



### PARENT COFFEE SOCIAL

On Tuesday morning, August 24, the PWC Hospitality Committee will host a coffee social at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. All of our parents are welcome to attend. Coffee, juice, and pastry will be served. This is the perfect time for our new families to meet the “veteran” families of our school community, and for everyone to become reacquainted after the long summer months.

### In-N-Out BURGERS at SPA!

St. Paul the Apostle Parish will be hosting a PARISH PICNIC on Sunday, August 29, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Everyone in attendance will be treated to a delicious In-N-Out burger meal—and it’s FREE! We hope that you will be able to join us for food, friendship, and fun as we begin our new school year together. YUMMY—we are truly looking forward to this parish treat! Don’t forget to reserve your spot!