



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We made it! As we come to the conclusion of this very unusual school year, I want to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt words of gratitude to everyone who helped in any way to make our successes possible. While it has definitely been a very challenging experience, I thank God for the many blessings we have, and I pray that we will continue to move forward in striving for excellence in all that we do.

It is not possible to use this space to thank everyone individually who has volunteered, contributed, or supported our SPA community because that list would be endless. Whether it was coordinating and supporting our Festival, volunteering to help with a special classroom activity, supervising students during lunch recess, coaching a sport, helping in the library, assisting with an extracurricular activity, chaperoning a field trip, serving on a board or committee, opening a car door with a smile during morning drop-off, assisting with traffic control, making us laugh, donating time, talent or treasure to assist in any way, writing a brief note of thanks/support, sharing a warm hug, participating in a parish event, or keeping us in prayer...I sincerely THANK YOU! We could not possibly operate successfully without the support of our parents and volunteers who give with such generous and loving hearts.

This year, our students have continued to shine and represent St. Paul the Apostle School in a positive Christian manner in many different ways. Whether it was embracing a leadership role as a member of Student Council, playing an after-school sport, gathering together in School Families, participating in our Christmas pageant, volunteering their time to help others, giving from their hearts for a special Christian service outreach, or participating in a school liturgy, our students showed us all that

they are truly a blessing from God. We have a unique blend of students with diverse personalities and talents at SPA. Our students exemplify the fact that SPA is a place of caring and love that extends far beyond the classroom walls and school hours, and we are truly grateful for that.

Everyone who had the privilege of teaching and working with your children this year is grateful for your commitment to Catholic education. And if it hasn't already been expressed enough, THANK YOU! We thank you for entrusting us to teach the academic lessons, and more importantly, to assist you in the faith formation of your children. Thank you for your patience and understanding, your cooperation and support, your care and commitment, and for all of the special "treats" that always seem to find a way to the faculty room.

It is my prayer that everything we do at St. Paul the Apostle School will continue to have a tremendous and positive impact on the education our students. God has blessed us with many gifts and opportunities. SPA is a great community, and I know that we will continue to work together to make it even better. I know you are all looking forward to the summer break, and I hope you are able to find time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality time surrounded by the people you love. Thank you again for being a precious part of this community, and I wish you an abundance of happiness as we approach the days of summer.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal



IN SOLIDARITY and SUPPORT

As I write this piece of my newsletter, it is with a heavy heart and many conflicted emotions. The recent events of unrest, protests, violence and sadness have been overwhelming. Like many of you, the administration, faculty and staff of SPA School are struggling to find the right words to say in this time of deep crisis and mourning in our country. At our faculty meeting last Friday, some of the teachers shared that their students have been asking questions about all the events that are presently occurring across the nation. As educators, we recognize that one of the most important things any teacher can do is to help students understand the deeper context surrounding their lives and society. In times like these, community is paramount, and our faith in God even more so. We believe that our mission to empower our students to shape the world around them and within them is more important than ever. I want you to know that we will continue to work in partnership with you to enable your children to create a braver, more understanding, and equitable future for our country. Our goal will always be to help you in your efforts to have these difficult but essential conversations.

The following message was recently shared with Catholic school administrators across the country from NCEA, the National Catholic Educational Association. I think that it is a perfect

reminder of who we are as a faith community.

“At the core of their being, Catholic schools are an essential and integral part of our Church's ministry. As members of communities across the United States and the world, turning a blind eye to the unrest and violence spurred on by the most recent tragic event is impossible for the Catholic Church and Catholic schools.

As we are Catholic first, our 6,100 schools welcome students of every faith, color and socio-economic background to be part of any of our communities. We teach our faith by knowing, living and sharing who we are as Catholics. Our schools build community, smooth the lines of socio-economic disparities, and embrace and integrate cultural diversity into our ministry.

Catholic schools have an obligation to teach and evangelize because that is the mission of the Catholic Church. It is the tradition of Gospel values to explore opportunities for incorporating cultural diversity in our schools, and we will continue to do this by uniting faith and reason and by setting our faith as the cornerstone of each lesson taught and each discovery made. Catholic schools establish a wonderful and lasting foundation, one built within our building walls, and then shared in practice as we carry out our lives for the common good. We will continue this mission and work diligently to make sure our schools remain communities of hope for all students.”

It is our deepest wish that the upheaval and unrest now taking place across the country—and in our very close communities of Century City, Beverly Hills, Culver City, Venice, the Pacific Palisades, Hollywood, Santa Monica and Los Angeles—will be a catalyst for real, lasting and meaningful change. Only then can we truly heal. In the meantime, we wish you and your families safety and peace.



RETURNING SCHOOL PROPERTY!

The final day of classes for our students will be this Wednesday, June 10th. Our school campus will be open this week on Thursday, June 11, and Friday, June 12, so that students can return all of their academic textbooks, library books, technology equipment, athletic uniforms, etc. Students will also have the opportunity to pick up any personal items that may have been left behind when we began distance learning in March. **If you have overlooked this information, please check your email's inbox or spam folder again so that you can sign-up for a drop-off time.** We also ask that everyone coming on to campus adhere to social distancing guidelines, and that you all wear a mask. Thank you for your cooperation

regarding these important matters.



SPA SUMMER SCHOOL!

In response to the parent survey that was recently completed, SPA School will be offering summer school classes for students at all grade levels. A “sneak peek” information email was sent out this past Saturday, and the official sign-ups will begin TODAY. This year we are able to offer a wide selection of classes—everything from dance to sports, from graphic design to digital photography, and from Kinder Prep to the HSPT prep for 8th graders. There is something for every grade level and student interest. Please take a few minutes to scroll through the information brochure. If you have questions regarding any of the classes, please contact [Mrs. Oliver](#).



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The “draft” of the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year has been completed and will be submitted to the ADLA administration for approval. Please note the following key dates and holidays as you begin to plan for family vacations, etc.

August 25, 2020	Classes begin for all grade levels
November 26-27, 2020	Thanksgiving vacation
December 21-January 1	Christmas vacation
April 2 – April 9, 2021	Easter vacation
June 11, 2021	Final day of classes

Once the calendar has been approved, it will be published on our school website so that you can access it at any time.



SPA PARENT SURVEY

As we begin to conclude the final day of classes for this school year, the administration and faculty have been engaged in many discussions regarding **distance learning**, all of the instructional adjustments that had to be made, and what we have been able to accomplish with our students since mid-March. Without a doubt, this unexpected transition also created a home dynamic that every family had to adjust to. While we recognize that the vast majority of our students continued to do very well academically with the transition to distance learning, we also know that it was a real struggle for some of the students who benefit greatly from being on campus.

At this time, we have not received a directive from the ADLA as to what the opening of school will look like in August. Although we would love to be able to return to campus while adhering to the CDC guidelines, if there is another surge of COVID-19 later this summer, that may not be possible. Thus, we are presently planning for both scenarios. To assist the faculty and staff in being better prepared for a distance learning scenario, we will be

asking our SPA parents to complete a survey and share your feedback with us. This information will be very helpful as we continue to prepare for whatever the next school year may bring. **A separate email containing the survey will be sent to you this week.** Thank you, in advance, for your time and participation.

PWC NEWS CORNER!



NEW SPA UNIFORM VENDOR

Back in January, a committee was formed to address the needs and issues surrounding our school uniforms and policies. This group consisted of St. Paul parents who have worked extensively in the area of uniforms and specialty items such as: spirit wear, sports team wear, and festival wear. The team reviewed our current vendor along with three other uniform companies as they addressed issues of quality, fit, style, fabric options, ease of purchase, return policy, and promotional offers. After careful consideration, the committee recommended, and the administration approved, **Lands' End School Uniform** as our new school and PE uniform vendor.

We understand that during this time of global crisis, you may not be in the market for new uniforms. Therefore, for the next year we have grandfathered in all school uniform items from our former vendor (Michael's Uniforms), with the exception of PE items. When you are ready for new pieces, whether shirts, shorts, sweatshirts or pants, you can rest assured that you will be getting great quality at a great price. If your student chooses to wear a PE outfit on PE Days only, then we ask that you purchase the new PE/Athletic wear specified on the website. As always, students may wear their regular uniforms on PE days.

Lands' End has been in the uniform business since 1997, and they currently provide uniforms to more than 6,000 schools worldwide – outfitting more than 1.5 million students. We like the fact that they offer:

- **Award-winning customer service:** Lands' End consultants are available by phone for questions or ordering 24/7 at 1-800-469-2222.
- **Custom online ordering:** You can link to the St. Paul the Apostle custom web experience from our school website (school.sp-apostle.org under Vendors and Resources tab). Once there, you can create a profile, and the shopping experience is tailored to the criteria you have entered (i.e. grade range and gender).
- **Promotional offers throughout the year:** Please visit landsend.com and sign up to receive news and promotions sent directly to your e-mail address.
- **Quality products – guaranteed:** Lands' End uniforms

are guaranteed. Period. Washed, worn, embroidered – if you're not satisfied, neither is Lands' End. Love it or send it back!

- **Special SPA School Number** - When placing orders, please use the St. Paul the Apostle Preferred School number to ensure that our school receives the School Rewards contribution from your purchase. **(#900190414)**

We have added more options to the uniform, particularly in the category of fabric options for shirts and shorts. You will also find a host of approved optional items such as sun safety hats, outerwear, backpacks, ties, and button down dress shirts. If you would like to review the full SPA Collection you can access it on our PWC website under the Vendors and Resources tab:
<https://school.sp-apostle.org/download/lands-end-uniform-template>.

On a final note, the committee approved some key uniform policy changes that will be outlined in the SPA Parent Handbook. Please review it carefully before we begin school in the fall. These changes will also be detailed on the school website.

We are confident that the change to Lands' End School Uniform will be a positive one. If you have any questions, please see the website for details and an upcoming FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) regarding the new uniforms.



SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Please join St. Paul's this year as we ramp up our social media game on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube! We will be posting regular updates along with the parish to share the news about everything that's happening around campus and in the community. Check it out and share your "likes" to show your support! You can subscribe here!

Facebook
Instagram
YouTube