



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Monday! I hope that you were able to enjoy precious time with your loved ones, as well as enjoy a bit of rest as we continue to move forward towards Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. (Can you believe the stores *already* have Christmas decorations for sale?) But as the saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun,” or as my dad always said, “If you have time to whine and complain about something, then you obviously have time to do something about it. Be quiet and get busy!” Dads are so smart!

And speaking about *complaining*, as mentioned during our Back-to-School Night gathering, we are circling back to determine the preferred morning drop-off routine for our students. As a brief reminder: when we first returned to campus after months of Distance Learning, we implemented the COVID safety plan of parents driving onto campus, students being dropped off on the playground after temperature checks, and then walking directly to their classrooms. That seemed to work well, and we received many requests from parents to keep that plan in place for this school year, which we did. However, when school resumed last August with that plan in place, we began to receive many complaints from parents about the length of time you were waiting in the car line on Selby, as well as complaints from neighbors about the congestion and inconsiderate behaviors on their streets. Oftentimes, the complaints that we receive (phone calls, in person, or emails) are rudely expressed with a great deal of frustration and anger. The following, however, is an excerpt of expressed concerns from a politely written email that I recently received from one of the neighbors:

*Dear Crystal,*

*I want to introduce myself. My name is \*#&\*\$#^\* and I have lived in a building across the street from Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic School (SPA) for close to 11 years now. My family and I moved here in order to send our child to one of the few decent public elementary schools in LA - Fairburn Elementary.*

*In the course of living in the neighborhood, we have had enough issues with the vehicles associated with SPA's students to fill a notebook or two. The frustrations those of us that live here have with many of your constituents is a constant affair. It's not just speeding to get into line in time to drop off their children, it's blocking (or even parking in) driveways, parking and blocking the crosswalk, failing to stop at stop signs even when people are crossing, double parking, inconsiderate parking, waiving us off (or as many of the fathers tend to do, giving us the finger) when we ask for them to move their car, etc. The photos attached are from yesterday morning. This is not an unusual occurrence by any means.*

*I am a parent, and as one, I understand the stress that we are all under in order to get our kids to school on time; we all get that. What we have never understood is the total lack of empathy many of your clientele have towards those of us that live in the neighborhood. As the years pass, and this sense of entitlement climbs, we deal with the increasing amount of disregard exhibited towards us. Thank you for your time, and understanding and I look forward to hearing from you.*

I have yet to respond to this neighbor as I don't quite know what to say except "I'm sorry for what you have experienced, and we are working hard to address these issues." I do understand both the concerns that have been shared in this email, as well as the requests we have received from many SPA parents regarding their preferred morning drop-off method. We know that no matter what is decided, we will not be able to make everyone happy, but we will be able to say that we listened and valued everyone's input.

I respectfully ask that you take a minute to complete the **attached survey** regarding the student drop-off procedures for the remainder of the school year. **The majority parent vote will determine the plan that will be followed.** Whether or not your choice is selected, it is my hope that everyone will do their best to help us repair and sustain the relationships we have with our neighbors, and with one another.

### **[Parent Drop Off Survey Link](#)**

Thank you for your thoughtful considerations, and for all that you continue to do to support our school and parish communities!

Peace and Blessings,

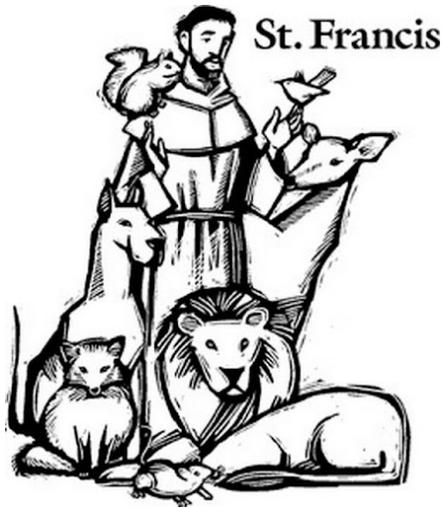
Crystal Pinkofsky  
Principal

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

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**St. Francis**

St. Paul the Apostle Parish will honor the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi with a special “Blessing of the Animals”! This prayer assembly will be held **THIS MORNING**, October 4, at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Parish Center. If you cannot attend the service at that time, another service will be held at 6:00 p.m. in front of the Church. Families are invited to bring their dogs, cats, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, or whatever pet you might own for a beautiful blessing. Your favorite stuffed animals are also welcome. Please note that all animals—even the cute stuffed ones—must return home after the service.

Following the Blessing, our faculty, staff, and students will participate in a special Mass honoring St. Francis. Mass will begin at 8:30 a.m. We respectfully request that all students are brought to school on time so that everyone is present for the beginning of this liturgy.

## **STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS**

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We have reached the midpoint of our first trimester, and parents are strongly encouraged to login to Schoology to view your children’s academic, effort and behavior progress. The grades that are posted will give you a snapshot of how your children are progressing in each of the subject areas. At St. Paul the Apostle School, we also see the importance of student effort and positive behavior in the classroom, and how this affects their academic progress and social-emotional learning. Please note any information that has been posted regarding these components as well.



To clarify, Schoology is our new Learning Management System where students and parents have access to courses, assignments, and grades. Gradelink and Powerschool Learning are no longer being used. A Parent Access sheet on how to create a parent account and link your child has already been distributed to each student. You must have a Schoology Parent account to access your student's courses and grades. If you are not yet familiar with Schoology, an information document has been created for you to help you navigate through Schoology and generate a student grade report. Please click on the link below to access it. If you have not received the parent access sheet or have any questions, please contact Enrique Lopez, our Director of Educational Technology at [elopez@sp-apostle.org](mailto:elopez@sp-apostle.org).

### [Parent Schoology Guide](#)

## **VACCINE MANDATES FOR STUDENTS**

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Last Friday, Governor Newsom announced that all K-12 students will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The details of this mandate are still unclear as the state has not issued a formal health order. A couple of parents have asked if SPA will be following this mandate. Here is



what Paul Escala, the Superintendent of Schools, has shared with all of the ADLA principals:

*Like the public, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles received news today of the governor's announcement regarding a mandate for the COVID-19 vaccine for K-12 students in California. The state has yet to release an official public health order to this effect. When they do, the ADLA will*

*review it to understand the implications and applicability for our Catholic schools. The ADLA Department of Catholic Schools will provide further information when we know more.*

## **DOWNBEAT MUSIC PROGRAM RETURNS!**

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The DOWNBEAT Music Program will be returning to SPA beginning this Wednesday, October 6th. This after-school music program is open to all students in Kindergarten to 8th grade, and the classes are grouped according to age range. The instruments include violin, cello, guitar, ukulele, flute, trumpet, clarinet, and saxophone. If your child doesn't have the instrument, no worries. The instruments can be purchased or rented for a low yearly rate through The Instrument Place at [GetAnInstrument.com](http://GetAnInstrument.com).

The program will be held on our SPA campus twice a week. The group lessons are 45 minutes in length, and the students will not only learn how to play their favorite instrument, they will have the opportunity to make musical friends. To register your children just login to [DownbeatMusicClub.com/registration](http://DownbeatMusicClub.com/registration). The registration cost for the program is \$800 for 30 sessions, beginning October 6, 2021 and continuing through May 25, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the program please contact Oscar Martinez at 310-290-6801 or [info@downbeatmusicclub.com](mailto:info@downbeatmusicclub.com).

## **"FRANCESCO"**

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**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

I invite you not to build walls but bridges, to conquer evil with good, offence with forgiveness, to live in peace with everyone.



**St. Paul the Apostle Parish is hosting a free documentary film screening of "Francesco" this Thursday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m.** All parents and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to join us for a free screening of this documentary film followed by a Question & Answer session with the director, Oscar nominee Evgeny Afineevsky. The film follows Pope Francis on his apostolic journeys around the world, where the depth and context of his teachings and pastoral ministry come to life. It also takes us to visit his home in Argentina to hear from those who know him best. Pope Francis has sought to provide the world direction in living for one another: the joy of the gospel, mercy, care for our common home, everyday holiness, the vital importance of the young, and a world-wide call to human solidarity. This film helps us to see how his faith is the source of his vision. We hope you will join us for the special screening. After the film, we will have a Q & A session hosted by Pauline Sister Nancy Usselman, and hear reactions from Rabbi Erez Sherman of Sinai Temple, Westwood. This will be an enlightening and enjoyable event.

## **SPA TEEN CONFIRMATION 2021-2022**



**For all parents of high school freshman and sophomore students:** Registration for the 2021-2022 teen Confirmation program at St. Paul the Apostle Parish is now open until Sunday, October 10th. The program this year will be in person in a masked and socially distanced environment. The meetings will be once a month on a Sunday starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending by 7:00 p.m. The first meetings are scheduled to begin on October 17<sup>th</sup> for Year 1 students, and on October 24<sup>th</sup> for Year 2 students. If needed, we will be prepared to move to an online zoom meeting format. You can find additional information and you may register using this [link](#). The registration fee is \$75.00, payable at [www.sp-apostle.org](http://www.sp-apostle.org). No one will be turned away for financial reasons. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Fr. Ryan Casey by email at [rcasey@sp-apostle.org](mailto:rcasey@sp-apostle.org) or by calling him at 424-832-5154.

## SPA COVID TESTING

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As planned, our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff and students will be held this **Wednesday, October 6th**, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The **ONLY** document your children will need to have for testing is a dated and signed copy of the **COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form**. You do **NOT** need to send the Blanket Consent Form, nor a copy of your Insurance card. When completing the Patient Request Form, please remember to **include your email address** so that the results of the lab test can be sent directly to you, as well as Nurse Anderson. **We strongly suggest that you TYPE the requested information onto the form so that everything—including your email address—is legible.** Keep in mind that we are not using a “rapid” test, so we should expect to receive the results in approximately 24 hours. If you have not received the results by then, please contact the lab or Nurse Anderson.

Any measures that we can take to help keep our community safe is well worth the effort. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this very important matter!

### [COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form Link](#)

(This document is now Form Fillable)

## NO SCHOOL on OCTOBER 11TH

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Please note that school will NOT be in session on Monday, October 11, which just happens to be Columbus Day. When we originally created our school calendar, this was the day we had reserved for campus clean-up after the Festival. Although our Festival dates were changed, we had enough of the required instructional days to not only leave October 11<sup>th</sup> as a “no school” day, we were also able to add an additional vacation day to our Thanksgiving week schedule. We hope you will be able to enjoy this extra time with your family.

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