



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

FAITH is being sure of what we ***HOPE*** for,
and certain of what we do not see. –Hebrews 11:1

I would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all of the parents who joined us for Back-to-School Night last Monday evening. The teachers have shared with me that they truly felt your appreciation and support for all that we are doing in regards to Distance Learning. In addition to the academic progress, the teachers are also focused on the social, emotional and mental well-being of their students. We know that our students will not be able to process and retain new information if their brains are overwhelmed with anxiety. We also know that ensuring our students are connected to their peers, and having strong supporting relationships with their teachers, will go a long way toward helping them cope and getting to a place “mentally” where they are ready to learn.

Although we have no idea when we will be allowed to open our doors for on-campus instruction, it’s important to us that we make the time now to develop the personal connections that our students will need to sustain them through the uncertainties ahead. This is why simple things—morning class prayer, the daily “check-ins” with their teachers, and the chats with their classmates—and the big things—our Back-to-School Mass, grade level liturgies, and the upcoming SPA Festival—are so important. Doing whatever we can to bring our community together will keep us moving forward with a positive mindset.

There are no magic wands here, and I’m certain we are all grappling in some way

with mask fatigue, Zoom anxiety, and home lockdowns, but we have to stay positive! Please join us in doing all that you can to keep your students engaged in “school.” It’s important that they report to class on time, participate fully in the lessons with no distractions, and complete their assignments. That being said, we do know that there must also be time allotted for both “brain breaks” and physical movement. If you notice your child is consistently feeling overwhelmed at a certain point in the day, send the teacher an email so that some consideration can be given to a short break that will allow students a little time for a quick snack or some physical movement. The teachers will definitely understand...we know this is not always easy.

Since last March, schools all over the country have been put in truly untenable situations with an unimaginable amount of responsibility. Throughout the L.A. Archdiocese, principals and teachers have been spending an inordinate amount of time creating, revising, and updating school plans to prepare for an uncertain school year. I can honestly say that an incredible amount of passion, care, and dedication has been given to this work. At SPA, that effort will not stop as we continue to plan for what a return to campus will look like when L.A. County is removed from the “watch list.” **To date, St. Paul the Apostle School has spent approximately \$700,000 to help support the progressive learning of our students, and to ensure the health and safety of our community when everyone is back on site.**

I am truly grateful to the **Sr. Stella Foundation** for their extremely generous donation to SPA that will help with these unexpected costs. I am also hoping that **OHANA—our SPA Festival**—will be a huge success to assist us in further reducing this debt. And I know that, without a doubt, our awesome **PWC** will join in offering their support as well. While I do not regret any of the funds that have been spent towards this very important endeavor, the budget challenge this year will be to close that unforeseen “pandemic” financial gap. I believe it’s important to remember that it is absolute joy for our students, and a sense of accomplishment, that will fuel that productive struggle.

Thank you, again, for the gift of your partnership! We are truly grateful to have you with us for this journey!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

SPA FESTIVAL NEWS!



To our St. Paul's Ohana: if you have not yet contributed, there are so many ways that you can add your "drop in the bucket" to our Festival this year! Are you talented in the kitchen? Donate your amazing creation to our **Casserole "Booth"** (the deadline to sign up is TODAY, September 21st). We really want your talented kids in our **Talent Show!** Send those videos in by Wednesday, September 23rd: **Talent Show Entry.** We know your kids are Master Builders...be sure to send in those amazing Lego creations by Sunday, September 27, to the **Lego Contest.** Our Auction Committee would love your silent and live auction donations, too! Please donate to **Auction** by Friday, September 25th. Your **Patronage** donations are also greatly appreciated—many thanks to those who have donated so far.

More than anything, we hope you will bless our community by joining us during our first ever Virtual Fest on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Join your Ohana for:

Live Auction Fun! Hilarious Entertainment!
St. Paul's Celebrity Guests! Top Entries from the Talent Show!
Lego Contest Winner Announced!
Patronage Grade Contest Winner Announced!
Live Opportunity Drawing!

Keep watching for our weekly Festival newsletters to keep informed with the latest information, and please visit **SPAgives.com** for all the ways you can help. Thank you!

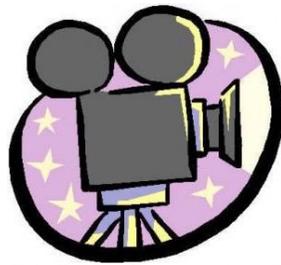


SPA UNIFORM SALE!

Have your children grown a lot since last June? Does last year's SPA uniform no longer fit? Well, here's some good news! Lands' End, our school's uniform company, is having a huge sale! All uniform items are now 40% off until Wednesday, September 23rd. Just login to **Lands' End;** the **code** is **PALS**, and the **pin** is **3615**. Remember, we want our students to

be “uniform ready” when it is time to return to campus! Happy shopping!!

SPA VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED!



St. Paul the Apostle Parish is looking for help broadcasting its daily and weekend Masses. Matt Davis, who so graciously has been helping to bring masses into your home, will be working out of town until the end of October. Ideally, we need someone who is tech-savvy with a working knowledge of video cameras and Sling Studio. The hours are Monday-

Friday 7:00-8:15 a.m., Saturday 8:00-9:15 a.m., Saturday 4:30-6:15 p.m., and Sunday 9:00-10:30 a.m. We are hoping to get a couple of people trained as soon as possible. If you have a college student at home, or if this is something that interests you, please contact Vanessa Reyes-Smith at 424-832-5153 for more information.

OUTREACH CONCERN COUNSELING SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that for the third consecutive year, Outreach Concern Inc. has contracted with SPA to provide counseling and support services to help our students meet their potential. **Ms. Mandi Duncan** and **Ms. Eri Ashlock** will be available to work with our school community beginning today, and will remain with us through June 2021. Counseling can provide a student support and direction with their academics, develop an understanding of the behavior they demonstrate and how it may impact themselves or others, help a student control their emotions, or improve social skills. Sometimes a child’s behavior can impact their ability to succeed both in and outside the classroom. This is where counseling can help both the student and their parents focus on meeting whatever needs are identified to support their success. **Students may need to see one of the Outreach Concern counselors:**

- If the student feels sad, confused, shy, angry or anxious.
- When changes in the student’s environment affect their well-being.
- When a student’s family circumstances change.
- When influences distract or cause a student to feel anxiety, fear or concern.
- When a student experiences a loss of a family member, friend or pet.
- When home stressors affect school performance, behavior or social life.
- When a student is consistently absent from school.
- When a student struggles academically.

Partnering with parents and teachers, the school counselor’s goal, much like yours, is to support your child in identifying whatever problem or concern is keeping them from achieving success, enhancing their self-esteem, confidence and motivation. If you would like to request the services and support of our counselors, please note the following guidelines:

- Parents can go online to www.outreachconcern.org
- Scroll to the bottom of the page to complete the **online Consent Form**. Forms at the moment will be in English and Spanish.
- You will be asked for your first name, last name and email address, then hit submit.
- You will then receive an email with a document from "doc u sign."

- At that point you should complete the necessary information on the Consent Form and be able to submit the form.
- An email will go to the Outreach Concern office and they will update the google doc with the student's information under the tab "**Consent Forms 20-21**"

Please use the following “referral links” if you would like your child to have access to the SPA School Counselors this year.

Student Link:

<https://forms.gle/aZqLfc25qUak22Qu7>

Parent Link/ English:

<https://forms.gle/8WCWCVjKXdtw9Sdm6>
