



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we continue to move forward in the midst of this pandemic, a few families have reached out with questions about when school will reopen for on-campus instruction. Last Thursday, the Principals in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles received the following communication from **Paul Escala, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools**. Rather than paraphrasing his message to the principals, and his request of our school families, I have simply copied and pasted it below for you to read and take action should you choose to do so.

**“In-person instruction waivers for elementary grades TK-6 continue to be denied by the county department of public health. Despite the county being below 200 cases per 100K residents for the past four weeks, the county maintains their position that it is too early to permit elementary school students to return to campuses.** Instead, the county states that permitting the cohort model for high-need students up to 10% of total enrollment is sufficient for now. They believe this approach will provide the necessary data as to how schools are managing on-campus protocols before additional students are permitted. They expect “over 140,000 students” to participate in this program. However, at the time of this email only 9,435 students are on-campus under this program.

Last Tuesday, the county had achieved caseloads and positivity rates low enough to move into the “red” tier in the next two weeks if it can maintain those numbers. The county public health department continues to be concerned about a “spike” in cases and hospitalizations stemming from the Labor Day holiday, so there are no

assurances that further sector reopenings will be permitted, including schools, if the county achieves the “red” tier. **We have been told to wait another six weeks.**

When I spoke with you last on September 10, I mentioned that we are collaborating with a number of other school leaders to form a coalition to appeal to the county board of supervisors for data-informed transparency and for a phased-in safe reopening of schools under the waiver process beginning with grades TK-3. I’m pleased to report that this coalition has been established and has grown to include public schools, local civic leaders, faith-based and independent schools, and pediatricians – The Students First Coalition of Los Angeles is now live! Over the next several days, letters, calls and press/media interviews will be taking place to advance our message. Archbishop Gomez is personally engaging as well. We know that many of you and your families have deep concerns about the continued isolation distance learning presents for children. We also know that some may not be ready to return, but everyone should want full transparency from our elected public officials, data-driven decision making (not political ones), prioritize our youngest students and give school communities a voice through the waiver process.

To this end, we encourage you to share the attached sample letter with your school stakeholders who wish to lend their voice to this effort. This language can be emailed or used as a script to call the members of the LA County Board of Supervisors to provide comment. The attachment includes the name, phone number and email address to each member, along with a link to the map to locate their respective supervisor’s district. The next Board of Supervisors meeting is on Tuesday, September 29, at 9:30am. The following link outlines the agenda and public comment instructions: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1CFiUckTn5g%3d&portalid=1> We are targeting Monday and Tuesday for advocacy, so interested parties should call and email on those days.”

**If you would like to voice your opinions about the reopening of the county’s schools, please review the attached sample letter and reach out to the Board of Supervisors.** I will keep you apprised of any ADLA information and guidance that we all need in this time of uncertainty. In the meantime, our faculty and staff will continue their efforts to provide a quality learning experience for all of our students. We respectfully request your patience and understanding as we navigate through this school year. Please know that your cooperation and support make everything we do here at St. Paul’s possible!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky  
Principal

[Click here for the sample letter](#)

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## **IMPORTANT BEHAVIOR REMINDER!**

It has been brought to the attention of the administration that an incident of student misconduct occurred during a recent Distance Learning class. This

incident was serious enough to warrant a suspension of the student. A photo of a student was taken during class without that student's knowledge. The child who took the picture then photo-shopped it so that it would have embarrassing facial qualities, and widely shared it on a social media platform so the unsuspecting classmate could be ridiculed and laughed at. I don't know what the original intention was of the student who took the photo, but this action can only be described as a form of "bullying."

Bullying is any deliberate action that inflicts physical or psychological harm. The behavior must be unwanted, severe, or pervasive. **Cyberbullying at St. Paul's, which is simply bullying by means of an electronic act, may result in student discipline, including suspension or expulsion from school.** Taking a screenshot of another individual and then using that image to create a Meme of them to circulate to members of the school community is considered bullying, and it will not be tolerated. I have spoken to the faculty regarding this incident, and have asked the teachers to speak to their students regarding our behavior expectations of them, both on and off campus. I respectfully ask that parents also have a conversation with your children regarding the negative impact that this type of behavior can have, not only on an individual student, but the entire school community as well. This is NOT who we are, or who we want to be. And while it is not expected that everyone will be best friends, it is expected that all of our students will be respectful of one another.

Respect is a very important foundational factor in the development and maintenance of any healthy learning environment. Eighty-five years ago, St. Paul the Apostle School was built on a foundation of respect. This will not become a lost value, and we will always hold our students to that high standard. I believe it's what our founders, as well as Sr. Stella, would expect. Thank you (again) for your invaluable support regarding this endeavor.

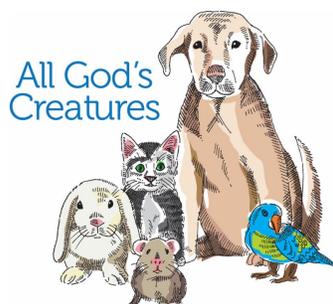
## **SPA PARISH COMMUNITY MEETING**

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All of our school families are cordially invited to join the Paulist Fathers for the SPA Parish's second virtual community meeting on Zoom. The community gathering will be held this Wednesday, September 30, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Make plans to login and catch up on what's happening in our parish. Please refer to Fr. Gil's recent newsletters for login information.

## **SPA BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!**

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St. Paul the Apostle Parish will honor the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals! This prayer assembly will be held on Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m. on the front steps of the church. Families are invited to bring their dogs, cats, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, or whatever pet you might have for a beautiful blessing. Stuffed animals are also welcome! Fr. Gil, Fr. Jerry, and Fr. Ryan will be present to bless everyone's favorite pets! Please note that social distancing must be maintained, and that all pets must be held or appropriately restrained with a leash or pet carrier.



The date is getting closer and 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:

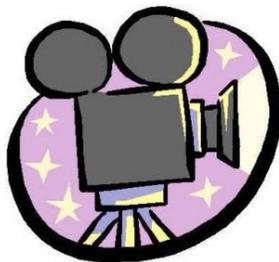
**Live Auction Fun! Hilarious Entertainment!**  
**St. Paul's Celebrity Guests! Top Entries from the Talent Show!**  
**Lego Contest Winner Announced!**  
**Patronage Grade Contest Winner Announced!**  
**Live Opportunity Drawing!**

Keep watching for our weekly Festival newsletters to keep informed with the latest information, and please visit [SPAgives.com](http://SPAgives.com) for all the ways you can help. Thank you!



## SPA VIDEOGRAPHER NEEDED!

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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**

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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](http://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>**

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