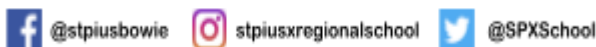




# St. Pius X Regional School News Notes August 19th, 2021



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## Wednesday, August 25

\*PreK & K Parent Orientation - 7:00 - 8:00pm in Classrooms

## Thursday, August 26

\*Informal Open House for Parents/Families & Students - 9:00am - 10:30am - enter through front entrance

\*6th Grade Orientation - 10:30am - 12:00pm - in Classrooms

\*NEW 7th/9th Grade Student Orientation - 10:30am - 12:00pm - in Classrooms (for NEW students in 7th and 8th grade only)

\*NEW Parents/Families in Grades 1-8 Orientation - 7:00 - 8:00pm - in Nelson Hall

## Tuesday, August 31

\*Classes Begin at 8:00am for Grades 5-8

\*Classes Begin at 8:10 for Grades 1-4

\*Designated PreK & K Student Group - 8:30am - 11:00am

\*Early Dismissal - 12:00pm for ALL students - NO ESP

## Wednesday, September 1

\*ESP begins for Grades 1-8

\*First Full Day for Grades 1-8

\*Milk Service Begins for Grades 1-8 (must turn in milk form to Mrs. Bechtel ASAP)

\*Designated PreK & K Student Group - 8:30am - 11:00am

\*Mandatory Middle School Chromebook Parent Meeting - 6:00pm in Nelson Hall - PARENT ONLY

## Thursday, September 2

\*ESP begins for PreK & K

\*First Full Day for PreK & K

\*Milk Service Begins for PreK & K

\*Virtual Mandatory Middle School Chromebook Meeting - 10am and 5pm - more information in News Notes

## ARE YOU RECEIVING SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS?

**NEWS NOTES:** News Notes are one of the main ways we communicate information to parents. News Notes are our weekly newsletter and bulletin and they are emailed every Thursday to your home email addresses from TADS. They are also posted to our school website. If you are not receiving your weekly News Notes, please check your TADS account to see if all email addresses are correct, and then check your SPAM folder. If you are still not receiving News Notes after following those steps (or would like to register another email address) please contact [Ms. Kolosky](#).

**REDIKER PLUS PORTALS:** Rediker PlusPortals gives you secure access to your child's grades/scores, attendance, and discipline record. Parents can also access the parent directory for families who have opted in. Information on accessing Plus Portals will be sent out next week.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM** will also be utilized this year for assignments and teacher communications. This platform will create a strong connection between school and family by sharing information that is critical to students' success and learning. Google account information will be sent to your emails next week.

## 2021-2022 SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

School supply lists for 2021-2022 school year were posted in June. Click [here](#) for our School Supplies for 2021-2022.



## SAFETY FIRST

Traffic during arrival and dismissal is very heavy during the first few weeks of school. We ask that parents try and carpool, if at all possible. We have a team of teachers and staff who direct and manage traffic to keep our students safe and it is imperative for the parents to follow their directions. Please familiarize yourselves with our procedures and traffic diagrams, which can be found on pages 27-30 in our Parent Student Handbook. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation to help our arrival and dismissal system run smoothly.

## SUMMER IXL AND READING



In order to keep students engaged in learning and flexing their “mental muscles”, St. Pius X has required reading and math assignments for students to complete over the summer. Summer work is to be completed between June 15th and August 25th. Click [here](#) for Summer Work information. Please be advised any IXL Math work that is done before June 11th will be erased.


## MAIN & MARKET LUNCH PROGRAM

St. Pius X Regional School is working with Main & Market to provide a healthy portion controlled lunch for our school. Main & Market is looking forward to supplying our school with great food and service. Main and Market partners with BOONLI (former name Order Lunches) to provide a secure, fast and easy to use online ordering program.

Main & Market/BOONLI allow parents and faculty to view our lunch menu, order, prepay and manage their lunches online. Student and Faculty Accounts, User Names and User Passwords will remain the same as last year. Each lunch costs \$7.00 and you have the option of ordering an extra entrée for just an additional \$3.00. The monthly menu provides a wide variety to choose from so that students are able to experience different foods, with an emphasis on fresh, seasonal, and local foods.

The open ordering period for September Lunches is until 8/4 to 8/30. September Orders begin Tuesday, 9/7. If you are interested in having Main & Market deliver a healthy lunch to your child at school, you will need to register online at <https://mainandmarket.boonli.com/login>. Lunch order deliveries will begin on September 7th for those who have ordered by August 30th.

More details are available on our website. If you have questions, you should call Main & Market at 1-800-381-6511 ext. 1 or email them at [support@boonli.com](mailto:support@boonli.com).

 Milk order forms will be sent home at the informal Open house on Thursday, August 26th or the first day of school. The first day of milk service begins September 1st for students in grades 1-8. Pre-K - K students will have milk service starts September 2nd.

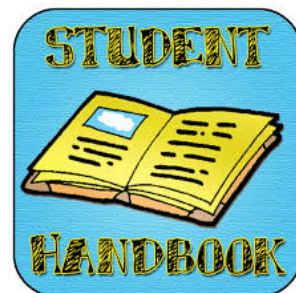
## 2021-2022 CALENDAR



We have “Gone Green” and parents have access to the school Google calendar. The SPX Google Calendar is located on our school homepage, and at <https://www.stpiusbowie.org/school-life/calendar/>. On the calendar website, you can add the calendar to your own Google account/calendar, change the view, and print a copy.

## PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

Parents will receive their hard copy 2021-2022 Parent Student Handbook on Informal Open House Day or on the first day of school. Parents may also find the handbook on our website under the School Life tab (posted after August 27th). This handbook is one of the most important pieces of information you will receive. We advise parents to read the book from cover to cover and familiarize themselves with our policies and procedures. It is especially important in the first few weeks of school to understand our arrival and dismissal policies as well as our late arrival/early dismissal, and emergency closing policies. *There is a signature page, the last one of the handbook, that needs to be signed and returned by September 10th, 2021.*



## LATE PICK-UP POLICY

Families whose children are not picked-up from school by 3:30pm on a regular dismissal day will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per minute per child for each minute beyond 3:30pm. On Half Days, students not picked up from school by 1:30pm will be charged a fee of \$35 (ESP Drop In Rate). The fees will be charged through TADS. This policy will go into effect on Monday, September 4th. (updated info)

**LATE DROP OFF POLICY: UPDATED** If a child arrives late more than 2 times per quarter, they will not be allowed to be considered for perfect attendance.

## ATTENTION WALKERS



**WALKER'S PASSES** will be required for those students who walk home (or to caregivers). Students who do not live in a surrounding neighborhood will not be issued a Walker's Pass and are expected to be picked up and dropped off on school property (translation—you may NOT park your car in a surrounding street and have your child meet you there). These rules apply to everyone and are enforced to keep children safe. Walker's Pass applications were sent home the first day of

**school and passes will be required on September 10th.**

## CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2021-2022

On August 26th, 2021, class placements for the 2021-2022 school year will be live on Plus Portals and posted inside the school on Informal Open House Day. Parents, families and students are welcome to come for Informal Open House on August 26th, 2021 from 9:00am to 10:30am. If you are new this year, you will receive information on how to access and register for this account. Once logged in, navigate to your child(ren)'s dashboard by clicking the More button to the right of your child's picture. You should see directly underneath your child's picture, the classes they are enrolled in. The first designation is their class placement. For example, the course listed is 2A Math that means they are in the 2A homeroom class. For students in PreK3, you already have your classroom placement.

## MANDATORY MIDDLE SCHOOL CHROMEBOOK MEETING - September 1st, 2021



We will be holding a Mandatory Middle School Chromebook Parent meeting on September 1st at 6pm in Nelson Hall. If you are unable to attend the in person meeting or do not wish to, there are 2 virtual meeting dates/times: September 2nd at 10am and September 2nd at 5pm. If you wish to attend a virtual meeting time, please complete this [registration form](#) and an email will be sent to you with Google Meet information. In this meeting, information about the Chrome book agreement will be shared. The Chrome book Agreement will be sent home on the first day of school for your review. We are then asking for your acknowledgement signature form to be returned by September 3rd either scanned/sent by email or sent in with your student. **YOUR CHILD(REN) WILL BE ISSUED A CHROMEBOOK UNTIL PARENT ATTENDANCE AT A CHROMEBOOK MEETING IS CONFIRMED AND THIS SIGNATURE PAGE IS TURNED IN; NO LOANERS WILL BE GIVEN IN THIS TIME PERIOD.** If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kolosky at [skolosky@stpiusbowie.org](mailto:skolosky@stpiusbowie.org)

## UNIFORMS

Carousel Uniforms will make deliveries once a week to school so you won't have to make the drive to Waldorf. You may contact Carousel directly with any questions regarding your student's uniform 301-843- 8884. Uniform requirements may be found on pages 18-20 in the Parent Student Handbook (found on our website).

We have 2 wonderful volunteers who have re-organized our Uniform Exchange inventory and they are open for business. Andrea Bramwell and Damali Martin are our Uniform Exchange co-coordinators. Mrs. Bramwell can be reached at 202-276-2436.

## NEWS FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

- Tuition and ESP payments must be paid on or before the due date each month. Failure to do so will result in withholding a student's progress report, report card, academic record, yearbook, etc.
- If your tuition and/or ESP account becomes overdue by 30 days, your child(ren) may not attend school until it is paid in cash or certified funds in the school office. If payment is made directly online to TADS, it must be paid 7 days prior to this 30-day deadline, so that the funds have time to clear the bank.
- There is no need to call us to confirm the status of your account; we see the same information as you on TADS. If your TADS account shows the payment was made and nothing is past due, then you are in good standing.
- Thank you to the many families who do pay their tuition on time each month! We truly appreciate it! As a token of our appreciation, a prize will be awarded to one family at the end of the year from all who have kept their tuition current every month all year! It is very time consuming to track down families to make their payments. We ask for your cooperation and understanding with this.

## PLEASE RETURN SCHOOL PAPERWORK

The following papers will be sent home with students on their first day of school and/or the informal Open House. We have noted if the paperwork will go home with each child or the youngest/only in the family.

\*2021-2022 Parent Student Handbook  
(youngest) - due September 10th

(youngest)

\*Family Information Card, BRIGHT GREEN  
(youngest)

\*2021-2022 School Calendar magnet  
(youngest)

\*Emergency Information/Health Card (each)

\*2021-2022 Archdiocese Family Survey  
(each family) - due September 8th

\*Milk Order Form (each) - ASAP

\*2021-2022 Walker's Pass Application

\*Room Parent Application (each)

### DON'T FORGET

**NO LUNCHES OR FORGOTTEN ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

**ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO GO DIRECTLY TO A CLASSROOM. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING MUST SIGN IN AND OUT AT THE RECEPTION DESK.**



## EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY

The release of a child for an early dismissal needs to occur before 2:30pm except in the case of an emergency. After 2:30pm it is disruptive and complicates our regular dismissal. Only a parent may pick up his or her child unless express written permission has been given to the school. If someone other than a parent is picking up a child we **MUST** have a note signed by the parent stating the name of the person picking up his or her child (even if the person is listed as a contact in the case of an emergency) and the date and time of the early dismissal. We will also ask for proper identification. No child will be released unless the School is certain that it is in accordance with the wishes of the parent.

It is very helpful to the teacher if a note is sent indicating that an early dismissal is necessary. This will cause less disruption and will allow for your child to be dismissed more quickly. Excuse pads will be given to each family for this purpose.

No early dismissals before holidays or last day of school. Also, no siblings will be released early when field trips return.

## EMERGENCY CLOSING/ DELAYED OPENING

In case of an emergency or severe weather, we will follow the decision of the Prince George's County Public Schools. However, if Prince George's County Public Schools begin late (whether one or two hours) on a scheduled half-day, St. Pius will **NOT** dismiss at 1:00 P.M., but at 3:00 P.M. Whenever school closes early, all after-school activities and meetings are cancelled. ESP (after care program) will operate on a modified schedule. For example, if school closes two hours early due to severe weather or other emergency, ESP will close two hours earlier than the normal time of 6:00 P.M.



Please listen to television and radio reports for all school closings or late openings. We recommend that you check [www.wtopnews.com](http://www.wtopnews.com), if possible, during inclement weather since WTOP's website typically has the most complete list of closing information. You may listen to WTOP on the radio at 103.5 FM. Also, you may check School Announcements on our website. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** If school closes early for any reason, please wait until the announced dismissal time to pick up your children. It is very disruptive to the teacher and other students when numerous children are being called from the classrooms for early dismissals.

**CELL PHONE ALERT FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** There is a service allowing you to receive emergency notifications directly on your cell phone anytime an alert is posted by the public school system. This is for the county public schools, but we do follow the decision of Prince George's County Public Schools in case of an emergency or severe weather. You may sign up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/PGCPS/subscriber/new> There is a cost to receive text message alerts, but email notifications are **FREE**. This is a very convenient and reliable way for you to receive emergency alerts and you won't need to call the school to check if we are closing.

\*Since St. Pius X Regional School is air-conditioned we will **NOT** close for excessive heat even if the Prince George's County Public Schools close.

## ALL ABOUT VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

At the time of enrollment and re-enrollment through TADS, each family agreed to the terms of our Volunteer Service Program (VSP). This requires families to either work the required number of volunteer hours (20 hours for a 2-parent household, or 10 hours for a single parent household), or make a monetary payment for the required hours. If you choose to work the required hours, you must submit volunteer hours electronically on our volunteer website called Track it Forward. All new families will need to create one account per family. Returning families can still use their current account. We would like to streamline the accounts to just one per family, so feel free to edit your first name to include both volunteering family members (ex. Mary and Joseph +last name) and delete your second account. Please remember to log your hours as soon as you complete them. Create an account here:

<https://www.trackitforward.com/site/st-pius-x-regional-school?type=register>.

Details about family VSP requirements can be found on pages 24—26 of the 2021-2022 Parent-Student Handbook.

If you wish to volunteer at St. Pius X School (field trips and other classroom activities), you must be compliant with the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Policies, called VIRTUS. To begin the process, complete the Volunteer Application (available at the Front desk with Mrs. Bechtel), and register for an account on VIRTUS at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Return the completed Application to Mrs. Bechtel (in the main office) and then call Mrs. Bechtel to schedule a time when you can come in to do an electronic background check. It should only take about ten minutes to complete and you will need to bring in two forms of identification. The final step is to register for a Child Protection Workshop class.

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

The logo for VIRTUS Online features a stylized cross icon to the left of the word "VIRTUS" in a bold, serif font, followed by "Online" in a cursive script font.

## Opportunity for Non-Catholic Parents - The Becoming Catholic Process:

Are you a non-Catholic parent raising a Catholic child? Do any of the following statements apply to you?

- I have a hard time answering my child's questions about religion and/or sacraments.
- I feel like I never learned enough about Jesus/God/Prayer/etc. and I want to catch up to my child.
- My family doesn't understand why we decided to send the kids to Catholic School, and I feel uncertain about how to reply.
- When I walk into a Catholic church with my family, I somehow feel at home.
- I'd like to receive the Sacraments with my child.
- I've been thinking about becoming Catholic for a while, but I have never found the "right time."

Each year parishes offer a process for adults who are wondering if becoming Catholic is a good fit for them, known as the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). This process of



exploration takes place over several months, is open to anyone who is not Catholic (or was baptized Catholic but never finished sacraments). It is open-ended, meaning that if you begin and discover that you are no longer interested in continuing, you are not obligated to finish.

For more info and to get started, you can read more at [www.spxbowie.org/rcia](http://www.spxbowie.org/rcia) or contact your home parish:

St. Pius X - Call Jen Mayer at 301-262-2141 x12  
Sacred Heart - Call the parish office at 301-262-0704  
Ascension Parish - Call the parish office at 301-262-2227  
St. Edwards - Call the parish office at 301-249-9199

Also, at St. Pius Church, an info session will be held on Wednesday Sept 1, 2021 at 7 PM in the Faith Center, to provide more detail and answer any questions you have.

## YOU SHOP AND WE GET PAID - HELP US EARN \$\$

Your shopping can help St. Pius X earn money! These fundraisers bring in thousands of dollars to our school each year and don't cost you a cent. Thank you to those families who participate in these fundraisers now. Your efforts are much appreciated! Thank you in advance to those families who will follow the simple steps below to begin participation.

**AMAZON SMILE REWARDS PROGRAM:** You probably already shop online at Amazon, and now you can help support SPX simply by using the special link here. [Shop on Amazon.com](http://Shop on Amazon.com). Our unique School Rewards link will take you directly to Amazon, where you can browse and shop just as you normally would. Each month, Amazon will pay us 5% or more of all purchases made by shoppers who reached Amazon through our link. Please support us by bookmarking this [link](#) in your internet browser - then making it the first link you click each time you shop at Amazon. And be sure to pass it on to your friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances, and anyone else who might like to help us raise funds by shopping at Amazon.



**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:** This program allows our school to collect box tops/labels of food and

household products and redeem them for cash. Simply check the items you buy at the grocery store/ Target/Wal-Mart for Box Tops for Education labels. You will find the labels on dozens of different types of products like: food/drink, paper products, office supplies, cleaning supplies, food storage, tableware and many more. Once purchased, please cut the labels off and return them to school. Don't forget to check the expiration date, as we cannot get credit for expired labels. We will earn 10¢ for every label. St. Pius X can also earn cash

from Bonus Certificates, which can be found primarily in stores on specially marked packages and at checkout printed on a receipt. These vary on value based on the promotion. Bonus codes begin with the letter A. Also look for eBox Tops Codes, which are a 16 digit eBoxTops code that is printed on the product. You would be surprised at how many products you buy every day carry a Box Tops for Education label.



**HARRIS TEETER 'S TOGETHER IN EDUCATION PROGRAM:** This programs translates your spending at Harris Teeter to rewards for SPX. We need YOU to register and it's easy and it's FREE. Simply give the cashier our code, 4154, and your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire school year. That's it! You only have to link your VIC card once each school year. Once your card is linked, St. Pius X Regional School will receive a percentage of your Harris Teeter brand (Harris Teeter, H.T. Traders, Harris Teeter Organics, HT Farmers Market and purchases in the HT Pharmacy) purchases credited back to our account. This program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you any money! Don't forget to link your VIC card to our account code next time you are shopping at Harris Teeter.



Your purchases at Amazon Smile, Box Tops and Harris Teeter this holiday season (and all year long) will directly support our school! Thanks in advance for your help.

## ACRONYM GLOSSARY

Are you new to St. Pius X and unfamiliar with our acronyms? Here is a quick list of our most used abbreviations:

*ADW - Archdiocese of Washington*

*CYO - Catholic Youth Organization*

*ESP - Extended School Program (before and aftercare)  
Obligation*

*HSPT - High School Placement Test*

*SSC - Student Support Center*

*CFA - Chick-fil-A*

*HSA - Home and School Association*

*FSO - Fundraising Support*

*SAB - School Advisory Board*

*TADS - Tuition Management Company*

Our Regional Parishes:

St. Pius X Catholic Church  
14720 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20715 301-262-2141  
<http://www.spxbowie.org/>

Sacred Heart Parish  
16501 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20715 301-262-0704  
<http://www.sacredheartbowie.org>

Ascension Catholic Church  
12700 Lanham Severn Road Bowie, MD 20720 301-262-2227  
<http://www.ascensionbowie.com>

St. Edward the Confessor  
1940 Mitchellville Road Bowie, MD 20716 301-249-9199  
[www.stedwardbowie.com](http://www.stedwardbowie.com)

*VSP - Volunteer Service Program*