



St. Pius X Regional School News Notes September 2nd, 2021



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PACK THE LUNCH BOX FOOD DRIVE

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

Monday, September 6

- *No School - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7

- *Band Demonstration Day for Grades 4-8 - Nelson Hall
- *Main & Market Lunch Program Starts

Wednesday, September 8

- *Early Dismissal - 11:30am for PreK, 12:00pm for K-8

Tuesday, September 14

- *DeMatha/Seton HS Visit 8th Grade ONLY - 10:20am
- *Class Mass 5th-7th Grades - 10:30am
- *Back to School Night for PARENTS of 5th-8th Graders - 7:00pm

Thursday, September 16

- *Back to School Night for PARENTS of PK-4th Graders - 7:00pm

Friday, September 17

- *Welcome Back BBQ - 5:30pm - 8:00pm - back parking lot

September is the month where students return to school and many families in our region could use some additional help with putting together school lunches for their children. St. Pius X Regional School will be collecting supplemental food items, such as applesauce, diced fruit cups, granola bars, chips, gummy fruit snacks, and cookie and cracker packs to donate to our church food pantry. Food items must be professionally and individually wrapped. Please give generously. Lunch is such an important event during the school day, both for nourishment and for a midday pick-me-up. We will be collecting food donations from September 1 to September 20. There will be a collection box placed outside the school doors each day during school hours for the duration of the drive. Students may also bring food donations into their homeroom for collection by the Student Support Center (SSC), who is sponsoring this food drive.

We have this hope as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure, and goes through the curtain of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary. (Heb 6:19 GNT)

Looking for an opportunity to get involved at St. Pius and earn VSP hours? Apply to be a Room Parent today!

Room Parents are one of the many ways that we support and celebrate our students, faculty and staff throughout the year. SPX Room Parents coordinate and assist our teachers in planning and conducting holiday parties (middle school lunches) and special events as requested by the teacher, as well as specific grade level events. The number of parties / lunches / events varies from grade to grade. Room Parents assist with Field Day activities as well as the baskets for the Gala and Fun Day. More details can be found on the application form (attached). Applications are due Friday, September 10th to your child's teacher. Questions? Contact Katie Skerpon at spxroomparents@gmail.com

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.

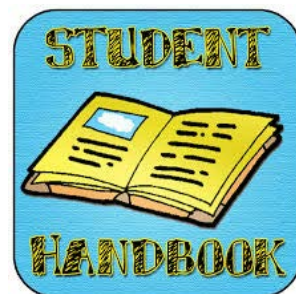
SUMMER IXL AND READING



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 27th. Click [here](#) for Summer Work information. Please be advised any IXL Math work that is done before June 11th will be erased.

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.


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.

 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 milkservice begins September 1st for students in grades 1-8. Pre-K - K students will have milk service starts September 2nd.

Drop In Aftercare

At this time, Drop in aftercare will no longer be available on half days. Drop in will still be available for full days starting September 13, 2021. The sign up genius link to register for drop in aftercare is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a82aa1fe3-aftercare>

Family Survey

This survey is vital to secure services both for our school and those in the county. It is essential to have every family complete the poverty survey. Each form is confidential. Only complete one survey per family, but be sure to include grade levels for all of your children attending our school. Please fill out the survey and send it back to school no later than September 8, 2021.

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.

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.

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)

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.

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

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.

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.

 **VIRTUS**[®] *Online*

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](#). 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.



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, this scholarship may be for

you.

Each year more than 165,400 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

The 2021-22 theme is: How Can I Be a Good American?

Deadline: midnight, Oct. 31, 2021

If you would like to apply, please contact Commander Megan Bogley, Bowie Memorial Post #8065 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Her email is vfw8065commander@gmail.com or (301) 974-2676. She will provide the rules and eligibility requirements and the nomination form. Note, you can also view this information at the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program

Each year, the VFW presents an elementary, middle and high school teacher with its Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award to recognize them for their outstanding commitment to teach and promote America's history, traditions and citizenship.

VFW Posts nominate their top local candidate in each category to their (state) Department, which then selects a candidate from each category to submit to VFW National Headquarters. The national Department winners in each grade category will receive a VFW National citation for both themselves, and their school.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. From planning field trips to city hall and organizing community volunteer projects, to inviting veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences and teachers who foster the development of democratic values and beliefs through unique projects, if you know of such a teacher nominate them today.

Nomination deadline: midnight, Oct. 31, 2021

If you would like to nominate a teacher, please contact Commander Megan Bogley, Bowie Memorial Post #8065 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Her email is vfw8065commander@gmail.com or (301) 974-2676. She will provide the rules and eligibility requirements and the nomination form. Note, you can also view this information at the VFW website: <https://vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP IN BOWIE

Girls ages 5 - 18 years old are invited to join the Bowie American Heritage Girls Troop MD0340! American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered character, leadership and adventure organization for girls. Our mission is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. The program emphases include Faith, Leadership, Outdoors, Life Skills , Citizenship, and Social/Emotional. We have lots of fun while learning important life skills, all through the lens of scripture and faith. Girls are welcome to visit our Troop to see what AHG is all about!

Our Troop meets at Ascension twice a month on Monday afternoons during the school year.

For more information or to visit our troop, contact Troop Coordinator Maria Murphy by email: ahg0340bowie@gmail.com

St. Pius X CYO (SPX CYO)

The purpose of CYO Athletics is to provide and promote recreational activity, which, by its nature will lead toward the development of Christian ideals in the youth served. The CYO is a parish organization and as such open to all students attending St. Pius X Regional school and members of St. Pius X Church, Ascension Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church. In the spirit of CYO, all registered student athletes will be assigned to a team regardless of ability.

SPX CYO currently has open seats on its board, and is actively seeking Virtus certified individuals to fill these positions. The organization is entirely parent volunteer-run and thus needs your support. If you are an interested individual, please contact CYO President, Megan Bogley, at m_bogley@hotmail.com, or (301) 974-2676. Board members receive VSP hours.

Board Positions to be filled:

1. Treasurer.

Incumbent: The current incumbent is Mrs. Lori Walsh, loriwalsh0407@gmail.com. The new incumbent will “shadow” Mrs. Walsh as soon as possible, and assume full responsibilities during the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.

Roles/Responsibilities: The SPX CYO Treasurer works closely with the St. Pius X School and Church to track, record and reconcile all cash inflows and outflows. The Treasurer authorizes payment for invoices, executes refunds and reconciles the account ledger with a transaction report monthly. The Treasurer does not handle cash, but rather works through the School and Church to receive and issue funds. The majority of the work can be done remotely.

1. Virtus Certifier.

Incumbent: The position is vacant. The new incumbent will “shadow” with a CYO Board member, and assume full responsibilities during the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.

Roles/Responsibilities: The SPX CYO Virtus Certifier responsible for ensuring all board members (including commissioners), coaches and assistants are virtue cleared/certified and trained. The Board member also ensures all listed above have all the required training, as defined by Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). The Board member will notify the CYO President and Commissioner if any of the above listed folks are not within these standards. The incumbent also validates that the children registered to participate in SPX CYO activities are eligible.

3) Commissioners:

Roles / Responsibilities: Each SPX CYO sport is assigned a commissioner who is responsible for the management of the overall sport program and serves as the liaison with the ADW CYO. Some commissioner responsibilities for example, include: securing field/court time and locations, developing practice schedules and coordinating game times. After the coaches, the commissioner is the next line of communication for parents and guardians.

- a. Soccer: The current incumbent is Mrs. Candace Walls, candace.walls@gmail.com. The new commissioner will “shadow” Mrs. Walls during the fall 2021 soccer

season, and assume full responsibilities during the 2022-2023 school year.

- a. **Basketball:** This position is vacant. The new commissioner will “shadow” with a CYO Board member, and assume full responsibilities during the 2022-2023 school year.
- a. **Cross-Country / Track and Field Commissioner:** The current incumbent is the CYO President, Mrs. Megan Bogley, m_bogley@hotmail.com. The new commissioner will “shadow” Mrs. Bogley during the fall cross-country season, and assume full responsibilities during spring 2022.
- a. **Baseball:** This position is vacant. The new commissioner will “shadow” with Mrs. Suzie Sweeney, slsweeney@kepro.com, and Ms. Jennifer Murphy, snoopyvrb@gmail.com, during the spring 2022 season. The new commissioner will assume full responsibilities during the 2022-2023 school year.

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

VSP - Volunteer Service Program

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.stewardbowie.com