



St. Pius X Regional School News Notes



August 30, 2018



WELCOME BACK!



A big welcome to our new and returning students! It is going to be a great year and we hope you are as excited about it as we are!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 30

- *Classes begin for Designated PreK and K students 8:30-11:00
- *First full day of school for grades 1-8
- *Milk service begins for students in grades 1-8
- *ESP (morning care and aftercare) begins for students in grades 1-8

Friday, August 31

- *Classes begin for Designated PreK students 8:30-11:00
- *First Full day of school for K students
- *Milk service begins for student in K
- *ESP (morning care and aftercare) begins for students in K

Monday, September 3

- *No School, Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 4

- *First full day of school for PK students
- *First day of lunch deliveries from Main & Market
- *ESP (morning care and aftercare) begins for students in PK
- *Band Demonstrations 8:30-12:00

Thursday, September 6

- *Middle School Parent Meeting (Mandatory), 7:00pm in Nelson Hall

Friday, September 7

- *Early dismissal
 - *1:00pm for grades K-8
 - *12:30pm for PK

Monday, September 10

- *Tuition Due to TADS Tuition Management

Tuesday, September 11

- *Back to School Night for gr. 5-8 PARENTS, 7p

Please check the school calendar for more information:

<http://www.stpiusbowie.org/school-life/calendar/>

ARE YOU RECEIVING SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS?

1. 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 the office.



2. REDIKER PLUS PORTALS: Rediker PlusPortals gives you secure access to your child's grades, scores, attendance, discipline record and homework. Parents can also access school announcements, alerts, parent directory, and the school calendar. This platform will create a strong connection between school and family by sharing information that is critical to students' success and learning. New families should have received an email with instructions. Returning families will still have access to their prior account with their same username and password. For interactive guides on how to use the Parent Portal, click here: <http://redikersupport.com/documentation/parentplus.htm>. We are currently not using the E-Locker function.



TEXT MESSAGES: If you are not receiving text messages or are new to St. Pius, we recommend you take advantage of the St. Pius X School SMS text messaging service. Get the message about our school closings sent directly to your phone instead of watching the news for updates. To participate and receive alerts on your cell, just text Y, Yes, or OPTIN to **67587**. With this service, you will receive text messages notifying you of inclement weather, safety alerts, or other important information impacting our school. You can opt-out from alerts at any time – just reply with STOP to any message, or HELP if you need assistance. Your privacy is important - your information will not be sold or provided to third parties. Message and/ or data rates may apply.

LUNCH TIME - ORDER NOW FOR OCTOBER

St. Pius X Regional School is working with Main & Market to provide a healthy portion controlled lunches 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. Credits on file from last year have carried over to this school year. Boonli has updated the look of their program, and they have made the program even more user-friendly. Each lunch costs \$5.25 and you have the option of ordering an extra entrée for just an additional \$1.50. 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 was until 8/26 and is now closed. **October lunch orders must be placed by September 12th.** Late orders may be placed from the 13th to the 15th of each month for the following month. If you are interested in ordering from Main & Market, you will need to register online at <https://mainandmarket.boonli.com> with our school password of CAVALIER22. Lunch order deliveries will begin on September 4th for those who have ordered by August 26th. 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 were sent home at the informal Open house on Thursday, August 23rd or the first day of school. The first day of milk service began today for students in grades 1-8. K students will have milk service starting tomorrow, Friday, August 31st.



Information about special lunches such as Chick-fil-A day and Pizza day will be sent home soon. Special lunch days will start in October.



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.

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. **For those children walking to and from school, there will no longer be a crossing guard to cross the children in the morning or afternoon. Mrs. Schrom will cross the students in the afternoon, but it will be the parents' responsibility to cross students in the morning.**

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 28th.



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). You may also find the [Boys' Uniform Order Form](#) and [Girls' Uniform Order Form](#) on our website under the Parent tab in the forms section.



We have 2 wonderful volunteers who have re-organized our Uniform Exchange inventory and they are open for business. Renunda Lee and Shirley Williams are our Uniform Exchange co-coordinators. Mrs. Lee can be reached at leers28@hotmail.com and Mrs. Williams may be reached by phone at 215-510-2916. Please note these contacts are slightly changed from what was listed in our Parent Student Handbook.

2018-2019 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. If it is ever necessary to change the school calendar, you will be notified via News Notes.

HEALTH ROOM NOTES

New students, 7th graders and Kindergarten Parents:

Please make sure you have submitted updated immunization records for this school year. All 7th graders need to have a Meningococcal vaccine (MCV) and a Tdap vaccine. All Kindergarteners need to have 2MMR and 2 Varicella. You may bring in a hard copy, send the document electronically to mbenson@stpiusbowie.org, or fax to 301-805-8875, Attn: SPX Health Room.

Thank you,

Meghan Benson RN, BSN, CPN

PLEASE RETURN SCHOOL PAPERWORK

The following papers were 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. Please return completed paperwork by Tuesday, September 4th.

*2018-2019 [Parent Student Handbook](#) (youngest)

*2018-2019 School Calendar magnet (youngest)

*2018-2019 Archdiocese Family Survey (each)

*2018-2019 [Walker's Pass Application](#) (youngest)

*[Family Information Card](#), blue (youngest)

*Emergency Information/Health Card, green (each)

*[Milk Order Form](#) (each)

*[Room Parent Application](#) (each)

PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

Parents were issued a 2018-2019 [Parent Student Handbook](#) at the Informal Open House on Thursday, August 23rd. If parents were unable to attend the Open House, students brought home the Handbook on the first day of school. Parents may also find the handbook on our website under the School Life tab (posted after August 23rd). 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 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.



ALL ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT MEETING (MANDATORY) - SEPTEMBER 6

There will be a mandatory meeting of all parents with Middle School students (grades 6-8) on Thursday, September 6th. Please meet in Nelson hall at 7:00pm.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT FOR GRADES 5-8 - SEPTEMBER 11

Back to School Night for Parents of Middle School Students in grades 5-8 will be on Tuesday, September 11th, at 7:00pm.

Back to school nights are for parents only and children may not attend.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 20

Parents of all 7th and 8th grade students are invited to come to St. Pius X Regional School on Thursday, September 20th, for an informational meeting concerning the application process to Catholic High Schools.

This meeting will take place in Nelson Hall at 7:00pm.

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Welcome back to St. Pius X School for the 2018-19 school year! All families are welcome to join us for our annual BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ on FRIDAY, **September 21 from 5:00 to 8:00pm** in the school's back parking lot.



Celebrate the start of the new school year by enjoying music, free hamburgers/hot dogs, and fun! New families are especially welcome, as these events are a great way of making new friends and meeting other parents. Please park in the front of the school as the back lot will be closed for the event. Please bring your own drinks and sides. RSVP on the Sign-Up Genius link below. You can also sign up to help and start earning your VSP hours! Hope to see you there!

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/2mf1Wj>

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 pickup 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.

Know the Rules



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 chose 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>.

STEP 1

If you have any questions, please contact Nanette Lowe at nanette_lowe@yahoo.com. Details about family VSP requirements can be found on pages 24—26 of the 2018-2019 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.

STEP 2

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

VIRTUS® Online

A Child Protection Workshop will be offered at St. Pius X Regional School at 6:30 on Monday, September 24th, in Nelson Hall. It is mandatory that all volunteers who will have contact with students attend a Child Protection Workshop offered by the Archdiocese of Washington. You must sign-up online to attend this workshop. You may choose to take a class offered at another location in the Archdiocese of Washington if it is more convenient for you. There are several being offered throughout September and October. **THERE ARE VERY FEW SPOTS LEFT FOR THIS DATE!!**

STEP 3

NOTE: Please arrive early to sign-in before the workshop begins. This workshop will start promptly at 6:30 pm. If you arrive after the workshop has started you are late and will not be allowed to attend this workshop. CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED to attend this workshop and child care is not provided.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity for this school year? Please consider volunteering in the school library! **TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED.** You do not have to choose your student's scheduled library time, but may if you would like to. Multiple volunteers for the same class will rotate duties each month. In addition to scheduled class times, Ms. Feronti needs volunteers each morning from 8:30-9:30am to check in and re-shelve books and to monitor study hall from 11:45am-12:45pm most afternoons. Choose one of the times or more!

Volunteer schedule may change each quarter, and you may choose different volunteer times to accommodate your schedule. Second thru fourth quarters will be arranged via www.signupgenius.com. Volunteering in the library is a yearlong commitment. You must be compliant with the Child Protection Policy to volunteer in the school library. Please contact Ms. Feronti at 301-262-0203 x13 or eferonti@stpiusbowie.org.

PURSE BINGO - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

Our Home and School Association is hosting the first Purse Bingo of the year on Friday, September 28th, from 7:00 to 10:30pm in Nelson Hall (doors open at 5:30pm). If you are 18 years or older, please join us for a fun filled evening to support our school. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket and includes 20 games, door prizes, raffles, and jackpots. Prizes include prizes by Coach, Vera Bradley, Michael Kors, Alex and Ani, and Thirty-One. Food will be available for purchase in the kitchen. Volunteers are needed on Bingo Night. Please call Brian Trice if you are able to help 240-882-3170. VSP hours will be awarded.



CYO UPDATES



CYO would like to give a warm welcome to new and returning SPX CYO families! We're looking forward to another great SPX CYO year in sports!

SOCCER

- Soccer practices have started for many of our teams. Please contact the ACTING SOCCER COMMISSIONER: Jawara Marierose, at jawara@gmail.com if you are unsure of your child's team assignment and/or coach.
- Soccer uniform distribution will be **Wednesday, September 5th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Nelson Hall**. Please remember to bring a uniform deposit of \$100.00, in the form of a check made payable to SPX CYO. The check will be returned to you when the uniform is returned to SPX CYO at the end of the season.
- Games for the 14U and 12U teams begin the weekend of September 7th.
- Games for the 10U, 8U and 7U teams begin the weekend of September 14th

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

If you still have a uniform, **Wednesday, September 5th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in Nelson Hall**, will be your last opportunity to return it for your deposit check. Please keep in mind, if your child will be playing soccer, you will need to return your baseball/softball uniform before you are issued a soccer uniform. *Thank you!*

For those new to CYO (Catholic Youth Organization): CYO programs seek to help young men and women appreciate Christ's presence in their opponents, use their physical gifts and play fairly and enthusiastically, both on and off the field. At St. Pius X Regional School, we offer Boy's and Girl's Basketball, Soccer, Cross Country, Track and Field, Baseball, and Softball. Player registration for these sports occurs throughout the school year. Visit us on our Facebook Page, [@SPXCYOBowie](https://www.facebook.com/SPXCYOBowie), follow us on twitter [@SPX_CYO](https://twitter.com/SPX_CYO) or visit our website at www.stpiusbowiecyo.com to see what's happening with SPX CYO.

FAMILY DIRECTORY



Our family directory is online in your Parent Portal. The directory is searchable by student name and class. For directions on how to remove yourself from the directory, view this video: <http://redikersupport.com/documentation/videos/plusportals/parentplus-customize-directory-listing.htm>.

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.

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, 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.

The telephone broadcast system that we use at St. Pius X Regional School enables us to notify all households and parents by phone within minutes of an emergency or unplanned event that causes early dismissal, school cancellation or late start. **NOTE:** Because we follow the decision of the Prince George's County Public Schools in the event of inclement weather, we do NOT use this service to announce such events when PGCPS system is in session. The service may also be used from time-to-time to communicate general announcements or reminders. When used, the service will simultaneously call all phone numbers in our parent contact lists and will deliver a recorded message from a school administrator. The service will deliver the message to both live answer and answering machines.

*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.

As per the article on page 1 of this edition of News Notes, you will also be notified of school closings by text message if you have opted IN for the SMS text messaging service program.

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.

1. **Giant A+ Rewards**: Simply register your Giant reward card in the Giant A+ Food Reward Program. Once you complete the card registration, each time you use your GIANT CARD, your purchases are credited to our school. Giant will make a donation at the end of the school year based on a percentage of your total year's purchase. New this year: If you registered your card last year, you **DO NOT** need to re-register this year. You should visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. **Our school A+ School Rewards ID # 00425**



To participate:

Visit www.giantfood.com/aplus and scroll down to the center of the page to select **REGISTER YOUR CARD** from the red box on the right marked **FOR CUSTOMERS**; or,

Call the A+ School Rewards Hotline at 1-877-275-2758 for assistance; or,

Email the A+ Hotline. Please include the last name associated with your GIANT CARD, your 12-digit GIANT CARD number and our school name and school ID number* of our school (or the name, city and state in which the school is located) to:

askaplus@cranecommunications.com.

* If you are supporting more than one (1) school, please include the ID numbers for both schools (or the names, cities and states of your schools).



2. **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.

3. **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**:

household products and redeem them for cash. Simply Box Tops for Education labels. You will find the labels products, office supplies, cleaning supplies, food storage, table ware 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



This program allows our school to collect box tops/labels of food and check the items you buy at the grocery store/ Target/Wal-Mart for on dozens of different types of products like: food/drink, paper

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.



4. **HARRIS TEETER'S TOGETHER IN EDUCATION PROGRAM**: This program 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, Giant Food, 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)

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 Obligation

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

<http://stedwardbowie.com>