



The Spirit of Gratitude

A Message from Principal Todora...

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings that surround our Catholic school community. It is a joy to witness the spirit of thankfulness and generosity that prevails among our students and families.



Thanksgiving is a time for reflection and appreciation, and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our school community. Your commitment to our shared values, your support of our educational mission, and your dedication to fostering a nurturing environment make our school truly special.

*****Giving Thanks for Academic Achievements:*****

Our students continue to excel academically, and it is inspiring to see their enthusiasm for learning. I want to commend our teachers for their tireless efforts and the students for their hard work and commitment to their studies.

*****Gratitude for Faith Formation:*****

At the heart of our school is our commitment to faith formation. I am thankful for our dedicated teachers, who guide our students on their spiritual journey, helping them grow in their understanding of our Catholic faith.

*****Thanksgiving Reflection on Family*****

Our families are the cornerstone of our school community, providing unwavering support, encouragement, and a nurturing environment for our students. Your commitment to partnering with us in the education and character development of your children is invaluable. As we gather around tables to share in the abundance of Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to express gratitude for the love, strength, and unity that our school families bring to our community.

*****Appreciation for Our Dedicated Staff*****

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our remarkable staff, whose dedication and passion shape the daily experiences of our students. From our talented teachers who inspire a love for learning to our support staff who contribute tirelessly behind the scenes, your unwavering commitment to our school's mission is truly commendable. The positive impact you have on our students' lives is immeasurable, and for that, we are profoundly thankful.

In the spirit of gratitude, I want to extend my deepest appreciation for your continued partnership. Our school thrives because of the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, supportive parents, generous donors, and enthusiastic students.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with joy, love, and moments of reflection on the blessings that surround us.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving! *Principal Todora*



Vocations Day

Mr. Hopfinger's 6th grade Religion class attended the Madison County St. Serra Club's Vocations Day on Nov. 7th at Holy Angels Church in Wood River. They joined together with Bishop Paprocki and area students in the Alton Deanery for Mass, prayer, and fun learning about the power of love and its key to the Gates of Heaven. Mrs. Todora and Father Pat were also there to support our students on their journey through the faith.



Honoring Our Veterans



The SPS community came together to honor veterans in two special events. On November 10th, we held a special Mass where our chorus sang a medley of military songs and the veterans received a blessing and gifts from our students. Then, on November 12th, our St. Paul Band and Chorus prepared music for the City of Highland Veterans Day Parade and presentation at the Square. Our students put on a great show to honor all those who have served.



Breaking News

Our eighth grade class welcomed Emily Manley, a former St. Paul School student and current chief capitol bureau reporter at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, on Monday, Nov 13th. Emily shared valuable insights into the field of journalism and the path she took to achieve her current position. Thanks for visiting, Emily!



Pray for our Students!

First Reconciliation (2nd Grade)

- Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 @ 10 a.m.-St. Paul Church

First Communion/Confirmation (3rd Grade)

- Saturday, Mar. 23, 2024 @ 10 a.m.-Cathedral Springfield, IL



Viking Night

Saturday, January 24, 2024
Highland K of C Hall

Have you signed up to Volunteer?

We are only a few months away from our largest annual fundraiser, the Viking Night Dinner Auction! With an event this big, we need A LOT of volunteers.

Please sign up to volunteer [HERE](#) or visit

www.stpaulvikings.org/vikingnight. For more ways to help, please see the [LETTER](#) that was sent home with students earlier this month.

Special thanks to our 2024 Chairs: Kirby Klostermann & Jenna Kampwerth, and Assistant Chairs, Heather Hulvey & Angie Daley

The Votes are In!

Mrs. Ransick's Kindergarten class exercised their right to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7th. A mock polling station was created and students were given the option to vote for having a snack or an extra recess. Extra recess won by a landslide!



“How are you inspired by America?”

Congratulations to our 7th grade VFW's Patriot's Pen essay winners! 1st Place: Ava Klostermann; 2nd Place: Emma Meyer; 3rd Place: Kylie Marti.

Ava's essay will move on to the district competition. Way to go girls!!



St. Paul School Day at

Domino's Pizza

Tuesday, November 28th

Giving Tuesday!



A percentage of the proceeds will benefit St. Paul School.

<https://www.dominos.com/en/>

You must mention St. Paul School when ordering!

Dominos

12545 State Route 143

Highland

Business hours:


10:30AM – 12:00AM



St. Paul Catholic School

Cafeteria Menu

December 2023

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
				1 1: Cheese Pizza 2: Grilled Cheese Tossed Salad Sliced Apples
4 1: Nachos & Cheese 2: Pretzels & Cheese Baby Carrots w/ Ranch Peaches	5 1: French Toast Sticks 2: Yogurt Parfait Sausage Hash Brown Apple Juice	6 1: Grilled Cheese 2: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup w/ Crackers Pineapples	7 1: Orange Chicken w/ Rice & Egg Roll 2: Corn Dog Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	8 1: Cheese Pizza 2: Fish on Bun Tossed Salad Sliced Apples
11 1: Breaded Chicken Sandwich 2: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tater Tots Applesauce	12 1: Biscuit & Gravy 2: Bagel & Cream Cheese Sausage Hash Brown Apple Juice	13 1: Cheeseburger 2: Hot Dog Butter Garlic Noodles Mixed Fruit	14 1: Chicken Nuggets 2: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Banana	15 1: Cheese Pizza 2: Grilled Cheese Tossed Salad Sliced Apples
18 1: Bosco Sticks 2: Toasted Ravioli w/ Marinara Sauce Green Beans Pineapples	19 1: Chicken Strips 2: Mini Corn Dogs Fries Peaches	20 Cafeteria Closed for Christmas Vacation! Early Dismissal at 11:35 a.m.	21 No School	22 No School
25 	26 Have	27 A	28 Merry	29 Christmas!
30 No School				

School Lunch: \$4 (Does not include milk); Choose Option #1 or #2

White or Chocolate Milk: \$.50 ea.

A La Carte Fruit and Extra sides: \$.50 ea.

Extra Entree: \$1 (Must be purchased with entree order.)

Snack of the Day: \$.75 ea. (Limit one per student) For Grades 2nd - 8th ONLY

Menu subject to change. All items will be charged to the student's FACTS account during the school day.

A La Carte Items will vary depending on availability.



Get In On Some Court Action!



Go! Fight!! Win!!!

**STUDENT
PEP RALLY**
NOV. 30TH @ 2:15 P.M.
WEAR HOUSE COLORS
WITH DRESS CODE
BOTTOMS!



Don't miss a game! Check out our [sport calendar](#) to stay up to date!




PACK THE GYM

8TH GRADE NIGHT

Join us in cheering on the Vikings as they face off against the St. Elizabeth Royals!

November 30, 2023
7:30 p.m.
St. Paul Gym
(8th grade recognitions will be held before their game.)

Play begins at 5:30 p.m. for 6th & 7th grade girls and 6:30 p.m. for the 6th grade boys.

Chick-fil-A and concessions will be available for purchase.



Join Us In The Parade!

Please join us in the Highland Christmas parade on Friday, November 24th! St. Paul School will have a float in the parade, and students and parents are encouraged to ride with us on the float or walk alongside. The theme for the parade is Christmas in Toyland. Students are invited to dress as toys or in Christmas attire. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m., and the line-up will be starting at 6 p.m. in front of the Highland Primary School at 1600 Lindenthal Ave. The parade will end at the square.

*The Chamber has shared the following rules: * Floats should have a minimum of 2 volunteers walking in front of float * Candy should be passed out by walkers and NOT thrown from the float * Riders on float remain on float until the end of the parade (end of Laurel Street) * There is only one Santa in the parade (on the Chamber float) – please no imposters!*



Kellsie's Hope Pizza Party



Mrs. Strieker's third grade class was awarded a pizza party for raising the most money during the October fundraiser for Kellsie's Hope. Look at all that "cheese"!



GIVING TUESDAY

Remember St. Paul Catholic School this Giving Tuesday on November 28th! Donations can be made through Venmo: @stpaulparishhighland or by sending to the School at 1416 Main St., Highland, IL 62249.

We appreciate your support!

SPS Supports HACSM for the Holidays

The SPS Student Council held a food drive on Tuesday, Nov. 21st. **635 pounds of food was donated to the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry!** Donations will be given to families in need throughout the holidays. Thank you for your generous donations!





Dates Set for Christmas Concerts

Preparations are underway in the music room for our Christmas Concerts! Save the dates!

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Concert at 6:30 p.m. in Church. 1st Grade will perform the Nativity Play.

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 4th-8th Band and Chorus Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Church and Trinity Hall. Chorus will perform at 7:00 p.m. in Church, followed immediately by the 4th Grade Band and 5th-8th Grade Band in Trinity Hall.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - Pre3, JK, and K Concert at 6:30 p.m. in Church.



6th Grade Wax Museum

Mrs. Horan's 6th-grade class held a wax museum presentation on Oct. 30th to commemorate All Saints' Day. Each student selected a Saint to study and learned about their life and achievements. Using their research, students wrote speeches about their Saint and presented to classes. To imitate a real wax museum, students dressed up in their Saint costumes and presented in front of a background they designed.

The "museum" was open to the public that evening in the Parish Hall.

Preschool/JK vision & hearing testing will take place on Wed., Dec. 6th. If your child is to be screened, please make sure to turn in the form that was sent home with your student last week. They must have a completed form to be screened!





Looking Ahead...

NOVEMBER 22-24

No School - Thanksgiving Holiday

NOVEMBER 24

Highland Lighted Christmas Parade

NOVEMBER 28

Domino's Fundraiser

NOVEMBER 30

Pep Rally - Wear House Colors

DECEMBER 1

8:20 a.m. Mass
1:35 p.m. Dismissal; No PM bus

DECEMBER 2

2nd Grade 1st Reconciliation @ 10 a.m.

DECEMBER 5

1-3 Grade Concert @ 6:30 p.m. in Church

DECEMBER 6

Preschool-JK Vision/Hearing Testing

DECEMBER 7

4-8 Grade Band & Chorus Concert
@ 7 p.m. in Church and Trinity Hall

DECEMBER 8

8:20 a.m. Mass

DECEMBER 12

Preschool-Kindergarten Concert
@ 6:30 p.m. in Church

DECEMBER 13

Michael's Coffee Fundraiser

DECEMBER 15

8:20 a.m. Mass

DECEMBER 20

8:20 a.m. Mass w/ Nativity
Christmas Parties from 10:15-11:15 a.m.
No PM Bus; No VKC
End of Q2

DECEMBER 21-JANUARY 3

No School - Christmas Break

Contact Information

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1416 Main Street

Highland, IL 62249

TEL: 618-654-7525

FAX: 618-654-8795

www.stpaulvikings.org

SCHOOL HOURS:

School Office: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Preschool: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Grades K-8: 8:15 am - 3:15 pm

Fr. Pat Jakel - Pastor

pjakel@stpaulhighland.org

Mrs. Haidee Todora - Principal

htodora@stpaulhighland.org

Mrs. Renee Mitchell - Vice Principal

rmitchell@stpaulhighland.org

Mrs. Stephanie Kuhn - Office Admin.

officeadmin@stpaulhighland.org

Mrs. Debbie Koishor - Office Manager

dkoishor@stpaulhighland.org

Mrs. Lori Lucia - Viking Kid Care

llucia@stpaulhighland.org



7th grade science experiment with worms!

“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above.”

James 1:17