



Harvest Blessings

A Message from Principal Todora...

As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, we are reminded of the transformative power of growth and change. Just as the trees shed their leaves to prepare for a season of renewal, we too can take this opportunity to reflect on our own personal and spiritual growth and renewal. It is through your prayers, involvement, and commitment that we are afforded the opportunity to provide our students with a community filled with hope and love.



Together, we can embrace the opportunities for growth, learning, and renewal that the fall season offers. Our dedicated teaching staff works tirelessly to provide a high-quality education that is rooted in our Catholic faith. With a 16% growth in enrollment over the past four years, we've been working on various initiatives to enhance the overall experience at our school.

Our sensory garden has provided numerous opportunities for our students to participate in an outdoor learning lab experience and our extracurricular activities such as band, chess club, math team, scholar bowl, band, recycling club, and student council are flourishing. These opportunities allow our students to develop their talents and live out our Gospel values and service commitment to others.

Additionally, we're continuing to invest in our school's infrastructure and technology to provide the best resources for our students. With your generous support, we've been able to make important improvements to our facilities and acquire up-to-date education technology.

As we move forward into this season of thanksgiving and reflection, I encourage you to join us in prayer and gratitude for the blessings we've received. Your involvement in our school is a testament to the strength of our school and parish community. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful families and friends at St. Paul School.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to St. Paul Catholic School. Together we can continue to nurture the hearts and minds of our students as they grow in faith, knowledge, and love.

May God's grace and the beauty of the fall season fill your hearts with joy and peace.

Principal Todora



Fall Into Faith, Fun, and Family!

September and October have been filled with events, fundraisers, field trips, and fun! Take a look at what's been happening at SPS!





Online Store Closing Soon

Our online apparel store is now open, featuring a new spirit wear design! Please click the [link](#) to place your order on or before midnight on November 3rd. All items on the site are offered through Compustitch of Highland and will be delivered to the school before Thanksgiving break. Don't see a size you need? Keep checking back to the site, as stock is updated frequently. If you have any questions regarding the products or sizing, please contact Compustitch at 618-654-4754.

Trash Bag Sales

The trash bag fundraiser was a huge success, selling over \$10,000 bags!

Bags are still available for purchase in the school office for \$12 each, if someone forgot to order.

Thank you for continuing to keep this fundraiser one of our most profitable!



Golf Tournament

Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, and participants of the 27th Annual St. Paul School Golf Tournament. A big THANK YOU goes to our tournament chairs – Rick & Mandy Ringwald and Joe & Jessica Horstmann. The tournament raised over \$15,000 for our school!

Trivia Night



Special thanks to Lisa Engelke and Melissa Anthony for chairing this year's Trivia Night that was held on September 15th. Many SPS families and faculty were in attendance to test their knowledge. Congratulations to Team Keeven who took home the prize for the most smarts!! Also, thank you to our sponsors and Fr. Pat & Fr. Rodney for graciously being "behind bars" to support the cause!



Check out the **SPS Middle School Student Newsletter** [HERE](#) !





Pumpkin Contest

Students got creative with their pumpkins this month for the third annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest held Oct. 13-24th. First place was awarded to Mackinze R. for her Octopus Gourd; Second place, Elliott R.'s Red Baron Snoopy; Third place, Emery J.'s Pumpkin Ice Cream Cone; and the Student Council Pick went to Leah F.'s Pineapple Pumpkin. Thanks to Mrs. Thompson for hosting the contest!



Red Ribbon Week

"Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free!"
Oct. 23-30, 2023





1Q Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students for achieving academic honors during the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

5A - High Honors

Kaden Klostermann

5A - Honors

Kerigan Athmer
Lilly Himsel
Madeline McGinley
Sophia Meridith
Edward Miller
Tyler Quart
Ella Pokojski
Melanie Porzukowiak
Elliott Ringwald
Drew Schwarz
Carley Sharp
Rhett Straeter
Wyatt Todd
Greer Wallace

6H - High Honors

Seth Cureton
Burke Elliott
Nolan Lengermann
Gavin McGinley
Ava Meyer
Camille Winkeler

6H - Honors

Emerson Daley
Reese Keeven
James Meridith
Hannah Norgaard
Delaney Voss

7P - High Honors

Vivian Beer
Miriam Boulanger
Ava Klostermann
Emma Meyer
Oscar Scarborough
Amelia Tallman

7P Honors

Jake Schwarz

8K - High Honors

Brynn Battas
Lexi Iberg
Colby Lawson
Deacon Oravec
Anna Patel
Leo Scarborough
Ava Schonhardt

8K - Honors

Lucy Miller
Noah Ringwald



**7th & 8th Grade
Fall Dance
Friday,
Nov. 3rd!**

(More details will be sent home soon!)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED 2023-2024 STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS:

8TH GRADE OFFICERS

President - Ava S.
Vice President - Brynn B.
Secretary - Leo S.
Treasurer - Addison G.

7TH GRADE REPRESENTATIVES:

Vivian B., Mimi B., Cecelia E., Ava K., Kylie M., Emma M., Oscar S., Elijah S., and Amelia T.





Fall Festival

On October 20th, we welcomed the autumn season with our SPS family at the annual fall festival. The event featured fun activities and trunk-or-treating for students and their families, all accompanied by the lively music from Mr. and Mrs. Henze. A huge thank you to the Viking Ambassadors for organizing such a wonderful event, Mrs. Carrie Albaugh and her SPYO group for providing concessions, and everyone who participated and made the event a success.



No Shorts - Nov. 1st
Don't forget! Shorts will not be allowed after October 31st. Please see the **dress code** regarding proper attire for the upcoming winter months.

FATHER YUNKER
Lithuanian Student Assistance Fund

Applications are now being solicited for college scholarship grants under the Father Yunker Lithuanian Student Assistance Fund.

Qualifications:
Applicants must have Lithuanian ancestry and must be a practicing member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Completed application must be received by the close of business on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023.

Details and application can be downloaded from foundationforthepeople.org or dio.org/schools



Father Stanley O. Yunker



Thank You

2023-2024

MENTOR MATCH SPONSORS

PRESCHOOL

Highland K of C
Highland K of C 4th Degree

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Michael's Coffee Shop
Terra Properties

KINDERGARTEN

Suzy Eilers
Thomas & Bonnie Hill

FIRST GRADE

Lee's Fine Jewelry

SECOND GRADE

Southwestern Construction
Services, Inc.

THIRD GRADE

Bradford National Bank

FOURTH GRADE

Broadway Battery
& Tire Service

FIFTH GRADE

Bob & Mitzi Plocher

SIXTH GRADE

Rogier Insurance

SEVENTH GRADE

Suzy Eilers

EIGHTH GRADE

The Pioneer Newspaper

MUSIC

Southwestern Construction
Services, Inc.

PE

Dr. Bonnie Gelly

ART

Holland and Melissa Anthony

READING CENTER

LIBRARY

The Blaylock Group-EXP Realty

VIKING KID CARE

Highland K of C Ladies Auxiliary

RELIGION

Jim & Carol Henrichs

SCHOOL OFFICE

Aaron & Jessica Schumacher

MAKERSPACE

Compustitch
Schwend's Dry Cleaning



Viking  Night

Saturday, January 24, 2024

Highland K of C Hall

Volunteers Needed

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



St. Paul Catholic School

Cafeteria Menu

November 2023

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
		1 1: Grilled Cheese 2: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup w/ Crackers Peaches	2 1: Orange Chicken w/ Rice & Egg Roll 2: Hot Dog Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	3 11:35 a.m. Dismissal No Cafeteria
6 1: Nachos & Cheese 2: Pretzel & Cheese Baby Carrots w/ Ranch Pears	7 1: Popcorn Chicken 2: Pepperoni Pizza Corn Pineapple	8 1: Biscuit & Gravy 2: Yogurt Parfait Sausage Hash Browns Apple Juice	9 1: Cheeseburger 2: Hot Dog Buttered Noodles Applesauce	10 1: Cheese Pizza 2: Fish on Bun Tossed Salad Mandarin Oranges
13 1: Chicken Sandwich 2: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Tater Tots Peaches	14 1: Pancakes 2: Bagels w/ Cream Cheese Sausage Hash Brown Orange Juice	15 1: Roasted Turkey Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Corn, & Roll 2: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Applesauce	16 1: Chicken Nuggets 2: Mini Corn Dogs Fries Mandarin Oranges	17 1: Cheese Pizza 2: Grilled Cheese Tossed Salad Orange Slices
20 1: Bosco Sticks 2: Toasted Ravioli Marinara Sauce Green Beans Pineapple	21 1: Chicken Strips 2: Corn Dog Fries Peaches	22 No School	23 No School  Happy Thanksgiving!	24 No School
27 1: French Toast 2: Waffles Sausage Hash Brown Patty Apple Juice	28 1: Spaghetti w/ Meatballs 2: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	29 1: Sausage Pizza 2: BBQ Chicken on Bun Buttered Noodles Apple Sauce	30 1: Chicken Nuggets 2: Mini Corn Dogs Grapes Corn	

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.



Celebrating Mrs. Strieker

Third-grade teacher, Mrs. Lisa Strieker, had an unforgettable 50th birthday on Thursday, October 26th. Parents and students decorated her classroom with balloons and gifts the night before so that she would be surprised on her special day. Can you believe her students kept it a secret??!



Sports Update

Our students have been actively participating in athletics over the past few months. With baseball, softball, and soccer now over, it's time to shift our focus to basketball. Catch a game and cheer on our St. Paul Vikings!

8th grade baseball, softball, and soccer athletes celebrated their special nights for the last time on the home field September 13th and 27th, respectively. Thank you to Addison G., Lexi I., Brady D., Lucas H., Leo S., Noah R., Deacon O., Colby L., coaches, and parents for your time and dedication to SPS Athletics!



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



Emergency Drills

On October 24th, First Student visited SPS to conduct the annual bus evacuation drill. The drivers performed drills with students to remind them of the proper way to exit the bus in case of an emergency. First Student provides bus transportation for SPS, which includes various field trips throughout the year. **If you would like to schedule bus service for your K-8th grade student, please contact Britany Ulmer at Highland CUSD5 at 618-654-2106.**



The weather delayed our fire drill during Fire Prevention Week, but we were ready for the Highland Fire Department visit the following week. The students did an excellent job evacuating the school during the drill, which was then followed by a presentation to our Preschool-2nd grade. The entire community appreciates your hard work and dedication, Highland Fire Department!



Drop, Cover and Hold On! On Thursday, October 19th, SPS joined the Nationwide "Great Shakeout" to teach our students earthquake preparedness. **DROP** where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and reduces your chances of being hit by falling or flying objects. **COVER** your neck and head with one arm. If sturdy desk or table nearby, crawl under. Stay on knees to protect vital organs. **HOLD ON** until the shaking has stopped. Protect yourself and spread the word! For more information, visit www.shakeout.org.



A big thank you to Scott and Barb Wick for taking the time to educate Mrs. Albaugh's 5th grade music class on the inner workings and tuning of organ pipes. We are grateful for your kindness and expertise.

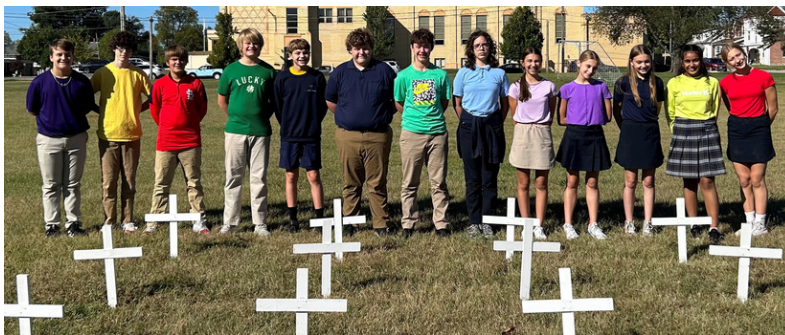


Day of Prayer & Fasting for Peace

The Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, called for a day of adoration, prayer, and fasting for peace in the Holy Land, "to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice, and reconciliation" on October 17th. Mr. Hopfinger's classes prayed the rosary and discussed how we meditate on the mysteries of Christ's life.



DON'T FORGET!
Feast of All Saints
(Holy Day of Obligation)
November 1st
St Paul Mass times:
7 a.m.
8:20 a.m. (School Mass)
6:30 p.m.



Choose Life

Our 8th grade students placed crosses on the grass lot to help raise awareness and honor all of the innocent lives lost to abortion.



**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



Sock-It to Cancer

The Kellsie’s Hope Foundation would like to thank the students, families, and faculty for participating in “Sock it to Cancer” to benefit Childhood Cancer Research.

We are pleased to announce that St. Paul raised a total of \$2818.71, making our grand total in 11 years, \$13,908.94! Congratulations to Mrs. Striker’s 3rd grade for raising \$411.53. Their class will be awarded a pizza party on November 21st!



The following students were awarded gift bags for creating the best decorated socks: Jolly Rancher (Ava Meyer); Flowers (Laney Clanton); Pineapple (Ella Pokojski); Snake (Nathan Hulvey); Horse / Let’s Reign in Cancer (Ava Klostermann); Stars (Leah Frey); and Gnome (Molly Tallman)

You have played a big part in helping Kellsie’s Hope with their mission to Sock-It to Childhood Cancer!



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.

Part-Time Help Wanted
Do you love working with children? SPS is looking to fill a part-time aide position in our Preschool. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please complete an [application](#) or email Principal Todora at htodora@stpaulhighland.org for more information.



ST. PAUL
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BE A VIKING AMBASSADOR!

2 Corinthians 5:20
"Therefore, we are
ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were
making an appeal
through us."

MISSION:

To increase overall engagement with parents, our parish, and the community as a whole with the aim to foster new relationships and seek ways to expand and enrich the opportunities of our school.

Who?

Viking Ambassadors are comprised of all individuals who seek to spread the good news of St. Paul Catholic School - students, parents, teachers, grandparents, alumni, and parishioners!

In the Community...

- Spread the word about SPS
- Encourage positive communication among parents and friends of SPS
- Inspire parents to get involved
- Build relationships with community organizations
- Use social media to share experiences
- Connect with new parents
- Reach out to prospective families

What?

- 1 Community Outreach
- 2 Teacher & Classroom Support
- 3 Special Events

Take Charge!

REPRESENT A GRADE SECTION!

- One parent from each grade section (Pre3-K, 1-4, 5-8)
- Church or school-affiliated grandparents and parish volunteers are welcome to join!

Events to help with...

- Open Houses
- Kirchenfest Clean-Up
- Trunk-or-Treat Fall Festival
- Student Appreciation Day
- Breakfast Buddies
- Catholic Schools Week
- Teacher Appreciation
- Parades
- Open Gym
- 3vs3 Basketball Tourney
- Restaurant Nights
- and More!

How do I GET INVOLVED!

Make a difference in the lives of our students by becoming a Viking Ambassador! Coordinate a school event, offer to volunteer, or take charge of a community outreach program. Contact Katelyn Zobrist at 618-409-7833 or katelynzobrist@gmail.com to GET INVOLVED!



Looking Ahead...

NOVEMBER 1

Mass @ 8:20 a.m. All Saints Day
Model UN 3:15-4 p.m. (6-8 Grades)

NOVEMBER 3

11:35 a.m. Dismissal; No PM Bus
Online Store Closes @ Midnight
7th & 8th Grade Fall Dance @ 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 8

Basketball & Cheer Photos @ 3:15 p.m.

NOVEMBER 10

2Q Mid-Term
Veterans Day Mass @ 8:20 a.m.

NOVEMBER 12

Veterans Day Celebration with SPS Band
& Chorus @ Highland Square from 1-3:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15

2:25 p.m. Dismissal

NOVEMBER 17

8:20 a.m. Mass

NOVEMBER 22-24

No School - Thanksgiving Holiday

NOVEMBER 24

Highland Christmas Parade

NOVEMBER 28

Domino's Fundraiser

DECEMBER 1

1:35 p.m. Dismissal; No PM bus

DECEMBER 2

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

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



"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Thessalonians 5:18