



# St. Paul Catholic School

## Newsletter

### 8.19.21

**WELCOME BACK!** We are excited to kick off another school year at St. Paul! There are 10 new students joining us this year. We are so glad you've joined the St. Paul family. Thank you for entrusting your children's educational and spiritual needs to the faculty and staff here. Please ask any questions you may have!

**SCHOOL MASS DAY:** School Mass will be held at 8:30a Friday mornings at St. Paul Church. Parents/grandparents ARE able to attend, but must sit towards the back, wear a face mask, and keep themselves at a safe distance from others. We look forward to you worshipping with us once again!

**ORIENTATION:** There will be NO orientation next Wednesday the 25th. It had been tentatively set prior to the school year, but will be skipped due to safety protocols. Teachers will send out any materials that would have been addressed.

**STUDENT DISMISSAL:** Walkers and riders will be dismissed between 2:50-2:55 each day. It may vary slightly based on the Odell Grade School bus arrival/departure. Family members picking up students are asked to line up on the shoulder of West Street and wait for ALL buses to depart before pulling up to the school. It's important not to pull up ahead of time as the OGS bus utilizes the space between the stop sign (Elk St.) to the front of the school. **Please contact the school office before 2:30 if your child's mode of transportation will be changing on any given day.**

**SAFETY UPDATES:** Due to current COVID protocols, parents and guests will not be allowed in the building again this year. However that will be revisited if statistics begin to trend back down. There is a drop box on the wall at the front door if you need to drop off payments or other paperwork. There is also a hands-free drop bin for larger items.

**COVID WAIVER:** If you've not already, please return the signed COVID-19 waiver that went home Wednesday. The waiver underwent several changes over the summer so if you had signed one previously, THIS is the one we'd need.

**SYMPTOMS:** To reiterate, our COVID symptom policy is the same as last school year. If your child displays **ANY** symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19, **DO NOT** send them to school. **ALL** siblings must also stay home until COVID is ruled out. In order to return to school, per the Illinois Department of Public Health, you would need a negative COVID test, a note from your doctor with an alternative diagnosis, or students would have to stay out for ten days. If you have any symptoms, please alert the school and contact your doctor.

**WATER BOTTLES:** Please make sure to send refillable/reusable water bottles (that close properly) to school with your children. We've had a few spills involving the containers with the built-in straws in our first few days. While we have some back up cups if kids need them, the refillable bottles make it much easier and far more environmentally friendly since the water fountains are still off limits due to COVID.

**BAG CHAIRS:** Just a reminder that students in grades 1-8 can bring a camping chair/bag chair to leave at school. When the weather and lesson plans allow, teachers can take their classes outside since students don't have to wear their masks outdoors.

**BOOSTER CLUB:** There will be a Booster Club parent meeting on Wednesday, September 1 at 6p at St. Paul CHURCH, not the school. All families are booster club members. We weren't able to have this meeting last year so please mark it on your calendars to attend. We will be going over the calendar for the year, which includes new and old events. Sign-up sheets will also be available. The success of booster club events is **crucial** to the operation of St. Paul School, and we need everyone's help to make them happen! If you attend the meeting, your child(ren) will be rewarded with a **comfy day** the next day and also the following Thursday!

**HARVEST DAYS BREAKFAST:** Making what we hope will be a triumphant return this year is the annual pancake breakfast taking place Sunday, September 19 at St. Pat's Hall in Dwight. More info will be coming soon, but we will need workers (adults & 5th-8th grade students) for the event which serves from 8a-12p. Please let Kelli know if you can work, and watch book bags and folders for more to come.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** Any parent that will be working at an event this year needs to complete the Diocesan "Safe Environment" online training. This entails creating an online account, watching a video, and completing an online background check. Trainings need to be completed prior to volunteering. To get a jump start, go to <https://Peoria.cmgconnect.org>.

**P.E CLOTHES.:** P.E. starts next week for all grades. Mrs. Oswald does bring students outside as the weather allows. Grades 1-4 do not need P.E. uniforms, however, we do ask you send an extra pair of shoes and socks as the grass is quite wet early in the morning. Grades 5-8 can wear their P.E. clothes to school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but they **MUST** remember to bring their school uniforms to change into. Students in those grades are welcome to have an extra set at school as back up.

**HANDBOOK:** Please take time to familiarize yourself with the school handbook. It's available online at <http://stpaulodell.weebly.com/school-handbook.html>

**NEW EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:** The Office of Catholic Schools has added three additional training sessions that our teachers are required to attend. Therefore the following dates will now be 11:30 early dismissals: **October 20, November 10, and January 26** (all Wednesdays). After school care **WILL** be available on these three dates.

**BLESSING:** There will be a "Blessing of the Backpacks" during all Masses at St. Paul and St. Patrick Churches this weekend. Fr. will be blessing all students and teachers in attendance, and students are encouraged to bring their backpacks.

**CONCERT:** The MJM7 Band will be performing at St. Patrick Church following the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, August 29. There will also be adoration and a Eucharistic procession. Any student that can serve is asked to attend training this Sunday at 2:00 at St. Pat's. The family band, which has played in Dwight before, consists of a father and some of his children ministering through music. We encourage our families to attend!