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PARENTS NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2018

Dear St. Patrick Academy Families,

I hope that you and your family continue to enjoy the summer! The start of the school year is only three weeks away, so I want to share some information with you and keep you updated on what's happening and what you need to do before the new school year begins.



2018-19 School Calendar: Enclosed you will find an updated copy of our school calendar for the coming year. Revised calendars will be sent out during the year when updates are needed. Please note the following dates and times on your calendar at home:

- **Tuesday, August 21:** The *New Student Orientation* will be held from **8:30am to 12:00 noon** in the gym. **All new students, grades 9-11, are required to attend with at least one parent/guardian.**

Dress is casual. ***Please be on time!***

- **Wednesday, August 22:** The *Welcome Back! Cookout* is scheduled for **5:00 to 7:00pm** in the large parking lot next to the school (see enclosed invitation). You and your whole family are invited – **free** hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and beverages, and an opportunity to meet teachers, staff and other students and parents. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **Thursday, August 23:** **First day of school** for all students, grades 9-12. Dress code required.
- **Friday, August 24:** The *Opening of School Mass* will be held at **12:05pm** in the church. Parents, guardians and family members are invited to attend.

Daily Schedule: Please check the daily schedule below and make sure that your child arrives and is picked up at the proper time.

- The school building opens at **6:55am**. All students must be in the building **by 7:35am.**
- The **Breakfast Program** begins at 6:55am and closes at 7:30am.
- The **Library** is open from 6:55 to 7:35am and from 2:30 to 3:00pm, Monday – Friday.
- **Homeroom** begins at 7:42 until 7:52am, and **Morning Prayer** is conducted in the church from 7:54 until 8:04am.
- There are **six class periods** each day, Periods A-F; classes are **54 minutes** long. There is a **10-minute break** after Period B. **Lunch** is provided in the cafeteria after Period D from 12:05 to 12:30pm.
- Required courses and most elective courses meet **four times a week** (art, music and technology classes meet three times a week; physical education class meets twice a week).
- Dismissal is at **2:24pm**, Monday through Thursday; on Fridays, dismissal is at **2:12pm.**

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New Faculty & Staff: We offer a warm welcome to **Mrs. Jaime Collard**, our new *Librarian & Volunteer Coordinator*. Mrs. Collard has several years of experience as a school librarian on the elementary and college levels and we're delighted to have her as part of our school community.

We are also in the process of hiring a new science teacher for chemistry and physics and an English teacher for grades 10, 11 and 12.

There have also been some changes in teaching assignments for next year:

- **Congratulations** to **Mrs. Kara Skaling Akey** and her husband, Ethan, who celebrate their wedding this month. Mrs. Akey will continue to teach 9th grade *World History* and will add 11th grade *U.S. History II* and the new 12th grade *American Government* course.
- **Mrs. Ashley Proulx** will continue to teach 10th grade *U.S. History I* and the 11th grade semester elective, *The Holocaust*, and she will add 11th grade *U.S. History II-Honors* and the 12th grade semester elective *Consumer Finance*.
- **Mrs. Brett Summers** will continue teaching 9th grade *English* and will add the new 11th Grade *English-Honors* class.



Summer Reading: A reminder that your child has summer reading to do before the new school year begins. A **Summer Reading List** was mailed out with the June/July newsletter. If you misplaced it, you can find it on our web site's home-page at www.stpatrickacademyri.com. Students can borrow these books from your local public library or purchase them at the local *Barnes & Noble* book stores in Smithfield or Warwick. **Get these books now!** Do **not** wait until the last minute, as

our English teachers will be testing students on these readings at the beginning of the school year.

Dress Code / Donnelly's: If you still have not yet purchased school uniform items, we have enclosed our school **Dress Code** for next year. Contact our uniform supplier, **Donnelly's Clothing Store** *as soon as possible* (50 Sharpe Dr., Cranston; 401-942-5202). **There will be a consequence as set forth in the Parent-Student Handbook for students not in dress code on the first day of school.**



This year, there is **only one minor change** in the dress code:

- Boys and girls may wear a **fleece zip-up with the school logo** as an alternative to the school sweater or sweater-vest. The fleece zip-up must be purchased at *St. Patrick Academy* through Mr. Toste.

Please note that there are consequences for students who are **not** in full dress code during school hours. High school students are old enough to be responsible for getting and staying dressed properly, but they depend on their parents to purchase all their clothing items by the start of school. **If you have any problems in ordering, purchasing or receiving your Donnelly's clothing items, please call us immediately at 421-9300 so that we can assist you.**

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Below are the step-by-step directions for ordering *St. Patrick Academy* student dress code clothing from *Donnelly's Clothing* online:

4th Quarter Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following 34 students who achieved Honor Roll status for the 4th Quarter, 2017-18:

Highest Honors (GPA, 4.0)

Franklin Disla, 12
Shakira DaGraca, 11
Victoria Fuller, 10
Diego Cante, 9
Sofia Delacruz, 9
Fernando Ibanez, 9

High Honors (GPA, 3.7-3.99)

David Bardales, 12
Leonel Caro, 12
Camila Uriona, 12
Angela Gonzalez, 11
Amy Hidalgo, 11
Joanah Imarhiagbe, 11
Dylan Kelly, 11
Dulce Flores, 10
Angelica James, 10
Moeisha Joseph, 10
Ashley Diaz, 9
Alicia Martinez, 9
Martha Salvatierra, 9

Honors (GPA, 3.3 – 3.69)

Kimberly Avelar, 12
Julissa Carrera, 12
Nyree Sylvia, 12
Tomas Fernandez, 11
Wilianies Guzman, 11
Nathalie Martinez, 11
Amanda Solano, 11
Isabel Arnaut, 10
Abisola Oladipo, 10
Sebastian Perez, 10
Luvince Tilus, 10
Nathalie Abreu, 9
Salma Disla, 9
Ryan Joseph, 9
Jose Trujillo, 9

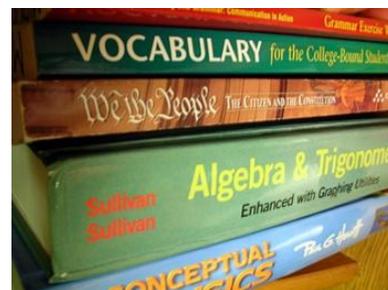
- 1.) Go to www.donnelysclothing.com/patriprovri
- 2.) Click on 'Log in'
- 3.) Click on 'create an account'
- 4.) Click on 'add a student'; put in student info
- 5.) Click on 'My Uniforms' at the top of the page right next to 'My Schools'
- 6.) Put in **web code for Girls: SAWC - 820355**
OR Put in web code for Boys: QCLI - 585945
- 7.) Click 'continue' or 'next'
- 8.) Follow instructions for choosing items.

RenWeb: At the beginning of the school year, we will provide new students and parents with instructions on how to access student grades and assigned work online through *RenWeb*. We hope and expect that parents and students will find this program to be easy and simple to use.

Campus Ministry: One of our rising seniors, **Amanda Solano**, has joined three recent graduates of the *Class of 2018* – **Kimberly Avelar, Julissa Carrera** and **Camila Uriona** – along with **Mrs. Mary Cipriano**, Campus Minister, and **Fr. James Ruggieri**, Pastor, on a mission trip to the *Dominican Republic* from July 30th to August 12th. This will be the Academy's fourth mission trip to the DR.

The students will be working with the poor in two barrios in Santo Domingo under the direction of Franciscan Fr. Jose Maria Guerrero. All costs of the trip for those students attending this trip for the first time are being sponsored by **Mr. John Primeau**, executive director of *NACEPF*, and we thank him for his great generosity and support! Our prayers are with our students and adult leaders for a safe and successful mission!

Textbooks: Our **2018-19 textbook list** was recently mailed out to all parents who do **not** reside in Providence or East Providence (the public-school departments in those two communities send textbooks directly to the Academy for their resident families).



If you haven't done so already, please contact your town's public-school department to arrange for your textbooks as soon as possible. If you have any problems, please contact Mr. Stephen Raymond, Operations Director, at 421-9300, ext. 12.

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Students' Daily Schedules: Individual daily schedules for freshmen and other new students will be distributed at the August 21st *New Student Orientation*. Schedules for returning students in Grades 10-12 will be mailed home the week before school.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



School Supplies: Free *2018-19 Student Planners* will be distributed to all freshman and new students at the *New Student Orientation*. All returning students will receive their planners on the first day of school.

Each teacher may require different materials for their classes, which will be listed on the course syllabus that they will distribute to students on the first day of class. We recommend that you wait to purchase student materials until after the first day of classes. But there are a few items that *every* student should have on the first day of school:

School bag

Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters & markers

Textbooks (except Prov. & E.P. residents)

Locker shelves/racks (recommended)

Lockers: Each student will be assigned a locker with a built-in combination lock. Freshmen and other new students will receive their combinations at the *New Student Orientation* on **Tuesday, August 21st**. All other students will receive their combinations in the mail the week before school with their schedules. We recommend purchasing locker-shelves and racks to help your child organize the limited space in his/her locker (each locker measures 36" high x 15" wide x 18" deep).

Student Bus Transportation: *Providence Residents* –

For students residing in Providence, the school will submit an application for those who live **2 miles** or more from *St. Patrick Academy*. Students that are approved by the Providence School Department will receive a free monthly *RIPTA* bus pass.



Non-Providence Residents –

Students living in **Central Falls, Pawtucket, North Providence, Cranston, East Providence** and **Johnston** can receive **free** bus transportation to and from *St. Patrick Academy*. Please contact your local school department as soon as possible to see if you should apply for transportation directly through the school department or through the statewide transportation portal at www.ride.ri.gov.

If your local school department tells you to apply through the statewide transportation portal, here are directions to register for a yellow school bus pick-up and drop off:

- 1.) Go to www.ride.ri.gov
- 2.) Click on 'students and families'
- 3.) Under 'Additional Resources', click 'Student Transportation'
- 4.) Click on "private, parochial, charter,..."
- 5.) Click on 'request transportation'
- 6.) Fill out the online information sheet, click 'Next' and continue until the process is completed.

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Breakfast & Lunch Program

There will be a change in the way that we conduct our breakfast and lunch programs this year. For the past ten years, St. Patrick's and other non-public schools in the city were accepted as part of the Providence school community for the delivery of school lunches, which enabled us to provide breakfast and lunch to all our students at no cost to them.

However, the *Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)* recently audited this program and instructed the *Providence School Department (PSD)* to stop this practice. After many weeks of study and meetings, we decided to apply to become our own *Food Service Authority*, which enabled us to contract with the *PSD* to deliver breakfast and lunch to our students through *Sodexo*, the *PSD's* food service provider. **However, certain students whose families do not meet federal guidelines for free breakfast and lunch will have to pay a small amount for these meals.**

We will be sending a letter home soon explaining this in more detail, along with a form that we will ask you to complete which will help us determine whether your child qualifies for free or reduced prices for breakfast and lunch. We will also explain the process we will use to collect payment for these meals.



Athletics News: There will be a meeting for all students who are interested in participating in

any of the sports programs at St. Patrick Academy this year (Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading or Track & Field) next **Tuesday, August 7th, at 6:00pm** in Room 101 with Mr. Toste. All required school and RIIL forms will be distributed and explained at this meeting.

Development News

- Thanks to our generous donors we were able to fully fund the **library renovation project!** When students and faculty return at the end of August, they will be greeted by an upgraded library, complete with access to **RILINK**, the state's inter-community lending library program, and **new technology, furniture, carpeting and books**, as well as a fresh paint job.

Our donors contributed more than \$23,000 allowing us to complete all the upgrades **and** fund the library's budget for the coming school year. Thank you for your support!

2017-18 HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following 29 students who achieved Honor Roll status based on their **full year GPA:**

Highest Honors (GPA, 4.0)

Camila Uriona, 12
Shakira DaGraca, 11
Victoria Fuller, 10
Diego Cante, 9
Sofia Delacruz, 9
Fernando Ibanez, 9

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Wilianies Guzman, 11
Dylan Kelly, 11
Amanda Solano, 11
Isabel Arnaut, 10
Dulce Flores, 10
Vathaknac Keokhaw, 10
Sebastian Perez, 10
Luvince Tilus, 10
Nathalie Abreu, 9
Ashley Diaz, 9
Salma Disla, 9
Ryan Joseph, 9
Martha Salvatierra, 9

2017-18 BEST CLASS AWARD

The 10th and 11th grade classes tied for the highest proportion of students on the full-year 2017-18 Honor Roll with **40%**. The **Junior Class of 2019** wins the tie-breaker and receives the **Best Class Award** with a class GPA of **3.07!**

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- We have begun raising funds for the 2018-19 school year and we are especially grateful to all the individual donors and parishes who have joined our ***Adopt-A-Student Program*** by supporting, in whole or in part, the annual cost of a student's attendance at St. Patrick Academy, which is \$11,500 this year. This year's scholarship sponsors will receive more frequent and individualized updates from their adopted students.
- The winners of the ***53:5 Scholarship*** were **Camila Uriona '18** and **Joanah Imarhiagbe '19**. Camila and Joanah both wrote essays about a scripture passage in order to win the 53:5 scholarships. Camila will receive \$500 towards her freshman year at Roger Williams University and Joanah will receive financial support towards her senior year at St. Patrick Academy.

Peer-Mentoring Program

Mrs. Proulx is looking forward to welcoming both returning and newly-accepted Peer Mentors to the program for the 2018-2019 school year! As discussed in our last meeting in June, there is a mandatory training for all peer-mentors on **Wednesday, August 15th**, from **10:00am to 12 noon**, in Room 201, to prepare a great welcome for all new students.

Policy Changes

After discussions with faculty, staff and student representatives, the *Administrative Team* has approved a few changes in school policy for the 2018-19 school year:



- All students will be allowed to carry a **reusable, untinted, clear plastic water bottle** in their backpacks during the day for use during class, though bottles will not be allowed to stay on the desks or be used during tests or quizzes. Disposable water bottles will **not** be allowed under any circumstances. This will help students to stay hydrated during the day and reduce plastic waste. We recommend that parents purchase **BPA-free** reusable plastic water bottles and that student names or initials be written on the bottle. (The vending machine on the mezzanine level, which dispensed disposable plastic bottles, has been removed.)
- Students who achieve a final grade average of at least 93 in **semester elective courses** will be **exempt** from the exam. This will provide an extra incentive to all students who are taking semester elective courses and is consistent with our policy on exam exemptions for all full-year courses.
- At the end of the school year, the **Senior Mass** and the **Academic Convocation** will be combined into one event. This will make each of these events more meaningful and will reduce the number of events that the graduating seniors and their families will have to attend during Senior Week.

Summer Work

Besides the library renovation (see *Development News*), several projects are in process during the summer, with many thanks to **Fr. James**, the **St. Patrick Parish community**, and **Deacon Eduardo Birbuet** and his crew:

- New windows are being installed in five classrooms (Rooms 102, 201, 202, 206 and the library) and the rear areas of the church building.
- The bathroom on the main floor has been completely renovated.
- Separate electrical outlets will be installed for the projector units in each classroom.

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- Two whiteboards will be installed in Rooms 104 and 102.
- Many doors and areas of the building have been freshly painted.
- Portable air conditioning units will be installed in Room 206.

Emergency & Standing Order Forms: Enclosed are two important forms that parents or legal guardians *must* complete and return to school at the beginning of the school year.

For students to be allowed to leave during the school day with a person who is **not** a parent or legal guardian, St. Patrick Academy must have on file a completed and signed ***Emergency Contact Form***, which also lists the individuals who are authorized by the parent or guardian to pick up the student. Students **cannot** be allowed to leave the school with any person who is not on this list.

A completed ***Standing Order Form*** gives the School Nurse permission to administer any of the over-the-counter medications listed that a student may need to take during school hours.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing, signing and returning these forms **by Friday, August 24th**.

Summer Office Hours: Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns at 421-9300. At least one of our administrative staff members will be in during the hours of **9:00am to 1:00pm**, Monday through Friday, during the remainder of the summer. If no one answers your call, please leave a message and someone will return your call within one business day.

We hope that the rest of your summer is enjoyable, safe and relaxing! We look forward to seeing you soon.

God bless,

Bruce Daigle

Bruce Daigle
Principal

Enclosures: 2018-19 School Year Calendar (updated)
2018-19 Dress Code
Invitation: August 21st *Welcome Back! Cookout*
Emergency Contact Form
Standing Order Form

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