



SAINT PAUL^{THE} APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL  LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The first round of STAR testing will begin TODAY, September 3, for all students in grades Kindergarten through 8. The primary reason for administering this assessment is to gain access to pertinent information in reading and math that can be used to assist the administration and faculty in making sound educational decisions about student learning, teacher instruction, and curriculum development. The assessment results allow us to monitor our students' academic progress, and also helps us identify areas of achievement as well as areas of needed meaningful improvement within the curriculum. This is data that is continuously disaggregated and analyzed as learning outcomes are being measured. The teachers at St. Paul the Apostle School clearly understand that learning is a continuum, and not merely a set of discrete steps and achievement levels. Their main focus is student growth along the continuum. It is my belief that too often many students who struggle are prescribed a modified curriculum when what they really need is modified instruction. Our commitment to our students inspires us to want to provide the most effective instruction possible.

We know from experience that teachers evaluate academic progress by observing students in the classroom, assessing their daily classwork, grading their homework assignments and special projects, and administering post-unit tests. All of this information also helps a teacher determine how well a student is mastering grade level learning goals. Standardized tests are just another tool that provides us with "snapshot" of the skills and abilities of all our students.

All of that being said, we know from experience what standardized tests cannot do—indeed, what almost no test can do—is capture a child's "essence". As parents and educators, we cannot let our children become defined by their percentile rankings. No test can measure the important factors that play a major role in life success: curiosity, effort, resilience, integrity, good judgment or compassion. Our teachers

obviously understand the importance of such factors, and work equally as hard to build up these qualities in our students as they do to develop and strengthen the math, reading and writing skills at each grade level.

Please note that the window for the first round of testing closes this Friday, September 7th. Because the tests are timed and administered in sequence, it is very important that our students are present every day and arrive at school on time. Students who miss a section of the test may not have the opportunity to take a make-up test at another time. It is equally important that students get plenty of sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast in the morning so they are alert and able to function at their best.

We truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation regarding these important topics.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

Mon Sep 3	● All day	Labor Day- No School
Tue Sep 4	● All day	Developmental Kindergarten First Day of School
	● All day	Kindergarten First Day of School
Wed Sep 5	● All day	Kindergarten First day of School
	● 8 – 10am	Virtus Refresher Class
Fri Sep 7	● All day	Apostle Attic Drop off (JCPC) JCPC
	● 8:15 – 9:15am	8th Grade School Mass
Sat Sep 8	● All day	Apostle's Attic Drop off (JCPC) JCPC
Mon Sep 10	● 8 – 10am	PWC Board Meeting (JACC) JACC
Fri Sep 14	● All day	Apostles' Attic Sale (JCPC) JCPC
Sat Sep 15	● All day	Apostles' Attic Sale (JCPC) JCPC
Sun Sep 16	● All day	Apostles' Attic Sale
	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Catechical Mass Saint Paul the Apostle Church
Mon Sep 17	● All day	Back to School Night (Starts in Church)
Tue Sep 18	● All day	Back to School Night (Starts in Church)
Thu Sep 20	● All day	School Picture Day (JCPC) JCPC
Sun Sep 23	● 5 – 6pm	7th-grade Family Mass
Wed Sep 26	● 8 – 9:30am	8th Grade Parent Meeting (JCPC) JCPC
Thu Sep 27	● All day	New Parent Reception-offsite
Fri Sep 28	● 7 – 8pm	Sandwich Builders (JCPC)
Sun Sep 30	● 8 – 9:30am	PWC Board Meeting (JACC)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL MASS

As stated in last week's eNewsletter, the most important thing we do as SPA family is pray and worship together. Our Back-to-



School Mass will be celebrated this Friday, September 7, at 8:15 a.m. Parents are welcome to join us as we gather to begin our year as a community in faith and prayer.



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Our annual Back-to-School Night will be held on Monday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. Please mark this event on your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of important information, especially in regards to our school's recent accreditation, any policy changes, and updates about our school safety plan. We look forward to having you join us for this very important meeting! And on another note...

Calling all volunteers for Back-to-School Night! Whether you're up for bartending, helping with set-up or clean-up, or bringing wine, *we need you!* We don't need fancy...whether it's a bottle of Two Buck Chuck or one from your last book club, it's perfect for Back-to-School Night! Please sign up here — we need 80 bottles, and LOTS of warm smiles and welcoming faces!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4daba92ba5fd0-bactoschool>



IMPORTANT TRAFFIC ALERT!!

We have been notified by the Dept. of Public Works that street work has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Bureau of Street Services will be performing a "slurry seal application" on Holman (between Selby and Malcolm). Please consider arriving at school a few minutes early for drop-off as there may be some traffic delay. Remember to bring your patience with you!

In an effort to help traffic flow quickly and smoothly during morning drop-off, please note the following reminders that require your attention:

- All Traffic Sign-Up Boards are live on the PWC website. **WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET ON ANY GIVEN DAY!** If you have not yet visited the traffic site the link is <https://www.spapwc.com/traffic>. Thank you in advance for your assistance.
- This year we are no longer doing driveway drop-off. Instead, we have added an additional car door opener on Selby Ave.
- As always, there is NO PARKING in the RED ZONE. They are for emergency vehicles only.
- Also, there is no jaywalking in front of the school as well as no parking in the Mormon Church lot as that is reserved for TEACHERS ONLY.



VIRTUS TRAINING

A Virtus refresher course will be held on Wednesday, September 5, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the JCPC. This course is 1.5 hours.

Please be on time because credit is not given if you arrive late. The refresher course is for those who have had training within the past four years, but your certificate has not yet expired.



SUN SAFETY

Protecting our students from the sun has been a priority of the SPA community for the past several years. Please remind your students to bring their hats and sunscreen daily. The UV index has been “very high” this summer, and as much as possible, we want to help protect our students from any preventable sun damage.



APOSTLE'S ATTIC

The New Apostles Attic is still part of our Festival, but it now has its own dedicated weekend! Mark your calendars for September 14, 15, and 16th. Sign-ups for volunteering a shift during this weekend will go live on Tuesday, September 4th. A maximum of 1 of the 3 mandatory family shifts can be filled during the Apostle's Attic weekend.

The drop-off dates for donations and handcrafted items are September 4 – 13, from 7:20 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. on Selby Avenue (in front of JCPC/Parish Office). There will be a sign on Selby Avenue where you can temporarily park and we'll help you unload your car!

We hope that everyone will come out and welcome Fr. Gil, Ms. Pinkofsky and Fr. Ryan, and discover great treasures at the Apostle's Attic event! Please note the following schedule:

- Friday, September 14th (8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) – 8:00 a.m. Community Coffee
- Saturday, September 15th (3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) – 5:00 p.m. Pie & Burger Food Truck
- Sunday, September 16th (8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)



FESTIVAL PATRONAGE CLASS COMPETITION

Who wants to enjoy a delicious Ice Cream Sundae Party? The winning class with the highest Patronage for the festival will win a “Make Your Own” Ice Cream Sundae Party. (*Will somebody please pass the whipped cream, chocolate sauce and sprinkles?*) And if the ice cream treat is not enough, the winning class will also receive “first entry” into the festival following the 8th graders. Fun, fun and more fun! Give to **Patronage** and help your class win these fabulous prizes!



FESTIVAL AUCTION

Families are invited to donate fabulous and exciting items for our auction. Sporting events, travel, and one-of-a-kind amazing experiences are always dazzling items for both the LIVE and online auction. Simply click [here](#) for a copy of the donor form.

Our SPA community always loves a great PARTY! Want to host a

FUN party? (Paint Nite, Bowling, Cooking, Private Chef-Hosted Dinners, Themed Parties for Kids or Parents...let your imagination run wild). Contact Jessica Dixon to lock in your party date and details at jkjdixon@gmail.com or (860)778-4578.



FESTIVAL WEAR

All festival wear items ordered in June/July will be delivered to your oldest child's classroom between Friday, August 31, and Tuesday, September 4th. The **Festival Online Store** is also open. Look for sample racks in the courtyard beginning Tuesday, September 4th. The store will close Friday, September 7th. Delivery for this final order will be the week before Festival. All sales are final; there will be no refunds or exchanges. Please note that this will be the last chance to get the PE-approved Dri-Fit until the spring, along with the other Spirit Wear items.



GET SOCIAL!

Follow us on our amazing journey this year on **Instagram** and **Facebook**.

