

SPX FAQs for PARENTS

1. When is the calendar posted for the next school year?

The next school year calendar is posted in June prior to the new school year.

2. When do Freshmen, transfer students and returning students get student ID's?

Freshmen, transfer students and all returning students can get their ID's beginning the week before orientation. All students can obtain their ID's during their orientation days. The dates will be posted on the calendar. All students must have their ID's for the first full day of classes.

3. What does my student do if she/he loses her/his ID?

The student can obtain a duplicate ID in the Student Activities Office. The first replacement is free. After that, there is a \$10.00 fee.

4. Can/should my student enroll in PE in the summer?

This is a personal and scheduling question. Summer PE is a full year credit. The class meets for 4 hours for 6 weeks. There are some advantages. Fulfilling the PE credit during the summer opens up a class period for another class during freshman year. The students make new friends and have them when they return to school in August. They have fun because the summer PE classes can engage in activities that the school year PE classes cannot, such as bowling. Students are expected to be present in the class for the full day and for the 6 weeks period. Plan vacations carefully.

5. What are the tuition payment options?

It is best to talk with the Business Manager about payment plans for tuition. Generally, parents can pay tuition by credit card, in full, by the quarter or monthly. Monthly payments start in April of the prior school year and are extended for 10 months.

6. How does my student enroll in honors classes?

For Freshmen, students are recommended for honors classes using their 8th grade teacher recommendations and the results of the High School Placement Test. Students in the upper grades are recommended by the SPX teachers they have in the department offering the honors or Advanced Placement (AP) course.

7. What are the uniforms and where are they purchased?

The girls wear khaki or black pants or skirts with a white SPX polo shirt. The boys wear khaki or black pants or shorts with a white SPX polo shirt. Outerwear must reflect St Pius X wear if the student wants to wear outerwear in the classroom. Seniors may wear a solid color polo shirt of any color. Check the student handbook for complete details.

All uniform items are required to be purchased in the St. Pius X Uniform Shop on campus. No other store has the rights to sell SPX apparel.

8. What if my family cannot afford uniforms?

If a family cannot afford new uniforms, the SPX Uniform Shop sometimes has gently used uniforms for a lesser price. Also, the Community Service Director may have some gently used clothing. Students/families who graduate from St. Pius X are encouraged to donate useable uniforms to the Uniform Shop. There is not a used uniform sale per se.

9. When does my student get a school supply list?

Teachers do not offer a school supply list for each course. Students will be advised by their teachers if something specific is needed. General school supplies are advised: pens, pencils, notebooks or spirals, erasers, 3 x 5 cards, etc.

10. When does my student meet with a school counselor?

The school counselor's name is found on the top of the student's daily schedule. The counselors meet with students in a large group during the first week of school to introduce themselves and teach the students how to sign up for an appointment. Students may sign up for appointments as soon as they need to see the counselor. Otherwise, after the large group meeting the counselors will begin sending a pass to the student to meet with the student individually. Passes are distributed each day during the first period of the day. The student must read the pass to determine what time the counselor has set aside to meet with him/her. If the student has a test or the teacher determines the student may not leave the class, the appointment will be rescheduled. The teacher may determine that the student cannot leave class only for specific reasons such as a test, test preparation, guest speaker or viewing a film that cannot be made up by the student.

11. What are the normal school day hours?

Normal school day hours begin at 8:00am and end at 3:00pm. Teachers are in their classrooms for tutoring help until 3:30. If there is an irregular schedule, such as an early dismissal, the amended dismissal time will be posted on the school calendar. If there is an emergency closing before the school day or during the school day, parents will be notified using the emergency messaging service. Parents will receive telephone calls, emails and text mails to advise of the emergency closing. School closing for snow days or late arrival does NOT coincide with APS. Parents will receive a message through the messaging service regarding snow days. The information will also be posted on the three local TV stations.

12. Do parents attend school Mass?

All parents are invited to attend any of the school Masses at St. Pius X. Check the calendar for days and starting times.

13. Who is the school lunch provider? Cost?

The school lunch provider is Old Town Catering. Mike Tafoya is the owner/manager. Old Town Catering leases the cafeteria space from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and is overseen by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Old Town Catering is NOT part of St. Pius X High School. The menu

is a Quick Pix which is priced a la carte. The Hot Pix meal is \$7.50 but may change each year or if there is a special offering. Parents may purchase reloadable cards so that students do not have to carry cash or credit cards to purchase lunch. Lunch cards are obtained at the cafeteria.

14. How do I find a carpool?

St. Pius X does not have a formal mechanism to establish carpools. Any parent can call the Activities Office to check if there are any other parents who have called. Generally, parents form their own carpools using neighborhoods, younger and older siblings, similar K-8 schools and the like.

15. How do you communicate with parents?

St. Pius X communicates in many ways. If there is a classroom concern, the classroom teacher is the first person to call. Plus Portals posts grades and information. Each student and parent is given a password to enter Portals. Emails to/from teachers can happen through Portals. Google Classroom is the mechanism for teachers to post homework assignments and handouts. It also is a way to communicate by email either to a teacher or from a teacher. *Parent Link* is published every other month and has news about what is going on in the school. The eCalendar is published each week to communicate upcoming events. Emails and mailings from the school are sent to communicate especially important news. Teachers call parents at the beginning of the school year to say hello and welcome your student to their class. (Don't panic if you see a call from the school.)

16. What happens at student orientation?

For incoming 9th graders, one day at the beginning of the school year is set aside just for freshmen. During this day freshmen come together to get to know their classmates through organized activities, both social and spiritual, and get their schedules and locker numbers and combinations. In addition, the freshmen students meet with their homeroom teacher and each of their academic teachers as the students move through their schedule. Students may be assigned homework. Students are provided a small lunch.

The counselor's name is indicated on the student's schedule. The counselors meet with all the freshmen the first week of school to explain their role in academic and college advising and how to make an appointment with their counselor.

17. Are there any free dress/non-uniform days?

Yes. Those students who sell raffle ticket quota are allowed to wear jeans on Friday for an extended period of time. Many teams will request from the administration a dress-up day to celebrate their team in a big game coming up. Infrequently, all students will be given a dress up day for a special occasion.

18. Can students leave campus?

No. Once a student is on campus the school is responsible for that student. Students who leave campus without permission face serious consequences. Safety and security for each student is paramount.

If a student needs to leave for an appointment, the student must bring a note from a parent stating the time of pick up and the reason for the appointment.

The only students who are given permission by their parents to leave campus are those students who are seniors and have earned the privilege to buy lunch off campus. Only those seniors who sell raffle quota are allowed to leave campus for lunch during the first semester. After that, the senior class officers petition by quarter to have one day for off campus lunch. The petition is submitted to the Administration Team, reviewed and approved. Students must have parent permission to leave campus for lunch. This is a privilege and not a right and the privilege may be retracted if off campus behavior warrants it.

22. What are the St. Pius X raffle tickets?

For many years, St. Pius X has had an annual raffle. Each student is asked to sell tickets equalling \$200.00. The raffle takes place in the fall. Raffle tickets to sell may be obtained as early as the end of school the year before so that students can sell over the summer months.

23. What service hours are required?

Service hours are required each year. Each grade level has a different requirement for the number of hours to be served--seniors have the greatest number of hours. The Director of Community Service visits classrooms at the beginning of each year to explain the requirements for community service. Community service opportunities and community service hours worked are recorded on X2Vol, a computer application. All hours worked must be verified by the person supervising the student at the site the community service takes place. The complete Community Service Program is outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook.

24. What is the procedure if my student is sick or has an appointment?

If a student has an appointment, the parent must write a note prior to the appointment to release the student from school to attend the appointment. If the student's appointment is early in the morning and causes the student to be late to school, the parent should write the excuse the day prior to the appointment. Upon receipt of the parent note, the student will be given a pass to be released from class. These procedures take place in the Dean of Students Office.

If a student is sick and stays home, the parent should call the Attendance Office to report the absence prior to 9:00am. A call to the parent will be made after 9:00am if no call is received for the safety of the student. When the student returns to school a parent note and doctor note must be presented to the Attendance Office.

If a student becomes sick at school, the student should ask the teacher to go to the nurse's office. The nurse will either take care of the student and send him/her back to class or call the student's parent to pick up the student. In cases of emergency, 911 will be called and the parent will then be notified.

25. What health records are needed for admission?

For admission, shot records and a physical form completed the summer prior to the start of school must be submitted. These forms are due at registration.

If a student has a recurrent or chronic illness, the school nurse must be informed. All documentation of the illness, doctor's name and orders, and medications taken must be on file with the nurse.

26. What is the cell phone policy?

Cell phones are a fact of life, however, they can be a distraction to learning and a deterrent to socialization. Conversation is becoming a lost art. Students may have cell phones on their person or in their backpack. The only time students are able to openly use their cell phones is during the lunch period outside, not in buildings. During the other hours of the school day, the cell phone is to be turned off. If the cell phone is seen or used in a non-academic way, the cell phone will be confiscated, a detention issued and the parent must pick up the cell phone. If the cell phone is confiscated a second time, the consequences escalate and the cell phone is kept until the end of that semester.

The cell phone policy in the classroom is to use the cell phone as a learning tool. Teachers may have students use their cell phone as learning object in the classroom to research specific information pertaining to their class. Students may use cell phones, with the teacher's permission, to take a picture of their board work or homework assignments, research in class assigned by the teacher and other strategies that will facilitate learning directed by the teacher.

29. What are sports requirements, such as mandatory meetings, tryouts and open gym?

All students are invited to participate in sports. Students may have one, two or more sports that they are drawn to. Students and parents should contact the Athletic Department for the requirements and try out dates for each sport. "Open gym" at St. Pius X during the summer is no longer available. St. Pius X does have summer workouts during the summer for only those students who are registered in the school.

There is a mandatory meeting for all parents whose students will be playing sports during the school year. This meeting is to explain Athletic Department rules and to fulfill a requirement of the NCAA. Other mandatory meetings will be decided upon by the individual coach.

30. Can students bring their own laptops, iPads, etc., for class?

Starting with Fall 2018, every student will be issued a Chromebook for use in the classroom and at home. Chromebooks are as important as textbooks. Students will communicate with

teachers, do research, send in their assignments and perform many other tasks that teachers require. Students are responsible for charging their Chromebook each night to they are prepared for the next day's class. If the Chromebook is not functioning properly, the student should seek help from the librarians. The Chromebooks are to be treated as any property belonging to the school and similar to a textbook. If the Chromebook is damaged in any way, parents are responsible for the cost of repair which is \$150.00. For instance, students are warned not to throw their backpacks on the ground so damage can be avoided.