



# St. Pius Catholic School

August 2, 2022

Dear Saint Pius School Families,

As your Principal, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome new and returning families to the 2022-2023 school year! As we enter August and our summer break begins to dim, we turn our attention to our back-to-school preparations. In this regard, I am very excited to begin this new school year with you, and my faculty and staff eagerly await our students' laughter, energy, and enthusiasm for learning. Moreover, as we learn to live with COVID-19 and remain vigilant of health and safety protocols, we stand ready to bring back many traditional events and activities for our school community, all of which will make for an amazing school year!

In preparation for the 2022-2023 school year, there were several new teachers I needed to hire this past summer. In this regard, please welcome the following educators to our excellent teaching team (specific background information will be available on our new public website later this month):

- Mrs. Katie Macheimer, Fourth Grade
- Ms. Lorraine Morgan, Fifth Grade
- Mr. Ryan Toulouse, Seventh Grade Homeroom and Music
- Ms. Kelly Newman, Middle School Science

Additionally, I have made some shifts with our current faculty: Miss Hannah Ingram will be the Third Grade Teacher; Mrs. Meaghan Brennan will be the Sixth Grade Homeroom and Religion Teacher; Mrs. Gena Pass will be the Eighth Grade Homeroom Teacher.

Unfortunately, I still have one teaching position open: Middle School ELA Teacher. This position has been the most challenging one for me to fill as there have been several qualified candidates, not one of whom however were able to complete the hiring process for personal or professional reasons (the most recent one was just one week ago!). Nonetheless, my persistent search and outreach continues, and I remain hopeful that God will provide (if you have any referrals or recommendations, then please let me know).

I ask you to make note of the following new policies or procedures (these will be included in the updated Parent and Student Handbook to be distributed separately):

- Before-school daycare (7:30-7:45 am) will continue; after-school daycare will close at 5:30 pm (not 6:00 pm like last school year). Please plan accordingly.

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- We will begin each school day (except Tuesdays, which are school Mass days) with a schoolwide morning assembly at 8:00 am (second/tardy bell) on the schoolyard between the gym and the west wing. All students will assemble in their grade lines with their backpacks after drop-off beginning at 7:55 am (first bell). This assembly will consist of morning prayer, pledge and announcements. Teachers will escort their students to the classrooms following the assembly (in case of inclement weather, students will proceed directly to their classrooms following drop-off).
- Dismissal for grades kindergarten, first and second will be at 2:30 pm on a normal school day. This is a change for second grade, so please plan accordingly. Dismissal for grades 3-8 remains at 3:05 pm.
- Beginning this school year, ALL MONDAYS ARE MINIMUM DAYS (dismissal at 12:45 pm for all grades).
- Official school uniform polo provided by Dennis Uniform is one of three color options: white, navy blue or gray. The official uniform polo has the school logo on the front upper left side. Students may wear white polos with a “SPS” logo from last school year, but no polo without a school logo is authorized.
- Authorized footwear for all students is as follows: a laced athletic-type shoe (i.e., no slip-ons) that is a neutral color to complement the uniform. The shoe may have a different colored sole, or have a logo, or be two-toned in color.
- Girls may wear leggings as part of their regular school uniform. Leggings must be white, navy blue, gray or black. Leggings are only authorized with the regular school uniform; they are NOT AUTHORIZED with the PE uniform or for free/spirit dress days.

Finally, please mark your calendars with these important events or activities during the first two weeks of the school year (specific details for each event will be sent via separate announcement):

- **New Family Welcome Event** on Monday, August 15 (3:00-4:00 pm)
- **School Supply Drop-off for All Students:** Monday, August 15 (3:00-4:00 pm) or Tuesday, August 16 (9:00 am - 12:00 noon)
- **First Day of School Morning Coffee** (8:00-8:30 am) and **Blessing of the Books** (9:00-9:15 am) on Wednesday, August 17
- **Opening of School Year Family Mass (Mass of the Holy Spirit & Installation of New Principal)** on Sunday, August 21 at 9:30 am
- **Back-to-School Family Picnic** on Friday, August 26 (5:30-8:30 pm)
- **Back-to-School Nights:** Tuesday (K-5) & Wednesday (6-8), Aug 30 & 31 (6:00-7:30 pm)

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In closing, I am honored to serve as the Principal of Saint Pius School. For me, it is a joy to be the servant-leader of a community where students, teachers and parents C.A.R.E. for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic, social-emotional, and spiritual growth. All of us, faculty and staff, look forward to working with you in partnering your child's education.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us! Saint Pius, pray for us!

Blessings and peace,



**Mr. James Brandt**  
**Principal, St. Pius School**

*“Rooted in the Catholic Faith, the mission of Saint Pius Catholic School is the formation of the whole person through a Christ centered community that fosters faith, intellect, and character. We are enthusiastic lifelong learners empowered by a positive growth mindset, and a creative community of learners who aspire to be an inclusive family of active Christians that nurture faith, inspire minds, and awaken talents in all students.”*

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