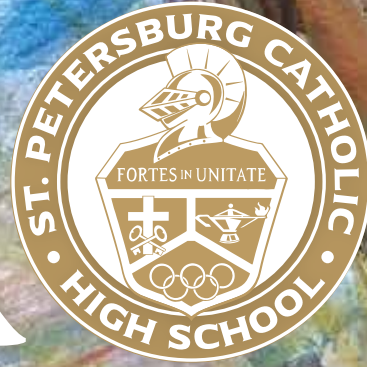


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SPRING 2024 | VOLUME 2, NO. 1

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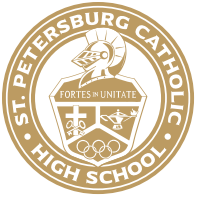
TAKING ST. PETERSBURG CATHOLIC
TO NEW HEIGHTS

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BARON

SPRING 2024 | VOLUME 2, NO. 1

The **Baron** magazine is published semi-annually (Spring and Autumn) by the Office of Advancement. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a copy of the **Baron** please have them contact advancement@spchs.org.

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Assistant Principal for Learning & Achievement

Dorian Bennett, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal of Student Formation

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Image of Blessed Pier Girogio Frassati
Painted by: Sara Cox | '25

Front Cover Honorable Mention
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Ryan Russell | '26



FROM THE PRESIDENT



DEAR BARON FAMILY,

I write to you with immense enthusiasm and optimism for the journey ahead as we embark on a new chapter for our beloved Baron Community. In this edition of Baron Magazine, our theme, “Verso L’Alto—Taking St. Petersburg Catholic to New Heights,” resonates deeply as we look toward the future.

With profound humility and gratitude, I announce my transition to the role of President, effective July 1st. This transition signifies a pivotal step forward for our school as we embrace the President/Principal Model, a governance structure proven to foster success in Catholic high school education.

Throughout my tenure, I have had the privilege of assuming responsibilities aligned with the presidential role, including spearheading the Stronger Together Capital Campaign, overseeing budgetary matters, and supporting enrollment initiatives and campus operations, all while fulfilling the duties of academic leadership. None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our talented educators and staff members.

Adopting this model allows us to appoint a Principal who will dedicate their focus to the school’s day-to-day operations. Our new Principal will inherit the responsibility of overseeing our academic and student formation programs, building upon the foundation of excellence established by our exemplary Assistant Principals, Mrs. Hudson and Mr. Bennett.

In our quest for a Principal, we sought an individual who embodies the virtues of our school community. We recognize that leadership in a Catholic institution is both a profession and a vocation centered on nurturing the spiritual growth of our students. In Mr. Keith Galley, we have found such a leader.

I am delighted to announce Mr. Galley as the 19th Principal of St. Petersburg Catholic High School. He brings a wealth of experience, including his tenure as Principal of St. Patrick Catholic School in Largo and his background at Clearwater Central Catholic, where he served as a teacher, athletic director, and dean. Mr. Galley brings a deep commitment to Catholic education, making him an invaluable addition to our team and leader at our school.

As President, I will focus on mission-driven initiatives and strategic development, particularly finance, enrollment, and advancement priorities. I am especially eager to strengthen our ties with alumni and the wider community, sharing the remarkable story of St. Petersburg Catholic and rekindling connections with our Baron alumni family.

As we look ahead, the future shines brightly for St. Petersburg Catholic, and I am honored to be part of this transformative journey. Together, let us ascend to new heights with confidence and unity, Verso L’Alto!

Fortes in Unitate,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross A. Bubolz".

Mr. Ross A. Bubolz
President

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DEAR ST. PETERSBURG CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES,

It is with immense joy and anticipation that I write to you as the newly appointed principal of St. Petersburg Catholic High School. As I embark on this journey, I am inspired by the words of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, “Verso L’Alto” – to the heights. These words capture my purpose and enthusiasm to take St. Petersburg Catholic to new heights of excellence, achievement, and community spirit.

I come to St. Petersburg Catholic High School with a deep-rooted connection to Catholic education and a passion for fostering academic growth and personal development in all students. My educational journey began right around the corner, as I graduated from the Cathedral School of St. Jude and later Clearwater Central Catholic High School.

After completing my undergraduate studies at Canisius College, I returned to serve the community that helped shape me. For eleven years, I had the privilege of contributing to Clearwater Central Catholic High School as a Chemistry teacher, Athletic Director, and Dean for Personal Growth. While I was working at CCCHS, I had the opportunity to earn my graduate degree in Educational Leadership at the University of Notre Dame through the Remick Leadership Program.

For the past eight years, I have served as principal at St. Patrick Catholic School in Largo. I have worked alongside dedicated and mission driven educators, parents, and students to uphold the values of Catholic education. In doing so, we have cultivated a nurturing environment for academic and spiritual growth.

As I transition to my new role at St. Petersburg Catholic High School, I am honored to join Mr. Ross Bubolz in embracing the President/Principal Model. Under Mr. Bubolz’s leadership, St. Petersburg Catholic has experienced a remarkable resurgence, and I am excited to collaborate with him and our outstanding team to build upon this momentum.

Together, we will continue to foster a culture of excellence, innovation, and faith-based learning. With the support of our community of students, faculty, parents, and alumni, I am confident that we will soar to new heights and fulfill our collective mission to form young men and women in spirit, mind, and body for future leadership and compassionate service.

I am thrilled to join the Baron family alongside my wife, Erin, and our daughter Madison, who will be a freshman this fall, as we embrace the rich traditions and values of St. Petersburg Catholic High School. It is an honor to continue the legacy of my older siblings, Amy (Heller) ‘91, Brett ‘93, and Scott ‘94, who all had the privilege of attending St. Petersburg Catholic. I look forward to meeting each of you and working together to propel St. Petersburg Catholic High School towards the heights of success and excellence.

Fortes in Unitate,

Mr. Keith S. Galley
Principal

ADVANCEMENT UPDATES



CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

SPCHS is pleased to announce that we exceeded our goal for the Science Center portion of our **STRONGER TOGETHER** capital campaign, exceeding our original goal of \$2,500,000. This would not have been possible without the incredible matching gift of \$750,000 from the Thomas Family, owners of Two Rivers Ranch in Hillsborough County. With that said, and based on current construction costs, SPCHS still needs to raise approximately \$250,000 to complete the project, bringing our new goal to \$3,200,000. Pending approval from the Diocese of St. Petersburg, it is projected that the school will break ground this summer. To make a gift to the **STRONGER TOGETHER** campaign, please contact Robert Yevich, Director of Advancement, at (727) 344-4065 or ryevich@spchs.org.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE BILL FREEHAN BASEBALL FIELD COMPLEX

During the 2024 Spring Baseball season, the Bill Freehan Baseball Field Complex has undergone refurbishments that include repainting and reroofing of the dugouts, electrical upgrades, and clubhouse and concession updates. J&J Builders and Developers, a current St. Petersburg Catholic High School family, has completed the project, which was funded by Mrs. Patricia Freehan, widow of Mr. Freehan. Bill Freehan's legacy lives on in our school community, and we are so proud of his many accomplishments, both on and off the field. He continues to serve as an amazing role model for our students, parents, alumni and coaches.



TO THE HEIGHTS

FATHER RALPH D'ELIA



In recent times, the Church has been blessed with the example of many young people who lived their faith in a compelling way. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was one of those young people. Born in Turin, Italy on April 6, 1901, he was known for his deep spiritual life, his dedication to serving the sick and the needy, and his commitment to social justice. But he was also a normal guy who was an avid hiker and mountain climber and was widely known for his love of the outdoors. Though he died at a young age, his impact on the community he served is felt to this day.

Pier Giorgio Frassati's life offers an example for us today. As a patron of youth and young adults, his life exemplifies the universal call to holiness. His witness teaches us we are all called to be holy no matter how young or old, rich or poor. Blessed Pier Giorgio strove for excellence in all dimensions of his life, especially the spiritual. His favorite expression, "verso l'alto" or "to the heights" exemplified this. In applying his experience mountain climbing to the spiritual life, he has left us with a model to strive to be the best we can be in all things.



St. John Paul II beatified Pier Giorgio in May of 1990 and dubbed him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes" for the way he lived out his faith and served others. His life continues to inspire us to live out our relationship with Christ fully, as he did, engaging our hearts and minds so as to serve to the best of our ability... "to the heights!"

MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCES AT KAIROS

Q & A WITH SENIOR GROUP LEADER, ANNA MARIA CARELLA

Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE A "MOUNTAIN TOP" EXPERIENCE FROM THIS YEAR'S KAIROS RETREAT?

- A.** A mountain top experience from Kairos is definitely the adoration on the second day, and seeing the Junior girls truly open up and enter in. Watching this really helped me see the love and dedication God has for each of us.



Q. HOW DID BEING A RETREAT LEADER DIFFER FROM BEING A PARTICIPANT AT KAIROS?

- A.** As a senior leader, this was my second Kairos, and I am so blessed to have the opportunity to go to this retreat twice. Being a leader allowed me to see the retreat from an outside perspective and see the impact that this retreat has.

Q. WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY FROM THIS RETREAT TO FURTHER GROW IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

- A.** I will never forget the memories and bonds that I have made and strengthened with these incredible girls! Seeing others so immersed in their faith is truly a great way to further grow in my spiritual life. I am the beloved!



Q & A WITH JUNIOR RETREAT PARTICIPANT, MATTHEW BRADBURY

Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE A "MOUNTAIN TOP" EXPERIENCE FROM THIS YEAR'S KAIROS RETREAT?

- A.** Kairos wasn't just a moment to rush through; it meant a lot more to me. It was like reaching the top of a mountain. But two moments stuck out vividly. Firstly, feeling God's touch was like a miracle. I hadn't cried in years, about four to be exact. Then, kneeling at the altar, I asked God to let me feel again. When I returned to my seat, a friend's comforting touch sparked something deep inside me, and tears flowed freely. Every time I glanced at the figure of Jesus, it felt like the floodgates opened wider. Another unforgettable moment was walking alone on the dock in the early morning mist. It felt like being in heaven on earth. The sound of water lapping against the dock, combined with the birdsong, created a magical atmosphere.



Q. WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY FROM THIS RETREAT TO FURTHER GROW IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

- A.** If there's one thing I want to carry with me, it's the idea of walking by faith, not by sight. Experiencing Jesus isn't something that happens every day. It's like tuning into a radio station amidst all the noise of life. When we focus, we realize His presence has always been there, like a constant background hum, waiting for us to notice. I see this analogy of a radio as a profound reminder. Just like a radio station broadcasting continuously, Jesus' love and guidance are always there, but sometimes life's distractions drown them out. It's about intentionally tuning in, filtering out the noise of doubt and worry, and embracing the assurance that He's with us, guiding us through every moment. This simple yet powerful concept has become my guiding light, illuminating my path even in the darkest of times.

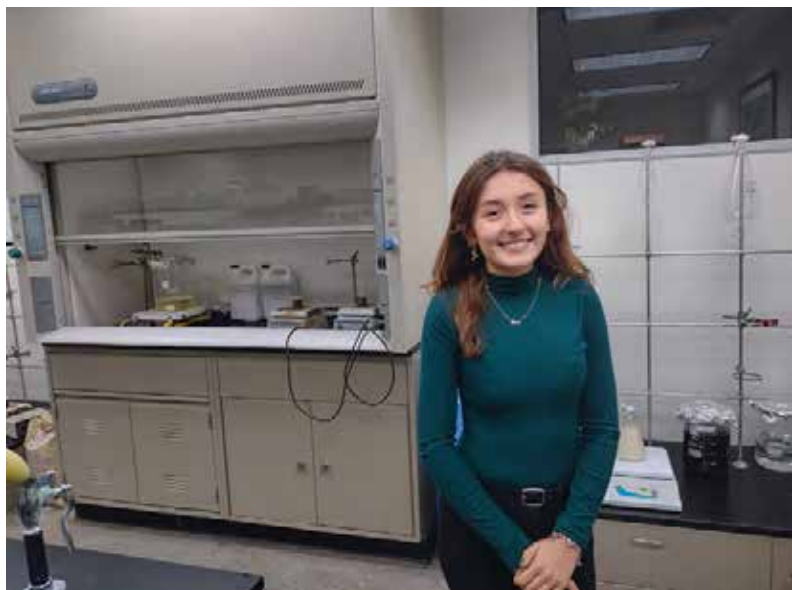
AP CAPSTONE 'ANT'ICS

BY SARA COX, CLASS OF 2025

“What is AP Capstone?” Those were the first words that I saw projected onto the media center board – big, bold, and bright as I sat down to an introductory meeting held by my counselor. As an upcoming Sophomore at SPCHS, I was unaware that such a program existed – and, quite frankly, looking at the intrigued faces around the room I felt it was a mutual sentiment. Redirecting my eyes back to the bolded question, I was made aware that Capstone, was in fact, an invitation-only program opening Sophomore year; this explained the enigmatic and exciting feeling that buzzed like static around the room. Composed of two year-long courses, AP Seminar and AP Research, AP Capstone is a premier diploma program run by the College Board. “Within these two years,” my counselor added, “you will be taught essential college-level skills, such as how to analyze research from existing bodies of knowledge and then apply it to your study. Furthermore, the College Board rewards excelling students with an award if they score a three or higher on their final examinations of the course, which is based on a scale of one to five.” Amidst all the excitement, I did have one thing clear in my mind: this diploma would help me show my academic proficiency and facilitate a smoother transition into higher education. Given such a rewarding challenge, how could I possibly say no?

My first year of Capstone was taught by Mrs. Kreger, a Seminar teacher for ten years. Her expertise landed her a position with the College Board supporting instruction of Seminar globally, so I was extremely blessed to have started my Capstone career with her guidance. We began the course by running a “mock” of the real exam which was composed of a team paper and presentation as well as an individual paper and presentation. When we reached the time of the real examination, I chose to research gun violence with my group. I specifically focused on international restrictions, and all together we concluded foreign restrictions did lead to a decrease in overall violence. For my research, I was given a series of article prompts that had a general theme of resilience. Based upon this, I built my question: “Would the implementation of subsistence farming techniques positively impact agrobiodiversity?” (surprise, the answer was yes!)

If I had found AP Seminar to be difficult, AP Research was on a completely different stratosphere. Instead of using prior research to come to a general conclusion, I had to find a gap within existing research and fill it on my own. At the beginning of the fall semester, I immediately began to brainstorm ideas for what I could research, specifically in my field of interest: biology. I settled on ants after watching a docu-series for their versatility and availability for research.



Looking into the field, I found a variety of research gaps regarding pheromones or scent trails. I found this means of research to be truly fascinating and just took off from there.

Almost eight months later, I can say I had several trials and tribulations in my study. I settled on fire ants due to their versatility, intelligence, and prominent status as an invasive species. A notable problem in the myrmecological world is how to control these pests- insecticides today use harsh chemicals that come at the cost of the environment. Using this problem and my interest in pheromone trails, I uncovered a chemical, a-farnese, that served as an alarm signal for the ants. Interestingly, this chemical is also produced in the skin of Granny Smith (GS) apples when exposed to sub-zero temperatures. With this in mind, I hypothesized that the application of a-farnese to ant hives, extracted from GS apples, would reduce overall hive build efficiency. My hypothesis was then tested through six groups, three control and three experimental, each filmed over an hour. I analyzed the film and established an average rate at which ants build with and without the application of a-farnese. The difference was substantial, therefore supporting my hypothesis.

Now, with the resolution of my research, I can further apply my findings to the field and begin to solve the issue of fire ant invasion. The AP Capstone program has not only prepared me for the demands of higher education but has also instilled in me a deep appreciation for the process of inquiry and discovery. I sincerely wish Capstone continues to thrive and impact future SPCHS Barons for years to come.

ARTFUL INSIGHTS

BY WENDY EWING, FINE ARTS DEPT. CHAIR

What makes St. Petersburg Catholic so special? Our thriving Fine Arts Department, of course! At SPCHS, students have the ability to share their talents and gifts, learn new techniques, and experience a diverse range of topics. Art education is crucial to forming critical thinkers and problem solvers, as well as unlocking student creativity. Passionate, talented, and dedicated Fine Arts faculty members help guide and inspire the next generation of visual and performing artists.

Over the years, art education has opened the door to creative and fulfilling careers for SPCHS graduates. Alumni have been accepted to top art colleges around the country, such as Savannah College of Art & Design, LIM College in NYC, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Ringling College, American Music and Dance Academy, and other top colleges nationwide. Graduates have performed on Broadway, earned Tony Awards, worked at top fashion companies, written and released their own music, and collaborated with musicians and artists. We are proud to inspire and prepare our students for careers in the arts and to use and share their God-given talents and abilities.

The Fine Arts Department offers a comprehensive program accessible to all students regardless of experience or ability level. SPCHS is blessed to offer a wide range of disciplines in both visual and performing arts. Located in the Don Bosco Center for the Arts, visitors will find a creative energy with students engaged in singing, acting, making music, and creating artwork.

Visual art students enjoy the ability to explore different art mediums each semester. Beginning level courses include Art 2D/3D, Painting, Creative Photography, and Ceramics I, which allow students of every skill level to explore tools and techniques associated with each discipline. The school's fully functional darkroom and digital photo lab is equipped with 35mm film cameras and top-of-the-line new Nikon digital cameras. Advanced level students enjoy the rigor of Portfolio Development Honors, Creative Photography II, and Ceramics II. There is also a large kiln room that houses two kilns. Advanced Placement 2D and 3D Art and Design are offered to top art students considering a career in the field of the arts. The AP Art courses consistently earn a high passing percentage rate each year.

SPCHS's award-winning Theatre Program consists of Theatre I – IV and Musical Theatre I – IV, and includes set and technical design, as well as production and performance within the courses. Theatre students perform two shows per year: a Christmas Performance and a Spring Musical. Troupe 4127, SPCHS's chapter of the International Thespian Honor Society, demonstrates their talents at district and state competitions each year, bringing home many highly rated excellent and superior performances each year.

Music Tech & Sound Engineering, Music of the World, and Music Ensemble (Band), make up the diverse music program, providing everything from learning instruments to digital music production. Honors Ensemble performs at all school Masses and out in the community, most recently appearing at the City of St Petersburg's Jingle Bell Run during the 2023 holiday season.

Students interested in film and TV production are encouraged to take Visual Technology I-4 (better known to students as "BSPN") or Film I, II. Students learn the ins and outs of video editing and production, as well as learn the art of Film within these classes, producing quality, newsroom style videos on a regular schedule.

The arts are alive and well at St. Petersburg Catholic, and I couldn't feel more blessed to witness the incredible talents of our students.



UF GREET'S UN

Every January, SPCHS takes a group of eager Model United Nations students to the University of Florida, and this year was no different. Students spent January 19-21 in Gainesville, engaged in lively debate and discussion with students from all over the state, as well as moderators from UF. This trip provides students with the opportunity to take skills they have worked on in the classroom – such as research, writing, debate, discernment, and relationship building – to the next level.



During the students' time at the conference, they participated in a wide range of councils that looked at historical, current, and fictional topics. Specifically, SPCHS students analyzed human rights, the impact of climate change in India, presidential politics and elections, and the Napoleonic Wars. Students spent a significant amount of time researching, writing position papers, writing resolutions, and negotiating with other committee members about their topics.

"I like it because it gives me a chance to do things you never really get a chance to do. You can pick a topic that interests you, research it, and create fun solutions. You're also able to go on a trip with your friends. You meet people from other schools who share your interests, and you get to see college campuses."

- **MARKUS FEDERICO-STOPA '24**

"I really enjoyed Model UN! It was a very unique experience and it introduced me to political sciences which I found a lot of interest in. I'm even planning on studying international relations next year [at the University of South Florida] because of my experience with Model UN."

- **MADISON CORIARTY '24**

"Watching students engage and debate in a highly academic environment is a truly amazing experience, and our SPCHS students represent our school in an impressive manner. They get to spend time on a university campus, engage with professors and college students from a variety of majors, attend Mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church where they can see what it is like to be a Catholic student on the UF campus, and deepen relationships with their classmates. Model UN is a unique and engaging club that will continue to thrive at SPCHS!"

- **MRS. ALISON BLANC, MODEL UN TEACHER ADVISOR**

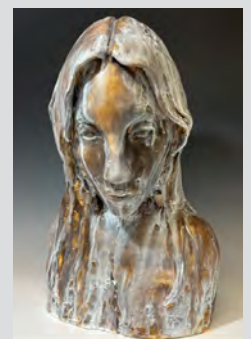


Artistic Accolades

On February 8, 2024, St. Petersburg Catholic High School artists were honored at Gibbs High School in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. For the region's middle and high schools, over 2,000 works of art were submitted, and only 109 received a Gold Key. Two of those awarded the Gold Key were St. Petersburg Catholic seniors, Olivia Greene '24 and Anna Alagood '24. Ms. Jaydene O'Donoghue, SPCHS Ceramics/Visual Art Educator, led the students in their creation of these stunning sculptures. All works earning a Gold Key will go on to compete in the national adjudication, and students earning national medals will be announced by Scholastic at a future date. Congratulations to our fantastic art students and their wonderful Baron teachers!



Olivia Greene '24
Who Is Next, 2023
Amaco, #11 clay (cone 6) painted with acrylic paint wash



Anna Alagood '24
Contemplation, 2023
Amaco, #11 clay (cone 6) painted with acrylic paint wash



SPC SPRING SPORTS ROUNDUP

BY NICK VANDEWALLE, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

FOOTBALL

Under the tutelage of 7th year coach **Jay Davis**, the Barons were very young but found their groove late in the season and ended on a 3 game win streak. With only 4 seniors the team is returning a good core group that will have them ready to go in the Fall. The offense returns key positions including QB, WR, RB and OL and should light up the scoreboard next year. Not to be outdone, the defense will shine returning all but one starter highlighted by the linebackers and secondary.

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Baron Volleyball, under 2nd year coach **Allyne O'Shea**, started hot, winning 4 of its first 5 matches. The team competed in the Sunshine State Athletic Association state tournament for the first time and look to make a splash at next year's tournament. The team graduates 5 seniors: **Anna Alagood, Julia LoRusso, Felicity Hill, Seyna Picard** and **Ann Maria Carella** who will continue her volleyball career at Catholic University.

CROSS COUNTRY

Under first year coach **Mark Huber**, the Baron XC team had another another good year. The team finished in the top 10 at City Championships and the district championships with several runners recording personal best times at each race.

BOWLING

Under second year head coach **Charlie Ludwig**, the team again excelled. Both the boys and the girls teams finished near the top of the district and look to capitalize on their momentum to qualify for the state tournament next year. The Team will miss the experience of seniors **Alex Vogelgesang** and **Marisa Vigna**, but both of these seniors have set the bar high for the returning bowlers.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Coach **David Lopez '02**, in his 8th year as the head coach, had the team firing on all cylinders at season's end, winning 4 out of their last 6 games, while playing one of the toughest schedules in the county. The Barons were led by 6 seniors: **Nick Berry, Chris Chan, Martagus Newton, Donovan Podolske, Tomas Puodziunas**, and **Allen Reynolds**. **Nick Berry** was named to the senior all-star team and was among the top scorers in the county averaging 22 points per game. **Nick, Martagus**, and **Donovan** are hoping to continue their basketball careers at the collegiate level.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Coach Van in his 27th year as the Lady Barons basketball coach guided the team to a 14-12 record this past season. The team battled injuries in an up and down season, that was highlighted by huge win over Northside on senior night and a near upset of top ranked Calvary in the district tournament. The team graduates 6 seniors: **Nichole Adkins, Elise Graham, Kate Miller, Hailey Phillips, Becca Salcido**, and **Ellie Soderlund**. Seniors **Kate** and **Elise** were both selected to the All-star game. Both **Kate** and **Elise** along with **Kinsley Spoor** and **Naomi Denmark-Thompson** were selected to the all-district team. The team returns a good young core and should compete for the district crown next year!

GOLF

Coaches **Bryce Patenaude** and **Spencer Grant** are training a good core group of young golfers.

This year's team had several golfers who were new to the sport and the coaches developed a practice squad to help them prepare for the future.

BOYS SOCCER

Under first year coaches **Kyle Schaneville** and **Jose Vargas** the team rolled to a 10-6 record and placed second in the district. It was a true team effort with 13 players scoring goals with the top goal scorers **Jacob Arias** (11 goals), **Camden Schaneville** (7 goals) and **Christian Mena** (6 goals) leading the way. **Christian (Sr)** & **Camden (Sr)** were team captains and did an excellent job leading the team. **Andres Morales** was MVP with his strong defense and support on offense. He played crucial positions during each game and led the team with most assists.

Joe Weidner was Rookie of the Year and starting as goalie as a Freshman and had 7 total shutouts! **Jacob Arias** and **Christian Mena** were Strikers of the Year. They both battled injuries but still had a combined 35 points with 17 goals and **Christian** had 5 assists. **Ben Haffner** was Defensive Player of the Year. He was critical in our 10 wins and 7 shutouts. Also, he had 7 points with 2 goals and 3 assists. **Camden Schaneville** was Mid-Fielder of the Year and Ironman of the Year playing in all 16 games. He had 16 total points with 7 goals and 2 assists.

Our other Seniors supporting our team efforts were **Roberto Estrada** (4 goals), **Paco Landeros** (1 goal), **Christopher Serour, Lorenzo Rios, Ethan Puffer** (1 goal) and **Dontrell Searles**.

Congratulations SPC Boys Soccer on a great season! Go Barons!



GIRLS SOCCER

Fourth year coach **Erin Soto '11** guided the girls soccer team to a 7-5-2 record. The team graduates 6 seniors: **Lizzie Corrado, Isabel Hysell, Seyna Picard, Allison Trainor, Caroline Gomes** and **Sofia Chapman**. **Caroline** will continue her soccer career at Mount St. Vincent and **Sofia** will continue her soccer career at Florida Southern College.

SWIM AND DIVE

The Boys' Swim Team showcased their prowess at the state championship, securing an impressive 7th place finish. SPC achieved multiple individual top 8 finishes at States, including school record holder **Adam Varga** in the 200 free and 100 fly. The team also shattered school records in the 200 free relay, 200 medley relay, and the 400 free. Only two records remain standing from 1980's, though it is expected they will fall next year. Not to be outdone, the girls' team demonstrated significant improvement, surpassing the times of the past two years. Freshman standouts **Ryte Puodziunas** and **Joey Campagnola** exemplify the school's tradition of competitive excellence, setting a promising tone for the future of the program. Freshman diver **Melia Webb** advanced to the state championship meet, marking an impressive achievement in her first season as a Baron. The coaches are eagerly looking forward to resuming training with the team in August.



WRESTLING

The season began competing at the Mulberry Duels which allowed the team to see 1A teams they typically wouldn't see in the regular season. The Barons finished 3rd in our pool and 7/10 over all In the tournament. A highlight from the Duels, **Ella Swartz** won her first match against a male in her debut, by pinning him in the 1st period. Fast forward to the middle of our season. The St. Petersburg City Championships was a great tournament. The team placed 4 overall and, had 3 City Champions. Our Barons had a number of successes throughout the season. What impressed the coaching staff the most was how they performed in the post season. The coaches anticipated 3 making it out of the district into the regional finals...6 of our wrestlers earned a trip to compete in regionals. Four of them being first time wrestlers. And **Luke Swartz** being 1 match away from being a State Qualifier. It's very safe to say Baron wrestling is moving in the right direction. We're looking forward to next season... See ya on the mat!



ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

On April 5th, SPCHS hosted its annual Alumni Basketball Game in the Walsh Field House. After the game, players congratulated past coach, **Michael Moran**, on his retirement after 40 years of coaching.



If you are interested in playing in next year's Alumni Basketball Game, please contact Coach Dave Lopez '02, at dlopez@spchs.org.

SKY'S THE LIMIT

On February 10, 2024, the Friends of Albert Whitted Airport celebrated the second annual Flight Scholarship Awards Event held at Albert Whitted Airport in St. Petersburg, FL. Thirty students, between the ages of 16 and 24, were awarded scholarships to assist in their goals of one day of becoming pilots. Three of the awardees were St. Petersburg Catholic High School students. Congratulations to Lizabeth Corrado '24, Ava Carvalis '25, and Kiersten Gulick '26 on their stellar achievement!



Ava was awarded the \$1,000 Starter Scholarship, Lizabeth and Kiersten were awarded the \$5,000 Intermediate Scholarship. These scholarships provide financial support, but also reflect the organization's belief in the potential and zeal of these developing aviators. For these Barons, the sky's the limit!

SPC POINTS OF PRIDE

77%

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PASS RATE FOR THE 22-23 SCHOOL YEAR, ABOVE THE 66% GLOBAL AND 62% STATE AVERAGES

\$5.2 MIL

SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

37%

GRADUATES OVER 4.0 GPA FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

1

NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

1

QUESTBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2023



RECENT COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| American Musical & Dramatic Academy | Georgia Southern University | Stetson University |
| American University | Hampton University | Stony Brook University - SUNY |
| Appalachian State University | Hofstra University | Syracuse University |
| Arizona State University | Howard University | Towson University |
| Auburn University | Jacksonville University | Tulane University |
| Ave Maria University | Johns Hopkins University | United States Naval Academy |
| Baylor University | Lehigh University | United States Coast Guard Academy |
| Bethune-Cookman University | Louisiana State University | University of Alabama |
| Bucknell University | Loyola University - Chicago, Maryland & New Orleans | University of Central Florida |
| Catholic University of America | Manhattan College | University of Chicago |
| Clemson University | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | University of Cincinnati |
| Colorado State University | Massachusetts Maritime Academy | University of Connecticut |
| Drexel University | Michigan State University | University of Denver |
| Duke University | Northwestern University | University of Florida |
| Duquesne University | Nova Southeastern University | University of Georgia |
| Eckerd College | Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences | University of Maryland - Baltimore & College Park |
| Embry Riddle Aeronautic University | Pace University | University of Kentucky |
| Flagler College | Palm Beach Atlantic University | University of South Florida |
| Florida Atlantic University - Wilkes Honor College | Pennsylvania State University | University of Memphis |
| Florida Gulf Coast University | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | University of Miami |
| Florida International University | Rice University | University of Mississippi |
| Florida Institute of Technology | Ringling College | University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill |
| Florida Polytechnic University | Rochester Institute of Technology | University of North Florida |
| Florida Southern College | Rollins College | University of Notre Dame |
| Florida State University | Savannah College of Art & Design | University of Tampa |
| Fordham University | St. John's University | University of Tennessee - Knoxville |
| Franciscan University of Steubenville | St. Joseph's University | University of West Florida |
| Full Sail University | St. Thomas University | Vanderbilt University |
| George Washington University | Saint Leo University | Washington University - St. Louis |
| Georgia Institute of Technology | Seton Hall University | |

GALA

WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR GALA COMMITTEE, SPONSORS, ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS WHO MADE THIS EVENING POSSIBLE.



SPONSORSHIPS
\$35,750



RAISE THE PADDLE
\$50,529



SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION
\$102,324



TICKETS & RAFFLES
\$24,410

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3.16.2024

**SOLID
GOLD**

**CELEBRATING THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. PETERSBURG
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**



ALUMNI NEWS



BISHOP BARRY ANNIVERSARY MASS

On March 17, 2024, Ross Bubolz, Principal, and Robert Yevich '04, Director of Advancement, celebrated Mass with Bishop Barry alumni and family members in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel on campus, to commemorate the 67th Anniversary of Bishop Barry High School. Fr. Michael O'Brien, Class of 1970, presided at the Mass. Afterward, attendees met in the Mittermayr Family Presentation Room to look at old pictures and yearbooks, as well as to exchange stories. We are grateful for the rich tradition that has laid the foundation for St. Petersburg Catholic High School.

WE REMEMBER

PATRICIA VIGUE '68
03/20/2024, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

MICHELLE FOERSTER, P'06, P'10, P'18,
02/04/2024, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

JACK HEHENBERGER '76
12/15/2023, BROOKSVILLE, FL

RITA FREUDENTHAL '72
12/25/2022, TOPTON, NC

Note: If you are aware of a member of our Baron Family (graduate or parent of graduate) who passed away, and would like them included in a subsequent issue of the magazine, kindly send an email to advancement@spchs.org and include:

- first/last name of deceased
- graduating year [or if parent of graduate, year of their child(ren)'s graduating year(s)]
- date of passing
- city/state of residence



DAVID GIRARDI '07, is a quarterbacks coach for the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League (NFL). Girardi played at Geneva between 2007 and 2010. He started 3 years and finished with 5,997 passing yards and 37 touchdowns with a .572 completion percentage. He was inducted into the Geneva College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022. After his time at Geneva, Girardi started out as a graduate assistant at Seton Hill. He later became the quarterbacks coach at his alma mater, Geneva. He then went on to coach at Northwestern from 2014 to 2017 as an offensive quality control coach and defensive graduate assistant. After that he was named the quarterbacks coach for Lafayette where he coached for one year in 2018. On January 29, 2018, the Chiefs hired Girardi as an offensive quality control coach. In 2019, Girardi won his first Super Bowl when the Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers 31–20 in Super Bowl LIV. In 2021, he was promoted to assistant quarterbacks coach and passing game analyst. In 2022, Girardi won his second Super Bowl when the Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38–35 in Super Bowl LVII. On February 28, 2023, the Chiefs again promoted Girardi, but this time to quarterbacks coach. In 2023, Girardi won his third Super Bowl when the Chiefs defeated the 49ers 25–22 in Super Bowl LVIII.

Q. HOW DID ST. PETERSBURG CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR CAREER PATH IN COACHING?

A. With a Christ-centered education, I feel like SPC was able to teach me what being a servant leader is. That is something I strive to be as a coach.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AS A SPCHS STUDENT ATHLETE?

A. Beating CCC on Senior Night.

Q. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN YOUR COACHING CAREER?

A. I've been fortunate enough to win three Super Bowls with the Kansas City Chiefs. Each season was unique in its own way. Those moments of triumph and being able to share them with my family are memories I will never forget.

Q. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER CURRENT SPCHS STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERING A COACHING CAREER?

A. Surround yourself with good people. Soak up as much information as you can as a young coach. Always be available to help in any capacity. The team will be better for it and you'll become more valuable to the organization.

Alumni News welcomes contributions on what's happening with graduates of St. Paul's, Bishop Barry, Notre Dame Academy and St. Petersburg Catholic. Email: advancement@spchs.org.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DR. OLESTER BENSON '70

Dr. Olester Benson, Class of 1970, is a retired Corporate Scientist in the 3M Corporate Research Process Laboratory. He is a chemistry graduate (BA) of the University of Colorado at Denver and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physical organic chemistry from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He spent over 33 years leading research efforts developing environmentally friendly manufacturing process technologies. He applied these technologies creating a broad portfolio of products within the medical, personal safety, traffic safety, renewable energy, aerospace, home improvement, semiconductor processing, and electronic display industries. He has received 89 issued United States patents.



A retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant with 24 years of service (11 Active, 13 Active Reserves), Dr. Benson's military journey encompassed roles as an infantryman, medical specialist and pharmacy specialist in locations spanning the United States, western Europe, and Central America.

His life is a testimony of the goodness of God. Having enrolled at Eckerd College for the sole intent of obtaining a military deferment during the height of the Vietnam War, his "plan" led to inconsistent academic performance leading to his dismissal after a year and a half. (*"All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord"* –Proverbs 16:2). Ironically, one year later while visiting relatives in California, he enlisted in the U.S. Army for the combat infantry. (*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps"* –Proverbs 16:9).

While in the Army, Olester took advantage of all the educational opportunities the Army had to offer both stateside and in Europe. After he reenlisted and completed his Medical Specialist and Pharmacy Specialist training with honors, his assignment to the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, CO enabled him to complete his BA (chemistry) and begin his chemistry doctoral program at the University of Colorado-Boulder while still on active duty. He transitioned from active duty to the Army Reserves midway through his second year in graduate school.

Dr. Benson is a member of Phi Lambda Epsilon Chemistry Honorary Society. He was inducted in the 3M Carlton Society, the highest honor given in the company for technical achievement. He is the recipient of the University of Colorado George S. Norlin Distinguished Alumni Award, and the MacArthur Award from Eckerd College.

Away from the lab, he was active in programs supporting student success. He was a founding member of the Discovery Education / 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a national science competition for middle schoolers; a 30-year mentor and instructor for the 3M Science Training Encouragement Program for high school students; the 3M's liaison to the board of directors for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering providing scholarships for college students; and a member of the University of Colorado Graduate School Advisory Council.

"I can still recollect the excitement when I graduated from Immaculate Conception knowing that I would be attending Bishop Barry. I remember that I was always eager to discover what was in store the next day. When I have reflected or spoken of my experience at Bishop Barry, Coach Paul, Mr. Mora, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Gavin, Mrs. Futton, and Mr. Lonergan are frequently mentioned. Their positive influences broadened my view of the world and laid a fertile foundation upon which I could grow and thrive personally and professionally."

Olester and his wife, Sharmae, are blessed to have 4 daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.



THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE 2023 DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM OUR STUDENTS, PARENTS, STAFF, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS. MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

CAPITAL GIFTS (RECEIVED IN 2023)

Capital Gifts recognize individuals, families, and organizations that made major gifts to the school or made payments on pledged gifts for a defined Capital Project. A major gift is defined as \$5,000 or greater.

Arthur & Janet Czyszczon	Dawn & Mia Miller	Mark Stalker
Robert & Mari Czyszczon	Susan Mittermayr	James & Mary Tapp
Dr. John & Lauri Haffner	Rusty & Amy Spoor	John Zibrida

ANNUAL GIFTS TO THE BARON FUND (SEPARATE FROM CAPITAL GIFTS)

PRINCIPAL'S SOCIETY | \$10,000+

Anonymous	Patricia Freehan	David & Dawn McCabe
Anonymous	Tony Janicki	

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SOCIETY | \$2,500-\$9,999

Anonymous	Guy Van Middlesworth	Michael Nagle	Bill & Carrie Tapp
Dr. John & Lauri Haffner	Jill Van Middlesworth-Banks	Lynn Riggi	
James Helinger, Jr.	Morgan Stanley Gift Fund	John & Naomi Roy	

ST. JOHN BOSCO SOCIETY | \$1,000-\$2,499

American Online Giving Foundation	Michelle Detweiler	Dr. Carlos & Kitty Labrador	Keith Schauman
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Wayne and Cynthia Chase	Mark Huber	Kevin O'Rear	Don & Julie Volpe
Jon Covington	Krauss-Baschab Family Foundation	Marian Olson	

SISTER MARIE CARMEL SOCIETY | \$500-\$999

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Anonymous	Patrick Dunham	Dr. Diana McNeill	Frank & Lisette Shields
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	Dr. Luis Martinez	James Russell	Joseph & Donna Zeoli

BLACK AND GOLD SOCIETY | UP TO \$499

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2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

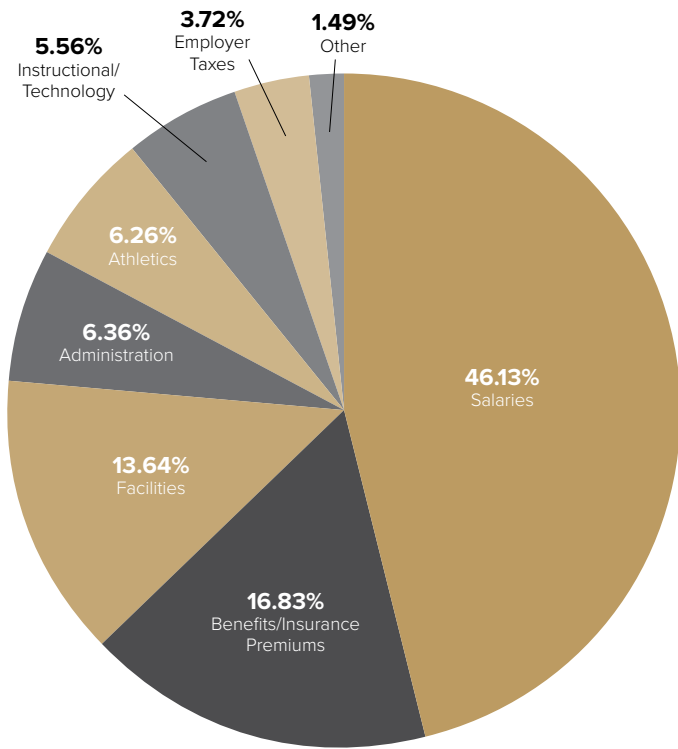
WHAT IS THE BARON FUND?

The Baron Fund supports St. Petersburg Catholic High School above and beyond necessary operating expenses and is replenished by an annual drive. When alumni, friends, and parents support The Baron Fund, you are helping create the “Baron Family Experience” for all students. There is a \$2,000 per student gap between tuition and what it costs to create that unique experience for each of our students. Thanks to the generosity of our stakeholders, the Fund supports tuition assistance, which impacts nearly 46% of the student body. The Baron Fund also advances academics and provides equal access to advanced placement courses, AP Capstone, and Project Lead the Way. It also supports and enhances athletic programs, visual and performing arts, and campus ministry. The Fund is dually aimed at offering competitive salaries to attract and retain talented faculty and staff. All students enjoy the full Baron educational and spiritual experience made possible from the support of The Baron Fund.



WHAT IS THE COST TO EDUCATE A STUDENT AT SPCHS?

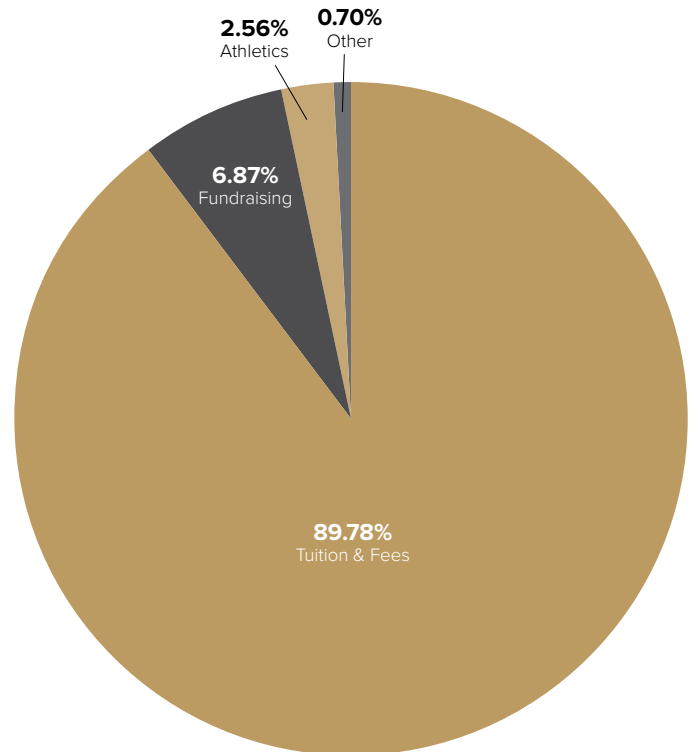
The average cost to educate a student at SPCHS for the 2023-2024 School Year is \$14,900. With a tuition cost of \$12,900, this leaves a shortfall (or gap) of \$2,000 per student. This shortfall is intentional and allows the school to remain accessible to as many families as possible. We encourage all alumni, friends, and parents to make as generous a gift as one’s means allow. Gifts of all sizes to the Baron Fund make a tremendous impact.



23-24 BUDGETED EXPENSES

Salaries	46.13%	\$2,983,860
Benefits/Insurance Premiums	16.83%	\$1,088,900
Facilities	13.64%	\$882,050
Administration	6.36%	\$411,675
Athletics	6.26%	\$405,000
Instructional/Technology	5.56%	\$359,500
Employment Taxes	3.72%	\$240,500
Other	1.49%	\$96,550

TOTAL \$6,468,035



23-24 BUDGETED REVENUE

Tuition & Fees	89.78%	\$5,811,650
Fundraising	6.87%	\$445,000
Athletics	2.56%	\$166,000
Other	0.70%	\$45,400

TOTAL \$6,473,050

*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
Together we can do great things!"*

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta



427
SPCHS STUDENTS

\$494,000
IN-HOUSE TUITION ASSISTANCE
DISTRIBUTED IN 2023

46%
OF THE SPCHS STUDENT BODY RECEIVED
IN-HOUSE TUITION ASSISTANCE

96%
OF THE SPCHS STUDENT BODY RECEIVED THE
FLORIDA SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (HB1)

40%
ARE NEW RECIPIENTS OF THE FLORIDA
SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (HB1)



DEBT FREE!

This school year, SPCHS was able to pay off two non-performing debts to the Diocese of St. Petersburg. The loans were taken out during the 2001 school year, and have been paid in full.

**PLEASE SUPPORT A ST. PETERSBURG CATHOLIC BARON TODAY BY VISITING
[HTTPS://SPCHS.ORG/GIVE](https://spchs.org/give), VENMO@STPETERSBURGCATHOLICHIGH SCHOOL,
OR SCAN ONE OF THE QR CODES BELOW.**

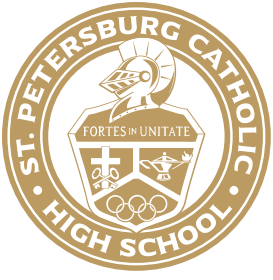


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DATES TO NOTE

[2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR]

Prom	May 18, 2024
Last Day of School	May 24, 2024
Baccalaureate Mass	May 24, 2024
Commencement	May 25, 2024

[2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR]

First Day of School	August 12, 2024
Labor Day: No School	September 2, 2024
PD Day: No School	October 14, 2024
Homecoming/Fanfest	October 18, 2024
Grandparents Day	November 22, 2024
Thanksgiving Break	November 25 - December 1, 2024
Giving Tuesday	December 3, 2024
Christmas Break	December 21 - January 5, 2025
MLK Day: No School	January 20, 2025
Pres. Day: No School	February 17, 2025
Baron Gala: 80s Prom	March 8, 2025
Lenten Pause: No School	March 17-21, 2025
Holy Thursday: Noon Dis.	April 17, 2025
Good Friday: No School	April 18, 2025
Easter Monday: No Sch.	April 21, 2025
Baccalaureate Mass	May 23, 2025
Commencement	May 24, 2025
Last Day of School	May 28, 2025