NEW FAMILY
WELCOME GUIDE
2025 - 2026

Disclaimer: The information presented in this guide is subject to change without notice. The content has been provided by board members of the PAC (Parents Across Cultures). For the most accurate and up-to-date information, it is recommended to verify the details with the staff and faculty of St. Xavier School. We encourage you to consult the Student Handbook for further reference.

Table of Contents

First Days of School 1
- School Supplies 1
- Laptop Setup & Troubleshooting 1
- Uniform 1
- Commute 1
- Parking Passes 1
- Lunch 1
- Bomber Pilots 1
- School Year Calendar 1
- Bell Schedule 1
- Flex Period 1
- Absences, Doctor Appointments & Early Dismissals 1
- Mass of the Holy Spirit 1
- Class Night 1

Student Involvement 2
- Community Service 2
- International Travel Opportunities 2
- Canned Food Drive 2
- Freshman Mixers 2
- Walk for X 2
- Clubs 2
- Sports at St. X 2
- Tickets for Sports 2
- Tickets for Fine Arts 2

Parent Involvement 3
- Mothers' Club (MC) 3
- Parents Across Cultures (PAC) 3
- Parent Classroom Volunteers (Prefect) 3
- X-Travaganza 3
- Athletic Boosters 3
- Music Boosters 3
- Women's Club 3
- Where can I go near St. X while waiting for my student? 3

Tips on Academics 4
- Free Bell 4
- Freshman Parent Meet the Counselor Night 4
- Honors Classes and AP courses 4
- JUG Explained 4
- Parent Teacher Conferences 4
- Principal's Weekly 4
- Retreats 4
- Student Handbook 4
- Sophomore Year Gym Class 4

Tools to Access 5
- Parent Portal 5
- Canvas 5
- Facebook Parents Page 5
- PowerSchool 5

Social Media 5
Final Forms 5
Parent Directory 5
Passwords? So many... 5

First Days of School



School Supplies

While it's always good to stock up on staples like notebooks, folders, and pencils, we recommend waiting to order most materials until the first week of school. Each teacher will communicate with the specific supply needs for each course..

> *Pro tip*: Be sure to order required books as soon as possible. Some teachers may also post school supplies in advance to Canvas for their individual classes.

Laptop Setup & Troubleshooting

Laptop requirements can be found on the St. Xavier website under Academics/Technology @X. If you're having any trouble setting up your device, email tech support at helpdesk@stxavier.org or call them at 513-761-7600, x231.

> *Pro tip*: Many students have a Microsoft Surface laptop so it may be easier to get help from a classmate/homeroom leader or borrow a charging cord if one is left at home.

Uniform

Students are expected to follow the dress code referenced on page 23 of the Student Handbook. You can also view the handbook through the Parent Portal.

> *Pro tip*: If your child forgets it's mass day, or their belt, etc they can go to Student Services. They have lots of extras: belts, ties, shoes, or jacket in case your son needs something.

Commute

On the Transportation/Parking tab of the Parent Portal you can use the Bomber Rideshare to locate or offer rides. The tab also includes information about drop off and pick up routes, as well as busing information.

Also, you can search for families in your area by typing the zip code in the keyword box of the Parent Directory found in the Parent Portal

> *Pro tip*: If your child plays a sport, it is helpful to reach out to fellow parents that live in your area and establish a separate carpool for after school/sports events.

> *Pro tip*: If you come from the East side of town, take into consideration delays due to train crossings as you come up North Bend Rd.

Parking Passes

Junior and senior students need to complete a form to request a parking spot. This Parking Pass Application can be accessed in the Parent Portal on the Transportation/Parking tab.

Lunch

Student IDs are used to purchase food on campus. To load money to your son's account you'll need to register for an account on PaySchools Central. You can also get more details on the Parent Portal in the "Lunch Information" tab located below the resources section.

> *Pro tip*: Lunch lines can be long the first few weeks of school, so your son may want to pack the first week.

Bomber Pilots

Each homeroom has a group of senior leaders, referred to as "Bomber Pilots," who are assigned to support freshmen. The role of the Bomber Pilot is to serve as a role model, answer questions the freshmen have about life at St. X, guide the homeroom in daily announcements, and organize donations to philanthropic efforts, including the annual canned food drive.

School Year Calendar

The School Calendar can be found on the Parent Portal in the "Resources" section on the right side of the page.

Bell Schedule

The school day is broken into 8 class periods named "A" through "H," and are referred to as the "A-bell," "B-bell" and so forth. The "Daily Order Calendar," found in the Student Handbook. or on the "Links & Info" tab on the Parent Portal, indicates the order and duration of class on a given day. There are also special schedules on exam days, assembly days, and late start days. Regardless of the order, every day the boys will have a homeroom (designated as "HR" on the Daily Order Calendar) and "Flex Period," which is described below.

Flex Period

Flex period is the time of day when students have *flexibility* built into their schedules. They can eat lunch, do homework, play intramural sports, participate in club meetings, meet with teachers, talk to counselors, or attend special events hosted by Career ConneXions or the Entrepreneurship Department. Flex generally occurs from 11:10am-12:05pm, unless there is an assembly or school delay.

Absences, Doctor Appointments & Early Dismissals

Notify the attendance line as soon as possible if your student has a doctor/dentist appointment that is scheduled during school hours. Be sure to allow time for travel to the appointment. Students are expected to notify their teachers individually and make up any classwork. The full school policy can be found in the Student Handbook.

> *Pro tip*: Add St. Xavier High School contact information to your contact list for easy notification: 513-761-7815 and attendance@stxavier.org

Mass of the Holy Spirit

The Mass of the Holy Spirit "is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating to 1548 in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming year." For incoming freshmen, this is a very special mass that takes place in the first weeks of school. The event is live streamed for family members who want to watch the ceremony online.

Class Night

Referred to as 'Meet the Teacher Night" in many primary schools, St. X's Class Night gives you the opportunity to follow your son's academic schedule, following the same path through the school that he would take on an "All Meet" schedule that includes all of his classes. You'll meet their teachers and learn about the goals and expectations of the course.. You may even get to sit in the very seat your student is assigned and meet their Bomber Pilots!

> *Pro tip*: This is for all grades. If you have multiple students, you'll need to select which son's schedule you want to follow or have another adult family member divide-and-conquer with you.

> *Pro tip*: Grab dinner before you arrive because this event won't wrap up until about 9:30pm.

Student Involvement



Community Service

There is a community service sign-up day during Flex in September. Activities are offered after school and on Saturday mornings. Some activities meet on a weekly basis while others are every other week, For more information you can reference the "Faith and Ministries" section of the St. Xavier website.

International Travel Opportunities

During the summer students have opportunities to participate in various international travel opportunities including missions trips and language immersion experiences. The requirements vary for each trip. Some are open to all grades and others are for upperclassmen; some are geared toward any student and others are specifically for those with an academic interest in a certain subject. Visit the Service and Immersion Trip section of the website to learn about an opportunity that is specifically offered to junior students. Information about other international travel opportunities will be shared throughout the year through the Principal's Weekly email.

Canned Food Drive

The annual Canned Food Drive begins in November and supports food banks in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Over the course of six weeks, teams of St. X student homeroom collect upwards of 100,000 pounds of donated food. Each homeroom is assigned a neighborhood throughout greater Cincinnati, and students volunteer in a two-step process: 1) Deliver notices that donations will be collected on a certain day, and 2) Collect the items and deliver to St X. for distribution to local food banks.

Freshman Mixers

These take place after one fall football game on the St. Xavier campus (sometimes they have a second one). They are advertised on the St. Xavier Facebook page, Principals Weekly newsletter, and school announcements. Only St. X men are allowed to attend and women from other schools can be invited to attend. School staff chaperones, there is usually a DJ, and it costs $5 to attend. The mixers typically end around 10:30/11:00pm.

> *Pro tip*: If your student stays after school to attend Friday football, we recommend picking up their backpack prior to the football game as they are unable to get to it after the mixer that night.

Spring Dance

Freshman through Juniors attend the spring dance. Often students go with a group and make dinner reservations.

> *Pro tip*: Order a corsage early, certain seasons they sell out. Kroger floral department makes them.

Walk for X

In the early fall every student participates in The Walk for X, a student walkathon that benefits the St. X tuition assistance program. While students are not required to fundraise, if the student body, as a whole, meets the fundraising goal, the students are rewarded with a bonus day off from school. Donations can be submitted online or dropped off in person at school. More information on the event will be available in the Principal's Weekly.

Clubs

St. X offers a wide range of clubs, including academic, competitive, cultural, music & arts, intramural sports, school publications, service and social. Each year, in September, students attend a Club Fair during flex period in which they can sign up for clubs they are interested in. A comprehensive list of clubs/activities can be found in the Student Life section of the St. Xavier website under "Clubs and Activities."

Sports at St. X

The St. X Sports website has a comprehensive list of sports offered through the Athletic Department. You indicate your interest in a certain sport in the Final Forms document portal. Once you express interest you will receive an email when the tryout, and, if applicable, cut process, begins for that sport. An annual physical is required to participate in sports.

Tickets for Sports

For St. Xavier games hosted at St. X, you can visit the St. X Sports page to purchase individual game tickets or an All Sports Pass.

- Individual tickets to sporting events can be purchased at school in the Spirit Shop or online.
- The Bomber All Sports Pass can be purchased for $153. It includes admission to home games for all sports except OHSAA tournaments. This is a virtual pass stored on an app.

> *Pro tip*: Go to Stxsports.net to find schedules for any sport. Click on the sport and then select the team: Varsity, JV. You can also stream certain sports and games from the site.

Student Tickets for Fine Arts

Tickets for all St X Fine Arts performances can be purchased from the Fine Arts page on the St Xavier main website.

NOTES:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Parent Involvement



Learn more here https://www.stxavier.org/about/parent-involvement

Mothers' Club (MC)

All parents and guardians of St. X students are automatically members of Mothers' Club, an organization that aims to serve the St. X community by planning both events that directly impact students, and ones that foster relationship-building amongst parents. In addition to hosting the highly-anticipated Christmas Boutique & Fashion Show each year, the Mothers' Club also brings in guest speakers, coordinates a weekly parent walking club, and spearheads multiple teacher/staff appreciation events.

Parents Across Cultures (PAC)

The Parents Across Cultures (PAC) organization invites St. X parents interested in fostering an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion to support the school through a variety of volunteer efforts. The group hosts several signature events each year, including the Freshman Ice Cream Social and the Taste of Diversity. In addition, PAC members organize various social events, such as Bomber football tailgates and Game Nights, and partners with Mothers' Club and various departments at St.. X to support events like the Freshman Parent Welcome on the first day of school.

Parent Classroom Volunteers (Prefect)

Parents can volunteer to monitor classrooms when there are teacher absences. You may be asked to proctor a test/quiz or simply ensure students are in the classroom focused on their assignments. There is no required commitment and it is not necessary to have experience as an educator. Additional information can be found in the Back To School section of the Parent Portal.

X-Travaganza

This is a fundraiser to support education access for students attending St. Xavier High School. While the formal dinner event takes place in the spring, X-Travaganza sponsors multiple fundraising events throughout the year, such as gift gathering parties for auction items and a golf outing.

Athletic Boosters

Parents who want to provide financial and volunteer assistance to St. X sports teams can become part of the Athletic Boosters program. The Athletic Boosters organize events such as the Hall of Fame dinner and help staff the concession stand at sporting events.

Music Boosters

The band, choir, and string ensembles are supported through fundraising led by the. Music Boosters. The efforts of this organization benefit students by lowering the cost of fees for music trips and purchasing supplies needed for musical performances. Music Booster volunteers can serve as field trip chaperones, assist with ticket sales, organize senior receptions, and more.

Alumni Parents' Club

The connections made as a part of "The Long Blue Line" last long past graduation and aren't just for students! The Alumni Parents' Club is a social organization for parents of St. X graduates who love St. Xavier High school and enjoyed the relationships they developed while at St. X.

Where can I go near St. X while waiting for my student?

While you're waiting for your student, there's a variety of options in the area that you might consider. If you need a good place to work with Wi-Fi, Panera on Winton Road, and Luminary by Terza in College Hill are great spots. Need to pick up something or dinner? Kroger on Winton Rd carries everything you need and has a Starbucks in store as well. Want to enjoy the outdoors? Feel free to walk around the St. Xavier campus (there's a walking path around the fields) or head up the road about 10-15 minutes to Winton Woods Park. Got an evening activity? Some options include City Barbeque, Buffalo Wings & Rings, and Mi Cozumel Cantina on Winton Road. Or, one of these spots in North College Hill: Tortilleria Garcia (St. X family owned), Brink Brewing Company, Marty's Hops & Vines, Big Chill, I Heart Mac & Cheese, Just Q'in BBQ, El Camino Bakery and Kiki.

NOTES:

Tips on Academics



Free Bell

All students have one free bell built into their schedule. It falls at different times of day depending on the class day of the week (A-day, X-day, etc.). If the free bell is at the start of the day, they can arrive at school at the start of the 2nd bell. However, if they are late for their 2nd bell due to weather or other circumstance, it is treated as a regular tardy. If the free bell falls at the end of the school day, students can leave campus early without penalty.

Freshman Parent Meet the Counselor Night

This typically takes place in the second week of school. Parents meet as a large group in the Walter C Deye S.J. Performance Center and then have smaller group breakout sessions with their son's specific counselor.

Honors Classes and AP Courses

Incoming students take placement tests in the spring to determine their course load as freshmen. In future years eligibility for Honors, Accelerated, or Advanced Placement (AP) courses is based on a combination of teacher recommendation, counselor approval, and course grades. Honors and AP courses provide a boost to GPA, and successful scores on a spring AP exam can enable students to earn college credit.

JUG Explained

A JUG is essentially an "after school detention" and *served at 3:10pm on the day they are received.* There is no exception for sports. The Dean of Students reserves the right to assign a demerit in addition to a JUG, and repeated demerits result in more serious consequences. For a comprehensive description of the full disciplinary policy at St. Xavier,please see the Student Handbook.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are optional. Parents of freshmen have an opportunity to schedule conferences with their students' teachers in September. Formal conferences are available to parents of students in all grades in the fall and spring, but parents are encouraged to contact teachers by telephone or e-mail at any time. Additional information is available in the Student Handbook.

Principal's Weekly

This is your lifeline to what is happening at S.t Xavier during the current week and the weeks ahead. If you only do one thing each week, take a couple of minutes to read this email that includes messages from the principal, college counseling office, Boosters, Mother's Club, Parents Across Cultures, and more.. You'll also learn about upcoming dates and deadlines such as school mixers and dances, athletic competitions, fine arts events, and late start days. You can always find previous Principal's Weekly emails in the "Email Archive" section of the Parent Portal.

Retreats

Each grade hosts a retreat to encourage both spiritual and relational development. During Freshman year, the entire class participates in a three-day retreat on the St. X campus. Sophomore and Junior retreats allow students to choose a theme (ex: service, mindfulness, interpersonal relationships, outdoor exploration) that aligns with their interests and goals. These small-group retreat options vary every year and they may be on- or off-campus. As Seniors, students have the option to participate in Kairos, a retreat held at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford.

Student Handbook

For all questions around rules and requirements, discipline procedures, fees, and the mission and beliefs of St. Xavier, you will find the answers in the Student Handbook. Not just for students, it is recommended parents review the policies described in the handbook.. You can always access it in the Parent Portal from the "Links & Info" tab.

Sophomore Year Gym Class

This is required of every student, regardless of whether they play a school sport. Sophomores take a gym/health class during the year that is required for all students for one semester. Juniors who are not playing a sport at St. X are also expected to take gym one semester of their junior year. However, for a fee, St. X does offer a summer gym class in June after sophomore year that will count towards that credit.

NOTES:

Tools to Access

Parent Portal

This is an essential link to all things St.X for parents. The Parent Portal can be accessed from the St. Xavier home page in the upper left-hand corner under "LOGIN". On the page you'll find links to information about everything from Dance Tickets and Athletics to Community Service and Summer Reading Assignments.

Canvas

This tool captures the details of the day-to-day that are taking place in the classroom as well as grades for individual assignments/exams. During Class Night, teachers will highlight their use of Canvas. All communication from students to teachers is conducted through Canvas.

Parents will need to set up an account using these instructions: Set Up a Parent Canvas Account, and then you'll be able to view your son's assignments and grades by accessing Canvas on the Parent Portal.

Facebook Parents Page

If you are a Facebook user, the St. X Parent Facebook Page can be a very helpful place to get questions answered and find useful reminders (e.g. tomorrow is a formal dress day for your son). You can also search for past questions that have been asked.

PowerSchool

While Canvas shows daily tasks and grades on individual assignments, PowerSchool is where end-of-semester information is housed. Log into PowerSchool to view report cards, honor roll information, and attendance details.

Social Media

St Xavier communicates through a variety of social media platforms. Individual clubs/sports also often have their own social media stream.

- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/STXHS
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/stxbombers/
- Twitter https://twitter.com/stxinfo

Final Forms

By now you've spent some time filling out online paperwork. Annually, you'll be asked to visit Final Forms and update information. This is also where you'll upload documentation of the yearly required physical exam and indicate if your son has an interest in sports each season.

Parent Directory

The Parent Directory is a database of parent contact information pulled from Final Forms.

Passwords? So many…

Here's a handy sheet that can be printed so you can track all the passwords for school in one spot.

VOLUNTEER WITH PAC

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER WITH PAC (PARENTS ACROSS CULTURES) BY SIGNING UP AT:

HTTPS://WWW.STXAVIER.ORG/PACVOLUNTEERFORM

JOIN US IN MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY