

September 11, 2026



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we finish our fourth week of school, we are already halfway through the first quarter. The excitement and energy of the opening weeks have settled into the rhythms and routines of the school year. And, as often happens about this time, we also begin to experience a little turbulence.

Last week, as I flew to Michigan for a family wedding, the flight started out incredibly smooth. Then, without much warning, the plane began to bump and shake. A few moments later, the captain came over the intercom and calmly explained that we had encountered some unexpected turbulence. He asked everyone to remain seated and keep our seatbelts fastened. There wasn't panic in his voice. There wasn't uncertainty. Just a calm reminder to stay seated, buckle up, and trust that he knew what was happening.

A short time later, the turbulence passed. The seatbelt light went off, and the captain came back on to let us know that everything ahead looked smooth again. I remember thinking how comforting it was simply to know that the captain had things under control. Life—and certainly a school year—can feel a lot like that.

We begin with excitement, new classrooms, new teachers, new schedules, fresh goals, and plenty of optimism. Then, somewhere along the way, we hit a few bumps. A student struggles with an assignment. A friendship becomes difficult. A family schedule gets complicated. A parent or teacher has a challenging conversation. Expectations need to be clarified. Someone has a hard day. Fatigue creeps in, and what felt smooth a few weeks ago can suddenly feel a little shaky.

It is in those moments that our theme, **Anchored in Christ**, becomes much more than words on a banner.

Psalms 46:10 reminds us, “**Be still, and know that I am God.**” Being still doesn't mean that the turbulence immediately disappears. It means that even as things shake around us, we remember who is ultimately in control.

Jesus demonstrated this beautifully when the disciples found themselves caught in a storm. While they were frightened by the wind and waves, Jesus spoke, and the storm became calm. The disciples learned something that we need to remember again and again: **the storm may feel overwhelming to us, but it is never overwhelming to Him.**

As we continue through this first quarter, there will undoubtedly be a few bumps along the way. That is part of learning, growing, raising children, building relationships, and doing ministry together. What matters is how we respond when those bumps come.

At St. Paul's, we are blessed to walk through them together—as students, parents, teachers, staff, church members, and ministry partners. We communicate. We listen. We extend grace. We solve problems. We encourage one another. And most importantly, we keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

So when the turbulence comes, buckle up, lean into one another, and remember:

He's got this.

Be still.

Stay anchored.

Trust the Captain.

And keep moving forward together.

Panthers for Life—and always **Anchored in Christ**.