



St. Patrick Catholic School
The Irish Weekly
Week of August 2-6, 2021



Our Mission Statement

To lay the foundation for students through Catholic traditions and high standards of education in a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Jn 6:35

Welcome Back!

This week marks the return of our faculty in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. We will also have the chance to welcome our youngest students back through teacher Meet and Greets and to see everyone at our Drive-Through School Supply Drop on Friday. I hope that you had a wonderful summer and that you are excited to be back at St. Patrick Catholic School for what I know will be a great year. I will be doing my best to send out *The Irish Weekly*, like this one, each Friday to you so that you have an idea of what will be coming up in the week(s) ahead. If you have any questions about upcoming events, we will be doing our best to keep our Parent Portal, website and social media platforms updated for you to reference. If all else fails, though, don't hesitate to call or email us.

Diocesan Update to the COVID Policy

On Friday, June 30, in response to Governor DeSantis's emergency order relating to masks and social distancing in schools, the diocese has had to amend its intention to have all faculty, staff and students wear masks in response to the surge in new COVID cases in the counties served by our diocese. Now, the policy is that masks are optional, and all classes will be in-school learning without social distancing. We will continue our enhanced cleaning methods and we will be limiting visitors to our campuses. If you want your child to wear a mask to school, you are welcomed to send them with either a SPCS mask or a solid-colored mask that covers their nose and mouth. We will ask all visitors to our office to wear a mask. Beginning of the year activities, such as our Back-to-School Event, will be evaluated to ensure that we can conduct them safely. If any there are any changes to the policy, we will let you know ASAP.

State Tax-Free Holiday

The 2021 Back to School Sales Tax Holiday was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. It will be held July 31 – August 9, 2021. During this sales tax holiday period, qualifying items will be exempt from tax including certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item; certain clothing, footwear and accessories selling for \$60 or less per item; and the first \$1,000 of the sales price of personal computers and related accessories purchased for noncommercial home or personal use. For more information and to view the lists of qualifying items, check out the FAQ document that was sent along with this *Irish Weekly*.

School Office Hours this Week

On Monday, August 2, and Wednesday, August 4, our school office will have limited hours due to the faculty/staff Pre-Planning Activities. On Monday, August 2, our school office will be closed for training. On Wednesday, August 4, our office will open at 1:00 and remain open until 3:00 for regular school business. The office will be open regular hours the rest of the week.

Meet and Greet Activities

On Tuesday, August 3, our Kindergarten families will have the opportunity to meet their teacher, Mrs. Trujillo, and see their classrooms. The Meet and Greet event will take place from 10:00-11:00am. Please meet in the school cafeteria. You are welcome to bring your prepared school supplies for Kindergarten ONLY with you that day.

On Thursday, August 5, our PreK-3 and VPK families will have the opportunity to meeting their teachers as well. The Pre-K3 families will meet from 8:00-8:45am. VPK C (half-day AM) will meet from 9:00-9:45am. VPK D (half-day PM) will meet from 10:00-10:45am. VPK A (full-day) will meet from 11:00-11:45am, and VPK B (full-day) will meet from 12:00-12:45pm. All Meet and Greets will begin in the school cafeteria. Please bring your school supplies with you that day.

Our First through Fifth Grade Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Monday, August 16 from 6:00-7:00pm. Our Sixth through Eighth Grade Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Tuesday, August 17 from 6:00-8:00pm. Both programs will begin in the Parish Hall (cafeteria).

Drive-Through School Supply Drop-Off

Our Drive-Through School Supply Drop-Off will take place on Friday, August 6. Please make sure that all your school supplies are clearly labeled with your child's name and grade. When you arrive at the school, you can join the queue like a morning drop-off (line up against the curb leading towards the school office). When you get to the front of the line, faculty and staff members will assist you by taking your school supplies from your car and will see that they are delivered to the appropriate classroom for the first day. **Please make sure that you receive your after-school carline car signs prior to leaving the drop-off.** The schedule for the supply drop-off is:

- Families with Last Names beginning with A-J from 9:00-10:00am
- Families with Last Names beginning with K-P from 10:00-11:00am
- Families with Last Names beginning with Q-Z from 11:00am-12:00pm

Half-Day on Wednesday, August 11

Our first day of school will be a half-day on Wednesday, August 11. Grades K-8 will release at 11:45am. PreK-3, Full-Day VPK and Half-Day VPK AM will dismiss at 10:45am. Half-Day PM VPK will dismiss at 2:45pm. **There will be no after-school care that afternoon.**

Drop Off Time and Location

Please remember that students ***should not*** be dropped off any earlier than 7am. Drop off for the Early Childhood Program is through the carline around their campus. Drop off for grades K-10 is through a line that ends at the gate near the school office. If a staff member is not there to welcome your child, please make sure to wait.

Pick-Up Diagram

A diagram with the afternoon pick-up procedure can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please remember to join the line based on the **oldest** student in your carline. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students will begin dismissal at 2:40pm. Grades 5-8 will begin dismissal at 2:50pm. Please be patient during the first few weeks as everyone gets into the swing of pick-up. Also, please make sure to remain in your car and refrain from cell phone use, so that we can keep the line moving smoothly.

Home and School Welcome Back Event

Our Back-to-School Family event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 20. More information about the event, as well as the Sign-Up Genius link will be included in next week's *Irish Weekly*.

New Family Ice Cream Social

Our New Family Ice Cream Social event will be held on Friday, August 6, from 6:30-8:00pm. If you are a new family to our school community, we would love to have you come enjoy a treat and get to know other new families in our community. To sign up, please use the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945afa829a4f85-newfamily5>

Calendar Updates

A few end-of-the-year changes had to be made to our school calendar. These impact our fifth through eighth graders. The calendar will be updated on the school website, if you want a new copy. The NEW dates are as following:

- Eighth Grade Exams/Noon Dismissal Days will now be Monday, May 23 through May 25
- Eighth Grade Field Trip will now be Thursday, May 26
- Eighth Grade Leadership Retreat (Half-Day) will be Tuesday, May 31
- Eighth Grade Graduation will be Tuesday, May 31 at 6:00pm
- Fifth through Seventh Grade Exams will be Tuesday, May 31 through Thursday, June 2

Hot Lunch Program

The Hot Lunch Program will begin serving full lunches on Monday, August 16. For the first half week of school (August 11-13), Chef CJ will have snacks available for purchase. Please be sure to pack a lunch for your children during that first half-week of school.

This Week-At-A-Glance

Monday, August 2

- School Office will be closed due to training.

Tuesday, August 3

- School Office is open from 8:00am-3:00pm.
- Kindergarten Meet and Greet from 10:00am-11:00am (meet in the school cafeteria)

Wednesday, August 4

- Faculty and Staff off campus for beginning of year Mass.
- School Office is open from 1:00-3:00pm

Thursday, August 5

- School Office is open from 8:00am-3:00pm.
- PreK-3 Meet and Greet from 8:00-8:45am (meet in the school cafeteria)
- VPK C (Half-Day AM) Meet and Greet from 9:00-9:45am (meet in the school cafeteria)
- VPK-D (Half-Day PM) Meet and Greet from 10:00-10:45am (meet in the school cafeteria)
- VPK-A (Full Day) Meet and Greet from 11:00-11:45am (meet in the cafeteria)
- VPK-B (Full Day) Meet and Greet from 12:00-12:45pm (meet in the cafeteria)

Friday, August 6

- School Office is open from 8:00am-3:00pm.
- Drive Through School Supply Drop-Off for Families A-J 9:00-10:00am
- Drive Through School Supply Drop-Off for Families K-P 10:00-11:00am
- Drive Through School Supply Drop-Off for Families Q-Z 11:00am-12:00pm
- New Family Ice Cream Social 6:30-8:00pm (School Cafeteria)

Lunch Menu (please order through www.stpatrickjacksonville.org)

Monday 8/16	Tuesday 8/17	Wednesday 8/18	Thursday 8/19	Friday 8/20
The menu for this week will be uploaded to the website this coming week and we will begin announcing it in the next <i>Irish Weekly</i> .				

