



September 10, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

Please follow the traffic patterns painted on the black top for arrival and dismissal. At dismissal, when entering the parking lot, immediately turn left and park in the second or third rows. If you park in the first row you will need to wait until dismissal has concluded to back out. This is for the safety of our students and those who pick them up. Thank you for your cooperation.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents/guardians picking up their children leave their dogs at home or in the car during dismissal.

St. Mary School provides an outstanding academic curriculum focused on the needs of each student. All students, no matter their age, learn differently, and our teachers work tirelessly to find and use methods to help each student thrive. During the school year, teachers of grades 1 through 8 will be using an assessment called Star 360. This assessment has been used in grades 1-8 over the past few years, so your child is likely familiar with the assessment. Students take a reading and a math assessment on a computer 3 times during the year (September, January, and May) for a total of about one hour each time. Teachers receive student results immediately that they can use as another source of input to help them provide each child with resources and instruction that will best help them to thrive. Our first test will take place during the week of September 23rd.

The Star Assessments provide teachers with information that will help them to 1) track student progress toward grade-level standards that are aligned with our curriculum, 2) identify skills that need to be reinforced and more advanced skills for which each student is prepared, and 3) compare student learning and progress to typical learning and progress for their grade and age, and 4) pinpoint more accurately each student's instructional reading level to select the right level of challenge for their reading materials.

All parents will receive a report at the end of the year that will provide you with information about your child(ren)'s progress during the year and ways that you can support their continued development at home.

We are excited about using this tool to help us continue to meet your child(ren)'s individual needs and build on the solid academic formation that our school already provides.

God Bless,
Mrs. Patricia Mancuso



LUNCH PARENTS NEEDED

St. Mary School lunch program needs your help to supervise the children and clean the tables during lunch. If you can assist between 11:15 am and 1:00 pm, please fill out the form below and send it to school as soon as possible.

To be a volunteer, you will need to go through a criminal history background check and Virtus training (protecting God's children program) as per diocesan policy. If you do not have your background check or training, we will send home the paperwork. St. Mary School will reimburse the cost of the criminal history background check. If you have any questions about the background check or training, please email Mrs. Morales at mainoffice2@smarys.org.

Thank you!

Mrs. Mancuso

LUNCH VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Name _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____ A B

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

I am available on the following days: (circle all that apply)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Please check if you are: _____ Virtus Trained _____ Fingerprinted

St. Mary School Crusader Raffle Baskets

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are kindly asking our parents/guardians for monetary donations for the Crusader raffle baskets. The room parents for each grade will purchase the items for their grade's theme.

Please send donations **CASH ONLY** in an envelope with your child's classroom and mark **"ROOM PARENT"**. **All donations need to be received by the Room parents no later than Monday, September 23rd.**

Thank you in advance for helping with this fundraiser!

Sincerely,
St. Mary School Athletic Department



Please join us to celebrate
St. Mary School 75th Anniversary

Beef and Beer

When: October 5th 7pm-10pm

Where: Assumption Hall

\$25 per ticket on sale now until October 1st

Celebrate with us through food, drinks, and dance as we
pay tribute to our school community and commemorate
the 75th anniversary of Catholic education at

St. Mary School

A list of tickets purchased in advance will be at the door. No actual ticket will be distributed. Tables will be first come first serve.

Name: _____

Phone # or Email: _____

Tickets Purchased: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

SMS Alumni: Yes No Graduating Year: _____



ST. MARY SCHOOL—50/50 SERIES

St. Mary School will be having four 50/50 raffles this school year to help support St. Mary School and Catholic education.

Our FIRST one will be...

BACK TO SCHOOL---50/50 RAFFLE

In celebration of Back to School for the 2024-2025 school year, we will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets beginning September 10 until Noon on September 20.

Cost:

1 ticket for \$3.00

3 tickets for \$5.00

15 tickets for \$10.00

40 tickets for \$25.00

You can purchase tickets at:

* Back to School Nights (September 11 and 18).

*At the Main Office during regular school hours

*You can also return the form below with the money

The 50/50 Raffle will be drawn on Friday, September 20 at 3 pm.

We will contact the winner of the raffle after it is drawn.

Thank you for your support of St. Mary School and Catholic Education!

.....
PLEASE RETURN THIS BOTTOM PORTION ALONG WITH THE MONEY TO ST. MARY SCHOOL NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT NOON --ATTN: JACKIE KERN, ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Name: (to be placed on tickets)_____

Child's Name_____ Homeroom _____

Email_____ Cell Phone_____

Number of tickets_____

Amount enclosed_____ (cash please)

NO TICKETS WILL BE SENT HOME—WE WILL WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE TICKETS AND PLACE THEM IN THE BASKET FOR THE DRAWING!

Back to School Night

September 10, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Back to School Night for Grades 5-8 will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Enter through Assumption Hall and you will be directed to your child's classroom. 8th grade parents/guardians will remain in the gym for the teacher presentation. All others will head to oldest child's classroom first. There will be more than one session offered so you will have the opportunity to see the teachers of all of your children. Uniform exchange will be available. The Assumption Hall Doors will open at 6:10 p.m. **This night is for parents only.**

Your attendance at Back to School Night is strongly encouraged. It is here that you will receive information about the upcoming school year and is also a great opportunity to meet your child's new teacher as well as to review classroom policies and expectations.

Thank you,
Mrs. Mancuso

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



EARN \$1,000+ per year

Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.



"It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."

Jen H., earns for hockey

Get started by downloading the [RaiseRight™ app](#) on your phone or go to [RaiseRight.com](#) on your computer.

For step-by-step instructions, visit [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](#).

St. Mary enrollment code **4E128A3A4968**

Scrip Coordinator **Annemarie Norton** text/call **856-419-7400**

50% of rebate to the school and 50% of rebate to you in the form of tuition credit, check in January and June, or donated back to school. Raise Right app on your phone-easily get digital gift cards or order physical gift cards. No fee for VISA Gift Cards.



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PERFORMING ARTS REGISTRATION

St. Mary School will be offering the students in grades 4th through 8th the opportunity to participate in the SMS Performing Arts Club. The club will meet every Monday and Thursday from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm under the direction of Ms. Erin Whittaker. We ask parents to be prompt in providing transportation at 4:30 pm. Miss Whittaker is in her 16th year of directing shows for St. Mary School and looks forward to this year's production.

The students will be introduced to many facets involved in dramatic productions. These will include diction, stage presence, dramatic readings, vocal developments, and choreography. The cost per member is \$65.00 for students in grades 4th and 5th and \$80.00 for students in grades 6th - 8th, which will cover the expense of staff and materials.

If interested, please complete the form below and return it with the registration fee to Ann Marie Morales no later than **Friday, September 13, 2024.**

The first practice for all grades will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 from 2:45 pm until 4:30 pm with a parent meeting 4:00-4:30. Thursday, September 19th are auditions for the 4th and 5th grade students.

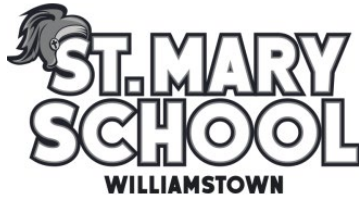
Performing Arts Club Registration Form

Name _____ Grade _____ A B

Parent's e-mail address: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ check _____ cash

Please check one: _____ Performing Arts _____ Stage Crew



CLOTHING DRIVE

** clear the clutter * raise funds for SMS * help those in need **

date: Saturday, October 5

drop-off time: 8:30am – 10:00am

location: 8th grade doors SMS

Items Collected

Clothing & Accessories

Shoes (in separate bags)

Towels, Sheets, Pillowcases

Curtains

Small Toys (under 2ft)

Stuffed Animals, Bikes/Scooters

Strollers

Please ensure **ALL** donation items are in **TIED PLASTIC BAGS**



ITEMS NOT COLLECTED: quilts, comforters, pillows, blankets, sporting equipment, board games, books, puzzles, pots, car seats, electrical devices, glass, large toys, highchairs, furniture of any type, VCR tapes, outdoor play sets

Please keep **SHOES** in **SEPARATE** bags

Any **QUESTIONS** please call or text Liz Duxbury 609-602-1913



To: St. Mary School Parents and Guardians

IT'S TIME FOR THE BOOK FAIR ~ HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

BOOK FAIR DATES: October 8th through October 10th

Please see the attached schedule for the date and time your child will be visiting the Book Fair. If you would like your child to purchase a book please send money in an envelope with child's name, homeroom, and Book Fair written on the front and send it to school on the day your child is scheduled to attend. The Book Fair will be held in Classroom 3B, please enter through 2nd grade doors to sign in if you wish to attend with your child/ren.

Grandparents/Special Person Event:

On Thursday, October 10th your child will have the opportunity to shop exclusively with a grandparent or special person. Last names with letters A to M may shop between 9:00 am to 9:30 am. Last names with letters N to Z may shop between 9:45 am and 10:15 am. Please send in a note with your child's name, homeroom, and name of grandparent/special person no later than Tuesday, October 8th. They will enter through 2nd grade doors to meet your child at the Book Fair.

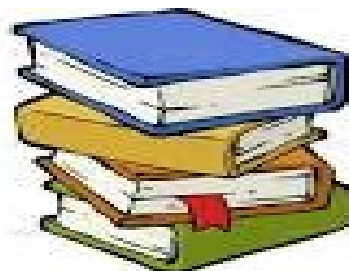
Teacher Gift Certificates:

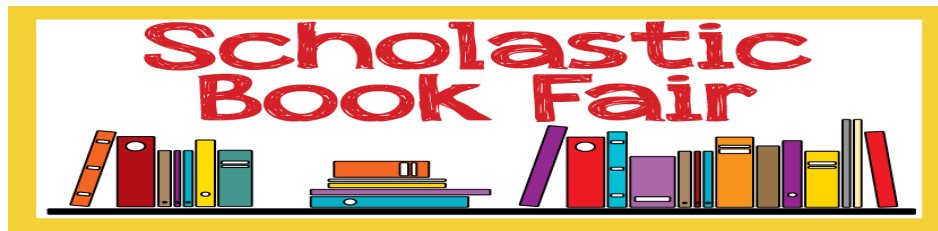
We are offering parents the opportunity to purchase gift certificates for their teachers from home. If you would like to purchase a gift certificate (can be for any teacher) please send the attached form and send to school in an envelope to the attention of Linsie Decker, Book Fair Gift Certificate. We will deliver all gift certificates to teachers to be used at the Book Fair.



PTA appreciates your help and support during this week. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail listed below.

Sincerely,
SMS PTA
Linsie Decker
linsiedecker@gmail.com





SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 8th, Wednesday, October 9th,
and Thursday, October 10th

Time	Tuesday, October 8th	Wednesday, October 9th	Thursday, October 10th
8:30-9:00	8A	5B	
9:00-9:30	PK 3	PK 3	Grandparent/ Special Person
9:30-10:00	PK 4	PK 4	Grandparent/ Special Person
10:00-10:30	7A	6A	Grandparent/ Special Person
10:30-11:00	8B	4B	3A
11:00-11:30	7B	6B	
11:30-12:00	2B	K2	
12:00-12:30	2A	K1	
1:00-1:30	1B	4A	
1:30-2:00	1A	5A	



The eighth grade students will sell Philly Soft Pretzels every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the school year. Pretzels will be available to students in grades Kindergarten to 8th. If you wish to place a pretzel order for your child, please complete the form below and send order form in an envelope marked Pretzel Order with payment no later than Wednesday, September 11th. Pretzel delivery will begin on Tuesday, September 17th.

We will take orders for the entire year. You may order a pretzel for one day, two days, or all three days. One pretzel a week from September through June will cost **\$30.00**, two pretzels a week from September through June will cost **\$50.00**, and three pretzels a week from September through June will cost **\$70.00**.

Please note that gloves will be used for distribution of all pretzels by an adult. For the health and safety of our students a gloved adult will directly hand each child their pretzel.

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Class of 2025



Pretzel Order

Please circle the day(s) you would like your child to receive their pretzel(s).

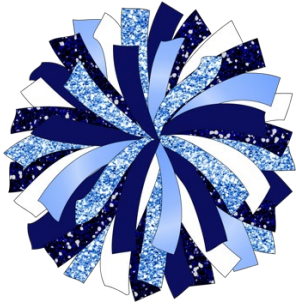
Name _____ Class _____ A B Tues. Wed. Thur.

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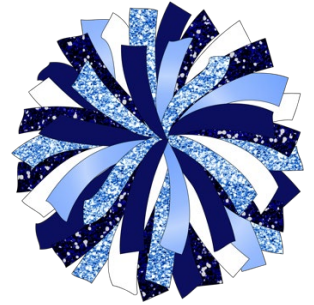
Name _____ Class _____ A B Tues. Wed. Thur.

A payment of **\$30.00** for one pretzel a week for each student, or **\$50.00** for two pretzels a week for each student or **\$70.00** for three pretzels a week for each student.

SMS

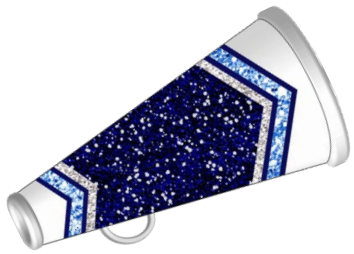


CALLING ALL MINI
CHEERLEADERS!!!!
2024-2025



IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!
GRADES K-2 CHEERLEADERS- MINI DIVISION

REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024



The season for the Mini Division will be from November 2024 to February 2025. We will have closed practices on Saturday Mornings from 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM in Assumption Hall

In addition to practices, we will also:

- * Perform at the Winter Pep Rally (during school hours)
- * Sideline Cheer at ONE Home Basketball Game (optional)
- * Compete in ONE Winter Competition (mandatory)



All registration forms and fees will be due at the time of registration. The forms can be found on the St. Mary School website under the ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS tab. Please note, the registration fee is \$75.00, which includes competition fees.

Any questions, please email me!
Alyssa Colon – E: alyssavcolon@gmail.com



GO CRUSADERS



Annual School Integrated Pest Management Notification
for St. Mary's School

As part of a school pest management plan, *St. Mary's School* may use pesticides to control pests. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) registers pesticides to determine that the use of a pesticide in accordance with instructions printed on the label does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health and the environment. Nevertheless, the EPA and DEP cannot guarantee that registered pesticides do not pose any risk to human health, thus unnecessary exposure to pesticides should be avoided. The EPA has issued the statement that where possible, persons who are potentially sensitive, such as pregnant women, infants and children, should avoid unnecessary pesticide exposure.

The following is a list of any pesticide(s) in use or used in the last 12 months on school property:

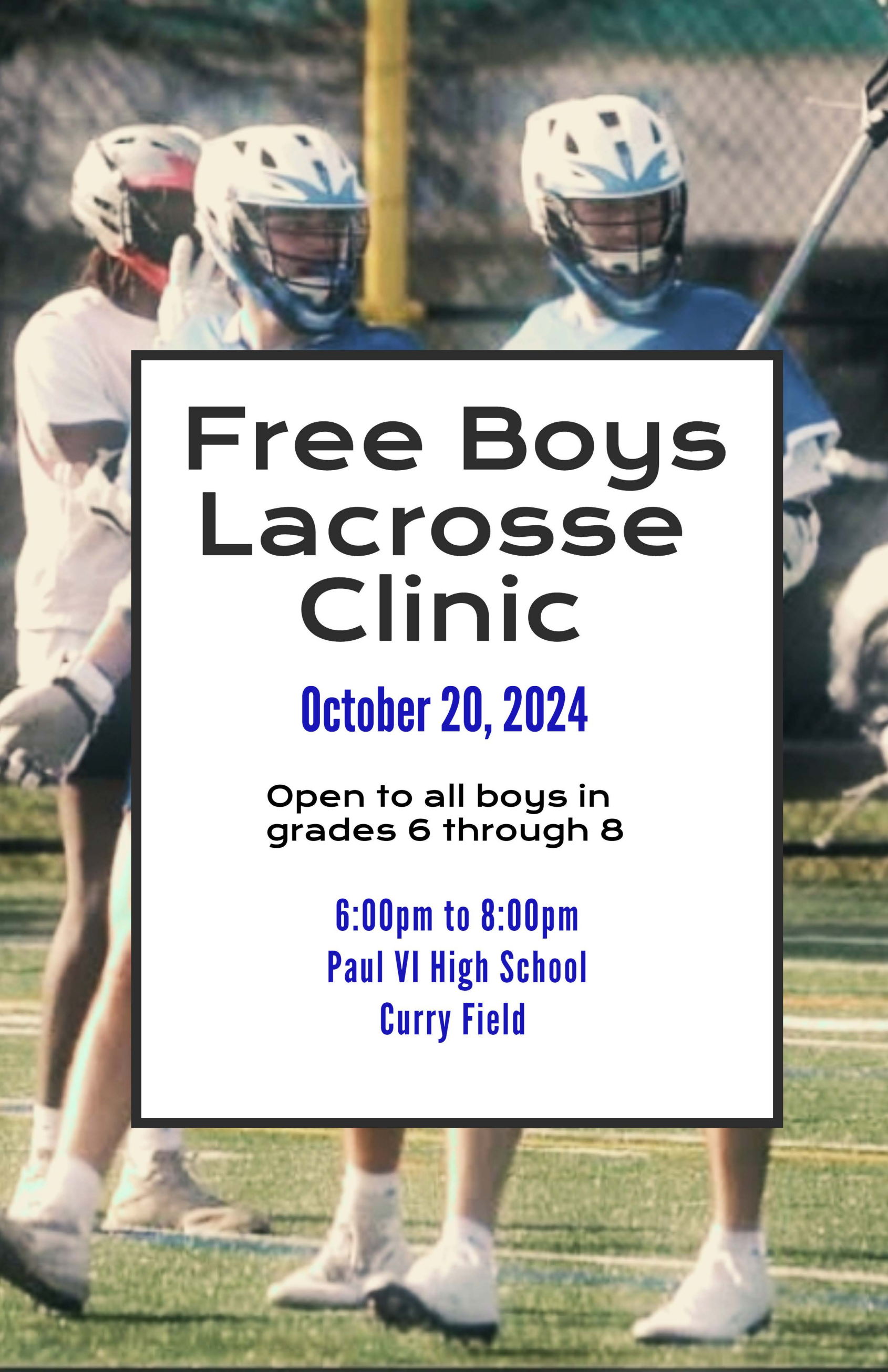
Low impact
D Nutri-bait
D Dual Choice

Our school district has designated an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator, and that Coordinator maintains the product label and material safety data sheet, when available, of each pesticide that may be used on school property. The label and data sheet is available for review by a parent, guardian, staff member, or student attending the school. The IPM Coordinator is available to parents, guardians, and staff members for information and comment.

Name, Address and Phone Number of our School District IPM

Coordinator: *Josh Manning* *856-629-6190*
324 Carroll Ave
Williamstown NJ 08094

Time and Place of any meetings to be held to adopt the school integrated pest management policy:

A background image showing three lacrosse players in white and blue uniforms and helmets on a green field. The player on the left is wearing a white jersey and a white helmet with a red stripe. The player in the middle is wearing a blue jersey and a white helmet with blue accents. The player on the right is wearing a blue jersey and a white helmet with blue accents. They are all looking towards the camera.

Free Boys Lacrosse Clinic

October 20, 2024

Open to all boys in
grades 6 through 8

6:00pm to 8:00pm
Paul VI High School
Curry Field

**PLAY LIKE
A CHAMPION
TODAY**

Character Education Through Sports

Champion Coach Note

Educating and Forming Champion Coaches

The Value of Play

Why is *play* important? Adults today often separate the concept of *play* from *competition*, thinking of play as a sort of carefree activity for children that's far different than the hard work and dedication required to be successful in the sports arena. This detachment is a mistake on several levels. *Play* is not only critical for the healthy development of each child, it is the foundation of a coaching philosophy that supports an athlete's physical, mental and social/emotional growth. It's also key to understanding how sports play into our faith journey.



In the short video above, Dr. Nancy Michael addresses the value of play and its impact on the development of a child's nervous system. It's a fascinating connection. For the past decade, Dr. Michael has served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Neuroscience and Behavior major at the University of Notre Dame. At this past summer's *Sports Leadership Conference*, [she provided tremendous insight into how the human brain processes play](#) and how coaches can benefit from understanding this area [attendees will also remember this session for the presence of a human brain].

When we facilitate play, we put athletes in the best position to succeed both on and off the field. Play becomes integral to competition; it's through the enjoyment of sport that athletes develop the motivation and skills to perform at their very best. What's more, St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that the proper understanding of play is virtuous and thus draws us closer to a God who delights in our playfulness. In play, we use the gifts and talents He has given us to glorify Him!

Many coaches will read this while still in the early stages of fall seasons. Take a moment this week to consider how you can maintain a healthy understanding of play and create an environment that supports this approach during practices and games. It just may be that play is the all-important ingredient missing from a *champion* team.

And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ~ Zechariah 8:5

Join Us for a Quarterly Partner Meetup!



You're invited! Join fellow leaders from our *Play Like a Champion* community as we consider important topics in youth and high school sport, engage in discussion and share best practices during this quarterly event. **2024-2025 "Meetups" will be held via Zoom on September 18th, December 4th and February 26th.** Each session begins at Noon Eastern Time and is scheduled for 1 hour.

This year's first meetup on September 18th will feature Fr. Patrick Kelly, SJ. An accomplished author and speaker, Fr. Kelly's new book *Play, Sport and Spirit* dives into **the meaning of play and how the joy of sport can help athletes to flourish.** He'll speak about research into flow and how enjoyment among young athletes can actually lead to better performance. We'll discuss the applications of his work in our own communities and allow time for conversation on important partner topics as fall seasons begin across the country. We hope to see you next week!

Register for Our 2024-2025 Partner Meetups

A Coach's Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways.

At the beginning of this new season, we implore your mercy: bless the athletes, parents, teachers, coaches and leaders of our community, that together we may grow in faith, hope and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son Jesus. Expand the horizons of our minds, that we may grow in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge; deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways; help us to grow physically as we use the gifts and talents you have given us; and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need. Finally, keep us safe from illness and injury as we navigate the seasons ahead.



Glory and praise to you, Lord God, forever and ever. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Adapted from Prayer for the Start of the School Year, Archdiocese of New Orleans
<https://nolacatholic.org/news/prayer-for-the-start-of-the-school-year>

Access Resources & Learn More at www.playlikeachampion.org

Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series
PO Box 72, Notre Dame, IN 46556 | information@playlikeachampion.org
www.playlikeachampion.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!