

Educating Men for Others

June 20, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to provide important information about the 2025–2026 school year, including the calendar, school supplies, and dress code.

A “Year-at-a-Glance” calendar is enclosed to assist your family in planning for the upcoming school year at St. Paul’s High School. Please review it carefully and mark key dates on your family calendar. A comprehensive list of key dates and the Bell Schedules are also included. A detailed monthly calendar will be available online in August, along with a version that can sync with most calendar apps.

Attendance and Student Formation

I want to take a moment to reinforce the importance of regular attendance and punctuality, which make a significant difference in a student’s learning, growth, and overall formation. While many of our students are consistently present and engaged, we’ve noticed some emerging concerns this year around absences, late arrivals, and early departures. My intention in writing is to encourage a renewed focus on the value of daily attendance and the many ways it supports student success.

At St. Paul’s, we believe that daily presence at school supports more than just academic progress. It helps students develop responsibility, build character, and foster a deep sense of community—qualities that are central to our identity as a Catholic, Jesuit school. Participation in classes, assessments, liturgies, assemblies, retreats, and community events is not optional. These experiences are essential to forming young men of faith, compassion, and integrity.

We understand that there will be times when circumstances require a student to miss school. Parents have the right to make those decisions, and we trust those choices are made thoughtfully. That said, the school reserves the right to review all absences and determine whether they are considered excused.

We expect students to be present on days when assessments are scheduled. These experiences are key to reinforcing academic responsibility, time management, and integrity, while also allowing students to demonstrate what they have learned. Being present for assessments supports a consistent learning process and ensures fairness for all students.

Examples of School-excused Absences:

- Illness (with parent/guardian notification)
- Family emergencies (e.g., bereavement)
- Medical appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school hours
- School-sanctioned activities (e.g., field trips, sports, service opportunities)

Non-Essential Absences that Impact Student Progress

- Family vacations during school days and exams
- Extended long weekends



- Leaving early or arriving late for non-essential reasons
- Skipping classes, missing assessments, or choosing not to attend school events

If concerning attendance patterns arise—such as frequent absences, repeated late arrivals, or missed community events—parents will be initially contacted by the student's counsellor. Ongoing concerns will result in further follow-up, including a formal meeting with the student, parent(s), and school leadership. Vice Principal Students, Mr. Jeff Laping, oversees student attendance and will follow up in such cases to ensure alignment with school expectations.

Please avoid scheduling appointments or travel during school days whenever possible. Days with late starts for students (highlighted yellow on the enclosed calendar) and non-instructional days (highlighted orange) should be used for appointments or other personal commitments.

Exams and School-Year Commitments

Please ensure your son is available for all scheduled exam dates. Grade 12 students are required to write provincial standards assessments in English and Mathematics as mandated by Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. Alternate dates are not available for these exams. For school-based exams, alternate dates will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the principal in advance.

School Supplies and Technology for Learning

Students are expected to arrive on the first day of school with essential supplies to support their learning—pens, pencils, binders, paper, and other basic materials. Teachers will clarify any course-specific items during the first week of classes.

We also strongly encourage families to purchase an appropriate laptop to support academic work both in and out of the classroom. While a laptop is not mandatory, students will find one extremely beneficial for tasks such as essay writing, projects, research, and using Microsoft 365 tools, including Word, Excel, and Teams (all provided by the school). Please note that a mobile phone is not an adequate substitute for this kind of work.

The school library has a limited number of laptops available for one-day loans, intended only for short-term needs (e.g., if a student forgets their device or it is temporarily out for repair). These are not intended for daily or ongoing use. For laptop specifications and recommendations, please refer to the enclosed guidelines.

Further details about the opening of school, including your son's timetable, will be mailed in late August.

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring a successful and formative school year. I wish you and your family a safe and restful summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the many school events that bring our community together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,



Bob Lewin
Principal

2025–2026 School Year: Key Dates

First Week of School

- Tuesday, September 2: Admin Day (No Classes)
 - Wednesday, September 3: Grade 9 Orientation
 - Thursday, September 4: Textbook Distribution
 - 8:30–9:45AM: Grade 9 Students
 - 10:00–11:15AM: Grade 10 Students
 - 12:15–1:30PM: Grade 11 Students
 - 1:45–3:00PM: Grade 12 Students
 - Friday, September 5: Opening Assembly and Regular Classes for all students (Day A)
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School Liturgies / Assemblies / Community Events – **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

- Wednesday, September 10 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- Friday, September 12: Grade 9 Camp Day (Grade 9 Students)
- Thursday, September 18: St. Paul's Annual Walk Day
- Tuesday, September 23 (8:30–9:45AM): School Assembly, Truth and Reconciliation Week
- Thursday, October 2 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- Wednesday, November 5: Career Day (Grades 10, 11, 12) and Take Our Kids to Work Day (Grade 9)
- Friday, November 7 (8:30–9:45AM): Remembrance Service
- Thursday, November 13 (8:30–9:25AM): School Assembly
- Wednesday, December 3 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- December 11–12: The Freshman Retreat (Grade 9 Students)
- Wednesday, January 21 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- Tuesday, February 17: Fr. Crouch, S.J. Pancake Breakfast
- Wednesday, February 18 (8:30–9:45AM): Ash Wednesday Service
- Friday, February 20: Grade 10 Retreat Day (Grade 10 Students)
- Tuesday, March 17: Winter Sports Day
- Wednesday, March 25 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- Wednesday, April 8 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy
- Monday, April 27: (1:00–3:15PM) Bing Crosby Speech Competition and Paul Herriot Spelling Bee
- Thursday, April 30 (8:30–9:25AM): School Assembly (Grades 9, 10, 11)
- Friday, May 1: "Men for Others" Day (Grade 9 Students)
- Tuesday, May 5 (8:30–9:25AM): School Assembly (Grades 9, 10, 11)
- Friday, May 8 (8:30–9:45AM): School Liturgy (Grades 9, 10, 11)
- Wednesday, May 27 (8:30–9:25AM): School Assembly
- Friday, June 5 (8:30–9:45AM): Crusader All-Sports Breakfast
- Wednesday, June 24 (8:30AM–12:00PM): School Closing Liturgy and Assembly (Grades 9, 10, 11)

Note: Other school activities may be added throughout the school year and will be communicated to students and parents in advance.

Exams - Alternate exam dates for school-based exams may be granted under exceptional circumstances.

- January 26–30: Semester 1 Exams
 - Grade 11 Students will write English or Canadian History on Friday, January 23.
 - Grade 12 Provincial Assessments
 - English: January 6–9, 2026
 - Applied Math: January 20, 2026
 - Pre-Calculus Math: January 22, 2026
- June 12–18: Semester 2 Exams
 - Grade 11 Students will write English or Canadian History on Thursday, June 11.
 - Grade 12 Provincial Assessments
 - Pre-Calculus Math: June 9, 2026
 - Essential Math: June 10, 2026
 - Applied Math: June 11, 2026

Class of 2026 Graduation Events

- Wednesday, February 4: Grad Ring Ceremony
- Friday, May 1: Mother-Son Liturgy and Celebration
- Sunday, June 7: Graduation Mass, 10:00AM
- Friday, June 19: Dinner/Dance and Safe Grad
- Thursday, June 25: Ernie Ostermann '57 Graduation Golf Tournament
- Tuesday, June 30: Convocation Ceremony, 1:00PM

Advancement Office and Other School Events (Attendance is encouraged)

- Friday, September 19: Homecoming
- Tuesday, November 18: Tribute Dinner
- Tuesday, November 25: Advent Music Concert
- December 4, 5, 6: Semester 1 Drama Production
- Thursday, January 8: Open House & Information Evening
- Monday, March 23: Fashion Show
- May 7, 8, 9: Semester 2 Drama Production
- Tuesday, May 26: Evening of Performing and Visual Arts

Holidays

- Monday, September 1: Labour Day
- Tuesday, September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, October 13: Thanksgiving Day
- Tuesday, November 11: Remembrance Day
- December 22–January 2: Christmas Break
- Monday, February 16: Louis Riel Day
- March 30 – April 3: Spring Break
- Monday, April 6: Easter Monday
- Monday, May 18: Victoria Day

No School (Admin/Staff Professional Development) – USE THESE DAYS FOR APPOINTMENTS

- Tuesday, September 2: Admin Day
- Friday, October 3: Staff Professional Development
- Friday, October 24: Staff Professional Development
- Monday, November 10: Staff Professional Development
- Friday, November 21: Semester 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Friday, December 19: Admin Day
- Friday, February 13: Catholic Schools Day
- Friday, March 20: Staff Professional Development
- Friday, April 24: Semester 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Friday, May 15: Staff Professional Development

Parent Meetings

- Thursday, September 11: Grade 9 Parent Orientation
- Thursday, October 16: Grade 9 Parent Evening (Mission and Ignatian Identity)
- Thursday, November 20 (evening): Semester 1 Parent-teacher Conferences
- Friday, November 21 (day): Semester 1 Parent-teacher Conferences
- Wednesday, December 3: Parent Social Evening
- Thursday, April 23 (evening): Semester 2 Parent-teacher Conferences
- Friday, April 24 (day): Semester 2 Parent-teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, April 28: Parent Retreat (all parents welcome)

Parent Guild Meetings, 7PM, Aulneau Room

- Wednesday, September 10
- Wednesday, October 8
- Wednesday, November 5
- Wednesday, February 11
- Wednesday, May 6
- Wednesday, June 3

Bake Sales

- Thursday, October 16: Grade 12 Parents
- Thursday, November 13: Grade 11 Parents
- Thursday, February 5: Grade 10 Parents
- Thursday, April 16: Grade 9 Parents

Dress Code I (Regular Dress Code)

- Effective: November 3–April 30
- Dress shirt with collar; tie optional
- Dress pants, socks, and dress belt
- Sport-coat, blazer, or suit-jacket
- Dress shoes

Dress Code II: Warm Weather Dress Code

- Effective: September 5–October 31 and May 1–June 30
- Dress Code I with the following optional changes.
 - Option A: no suit-jacket
 - Option B: St. Paul's polo may be worn in lieu of a shirt, and suit-jacket.
 - Option C: St. Paul's polo worn with dress (chino) shorts (beige, navy, or black). Dress shoes are replaced with athletic (gym) shoes for this option.
 - A St. Paul's branded, non-hooded sweater may be worn in lieu of a St. Paul's polo.

Dress Code V: Formal Dress Code

During formal occasions, including all Masses and other special events designated by the school, students will be required to dress more formally.

- All elements of Dress Code I will be required with the following addition:
 - **A tie must be worn.** Standard neckties or bowties are acceptable.

AMDG