



Villa Angela-St. Joseph
HIGH SCHOOL

Faith. Family. Future.

Parent Newsletter

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School Mission Statement

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school rooted in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions and committed to the spiritual, academic and personal growth of each student.

November 25, 2025

Upcoming Events:

- **December 1:** L.I.F.E. Leader's Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- **December 3:** Bloodmobile
- **December 5:** Goodies with God 7:30 a.m.
- **December 8:** Immaculate Conception Mass 9:30 a.m.
- **December 10:** G.E.M. Meeting 3:15 p.m. & Oarsmen Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **December 12:** Christmas On Campus (Seniors - More Info to come)
- **December 13:** Christmas in the Village (Tickets Required. See link below) 9:00 a.m.
- **December 16-18:** Semester Exams 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (schedule to come out soon)
- **December 19:** Semester Exams Make-Up Day 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **December 22:** Christmas Break
- **January 5, 2026:** Classes Resume
- **January 9:** NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day - End of Qtr 1
- **January 14:** IOWA Testing 10th Grade - Asynchronous Learning Day 9th, 11th & 12th grades
- **January 16:** Goodies with God 7:30 a.m.
- **January 19:** NO SCHOOL - MLK Day
- **January 20-23:** Founders Week
- **January 23:** Founders Week All School Mass 9:30 a.m.
- **January 26-30:** Catholic Schools Week
- **January 30:** Scholarship Day Ceremony 9:00 a.m.

Check the VASJ website for up-to-date athletic events.

To view the VASJ calendar: Please visit www.vasj.com and click on News & Events → Calendar.

Spirit Store is open 11:30 - 3:30pm When school is in session

Attendance Office 216-481-8414 x207

***MANDATORY EXAMS:
DECEMBER 16, 17 & 18
CHRISTMAS BREAK: DEC. 22
CLASSES RESUME: JAN. 5, 2026***

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

It was a quick week. The girls' basketball team had their first game yesterday, and the boys soccer team held their banquet as well. We will end today with a three-day break to follow. After this Thanksgiving break, we have only eleven (11) days of school and then three (3) days of mandatory exams. This time will go quickly. Please speak to your young Viking of the importance of getting all their work completed in a timely manner and of taking time to study each night to be fully prepared for their exams.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: As we have stated in many newsletter, and as we have also stated in after school PA announcements, **ALL unnatural hair colors, be they pink, blue, green, bright red, etc., must be changed to a natural hair color upon the return of students on Monday, December 1st, which is right after the break.** This gives our students, who have not already changed their hair color, a five-day opportunity to change their hair color before returning to school. We thank our families for their cooperation in this matter.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break. Let us all thank God for all the blessings bestowed on our community. My best to all of our Viking families.

Mr. Sedmak
gsedmak@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

First, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

When we return from Thanksgiving break, students will have only 11 school days before midterm exams. Teachers will be reviewing in classes just prior to the tests, so students need to be in attendance. The midterm exams are **MANDATORY**, so students must be in attendance. **Vacations are NOT excused absences, and students will receive zeroes if not present to test.** Should a student be absent for a testing day that week due to illness, they will take the exam on Friday, December 19, which is the **ONLY** make-up day for missed exams. Midterms count for 20% of the semester grade, so it is vital that students study and be prepared. Any semester course that is a graduation requirement and receives a failing semester grade will require summer school.

All exams start at 8:00am, even on Thursday. **There will be NO late start during midterms.** The exam schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, 10/16: Science, World Language, Dual Math
- Wednesday, 10/17: Math, History
- Thursday, 10/18: Religion, English
- Friday, 10/19: Make up exams with classroom teacher

Once we return from break, time will quickly pass. We have IOWA and ACT testing, as well retreats, Masses, service projects, scholarship awards assemblies, and more. Seniors will be preparing for end of the year activities, and awards will be prepared for the Class of 2026. Please keep an eye out for emails regarding testing and end of year activities.

We have upcoming testing dates of which you need to be aware:

- January 14: IOWA Testing for Sophomores and those Juniors, and Seniors that need to retest. Freshmen, Juniors & Seniors not testing will have an Asynchronous Learning Day.
- February 25: IOWA Testing for Freshmen and those Juniors, Seniors that need to retest. Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors not testing will have an Asynchronous Learning day.

Any Junior or Senior who needs to retake the IOWA's will be notified by their counselors prior to the testing date. In March, the Juniors will be taking the ACT. That date is being confirmed with the State, and will be released as soon as we receive confirmation.

Please make sure that you are checking PowerSchool and that your student is studying for midterms. No one can say that they have nothing to do for homework, as studying for midterms should begin as soon as Thanksgiving break has ended. If you cannot access PowerSchool, please email powerschool@vasj.com for assistance.

Again, enjoy this time with your family, and don't forget to count all your blessings!

Mrs. Marxen
pmarxen@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to share how incredibly proud I am of our Viking community after the amazing drug-prevention event held on November 21. Our guest speaker, Keefe Wright, from the highly respected organization **That's D.O.P.E.**, delivered a powerful and impactful message to our students. **D.O.P.E. stands for Dream, Overcome, Protect, and Elevate**—a reminder that our students have the ability to make strong, positive choices that shape their future. What impressed me most was the level of engagement from our students. Their thoughtful questions, respectful behavior, and genuine interest in the discussion showed true leadership and maturity. Moments like this reassure us that our students are committed to living out the values we uphold at VASJ.

As a reminder, students are prohibited from providing other students with food or beverages of any kind. Safety is our utmost priority, and the distribution of food from student to student is in violation of our safe school policy. While some may believe that such behavior promotes generosity and sharing, it is actually a hazardous practice, as certain students have food allergies that could necessitate medical intervention. Therefore, we strongly advise you to discuss this matter with your child.

As we move into the upcoming week, I want to remind families of the importance of adhering to our student dress code. Beginning December 1 we will be strongly enforcing all uniform expectations. **Students who arrive out of uniform—including untucked shirts, the wrong shoes, missing ties, missing button-up shirts, or any other uniform violation—will receive an immediate Dean's Detention from 3:05–3:45 p.m.** Please note that students who receive detention will not receive a pass to participate in sports or after-school activities that day. They will have to explain to their coach why they are late.

As a reminder, beginning December 1, we will be enforcing our Natural Hair Color Only policy. **Students must have hair that reflects natural human hair colors. Any student in violation of this policy will be sent home immediately, with no exceptions.** We appreciate families supporting this expectation to maintain a professional, unified school environment.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We are grateful for the trust you place in us each day. **On behalf of the entire VASJ staff, I wish you and your family a safe, joyful, and blessed Thanksgiving break.**

Dean Latimore
jlatimore@vasj.com

HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE

#weGIVECATHOLIC: Mark your calendar! VASJ is excited to once again be participating in #weGiveCatholic on **Tuesday, December 2nd**. This annual fundraiser kicks off the season of giving and helps make a difference for our wonderful students here at VASJ.

We need your help to make this year's campaign a success! Tell your friends and family about the vital work VASJ does and invite them to join us in supporting our school on December 2. Our campaign this year will focus on providing needed equipment and making renovations to school space for our Tools and Machines class to bring back options in educating students for careers in trades or preparing them for college degrees in areas that benefit from a background in engineering, construction and more!



BLOODMOBILE: VASJ is hosting a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on Tuesday, December 3! Eligible students and staff can give the gift of life. One donation could save someone's life. Please review Red Cross guidelines and students must be aged 16. Complete the parent consent form. Want to see why it matters? Check out this [quick presentation](#) and [video](#) to see how donations help save lives. Sign up in the Nurse's Office, online with sponsor code VASJ at [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org), or scan the QR code below. Every donation counts! Be cool, give blood, save a life!

IMPORTANT VASJ SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School offers over 50 different scholarships based on academics, interests, and financial need. Students are asked to complete this application **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025** for consideration. If you have any questions about the scholarships available or the application process, please contact Mrs. DiTurno at biturno@vasj.com.

CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

1. Applicants must be enrolled and in good standing at VASJ.
2. Applicants must complete the **ENTIRE** application portion of the form and it can be accessed by clicking [HERE!](#) Paper copies of the application are also available in the Main Office or Business Office.

3. All scholarship awards are for the 2026-2027 school year except for current seniors; senior awards will be applied to the 2025-2026 school year tuition.

CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS! On December 12 we will be hosting almost 100 first grade guests from local elementary schools! These kids will get to hang out with our senior class and meet Santa! This is the second half of the senior service requirement. **THIS IS A MANDATORY EVENT FOR SENIORS AND A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION!!!!** All seniors are required to bring in a present for that student (\$25 value). Email emaher@vasj.com with any questions.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE! Get ready for some Christmas magic! VASJ will host the Fifth Annual Christmas in the Village event on Saturday, December 13. The event will take place in the Gym from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Families are welcome to join us for a breakfast buffet, children's crafts and games, photos with Santa, holiday music, and more. The event is open to alumni, current parents, faculty and staff, and families in the greater community.

Registration is now open. To register please click vasj.com/christmas.

SERVICE INFORMATION: SEASON OF

GIVING: It's that time of the year again! Advent begins on November 30, which means, so does our Season of Service! We will celebrate this time of year with a "Season of Service".

From November 30 through December 14 **ALL** students are encouraged to complete service hours in the community. The five (5) students who complete the most service, meaning this service is logged on MobileServe, verified by your supervisor, and approved by Ms. Maher, will be able to **DRESS DOWN for midterms**. This only applies to service completed during this time period and not before.

As a reminder, for service to be accepted:

- No money or other compensation may be received for this service, including benefits in co-curricular activities such as earning Varsity letters for participation.
- All service must be done with or for a marginalized group such as children, the elderly, the poor, etc.
- All service must be done for a registered non-profit organization unless otherwise approved by the Director of Campus Ministry.
- Service at "in-home" childcare providers does not meet VASJ service requirements and will not be approved or accepted.
- Students may **NOT** complete service hours at the place of employment of a relative or other acquaintance unless it is completed through the official "Volunteer Office." For example, if volunteering at a hospital, make arrangements for service through the Volunteer Office. If service is completed at a school, arrangements must be made with the approval of the principal or other authority and the service must be completed with someone other than the relative/acquaintance.
- Service must be done outside of school hours unless organized by VASJ's Campus Ministry Department

BABY ITEM DRIVE: Beginning December 2, Campus Ministry will be hosting a baby food and item drive to help Womankind during Advent. **You can earn up to 3 hours of service for donating items!!** Each packaged item is worth a quarter of an hour of service, so you must donate 12 packages of items to earn the full 3 hours.

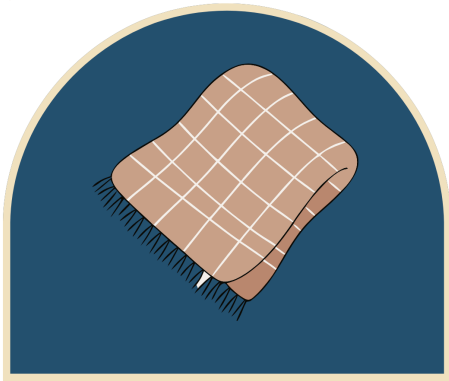
Items that can be accepted are:

- ★ Baby/Toddler food and formula
- ★ Diapers in sizes 2,3,4,5, and 6
- ★ Baby wipes

****Items not on this list cannot be accepted.****



All items must be brought to the Loft before or after school between December 2 and December 11. Please contact Ms. Maher at emaher@vasj.com with any questions.



GEM SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



TIE BLANKETS

DECEMBER 3RD 3:15-4:15
DECEMBER 4TH 7:45-8:45

Come to Room 103 to help make tie blankets and earn two hours of service! Once completed, these blankets will be donated to the nursing home.

G.E.M. SERVICE PROJECT: On December 3 and 4, G.E.M. will be making tie blankets in Room 103 to donate to the nursing home. We'd love for you to join us! Students who attend both days will receive two hours of service (one hour per day).

GRADUATION INFORMATION: CAP & GOWNS: On December 10 our Seniors will be getting measured for their cap & gowns during their religion class. Please do your best not to be absent that day. Cap and gowns will be delivered to the school sometime in early March/April. We will **NOT** be handing these out until the week of Senior exams.

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE: Payment plans for the 2025-2026 school year have started. If you have not set that up, please do so ASAP as your child's tuition is now delinquent. **Students whose accounts are delinquent may be asked not to return for the 2nd semester until arrangements have been made to bring account current.** Please contact Mrs. Oriani in the Business Office at koriani@vasj.com to make arrangements.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE: For this short week the counselors noticed that the students needed a pick me up to start their break so we hosted

COUNSELOR KARAOKE during their lunch periods and provided some gratitude activities for the students to present to faculty/staff members.

Be on the lookout for important upcoming events from the counseling office in the Spring semester regarding CCP and College preparations.

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP & PROGRAMS: Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School accepts the following scholarships through the Ohio Department of Education:

- ❖ Cleveland Scholarship
- ❖ EdChoice and EdChoice Expansion Scholarships
- ❖ Jon Peterson Scholarship
- ❖ Autism Scholarship

Each family **MUST** renew their scholarship every year! Please visit our [State Scholarship](#) section on our website for the necessary forms to begin your renewal process. The sooner you complete this the better!

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Villa Angela-St. Joseph and Scholarships, Ms. Amanda Fordyce 216-481-8414 x209 or by email afordyce@vasj.com. Click [HERE](#) for more Information and forms.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING: After School is offered every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday after school in rooms 303, 310 & 315 from 3:15 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Students can receive help with their studies. Please make sure your student comes prepared and signs in.

POWERSCHOOL INFORMATION: Information for gaining access to your students PowerSchool account will be going out next week. We are working on getting everyone set-up in the system. If you already have a PowerSchool account and need assistance please email powerschool@vasj.com.

WORK PERMITS: If you are in need of a work permit, please contact the front office at nmiller@vasj.com.