



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 7, 2025

Upcoming Events:

- **November 10:** No School - Teacher In-Service Day
- **November 11:** Veteran's Day Assembly 9:30 a.m.
- **November 12:** Oarsman Club Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **November 12-15:** Kairos
- **November 13:** VASJ Entrance Exam 6:00 p.m.
- **November 14:** SENIOR DIPLOMA INFORMATION DUE TO MRS. TARASKA
- **November 19:** G.E.M. Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- **November 20:** Club Fair
- **November 7:** Goodies with God 7:30 a.m. (Chapel)
- **November 12:** Oarsmen Meeting 7:00 p.m. (VA Room)
- **November 17-21:** **#weGIVECATHOLIC** Penny Wars week (See below)
- **November 21:** That's D.O.P.E. Assembly
- **November 24:** L.I.F.E. All School Event 3:15 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- **November 26-28:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 1:** L.I.F.E. Leader's Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- **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 (More Info to come)
- **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

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**

NO SCHOOL NOVEMBER 10

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

To our Viking Family,

The Office of Catholic Education and our Bishop have reminded their diocesan schools to adhere to the standards and policies set forth in our handbooks. All students with unnatural hair color must have it removed by December 1. The Dean of Student's message below explains more. We appreciate your help with assisting and adhering to this policy.

On November 10th, the school will be closed and teachers will be in professional development. We will cover school culture, the uses and abuses of AI, and the development of course assessments. Tonight, we have our first football playoff game against Maple Heights at Gilmour Academy. It will begin at 7 pm. Have a good weekend.

Mr. Sedmak
gsedmak@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Happy Friday!

Hard to believe, but we only have a few weeks until final exams. As a reminder, attendance for semester exams is **MANDATORY**. Semester exams are December 16, 17, and 18 with a make-up day for on Friday, December 19. These are half days, and no lunch is served for students. Van transportation will be provided. Please mark these important dates on your calendar. The schedule will be released just after Thanksgiving.

As always, please keep tabs on your student's PowerSchool. The grades are updated weekly. We do offer tutoring after school every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until 4:00 p.m. If your student is struggling, they should attend. In addition, if there is a question regarding grades, please contact the teacher via email. Those can all be found on the VASJ website.

Just a reminder that Monday, November 10, teachers have a Professional Development Day and students have the day off. Enjoy your long weekend Vikings!

Mrs. Marxen
pmarxen@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

It is important that students adhere to our personal appearance policy. As outlined in pages 30-33 of our student handbook, hair should be neatly styled and groomed, adhering to natural colors. A natural hair color encompasses hair colors that humans are born with. **Unnatural hair colors, including blue, green, yellow, pink, purple, bright red, and others, are prohibited for both male and female students.**

By the end of November 2025, all students must meet school standards regarding their hair color. Students arriving at school with permanent or semi-permanent dyed hair that fails to meet these standards will be promptly sent home and will not be permitted to return until the hair color issue has been rectified. **THIS POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** It is supported by all administrators of VASJ and the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.

Please be advised that the administration will no longer issue warnings regarding dress code violations. Students will receive disciplinary action for these infractions, which may include suspension. Students have until the end of November to obtain the necessary items to address this issue. This serves as a final warning.

We are excited to announce that VASJ will host a drug prevention assembly on November 21, 2025. The event will feature members from THAT'S D.O.P.E (Dream, Overcome, Protect, Elevate) as a speaker, addressing students about drug prevention. This event is anticipated to be impactful and engaging, raising awareness about the dangers of vaping and THC edible products.

Mr. Latimore
jlatimore@vasj.com



HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE:

VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY: Villa Angela-St. Joseph High will host our annual Veterans Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m.. Any alum or family member who is a veteran or a member of law enforcement,

along with their families, are welcome to join us for the assembly. We will also invite our law enforcement, fire department staff and community leaders to attend and be recognized for their service and support of VASJ. You are also invited to stay for a reception following the assembly. The event will include keynote speaker, Chuck Kortovich, who served in the Marine Corps and fought in the Iraq War. Kortovich is a VASJ graduate from the Class of 1995, married to Erin Tobin Kortovich VASJ '93, VASJ's Admissions Director and father of Charlie '22, Brian '25 and Kevin. For more information please contact Mrs. Mayernik at lmayernik@vasj.com.

PENNY WARS CHALLENGE: VASJ's **#weGIVECATHOLIC** Day of Giving is on Tuesday, December 2, but we will be starting to raise funds now with a fun contest for the entire school! All monies raised from our **#weGIVECATHOLIC** giving campaign will purchase upgrades, renovations, equipment and supplies for the VASJ Tools and Machines classes that focus on bringing learning back to VASJ in the trade careers.

In order to help, the school will be holding a Penny Wars event. This contest will take place Monday, November 17 and will end on Friday, November 21.

A jar will be in front of the Main Office for each class – Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors and one for the Faculty/Staff. The jars will be out at 7:30 a.m. each day and will be collected at 3:15 p.m.. The jar that has collected the most money at the end of the week (Friday, November 21 at noon) will be declared the winner. We will announce the winner by the end of the day on Friday.

HOW IT WORKS: Each grade level and the faculty/staff will have its own jug outside the VASJ Main Office. **TO ADD POINTS** to your class jug total donate coins. **BUT**...bills can be added to any jar and the value is then deducted from that jar's total. **FOR EXAMPLE:** a one-dollar bill takes one dollar worth of coins away from the total in that specific jar. A five-dollar bill will take away \$5 worth of coins and so on. Part of the fun is to be strategic and make sure other classes or the faculty/staff don't earn enough money to win. Each day, the jars will be counted and a total will be announced. The winning group will win a delicious brownie bar during all lunch periods on Friday, December 5 through the generosity of AVI Foods.

Parents, collect your coins and bills to give to your students the week of November 17 and join in the fun and help the entire VASJ community reach our goal for the **#weGIVECATHOLIC** Day of Giving.

GRADUATION INFORMATION:

DIPLOMAS: Seniors were sent an email last

Monday with google form to complete their diploma information. ***The name that appears on the diploma needs to be exactly as their birth certificate is printed.*** All information is due to Mrs. Taraska by November 14.

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 ATHLETIC OFFICE: WINTER SPORTS PARENT MEETING: On Monday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria the Athletics Department will be holding a **MANDATORY OHSA Parent Meeting** for our winter sports athletes. Please make arrangements to attend this meeting if your athlete is competing in a Winter sport (Basketball, Cheer, Swimming, Bowling, or Wrestling).



OARSMEN BOOSTER CLUB MEETING: The next meeting for the Oarsmen Booster Club will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the VA Heritage Room. The Oarsmen Club mission is to help athletics by raising funds to support **ALL** our athletes and their teams! Please consider attending the meeting to learn more about us and how you could help!

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.**

#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 Dec. 2nd. 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!

EARLY GIVING! Want to get a jump start on giving back? Stop by the VASJ Main Office during school hours **the week of November 17th** to drop off cash or a check. Or you can make a donation online at bit.ly/GiveVASJ **starting Nov. 22nd**. **Anyone who makes a gift in person or online during early giving will be entered into a raffle to win a Viking swag basket valued at over \$100!** Visit bit.ly/GiveVASJ to learn more about our fundraiser. Thank you for supporting Catholic education at VASJ!

ART CLUB: We will be meeting after school from 3:15-4:15 p.m. on the following dates in November: 11, & 18. We will continue to make our Chia Pets or you can start one if you missed our first meeting. It will be a lot of fun. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Goldberg. See you then!

51st Annual University of Saint Francis High School Art Exhibition: Up to ten (10) students from our school are able to participate in this Art Show. All work 2D and 3D will be reviewed for acceptance by the Visual Arts department on Monday, January 6, 2026, in room 224 at 3:05 p.m.. Art work that is selected will be shipped to the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, IN. Please see Mrs. Goldberg or Mr. Spisak for more information.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE: ILLNESS: COVID, cold, and flu season is upon us. Please take these simple precautions to keep the Viking Village as healthy as possible:

- **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK!**
- Wash hands frequently.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and wear a mask if you choose to do so.

COVID GUIDELINES: If your student tests positive for COVID, please contact the nurse for exclusion dates and guidance. Current guidelines are to isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for 5 days following isolation. **Students SHOULD NOT miss school due to COVID exposure - monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms arise.**

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.

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.

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

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.