



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.

December 19, 2025

Upcoming Events:

- **December 20:** Class of 2026 Chipotle Fundraiser (see below)
- **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 28:** College Credit Plus (CCP) Information Night 6:00 p.m.
- **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

****CHRISTMAS BREAK: DEC. 22 CLASSES RESUME JAN. 5, 2026****

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

The time has come! Winter break is upon us! Teachers and students have worked hard this past semester and that work has cumulated into exams, which are 20% of the semester's grade.

We thank our teachers and staff for their hard work at the school. Creating a safe and supportive environment for our students. We thank our students for staying focused on the tasks at hand and for taking their educational journey seriously. These are formative years, and many students will shape their lives on how they cope and strive during these high school years and into college. Many alumni respect what they have learned in these hallowed halls. We hope our students understand the gift that VASJ is to the community and to their lives.

Have a great Christmas break, and may the Holy Spirit enter your homes and fill you with the joyousness of the season! We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, January 5th, 2026!

Mr. Sedmak

gsedmak@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Happy Holidays!!

Christmas break is upon us, and the students are ready for some rest after exams. We will return to school on Monday, January 5, 2026. That will only be a four day week for the students, as Friday, is a teacher In-Service day. That Friday, January 9, 2026 is also the official end of both quarter 2 and Semester 1. For students who have one semester courses, like physical education or Technology, they will finish the semester the week we return.

Grades will be finalized for the second quarter and first semester by many teachers the week we return. Much of the work that week will go on to the third quarter grading period. Teachers will finalize grades, and then we will determine eligibility and award credit. Eligibility is based on the second quarter grades. Credit is awarded by the semester for coursework with passing grades. However, if a student fails a semester of a course, and that course is required for graduation, the student will be required to attend summer school to recover the credit. Parents will be notified if a student will need to attend summer school.

Report cards will be **EMAILED** to parents/guardians with a secure link no later than Friday, January 16, 2026. Please take a moment to ensure all of your correct contact information is updated in FinalForms. If not, you may not be receiving all the school communications, including report card reports.

For our seniors, the New Year brings with it the realization that they are nearing the end of their high school career. This causes both joy and anxiety, and can also instill the dreaded 'senioritis' for students. Although it will be 2026, there will still be a great deal of work to be done before graduation day, so please help us keep your student focused on finishing their senior year well. After the start of the year, we will be sending out information to senior families with all the senior events and dates.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, and all that is joyful in the New Year. We are truly blessed to have your students in our Village, and it is our privilege to be able to interact with and educate them each and every day.

Wishing you the blessings and grace of the season,

Mrs. Marxen

pmarxen@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we approach the Christmas break, I would like to take a moment to thank you for a wonderful semester and to wish each of you a joyful and peaceful holiday season.

Christmas is a time for rest, reflection, and togetherness. We encourage our students to use this break to recharge, spend quality time with family and loved ones, and reflect on the many blessings of the season. We also ask that all students continue to make safe, responsible choices during the break so that everyone returns healthy and ready for the new term.

On behalf of our entire school community, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday break. May this season be filled with faith, family, and renewed hope as we look forward to the new year ahead. We look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to learn.

God Bless, and Merry Christmas.

Dean Latimore

latimore@vasj.com

HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE: COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS (part 3)

TEENS AND THE HOLIDAYS: The holiday season can stress for teens as well as adults and not all teens respond to stress in the same way. Watch for behavior changes in your child. Some common changes to watch for include:

- Excessive crying or irritation
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Returning to behaviors they've outgrown
- "Acting out" behaviors
- Poor school performance; avoiding school
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past.
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits

- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs

TIPS TO SUPPORT TEENS DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

Manage your own stress.

Kids react, in part, to what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with the holidays calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children. Be a role model. Connect with others, take breaks, get enough sleep, exercise and eat well.

Keep your routines (as best you can).

Manage expectations.

Be up front and let kids know what they can and can't expect over the holidays.

Talk to them.

Be honest, focus on the positive and give them space for their feelings. Be available to talk and answer questions they may have.

Reassurance and resilience.

Reassure kids that everything will be ok even if things don't go as planned. Share with them how you deal with stress so that they can learn from you how to cope with stress.

Spend time together.

Real time where you are sharing an activity that involves interaction. Play games together, bake cookies, have a dance party, read together, etc.

Create a new holiday tradition.

Make homemade gifts or decorations and create things you can do together every year that are meaningful and fun. Get teens involved in helping others. Donate to a toy drive, deliver a note to a neighbor or call or write to a family member.

If you need help, resources are available:

- 988 ~ SUICIDE AND CRISIS HOTLINE. Call or text to connect with crisis counselors who can provide immediate emotional support and link you to local services
- 2-1-1 ~ United Way HelpLink ~ Dial 2-1-1 for assistance with housing, food, shelter, utilities and other basic needs that may be impacting your mental health.
- WARM LINE ~ 440.886.5950 ~ For non-crisis support, call the Warm Line to speak with a trained peer supporter who can listen and help you through difficult moments during the holiday season

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS INFORMATION MEETING: On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, we will be hosting our annual College Credit Plus Night for the 2026-2027 school year. It will be held in the Founders Chapel from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. College Credit Plus (CCP) is Ohio's dual credit program where students can earn high school and college credit simultaneously by taking courses at participating Ohio colleges and universities tuition free.

The CCP informational evening is for parents and students in grades 9-11 who are interested in or plan to participate in the College Credit Plus program for the 2026-2027 school year. In the meantime, get a head start and review these important reminders that can also be found on the [Ohio Department of Education](#) website:

1. Interested students should have at least a 2.75-3.0 GPA
2. Apply to the college(s) of your choice under College Credit Plus now. A college admission letter is needed!
3. Create an OH/ID account to apply for Ohio State CCP funding anytime between February 1- April 1.
4. Receive your funding award letter and register for college classes

CLASS OF 2026 CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER: The Holiday season got you running like crazy! Why not take a break from cooking on **Saturday, December 20** and head on over to Chipotle and support the Class of 2026 in the process! Between 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Chipotle located at 28151 Chardon Rd, Willoughby Hills the Class of 2026 will earn 25% of the sales. Attached is the flyer for this event, please present it at the time you order or you can even order online using code **MA97LDC** and then pick it up.

OARSMAN CLUB SUPER BOWL SQUARES FUNDRAISER: Get your Super Bowl Squares and support VASJ! All proceeds will support an exciting enhancement to the VASJ Gym foyer, featuring framed, iconic photographs that celebrate the proud athletic legacy of Villa Angela Academy, St. Joseph High School and VASJ. Help us bring new life to the Purple Palace and honor the athletes and moments that define our history!

Cost is \$100 per square and total payout is \$6,000. Breakdown of the payout structure is as follows:

★ 1st Quarter	\$500
★ Halftime	\$1,000
★ 3rd Quarter	\$500
★ Final Score	\$2,000
★ Reverse Scores (4)	\$100 each
★ Buddy Squares (up to 32):	\$50 each

Thank you for supporting VASJ Athletics and helping preserve our storied traditions!

VASJ's 2026 CONTINUE THE DREAM GALA NEWS: VASJ is gearing up for the 2026 Continue the Dream Gala event on Saturday, April 25, 2026 and we are looking to involve our parents in many ways! This is the school's major fundraiser and how we continue to add value to your child's high school education. Through this annual event, VASJ is able to continue to make improvements, upgrades and enhancements that are needed in the areas of academics, spirituality, athletics and extra-curriculars. Our momentum is going in the right direction, and we want our entire Viking community to be a part of our exciting future – students, parents, grandparents, faculty & staff, alumni and friends.

During this holiday season and time of giving, we ask you to consider supporting VASJ as you are shopping for your loved ones. Our WISH LIST is meant to give you some general ideas of items that would make our Gala Event a huge success, but you can be as creative as you'd like!

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated, but here are some Ideas from our Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MXRSFPHYDZE4?ref_=wl_share

We will be entering anyone that donates to the VASJ Continue the Dream Gala into a raffle for some fun prizes! Thank you again for your continued support of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. Go Vikings!!

GET YOUR 2024–2025 VASJ YEARBOOK NOW! GREAT NEWS!!! The 2024–2025 Villa Angela–St. Joseph High School Yearbooks are now available for purchase! This keepsake is packed with memories, photos, and moments that your student will treasure for years to come. The cost is \$75.00, payable by cash, or credit card to VASJ. You can purchase your copy by stopping by the front office during school hours.

Please note: Supplies are limited, so act fast! Once they're gone, they're gone. Thank you for supporting VASJ and our yearbook program!

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.

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.

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.

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

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
VILLA ANGELA SAINT JOSEPH

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH | 4-8PM
28151 CHARDON RD, WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OH, 44092

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **MA97LDC**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



VASJ OARSMEN BOOSTER CLUB SUPER BOWL SQUARES



PARTICIPATION DETAILS

- COST: \$100 PER SQUARE
- TOTAL PAYOUT: \$6,000

PAYOUT STRUCTURE

- 1ST QUARTER: \$500
- HALFTIME: \$1,000
- 3RD QUARTER: \$500
- FINAL SCORE: \$2,000
- REVERSE SCORES (4): \$100 EACH
- BUDDY SQUARES (UP TO 32): \$50 EACH



ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT AN EXCITING ENHANCEMENT TO THE VASJ GYM FOYER, FEATURING FRAMED, ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHS THAT CELEBRATE THE PROUD ATHLETIC LEGACY OF VILLA ANGELA, ST. JOSEPH, AND VILLA ANGELA-ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL. HELP US BRING NEW LIFE TO THE PURPLE PALACE AND HONOR THE ATHLETES AND MOMENTS THAT DEFINE OUR HISTORY.

PURCHASE AT: [OARSMENSQUARES.GIVEMART.COM](https://oarsmensquares.givesmart.com)

OR CASH/CHECK TO JIM TOBIN OARSMEN BOOSTER CLUB TREASURER 440-655-0601