



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 5, 2025

### Upcoming Events:

- **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 11:** **ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING DAY - NO ELECTRICITY**
- **December 12:** Christmas On Campus (Seniors - More Info to come)  
H.O.S.A. Meeting 3:15 p.m. Room 308
- **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](http://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\*\*

**\*ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING  
DAY - DECEMBER 11  
NO ELECTRICITY IN  
BUILDING\***

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Viking families,

There are only six (6) more days of school until semester exams. During the scheduled exam days, students must be in full dress uniform. This helps create the formal testing environment needed in our classrooms. Remember, exams are **MANDATORY** and they count for 20% of students' semester grade.

Next Friday, December 12, is Christmas on Campus. First-graders from various schools are invited to the school that day and Campus Ministry organizes our seniors to give the youngsters a day filled with activities and Christmas joy. Then on Saturday, December 13, Christmas in the Village takes place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. It's a great experience for young nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. This is a community event and all are invited to attend but tickets need to be purchased in advance.

Please note a change to our schedule next week. On Thursday, December 11 our students will have an Asynchronous Learning Day due to electricity being shut off to parts of the building for the day. Students **MUST** log into their google classrooms and complete ALL assignments for that day by 11:59 p.m. or they will receive a 0 for that day's work.

I wish all of our students well as they prepare for their midterm exams. Have a great weekend!

Mr. Sedmak

[gsedmak@vasj.com](mailto:gsedmak@vasj.com)

## FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Happy Friday!

It is hard to believe that midterms are nearly here. These exams are comprehensive for material covered during the first semester, so students should already be gathering notes and assessments together to use as study aides. Teachers will be reviewing in the classes, but students are ultimately responsible for being prepared.

For our new families, exam days are short. There will be breakfast served on exam days, but no lunch will be provided. Most students will complete testing by 10:30 a.m. each day. Please refer to the schedule provided below for details. If a student uses school transportation, the vans will leave when the students have completed testing. Transportation for students must be arranged for these special scheduled days as there will not be a place for students to stay once testing is over. Please plan accordingly.

Exams are **MANDATORY**. Students must be in attendance to take exams. If a student is ill on one of the exam days, the parent must call them off per the usual absence procedure, and then the student will need to report to school on Friday to make-up the missed exams. **THURSDAY IS NOT A DELAYED START**. Exams will start at 8:00am. If a student does not have an exam, for example World Language, then they may leave after the first exam. However, if they ride a van, they will report to the cafeteria until all students on that van have completed testing. If a student is tardy unexcused to school on any day, they will only have the remaining time in the testing period to complete their exam. Quarter 2 and Semester 1 grades will not go out until the second week of January. As a reminder, eligibility for sports and clubs is based on the Quarter 2 grades. Summer school is based on semester grades. If a student fails a required course for graduation, the student will attend summer school, at an additional cost, to recover the missing credit. As always, keep up with your student's grades on PowerSchool. If you cannot access PowerSchool, please email [powerschool@vasj.com](mailto:powerschool@vasj.com) for assistance.

### **Semester Exam Schedule:**

Tuesday, December 16:	Science	8:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.
	World Language	9:15 am - 10:20 a.m.
	Dual Math	10:25 am - 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 17:	Mathematics	8:00 am - 9:10 a.m.
	Social Studies	9:15 am - 10:20 a.m.
Thursday, December 18:	Religion	8:00 am - 9:10 a.m.
	English	9:15 am - 10:20 a.m.
Friday, December 19:	Make-up exams from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 am for students absent excused on a testing day	

Wishing you a warm and blessed weekend.

Mrs. Marxen

[pmarxen@vasj.com](mailto:pmarxen@vasj.com)

## FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

I am pleased to report that our school's culture is calm and safe and we are experiencing leaps and bounds in terms of leadership and maturity from our students. Additionally, it brings me great joy to announce that a lot of issues we had in the beginning of school have since been corrected and/or minimized, including unnatural hair color, phone usage during school hours and vape issues in restrooms which have nearly been eliminated. This is due to the tireless efforts of our staff, faculty, administrators, and of course concerned parents who all make up our village. It is the proud members of this village who are relentless in our efforts to maintain a learning environment at VASJ that hold true to our Catholic values and moral integrity. Let us continue to grow together in faith, stand together as family and uplift together, the future of our community.

Dean Latimore

[ilatimore@vasj.com](mailto:ilatimore@vasj.com)

## HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE

**SEMESTER EXAMS:** We only have 6 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, December 16:	Science	8:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.
	World Language	9:15 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
	Dual Math	10:25 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 17:	Mathematics	8:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.
	Social Studies	9:15 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Thursday, December 18:	Religion	8:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.
	English	9:15 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Friday, December 19:	Make-up exams from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for students absent excused on a testing day	



**MID-TERM STUDY TABLES:** GEM and NHS will be teaming up to host midterm study tables on December 8, 9, and 15 from 3:14 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Please be sure to bring all of your study materials.

**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](https://vasj.com/christmas).

## **FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE: Coping With The Holidays (Part One):**

**HOLIDAY SELF-CARE TIPS:** A Collaboration of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and the Suicide Prevention Coalition

The holiday season can be a time of joy, celebration and togetherness. It can also bring stress, anxiety and overwhelm. The

counseling department would like to provide you with practical strategies to help you cope with the holidays and make the most of this special time of year. Whether you are dealing with family gatherings, financial pressures or simply managing your own expectations, these tips will assist you in navigating the holidays with confidence and ease.

For many, the holiday season means planning and taking care of others. However, this leaves little time for taking care of oneself. Here are a few tips on practicing self-care during this holiday season:

1. Regularly schedule time to engage in self-care activities, such as exercise, meditation or a hobby you enjoy.
2. Practice gratitude for the people and events in your life. Consider keeping a gratitude journal or telling important people in your life why you appreciate them.
3. Tune into the emotions you are experiencing. Emotions may be positive, negative or a combination of the two. Call "time outs" for yourself and check-in on your feelings. Remember that you're not alone with what you're feeling. You can talk to trusted family and friends about it.
4. Try to understand why you might be experiencing negative thoughts or feelings. Are you expecting too much from yourself? Feeling overwhelmed? Give yourself space to cope in those moments.
5. Monitor your stress level and notice what triggers your stress response. Is it certain people? Specific activities? Have a list of activities to relax. Perhaps this is taking a walk, doing a few minutes of yoga, watching a favorite movie or playing with a pet.
6. Be present. Practice mindfulness and meditation. Try taking a minute to be present in your environment. Take notice of the smells, sounds and sights of the holidays. Notice the differences between the holiday season and other times of the year.
7. Take care of your physical health. Ensure adequate sleep. A nutritious diet is important: try to balance holiday foods and treats with healthy eating.

#### ***Tips for Overcoming Holiday Stress:***


- ★ Have reasonable expectations and be flexible. Real life doesn't look like Hallmark holiday movies.
- ★ Avoid toxic people whenever possible. Every invitation does not have to be accepted.
- ★ Practice your breathing. Deep breaths can reduce stress and tension.
- ★ Think about priorities for holiday preparation. As pressures mount, relax and focus on your priorities.
- ★ Get enough sleep. Seven to nine hours each night.
- ★ Spend time with people who are supportive and care about you.
- ★ Limit alcohol consumption. Excessive drinking can increase depressive symptoms.
- ★ Don't be afraid to try something new. Trying new things can be fun and memorable.

Need Help Now? Call or text 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for immediate 24/7 mental health support

**COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS:** If your student is interested in taking a College Credit Plus credit over the summer please take the time to join us for a CCP Informational Night for the Summer term held on January 28, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The counselors will be presenting on the information needed to get started on the process.

**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




Villa Angela-St. Joseph  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Faith. Family. Future.*

## VASJ OARSMEN BOOSTER CLUB

### MEETING NOTICE

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 10th  
7PM**



**MEETING WILL BE HELD IN  
THE VILLA ANGELA HERITAGE CENTER,  
2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES**

**FAITH. FAMILY. FUTURE.**

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](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!!! Just in Time for the Holidays. 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, check 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!

**SERVICE INFORMATION: SEASON OF GIVING:** It's that time of the year again which means it's our Season of Service! We will celebrate this time of year with a "Season of Service".

From now until 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.

**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 by December 11. Please contact Ms. Maher at [emaher@vasj.com](mailto:emaher@vasj.com) with any questions.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nmiller@vasj.com).