



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.



September 12, 2025

Upcoming Events:

- **September 17: President's Reception 5:00 p.m.**
- **September 18: Army National Guard Visit**
- **September 19: NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day**
- **September 23: Walsh University College Visit**
- **September 24: John Carroll University Visit**
- **September 28: Homecoming Dance**
- **September 29: NO SCHOOL**
- **October 2: Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:30-4:40 p.m. & 5:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **October 3: NO SCHOOL**
- **October 6: Picture Retake Day *ONLY FOR THOSE THAT MISSED IN AUGUST***
- **October 9: Sophomore GIRLS Retreat 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**
- **October 10: Sophomore BOYS Retreat 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**
- **October 12: VASJ Fall Open House 12:00-2:00 p.m.**
- **October 17: NO SCHOOL - Faculty/Staff Retreat Day**
- **October 24: End of Quarter 1**
- **October 31: Halloween on Campus (more details to follow)**

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 – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19****

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

It was a good week of school. We started afterschool tutoring this past week. Tutoring takes place from 3:15 to 4 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday. As a reminder for our students, the same rules apply during the tutoring sessions as they do in school, no personal devices should be used while participating in tutoring sessions. It's a time to focus and work with our three teachers who provide tutoring, Mrs. Kennedy, Ms. Armen, and Ms. Mowrey. Students must show up to tutoring on time and sign in if they want their participation to be on record. They should leave at the end of the session.

Next week, Friday is a day off for students. Teachers will be in a professional development session. They will focus on school safety in the morning and academic matters in the afternoon. Have a lovely weekend.

Regards,
Gregory Sedmak, Principal
gsedmak@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Happy Friday! There are lots of activities happening in the Village. Sports, spirit week, homecoming and more are keeping our students active. They are also active in their academics. The midway point of the quarter is coming next week! Friday, September 19 is a day off for students for a Teacher In-Service day.

On Monday, September 15 we will begin to run grade reports in the afternoon. Parents and students will be notified if your student has two or more F's in a course. Please keep up with your student's grades through PowerSchool. Should you be having issues with your powerschool account, please email powerschool@vasj.com for assistance. Should you have questions regarding a grade in a class, please contact the teacher via email with your questions and concerns.

After School Tutoring began on Tuesday, September 9. Tutoring is held from 3:15-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week unless we do not have school. Sign-in sheets will be in the room for students to sign. Tutoring is held in the VA Room.

As always, if you should have any concern please feel free to contact me at pmarxen@vasj.com or at 216-481-8414 x216 Blessings,
Mrs. Marxen
pmarxen@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

Hello Vikings family,

We are pleased to announce that we have made significant strides in enhancing our school culture this year. Notably, we have achieved zero out-of-school suspensions, implemented new and updated security equipment, and implemented a revised hall pass system.

We are proud to acknowledge that VASJ welcomes the brightest minds and most talented students, and we recognize the exceptional standards they set for excellence, dedication, and success. Consequently, we have set high expectations for our students, holding them accountable for their actions and rewarding positive behaviors.

In contrast, some nearby schools have reported record-high out-of-school suspensions during the initial 30-day period of the school year. In contrast, VASJ has maintained a calm and productive school environment, free from such suspensions. This achievement reflects the unwavering commitment and professionalism of our educators and the unwavering unity, integrity, and school spirit of our students.

To ensure a drug-free environment that fosters student growth and achievement, we have installed state-of-the-art air quality sensors that detect smoke, carbon monoxide, and mold. These AI-based devices can also identify tobacco and marijuana vape emissions, as well as tobacco and cannabis smoke. Furthermore, we have installed AI cameras that correlate with these detectors, enabling us to swiftly pinpoint the source of smoke or vape emissions. Students caught smoking, vaping, or suspected of engaging in such activities will be in direct violation of our drug and alcohol policy, which may result in expulsion.

Additionally, we have implemented a new hall pass system called MINGA. Students are now required to sign out of class to use restrooms, access lockers, or travel to other classes or locations. Upon their return, they must sign back in. This system significantly enhances our ability to monitor student traffic and effectively address unnecessary movement. Students are provided with five digital passes per day.

With your help, I believe we can create a safe, fun and unique learning environment for our students. VASJ students, let's make this year amazing, but don't do it for me. Do it for your FAITH, do it for your FAMILY, do it for your FUTURE!

Mr. Latimore
latimore@vasj.com

HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE:

HOMECOMING DANCE: This year our theme will be a Hollywood Homecoming! The dance will be held on Sunday, September 28 from 7:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and all students must be there by 7:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale next week during lunch periods and will cost \$25.00. Tickets can be paid by cash or check only (please make checks payable to VASJ). **No tickets will be sold without a waiver form being filled out. Even if a student is 18, a parent must sign the waiver along with the student. Students from outside of the school also need to have the waiver form signed by an administrator at their school. No visiting student will be allowed in without the signed waiver and their ID.** Please see Mr. Lambo if you have any questions.

We are looking for a few parent volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up and working concessions during the dance. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Lambo at plambo@vasj.com.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING: After School tutoring will begin on September 9 and will be offered every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday after school in the VA Room from 3:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Students can receive help with their studies from Mrs. Armen, Mrs. Kennedy, and Ms. Mowrey. Please make sure your student comes prepared and signs in.

SERVICE INFORMATION: The Knights of Columbus need 12 student volunteers for their annual clam bake on September 27th beginning at 4:00pm. The event is expected to end around 8:00 but this time may vary. Students should email emaher@vasj.com to sign up and receive more information.

MOBILESERVE: All students should be logged into their MobileServe accounts now. If they are having trouble logging in please have them see Ms. Maher!

There are already service events posted. Remember that every Thursday CSPJ hosts card making in the cafeteria before school.

When doing service outside of school remember these guidelines, which are also listed on pg. 47 of the student handbook:

- 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 also be done outside of normal school hours. Students cannot leave class to complete service.

As a reminder of the grade level requirements:

- **FRESHMAN:** Completed at Freshman Retreat on August 14, 2025. If you were not present for the retreat, 10 hours need to be completed.



- **SOPHOMORES:** 15 hours completed at nonprofits outside of school hours
- **JUNIORS:** 25 hours completed at nonprofits outside of school hours
- **SENIORS:** Participation in/at Halloween on Campus, Christmas on Campus, AND completion of 2 page reflection paper. Absence from either event is made up with 10 hours of service completed at nonprofits outside of school hours.

GEM: What is GEM? GEM (Girls Empowerment Meetings) is a club geared towards young ladies who are seeking a safe space to share and discuss the unique experiences that bond us as women and participate in activities that aim to enhance self-image, self-confidence, and other topics pertaining to opportunities for women. Potential topics include: healthy relationships, women in the media, women in the workforce, conflict resolution/ relationships with friends, sexual assault awareness. The club sheds a positive light on what it means to be a happy, healthy, and strong female. GEM meets monthly. Our first meeting is on Wednesday, September 24 at 3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

What Kind Of Activities Do We Do In GEM? Our club activities vary at each meeting. Every month, we focus on a specific topic and structure our discussions and activities around it. Some of our previous topics and activities have included self-defense, etiquette, career night, a women's panel, self-image, self-love, self-respect, and communication, including discussions on gossip among women.

Why Should Girls Attend?

- **Personal Development:** GEM provides opportunities to develop important life skills such as leadership, communication, and self-confidence.
- **Supportive Environment:** The meetings offer a safe space to share experiences and challenges while receiving support from peers who may be facing similar situations.
- **Varied Topics:** GEM covers a wide range of topics, from self-defense and etiquette to career development and self-image, offering diverse learning opportunities.
- **Networking:** Attendees can connect with like-minded individuals, mentors, and guest speakers, expanding their personal and professional networks.
- **Empowerment:** The focus on issues like self-respect, communication, and empowerment equips participants with the tools to navigate personal and societal challenges with confidence.

FROM THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT: This week we recognized World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th. Counselors set up a table to inform students on suicide awareness and offered resources.

Next week we will once again participate in the Sandy Hook "Start with Hello". The "Start With Hello" program empowers your students to reduce social isolation and to help strengthen school communities by teaching strategies for building strong peer relationships. "Start With Hello" encourages students to reach out and support their peers. We have created activities that students can participate in during their lunch periods to help promote "Start with Hello"

We passed out Graduation Information Sheets to our students during lunch with everything they need to know about what is expected for graduation. Please review this with your students! Here is a link to the information that was passed out: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kPEtuYISsZH1L5xRSeqFzuhnewNaEO-K4oyf7YILepQ/edit?usp=sharing>

FROM THE CAFETERIA: Remember to add money to your student(s) lunch accounts. Go to <https://vasj.com/cafeteria> and click on "Add money to lunch account" to log in to your PaySchools Central account. Please know that if your child pays for lunch with cash there will NOT be any change given. The remainder will be added to your child's account.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCHES: The application for free and reduced lunches can be picked up in the front office or it can also be found at <https://vasj.com/cafeteria>. Please click on the link "Free/reduced school meals application" to download and fill out the application. Return the application to the school office. **Even if you received Free/Reduced lunches in the past, you must complete a new application for this school year.** If you have any questions, please contact Tara Reid at 216-481-8414 x159 or email at treid@avisystems.com.

PARKING PERMITS: Parking permits are required for students this school year. The cost of the parking permit is \$50.00 and can be paid with cash, check or credit card. Students are to see Mrs. Taraska in the Principal's Office for a permit request form for a parent to complete. Once they return the completed form with payment, they will receive their permit and parking spot. **Beginning October 1st, any student car parked without a permit will be towed at the owner's expense. Spots are still available.**

FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT: Our Fall Athletic teams have all begun. If you get a chance, come out and support our teams. Tickets are required for all home events and can be purchased at www.vasj.com/athletic-tickets. Go Vikings!!

FROM THE CLINIC: **12th Graders:** A SECOND dose of MCV4 (Meningococcal A) vaccine is required for all 12th grade students in the state of Ohio. Please make sure your student is up-to-date on vaccinations. The school nurse will be sending notices out via email over the next few weeks for students who are out of compliance with state requirements.

Immunizations: Immunizations will be audited over the next few weeks. The school nurse will be sending notices out via email for students who are out of compliance with state requirements.

Medication Orders for 2025-2026: New orders are required yearly for medications. Please make sure your doctor completes a new medication order over the summer if your student needs medication in school next year.

FROM THE OFFICE OF 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, Mrs. Sharon Taraska 216-481-8414 x210 or by email staraska@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.