



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.

## January 16, 2026

### Upcoming Events:

- **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.
- **February 2:** L.I.F.E. Leaders Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- **February 5:** Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:30-4:30 p.m. & 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- **February 6:** NO SCHOOL
- **February 11:** Oarsmen Club Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **February 13:** Goodies with God 7:30 a.m. & JUNIOR Class Retreat Day
- **February 16:** NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
- **February 23:** L.I.F.E All School Event 3:15-5:00 p.m.
- **February 25:** IOWA Testing 9th Grade - Asynchronous Learning Day 10th, 11th & 12th grades
- **February 27:** Goodies with God 7:30 a.m.  
Oarsmen Club "Night-Out" Collision Bend Brewery, Euclid 5:30 p.m.
- **February 28:** Class of 2030 Registration Day

\*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\*\*

## **\*\*JANUARY 19: NO SCHOOL\*\***

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Viking Families,

This next Monday is a day off school. The nation celebrates and honors Martin Luther King Jr. on January 19th. Enjoy your day with family and friends as we celebrate the work of MLK Jr. We are also monitoring the weather for early next week, realizing that inclement weather is expected for Tuesday. The third quarter began this past Monday and will end on Friday, March 13, 2026.

Just a reminder that our cell phone policy does not only restrict cell phones, but all personal electronic devices. After Christmas students have come to school with Meta glasses. Meta glasses, like cell phones, smart watches, and headphones are considered personal electronic devices. Please take note to keep Meta glasses in your locker as you would other personal electronic devices, and note that students who are found with these glasses will have them

confiscated and will have to serve a detention for having them on their person during the school day. We thank you for your help with this matter.

Enjoy your three-day weekend and the celebration of MLK Jr.'s life and accomplishments.

Mr. Sedmak

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

## **FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:**

Good Day,

Report cards are going out today. Please check your email for the reports. Additionally, ineligibility calls will go out this afternoon. As a reminder, in order to be eligible, the student must maintain a 1.8 GPA and also be passing five 1-credit classes. If a student is deemed ineligible, that will be for the entirety of Quarter 3.

Grades are also being entered for Quarter 3. Please make sure that you are regularly checking PowerSchool. If you are having issues accessing PowerSchool, please email [powerschool@vasj.com](mailto:powerschool@vasj.com) and describe the issue so it can be corrected. We always want to partner with parents in order to ensure the highest achievements possible for our students.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. Marxen

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

## **FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:**

Dear VASJ Parents and Guardians,

We want to make you aware of a growing technology trend that schools across the country are beginning to encounter: META (Fig. B) or other smart glasses such as RAY NEO AIR XR glasses (Fig A). These devices can closely resemble regular prescription eyewear, but in some cases may allow users to record/view videos or other digital content discreetly. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a focused and respectful learning environment, we are monitoring this emerging technology. We ask for your partnership by being aware of and discussing appropriate technology use with your student.

Some general indicators that may raise concern include:

- A student who does not typically wear glasses, suddenly begins to do so (while noting that many students may have legitimate prescription needs).
- Limited head or eye movement during instruction, even when the teacher moves around the room.
- Video glasses like the RAY NEO AIR XR usually resemble sunglasses. If a student says he/she has them for medical purposes like due to a concussion for example, contact the Dean of students or administration to verify.

We want to emphasize that many glasses worn by students are completely legitimate and medically necessary. For this reason, staff members are trained to handle any concerns discreetly and respectfully. No student will be embarrassed or publicly questioned, and prescription eyewear will not be removed unless there is absolute certainty and administrative involvement. If concerns arise, school administrators will handle the situation appropriately to ensure student rights, privacy, and well-being are fully protected.



(Fig. A) RAY NEO AIR XR



(Fig. B) RAY BAN META GLASSES

We appreciate your continued support and partnership as we work together to provide a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school administration.

Thank you for your cooperation and trust.

Good day, and God bless.

Mr. Latimore

# HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE

**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.

**OARSMEN BOOSTER CLUB: Who are we and what do we do?** For over 40 years the Oarsmen Club has been the booster club for **ALL** VASJ athletic teams. Our mission is to provide equipment, facilities, and funding to enable all VASJ teams to compete at an elite level. We deliver this support through the tireless efforts of our parents, friends and alumni of VA, St. Joe's & VASJ. Through the time, talent and treasures of these volunteers, our student-athletes are in the best possible position for success both on and off the field! We need your support and active participation to carry on this 40+ year tradition!

How can you help you ask? By helping at our annual clambake, assisting in selling March Madness Squares, volunteering to work at the concessions stand, and by attending our monthly meetings and bringing fresh new ideas on how we can better support our athletes. **Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the VA Room.** Hope to see you there!

**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!

**Oarsmen Club Night-Out Social:** You are cordially invited to a "Night-Out" with the Oarsmen Booster Club! Join us on Friday, February 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Collision Bend Brewery in Euclid. Come have a great time and learn how you can help support our student athletes by becoming a part of our Oarsmen Booster Club. Please RSVP to Juli Gembus at 216-509-3459 or Lisa Stahlberg at 216-906-1901. See the attached flyer for more details!!

## **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,

**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.GIVESMART.COM](https://OARSMENSQUARES.GIVESMART.COM)**

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

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](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!!

**CAMPUS MINISTRY: The Behold Retreat** is a mother-daughter retreat (any mother-daughter-like relationship) designed specifically for adult and teen women in the spirit of Mary's fiat. The retreat will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The theme for 2026 is "Behold Friendship" with keynote speaker, Maggie Craig, author of *Friendship Reset*. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Damian Ference. Registration is now open. Only 150 tickets will be sold. More information can be found at <https://tobcle.org/event/behold-2026/>

## **FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE:**

**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](https://www.education.ohio.gov/) 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

## **TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOPS:**

The Counseling Department and Administration would like to gather your input on potentially offering test preparation workshops for our students to better prepare them for tests such as PSAT, ACT and SAT. We ask that parents take our [Parent Test Prep Interest Survey](#) to help us determine interest and participation. Please read the following description of the different types of tests and why they are important for our students during the college application process.

The PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a standardized test for high schoolers that serves as practice for the SAT, measures reading, writing, and math skills, and can qualify top scorers for National Merit Scholarships. It's a digital, shorter version of the SAT, offered in different versions (PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT), and helps students gauge college readiness while providing a pathway to significant merit-based awards.

VASJ provides students with an opportunity to take the ACT test, their Junior year. The ACT (American College Testing) is a standardized test for high school students, measuring readiness for college by assessing skills in English, Math, Reading, and Science, with an optional writing test; colleges use scores for admissions and scholarships, with scores ranging from 1-36 for each section.

The purpose of the ACT and SAT (Scholaristic Aptitude Tests) tests is to assess high school students' readiness for college-level work, providing colleges with standardized data for admissions, course placement, scholarships, and financial aid decisions, by measuring skills in reading, writing, math, and (for ACT) science. While both aim to gauge college preparedness, the ACT focuses more on high school curriculum knowledge, whereas the SAT traditionally emphasizes reasoning and critical thinking.

**ATTENDANCE REPORTING:** Please use the attendance phone line, 216-481-8414 x207 when reporting a student absent, tardy or for early dismissal only. DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES ON FACULTY/STAFF VOICEMAILS! When leaving your message, please provide your name, student's name and reason for their absence, tardiness or early dismissal along with all relevant details including drop off or pick up time

and pick up person when applicable. The student will need to provide written documentation of their absence upon their return to school. Documentation can also be emailed to: [attendance@vasj.com](mailto:attendance@vasj.com). If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance, please contact Ms. Parries, our Attendance Coordinator at [hparries@vasj.com](mailto:hparries@vasj.com) or 216-481-8414 x140.

**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!

**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).

**WORK PERMITS:** If you are in need of a work permit, please contact the front office at [miller@vasj.com](mailto:miller@vasj.com).



# You're Invited!

## a "Night Out"

with the Oarsmen Boosters Club

**Food • Drinks • Fun • Information**

**When:** Please join us on Friday February 27, 2026  
Starting at 5:30pm

**Where:** Collision Bend Brewery  
1261 Babbitt Rd, Euclid, OH 44132

**RSVP to: Juli Gembus 216-509-3459**  
**or Lisa Stahlberg 216-906-1901 by February 6, 2026**

**Come and have a great time & learn how you can support our student athletes!**

For over 40 years, the VASJ Oarsmen Club has been the booster organization for all Villa Angela-St. Joseph athletic teams. Our mission is to provide equipment, facilities and funding to enable all VASJ teams to compete at an elite level. From our annual Clambake to concession stand sales to Super Bowl and March Madness squares, we continue to support our teams and supplement the VASJ Athletic Department budget.

We deliver this support through the fireless effort of parents, friends and alumni of Villa Angela, Saint Joseph, and Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. Through the time, talent and treasures of these volunteers, our student-athletes are in the best possible position for success both on and off the playing field.

There is a new energy at VASJ and a new energy within our Oarsmen Booster Club. We need your support and active participation to carry on this 40+ year tradition!

## How You Can Help All Year Long!

- Sign up to help at the annual Clambake and/or purchase tickets and attend
- Assist with selling March Madness Squares
- Volunteer to work concessions for your athletic team
- Attend monthly meetings and bring fresh ideas

