



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 23, 2026

Upcoming Events:

- **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 4:** Seniors "100 Day"
- **February 5:** Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:30-4:30 p.m. & 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- **February 6:** NO SCHOOL
- **February 10:** Founder's Day Mass & Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
- **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 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

****FEBRUARY 16: NO SCHOOL****

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Viking Families,

We thank our tough Vikings for making it out to school today. There are only so many calamity days in the bank and the weather this winter is colder and snowier than most, so we want to be judicious in their application.

Founders week was moved to the week of February 9-13, 2026. It is a time to acknowledge the founding sodalities of our school, the Ursualines and the Marianists. We are unique in this respect as a school. No other institution in the world has these two charisms as its founding.

During the week of March 23-25, 2026, the Marianists along with a representative of the Ursulines will do a two-year review of our Mission Integration Plan. We look forward to their visit and we will give more information to our community at that time.

We thank our outside teacher resource, the McKeon Education Group for providing extra counseling this past week. We thank them for their care and professionalism with our students' emotional needs.

Mr. Sedmak
gsedmak@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Good Day,

The weather has certainly been challenging the past couple of weeks, and it looks like we have more bad weather to come. We have been reminding students to make sure they take study materials home in the event that we have a snow/cold day. Assignments are also posted on Google Classroom, and we may assign asynchronous work rather than using a calamity day.

Along with the weather is the rise in illnesses. If your student is going to be absent, please call the attendance line (216-481-8414 x207) and leave a detailed message. Please include your student's name, grade level, and the reason for their absence. Additionally, the student needs to bring either a written note or medical excuse for the absence upon their return. Alternatively, the note or excuse may also be emailed to attendance@vasj.com.

The third quarter is well underway. Directions for parents/guardians to access report cards were distributed last week. You must have PowerSchool access in order to see the report card. If you need access, please email powerschool@vasj.com and give your name, your student's name, and your need for PS access.

We completed IOWA testing last week, and the assessments are being sent out to be scored. Once we receive those scores, they will be uploaded to PS and notifications will go out to parents. It typically takes about two weeks for us to receive scores back. The next IOWA testing date is Wednesday, February 25. This will be for all freshmen, the make-up day for sophomores who were absent, and juniors and seniors who still need to pass the assessment. Those notifications will go out closer to the testing date.

As always, please check PS regularly to monitor your student's grades. We encourage students to advocate for themselves as young adults, and have conversations/ exchange emails with teachers when they have questions or concerns about grades. I also encourage parents to contact the teacher via email with any questions or concerns regarding grades or assignments.

It is supposed to be a very snowy winter weekend. I hope you are all able to stay warm at home, or be careful in your travels.

Have a blessed weekend,
Mrs. Marxen
pmarxen@vasj.com

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

Dear VASJ Parents and Guardians,

This letter serves as an important reminder regarding our school's dress code and electronic device policies. All students are expected to be in compliance at all times. Failure to follow these expectations may result in disciplinary consequences, including suspension.

Dress Code Expectations

- Students must be in proper dress code at all times.
- Under no circumstances are students permitted to wear tennis shoes.
- Under no circumstances are students permitted to wear hoodies.
- Electronic Device Policy
- Students may not have any electronic devices on their person other than their school-issued Chromebook and a class-approved calculator.
- Meta glasses, Apple Watches, cell phones, and MacBooks are not permitted.

If a student is found in possession of an unauthorized electronic device, the device will be confiscated. If a student refuses to surrender an electronic device when directed, the student will receive a suspension. We appreciate your cooperation

and support in reinforcing these expectations with your child. Adherence to these policies is essential to maintaining a focused, safe, and productive learning environment for all students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school administration.

Thank you,
Good day, and God bless.
Mr. Latimore
jlatimore@vasj.com

HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE

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!!

CAMPUS MINISTRY: SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: St. Clare Parish in Lyndhurst needs helpers for the weekly Lenten Fish Frys on the following dates: 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, and 3/27. Help will be needed from 4:30-7:00 each week. Dress expectation will be VASJ spiritwear.

Email or call Dominic Fanelli to sign up! dominicfanelli@outlook.com (440)391-1060.

Brandon Lake Tour Volunteers: Volunteers would be handing out packets to anyone interested in sponsoring a child during intermission and after the show. Volunteers would also receive free tickets to enjoy the concert! The concert is March 6, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. & will be held at the Wolstein Center (2000 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH. Must be 18 years of age. To sign up click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brandon-lake-world-vision-volunteers-cleveland-oh-tickets-1980123981131?aff=jess>

SENIOR SERVICE PAPER: Over the course of your Senior's time at VASJ, they have completed many hours of service. To show what they have learned from this and how they have grown, they **MUST** complete a 2-3 page paper reflecting on this service experience over the course of their time here at VASJ. This paper must be in **MLA format** and include specific examples of service events you have completed.

Use the following prompts to help you. You do not need to comment on every prompt but use them to guide you.

1. Describe what you have learned about yourself as a result of your service.
2. What have you learned about your community?
3. What was the most important lesson learned
4. What impact did you have on the community?
5. Did you learn a new skill or clarify an interest?
6. If you could do the project again, what would you do differently?
7. Describe a person you've encountered in the community who made a strong impression on you, positive or negative.
8. Talk about any disappointments or successes of your project. What did you learn from it?

All work must be in their own words. Any percentage of AI use will result in needing to redo the work, and their diplomas may be withheld. Papers are due MAY 8 at 3:00 p.m. Seniors should email their papers to Ms. Maher at emaher@vasj.com. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Maher.

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: Next 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.ohio.gov/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

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 should also be emailed to: attendance@vasj.com.** If you have any questions regarding your child's attendance, please contact Ms. Parries, our Attendance Coordinator at hparries@vasj.com or 216-481-8414 x140.

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: 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!!

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!

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.