



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 30, 2026

### Upcoming Events:

- February 2: L.I.F.E. Leaders Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- February 4: Seniors "100 Day"
- February 5: EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 p.m. & 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. & College Credit Plus (CCP) Informational Meeting 6:00 p.m. Founders Chapel
- February 11: Bloodmobile 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 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 18: ASH Wednesday All School Mass 9:30 a.m.
- 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\*\*

## **\*\*FEBRUARY 16: NO SCHOOL\*\***

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Viking Families,

Unfortunately, Catholic Schools Week has been greatly interrupted by the snow, cold, and boiler issue this past week. As last weeks' Founders' Day mass was moved to February 10, Scholarship Day has now been moved to March 6. We thank our community for their adaptability during this past week. Students moved from no school, to asynchronous learning, and back into the classrooms today. It is not ideal, but time on task and in-person instruction were the goals, and we worked to maximize the goals as greatly as possible. We have used five snow days this year. Any other days that we need to keep students at home due to the weather will be asynchronous learning days.

Have a good weekend. Next Thursday we are holding Parent- Teacher conferences. We look forward to seeing our school parents then.

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

## FROM THE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

Good Day,

Freezing weather to a broken boiler, it has been quite a week, and it is still January! Moving forward, snow and/or cold days will be Asynchronous Learning Days for students. Teachers will post assignments by 8:00 a.m., and students have until 11:59 p.m. that night to turn in their assignments. If students do **NOT** turn in asynchronous work, they will receive a zero (0%) on the assignment with no chance to make that work up. Teachers will also be available via email or Google Classroom chat during regular school hours (8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) in case students have questions or need assistance with the work. Asynchronous days are considered a regular school day. If your student is ill on an asynchronous day and cannot do the work that day, you must still call the attendance line that day for an excused absence.

Next Thursday, February 5, brings Parent-Teacher conferences. On Thursday, **we will have an early dismissal at 2:00pm for students**. They may not remain in the academic part of the building. Please arrange transportation accordingly. The school vans will leave at 2:15 pm on Thursday to transport students home. The conference schedule is:

- ★ 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm      Conferences
- ★ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm      Dinner Break (teachers will be unavailable during this time and the gym will be closed)
- ★ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm      Conferences

All teachers will have a table in the gym for conferences. We will provide a paper copy of each student's grades at the check in table, but parents are encouraged to use their PowerSchool app for the most up to date grades. Parents may visit with any teacher during the times listed above. We highly encourage parents to attend conferences in order to meet with teachers and partner with them in order to fully support the students. We appreciate your support and thank you for allowing us to educate your student! The following day, Friday, February 6, there will be no school.

This is the time of year when grades trend a bit downward, so please check your PowerSchool regularly and speak with your student about their academic progress. If you are having issues with accessing your PowerSchool account, please email [powerschool@vasj.com](mailto:powerschool@vasj.com) and identify the student & the issue so we can make sure it is corrected. Students should speak directly to their teacher regarding questions or concerns about grades. Parents are also encouraged to email teachers if you have questions about assignments.

Hopefully, we will be in school every day throughout the rest of the winter and spring season! However, we will do our best to notify you as early as possible should we not be able to have students in the building. You should receive an email, a phone call, and a text. If your phone number or email address changes, please make sure to update FinalForms immediately to ensure we have the correct contact information. If you have questions regarding FinalForms, please contact Mrs. Taraska in the principal's office at [staraska@vasj.com](mailto:staraska@vasj.com).

Have a warm and blessed weekend,  
Mrs. Marxen  
[pmarxen@vasj.com](mailto:pmarxen@vasj.com)

## FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

Good day Viking Families,

Many parents inquired about the procedure for students who are currently serving suspension(s) and a snow day interrupts that suspension.

- If your child is on suspension and a snow day occurs, the suspension day generally **DOES NOT** count toward your child's total suspension length, and the day does not count nor is it considered "made up." Instead, the suspension is effectively paused for that day, as the school is closed. Another way to look at this is, if your child is under suspension, a snow day acts as a "calamity day." The school is closed, and your child is not required to serve that day of suspension. The suspension will typically continue once the school reopens.
- If your child is on suspension and it is an asynchronous learning day (independent work), the day **DOES** count towards the total suspension duration

★ Note: Suspension means your child is removed from the regular school environment, whether in-person or remotely.

Thank you, good day, and God bless.  
Mr. Latimore  
[ilatimore@vasj.com](mailto:ilatimore@vasj.com)

# **HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE**

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Mark your calendars for Parent-Teacher Conferences, which will be held on Thursday, February 5 from either 2:30-4:30 p.m. or 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the gym. This is a great opportunity to check in with teachers to see how to help your child finish the year strong. Hope to see you there.

**BLOODMOBILE:** The American Red Cross will be at here on Wednesday, February 11, from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for the second Blood Drive of the school year. There is a tremendous need for blood in our community!

Did you know that .... (Please read 1 or 2 each day)

- Blood cannot be manufactured; it can only come from volunteer donors
- Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood
- The American Red Cross needs to collect about 13,000 donations every day to meet the demands of hospitals across the country.
- Only about 3% of eligible people actually donate
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood
- Donors must be a minimum of age 16 with parental consent.

All donors during this drive will receive \$40.00 in gift cards. Registration will be next week, so think about it!

## **VASJ's 2026 CONTINUE THE DREAM**

**GALA:** 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.

Won't you consider supporting VASJ by purchasing something from our WISH LIST? **Please consider supporting the Gala with a donation!**

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!!

**FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE: COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS:** 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 meeting has been rescheduled for TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Founders Chapel.** It 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.

### **IMPORTANT COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS DATES:**

- **Funding opens February 1:** a parent must create a OH|ID Account (if you don't already have one) at <https://ohid.ohio.gov>. A parent or guardian must establish an OH|ID to file the CCP Funding Application.
- **February 1 - April 1:** Students should apply to the college or colleges of choice. **Start early!** Check with your preferred university or college for their CCP deadlines. You must have an acceptance letter to submit with your funding application. Parents must then upload a copy of the admission letter to their College Credit Plus Funding

Application located in your [OHJID Account](#). If your student gets an admission letter from more than one college, you must upload each college's admission letter.

- **April 1 at 5:00 p.m. is the HARD DEADLINE** to submit an application for funding. Any families that do not submit an application prior to 5:00 p.m. will be financially responsible for any courses their student enrolls in. **Even if you are a current CCP Participant, you must complete the application for funding once per year!**

**This deadline is set forth by the Department of Education and cannot be extended.**

- **By May 6:** You will receive your funding award notification within your College Credit Plus Funding Application located in your [OHJID Account](#). Once you receive your award notification, you can have your child register for college courses.

#### COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

- [VASJ CCP Information](#)
- [ODE CCP Information](#)

**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](mailto: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 [emaheer@vasj.com](mailto:emaheer@vasj.com). If you have any questions please contact Ms. Maher.

**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](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.

**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:** **ONLY 15 SQUARES LEFT!!!!** 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. Click on the link [Super Bowl Squares](#). Here is a 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](mailto: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](mailto:powerschool@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 tireless 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

