



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.

## February 6, 2026

### Upcoming Events:

- 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
- March 2: L.I.F.E. Leaders Meeting 3:15 p.m.
- March 6: Scholarship Day Ceremony 9:00 a.m.
- March 12: Legacy Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
- March 13: End of Quarter 3 & Goodies with God 7:30 a.m.
- March 16: NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day
- March 18: ACT Testing JUNIORS ONLY - Asynchronous Learning Day 9th, 10th & 12th grades

\*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\***

**\*\*FEB. 25: 9TH GRADE IOWA TEST  
10TH, 11TH & 12TH GRADES  
ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING DAY\*\***

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL:**

Dear Viking Families,

We hope our students and teachers had a relaxing Friday after we held Parent-Teacher Conferences last night. I want to thank our parents for coming to the school to meet with teachers and hear about the successes and needs of their students. We thank our teachers for their time, and our students for the continued focus in school.

Our Founder's Day Mass & ceremony will be celebrated next week on Tuesday, February 10 at 9:30 a.m.. On that day, we will honor St. Angela and St. Chaminade for establishing the orders that created our two foundational schools, Villa Angela and St. Joseph.

Have a good weekend.

Mr. Sedmak

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

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

Good Day,

Next week we will celebrate our Founder's Week! We actually had to postpone the activities and mass due to the cold weather, but it is always a fun and educational week for students.

On Tuesday, February 10, we will host a **CCP Informational Meeting** that evening at 6:00 p.m. CCP stands for College Credit Plus, and it is a program through which students may apply for credits through the State of Ohio in order to take college coursework. The coursework will provide both high school and college credit for students who are enrolled. Students must maintain a specific grade point average to qualify, must be accepted into a college, and must be approved for credits from Ohio. If your student is ready for the responsibility and rigor of college coursework, then I highly encourage you to attend the meeting so we can answer all of your questions.

We will be hosting the Bloodmobile on Wednesday in the gym. We do take walk-ins, so if you would like to donate, please come between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

With the end of this week, we are nearly halfway through the third quarter. Please, stay on top of your student's academics. Hopefully you were able to partner with our teachers to help ensure academic success for your students. We want to work with you to help students achieve their goals and push them to newer heights. We are always happy to engage with parents to support students. Please make sure you are checking PowerSchool and having conversations with your student about their struggles as well as their successes.

Just a reminder that tutoring is offered every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school by three of our teachers. Students may go to room 303, 310, or 315 to get help, or they may go there if they need a calm place to get caught up on schoolwork. Students must sign in for tutoring, and they must be ready to work and learn.

I wish you a warm and blessed weekend,

Mrs. Marxen

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

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

Good day,

Let's talk about attendance!

This week, some of you may have received an email from the office of the Dean of Students. Please don't ignore it as it has information regarding your child's future at VASJ. Even if you do not receive the email, it is to your advantage to read this section so that you can ensure your child stays in good standings with the state of Ohio. The letter will look like this:

"Your student, \_\_\_\_\_, currently has 5 absences this school year. As a reminder, any student who is absent for any reason must return to school with a written and signed note from their parent or guardian. If a student is absent for longer than three days, a doctor's note is required."

As stated in the handbook, school attendance is crucial for academic success. Excessive absences can have severe consequences, including indefinite forfeiture of your state sponsored scholarship. **The state of Ohio (NOT VASJ) will**

revoke your Ed Choice and/or Cleveland scholarship for excessive absences. In addition, any school awarded financial aid could be in jeopardy given that attendance is a determining factor in awarding these scholarships.

**If you lose any or all of these awarded scholarships, you will be financially responsible for your student's tuition.** Any student with 10 or more unexcused absences will be placed on an attendance contract. Failure to comply with the attendance contract will lead to additional corrective actions or forcible withdrawal from the school.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Good day, and God bless.

Mr. Latimore

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

## **HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE**

### **FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP & PROGRAMS:**

# **It's Scholarship renewal time!**

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School accepts the following scholarships through the [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#):

- ❖ Cleveland Scholarship
- ❖ EdChoice and EdChoice Expansion Scholarships
- ❖ Jon Peterson Scholarship
- ❖ Autism Scholarship

**Every family MUST renew their scholarship each 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 our Director of Government Programs and Scholarships, Ms. Fordyce at 216-481-8414 x140 or by email [afordyce@vasj.com](mailto:afordyce@vasj.com). Click [HERE](#) for more Information and forms.

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

The 2026 Spring into Continue the Dream Gala event will be held 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. The event will be spring-themed (with the hopes that there is warmer weather ahead for us all!).

We ask you to consider supporting VASJ by considering a donation of a gift from our Amazon WISH LIST for the Gala. This 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 also are looking for wine for our wine pull at the event. You can drop off a bottle at the front office during school hours. We ask that the value of the wine be at least \$15-20. Make sure your name is attached, as 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:** **The CCP informational meeting has been rescheduled for TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Founders Chapel.**

This meeting 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. 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. 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 [OH|ID 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 [OH|ID 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](#)

**COURSE SELECTION 2026-2027:** Course Selection meetings for current VASJ students will begin taking place in early February. Please click [HERE](#) to review course descriptions in our 2026-2027 Course of Study Guide on the VASJ website. More information will be provided soon.

**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.

**FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE: ATTENTION RETURNING FAMILIES:** Information regarding reenrollment will be communicated soon. Please keep an eye out for more information.

**CAMPUS MINISTRY: JUNIOR CLASS RETREAT:** The Junior CLASS retreat will be held on Friday, February 13. Students are expected to report to the cafeteria by 8:00 a.m. We will be bussing the students to St. Mary of the Assumption in Collinwood. Buses will be leaving VASJ at 8:30 a.m. SHARP, and will return to school at 2:30 p.m. **If a student arrives late to school and misses the bus, they will be sent home and will need to make up the retreat by completing 10 additional hours of service. PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS CANNOT BE DROPPED OFF AT THE CHURCH ONCE THE BUS HAS LEFT SCHOOL.** Students may dress down in VASJ spirit wear, but are expected to follow the typical dress down expectations.

The cell phone policy will also remain in effect - students will not have access to their phones from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. **As a final reminder - the Junior retreat is a grade level requirement.**

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

**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: 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

