




St. Helen Catholic Academy

Peter Vercessi, Principal



***Opening Parent Presentation:
2022-2023 School Year***



Welcome & Introduction



Thank you.....

Board of Directors:

John Spagnuolo, Chairman

James Baglino

Frank Bifulco

Maria Ford

James Gillespie

Steve Giusto

Vita Russo

Joseph Trotta





Thank you.....

Home Academy Association
Leadership Team:

Lou Paziienza, President

Roe Barrella, Vice President

Jeanette Spargifiore, Secretary


Michael Ammirabile, Treasurer





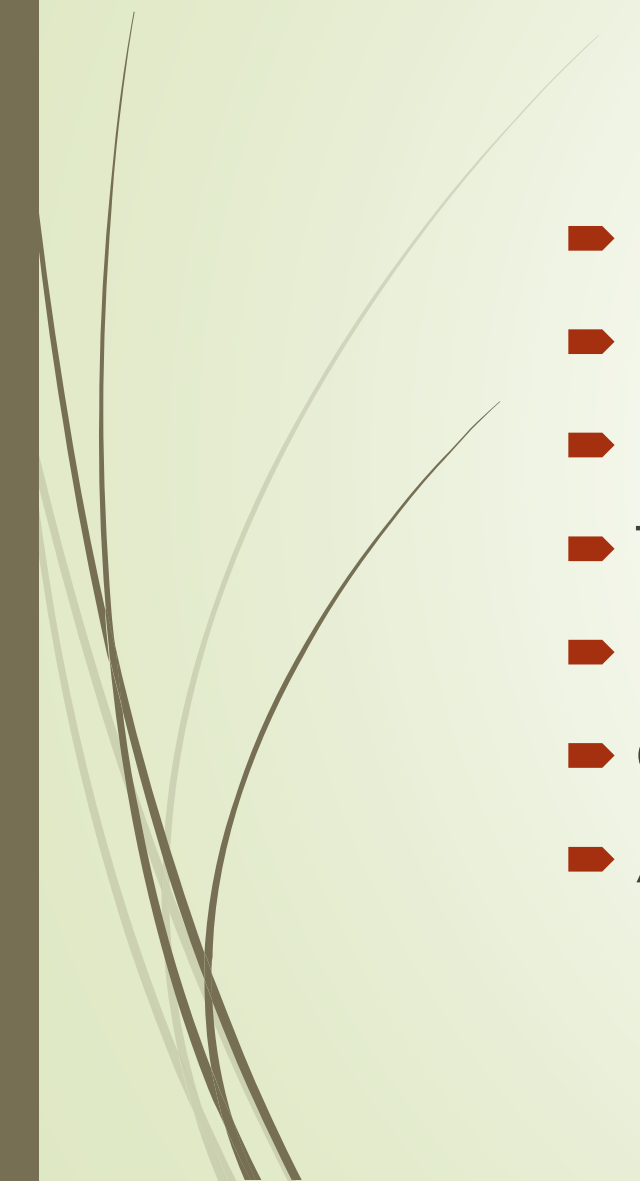
Special Thanks.....

To our Faculty



Goals for 2022-2023

(as shared with the Faculty)

- Learn the Lay of the Land
 - Be a good listener/be transparent/be fair
 - Return to normalcy
 - Tight ship **NOT** uptight ship
 - Increased student opportunities/student expectations
 - Consistent parental communication
 - Academics/Assessments
- 



Return to Pre-COVID Environment

- Most COVID restrictions lifted (*See updates on the main page of the website*)
- Mask optional environment for staff & students
- No remote instruction
- Be mindful of remote instruction possibilities (plan) should anything change



Regular Bell Schedule

- ▶ **Period 1 – 8:15 – 9:05 am**
- ▶ **Period 2 – 9:05 – 9:55 am**
- ▶ **Period 3 – 9:55 – 10:45 am**
- ▶ **Period 4 – 10:45 – 11:35 am**

Period 5 – 11:35am – 12:25 pm

Period 6 – 12:25 – 1:15 pm

Period 7 – 1:15 – 2:05 pm

Period 8 – 2:05 – 3:00 pm**



Bell Schedules (Early Dismissal)

➤ "A" Day (Periods 1-4)

- Period 1 – 8:15 – 9:10 am
- Period 2 – 9:10 – 10:05 am
- Period 3 – 10:05 – 11:00 am
- Period 4 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

➤ "B" Days (Periods 5-8)

- Period 5 – 8:15 – 9:10 am
- Period 6 – 9:10 – 10:05 am
- Period 7 – 10:05 – 11:00 am
- Period 8 – 11:00 am – 12:00



Morning/Afternoon Arrivals/Dismissals

- 83rd St. Entrance (across from Church)
- **Grades 5, 7, 8 (8:00 am arrival begins/3:00 pm dismissal)**
- **Grade 2 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)**
- **Pre K for All (8:05 am arrival begins/2:35 pm dismissal)**
- **3K For All (8:10 am arrival begins/2:40 pm dismissal)**

- Main Entrance
- **Grade 6 (8:00 am arrival begins/3:00 pm dismissal)**
- **Grades 3, 4 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)**

- Dooley Hall Entrance
- **Grades K, 1 (8:00 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)**
- **Pre K 3/Pre K 4 (8:20 am arrival begins/2:50 pm dismissal)**



Visitor Policy

- ▶ ***In keeping up with recommendations from the New York State Department of Education, the Diocese and many law enforcement agencies, St. Helen Catholic Academy will be a closed campus during the school day.***
- ▶ All visitors seeking to meet with school personnel must have a pre-arranged appointment, which can be verified with security at the main entrance.
- ▶ ***Walk in requests will not be honored.*** Any visitor who does not have an appointment will be asked to call the main office (718-835-4155) to plan a scheduled visit.



Curriculum/Instruction

- New York Common Core Standards & Guidelines
- Materials/texts selected based on compatibility

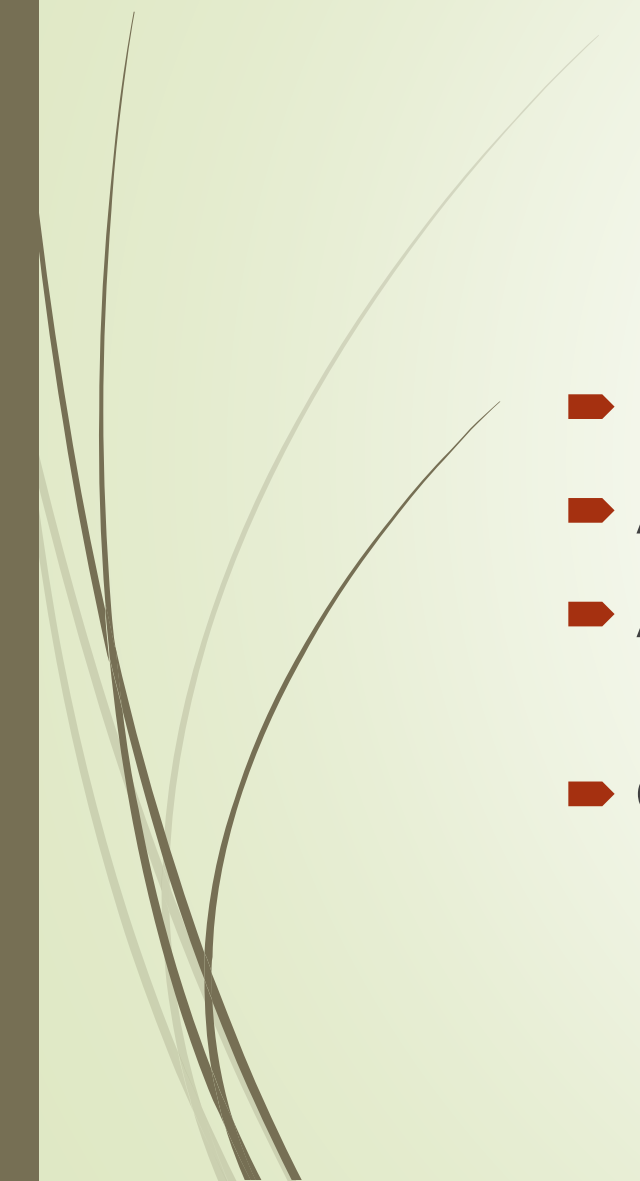


Assessments

- ▶ Terra Nova: October 11th – October 19th
- ▶ I – Ready: September/October & January/February (Diagnostic/Prescriptive)
- ▶ NYS ELA Exams (Grades 4,6,7): April 19th & 20th
- ▶ NYS Math Exams (Grades 4,6,7): May 2nd & 3rd
- ▶ NYS Grade 8 Science Exam: May 23rd
- ▶ NYS Regents Exam in Algebra (Grade 8): June 15th



Extracurricular Activities

- **Before School Program** (7:00 – 8:00 am)
 - **After School Program** (3:00 – 6:00 pm)
 - **After School Detention**
(3:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday – as needed)
 - **Clubs** (3:00 – 4:00 pm)
- 



First Friday Masses/Special Services

- ▶ September 9th: First Friday Mass
- ▶ October 7th: First Friday Mass/Student Rosary Rally
- ▶ Tuesday, November 2nd: All Saints' Day Mass
- ▶ December 2nd: First Friday Mass
- ▶ January 6th: First Friday Mass
- ▶ February 3rd: First Friday Mass
- ▶ March 3rd: First Friday Mass
- ▶ Thursday, May 18th: Ascension Thursday Mass
- ▶ June 2nd: First Friday Mass



NUT Card Redemptions & Spirit Days

NUT Cards

- ▶ Redemptions on Tuesdays only (see calendar) and last week of classes in June
- ▶ Homeroom teachers verify & process in standard format
- ▶ All Academy dress code policies will be in effect

Spirit Days

- ▶ Third Wednesday of each month, beginning in October
- ▶ Staff will receive golf shirts for use on Spirit Day
- ▶ **All Academy dress code policies will be in effect**



Dress Code/Grooming Code

- ▶ Any form of dress which is considered by the Administration to be contrary to good hygiene or which is distracting or disruptive in appearance and detrimental to the purpose or conduct of the school will not be permitted.
- ▶ No ripped, torn, or defaced item may be worn.
- ▶ Parents/guardians will be notified if a child comes to school with items that are not appropriate. If no improvement is noticed within a reasonable amount of time, an appointment with the parents/guardians and the Principal will be made.
- ▶ Hair must be a natural color. Streaking, highlighting, lowlights, glints, etc. are not permitted.
- ▶ **Nothing in this policy is meant to prevent a student from attending school with an ethnic hairstyle in connection with his or her race, heritage, or national origin, including, but not limited to, braids or twists.**
- ▶ ***Complete details on these policies can be found on pages 22-23 in the handbook.***



Cell Phone Policy, Grades 3-8 (As of August, 2022)

- ▶ **Cell Phones/Electronic Devices (Found on page 15 of the handbook)**
- ▶ Students should bring their school issued/approved electronic devices to school (e.g. chrome books, calculators) on a daily basis. **All other electronic devices, such as but not limited to I-Pads & Apple watches, must be left at home.** The Academy is not responsible for valuables that are lost or damaged.
- ▶ It is understood and accepted that many students carry cell phones to and from school as a means of communicating with their families to ensure safety and security. Due to the enormous distraction to the educational process during the instructional day, however, **student cell phone use will be restricted during the school day.** Phones will be collected by period 1 homeroom teachers as follows:
- ▶ Students will place their phones in a numbered slot in a portable lock box as teachers pass by their desks.
- ▶ The lock boxes will be locked and placed in a secured teacher closet for the entirety of the regular school day (8:15 AM – 3:00 PM).
- ▶ At the end of period 8, homeroom teachers will remove the portable lock box from their secured closet and ask students to retrieve their phones from their numbered slots as the teacher passes by their desks.
- ▶ **Any students found in possession of an unauthorized electronic device (such as a cell phone, I-Pad, Apple watch, etc.) during the regular school day will have the device confiscated by the Principal. A parent/guardian will be required to come to school to pick up the unauthorized item and a disciplinary consequence will be issued.**



Student Expectations/Behavior

All students are expected to strive for excellent behavior at all times. Behavior problems includes disrespecting authority, including teachers and staff, and other students, teasing, bullying, socially unacceptable behavior, or behavior contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church or the mission of the Academy.



Bullying Prevention

Grades Pre K - 4

- ▶ Class reading of “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?”
- ▶ Follow up discussion with class
- ▶ To be completed over the course of one class session on Friday, September 9th.

Grades 5 - 8

- ▶ Presentation on New York State Dignity Act & Academy Code of Conduct by Principal
- ▶ Sessions will take place during the first week of regular classes (9/8-9/14) by the Principal



Consequences

Lunch Detention

- ▶ Students will purchase lunch/snacks and receive an escort to a designated area where they will be supervised by a staff member.
- ▶ The student(s) will eat, then spend the remainder of the lunch period engaged in homework completion and/or quiet study.

After School Detention

- ▶ **Grades 5-8;** conducted from 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Monday - Thursday
- ▶ Parents/guardians will be notified, via phone call, of an after school detention assignment.
- ▶ Detention will be assigned one day after the contact with a parent/guardian has been made.
- ▶ Students will receive escort to the designated detention room at dismissal (3:00 pm).
- ▶ The student(s) will spend the assigned time engaged in homework completion and/or quiet study.



Counseling Services

PDHP

- ▶ Program for the Development of Human Potential
- ▶ Scheduled visitation days: Tuesday & Friday
- ▶ One to one student assistance, class/parent presentations

St. John's Wellness Program

- ▶ Graduate student interns from St. John's School of Counseling & Social Work
- ▶ Goal: To work jointly with PDHP and to be available on unscheduled days (in particular)
- ▶ Availability to be determined after Fall enrollment/graduate student interest is finalized



Trimesters, Progress Reports, Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences

Trimester 1: September 7th – December 2nd, 2022

- Progress Report Conclusion: 10/17/22
- Report Card Conclusion: 12/2/22
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: 12/13/22 (12:45 – 7:30 pm)

Trimester 2: December 5th – March 17th, 2023

- Progress Report Conclusion: 1/27/23
- Report Card Conclusion: 3/17/23
- Parent/Teacher Conferences: 3/21/23 (12:45 – 7:30 pm)

Trimester 3: December 5th – March 17th, 2023

- Progress Report Conclusion: 3/8/23
- Report Card Conclusion: 6/22/23



Google Classroom & General Parent Communication

- ▶ Teachers asked to use this as a reference for class info
- ▶ Meet the Teacher Night presentations for each class there
- ▶ Reasonable contact expectations
- ▶ At-risk contact at key points of trimesters
- ▶ Meaningful progress report/report card comments
- ▶ Questions/concerns? Teacher first, Principal second



Playground & Gym Floor Updates



Photo/Video/Image Declination Form

- Found in Parent/Guardian section of the website
- Parents & guardians have the right to decline the use of their child's likeness in any capacity (e.g. Diocese/School/Facebook, Pictures/Videos/Etc.)
- Original Request sent out in electronic mailing on August 29th.
- If you **DO NOT** want your child's photo/likeness published or used, please complete and submit the form by ***Monday, September 19th.***



Thank you for
your attention!

Teacher sessions begin at 7:30