



La Salle Academy

NEWSLETTER

St. Benedict Parish † St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish
 440 Holland Street
 Shillington, PA 19607
 610-777-7392

August 2016

Theme: "Be Joyful Always"

Our school's theme for the 2016-2017 School year is from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We are called by God's great plan as individuals and as a community to "*always rejoice, to pray unceasingly,*" (in other words, constantly), "*and to give thanks in everything because it is His will.*" This theme reminds us that we are called to work constantly to have a Joyful Attitude. This is as true for parents and teachers at work as it is for students doing schoolwork. Being joyful *always* is easier said than done. We trust that we are right where God wants us to be and that He wants us to be happy. He knows perfectly just how full our lives are. God gave us the freedom to love and to choose to be part of His plan. God always gives us Grace to achieve our goals. Let us support each other in our goal "to Be Joyful Always!"



Reminders:

August 27th—Orientation for families new to La Salle—
 9:00—11:00am
 August 28th—Protecting God's Children Course
 August 30th—School Opens
 Preschool, Pre-K (5-day) and K-8, La Care begins
 September 2nd—School Closed

September 5th—Labor Day—School Closed
 September 12th—School Pictures
**September 15th—Parent Back To School Night—
 6:45pm (Rescheduled)**
 October 6th—Confirmation will be at St. John's—4:30pm
 October 21st—Walk-a-thon
 October 31st—Halloween Parade

History Fair 2017 Topic— "Technology Throughout History"

Hot Lunch will be available Tuesday, August 30th. Milk, water, and lemonade will be sold for 50 cents. Snacks will also be sold. If purchasing hot lunch, be sure to make a check payable to **Maschio's** in the amount of \$3.25 per lunch or you may purchase a 5-day ticket for \$16.25 (first week menu shown below). Details will be in your first day packet to be sent home August 30th.

First Week's Menu	30 Hot Dog Mac & Cheese Green Beans Fruit	2 Cheeseburger French Fries Fruit Cup	3 Cheese Ravioli Garlic Bread Salad Fruit Cup	4 School Closed
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First Day Needs:

- * Students will take home a First Day Packet of information on August 30th. It will include information on hot lunch, emergency cards, stationery, policies, preschool and prekindergarten tuition envelopes, etc.
- * Full service lunch begins Tuesday, August 30th. Additional lunch information will be placed in the take-home envelope. Drinks and snacks will also be available for purchase.
- * A listing of stationery supplies (1-8) to be purchased by the student was sent home in the June report card. A listing and charge for school-supplied stationery will be included in the First Day Packet. The information is available in the school office and on the website www.lsabear.org.
- * Student classroom assignments (Preschool-Grade 8) will be posted at La Salle on Friday, August 25th.
- * Please find the **Transportation Form** on Page 8 of this newsletter. Parents, please be sure to complete a separate form for each child in grades PK to 3. This information is needed on the first day. Individual notes will also work.
- * Parents of children in Grades PK-6 new to the La Care Program, please contact the school office prior to first day of school to register. (Additional information on Page 5)

La Salle Academy 2016-2017 Dress Code

Updates The 2016-2017 school year shall be a transitional year for uniforms at La Salle Academy. This means that the current school and gym uniforms or the new uniforms may be worn. With the exception of Kindergarten students who will wear regular school uniforms beginning this 2016 school year, the new school and gym uniforms, (affecting returning students in Grades 1-8), will not be mandatory until the start of the 2017-2018 school year in order to give families time to purchase new uniform pieces and keep financial output manageable. The hope in refreshing some uniform pieces and even in adding new coordinated Spirit Wear items, is that students and families will continue to take pride in wearing the uniform of their La Salle Academy Den, expressing a clean, traditional, vibrant, Catholic school community, blending academic, athletic and family experiences into one.

A strong start in preschool and kindergarten leads to success in first grade and beyond. While most of the uniform adjustments for 2016-2017 remain virtually unchanged, during this year of transition we are adding the wearing of uniforms for KINDERGARTEN students and optional uniform components for the PREKINDERGARTEN and PRESCHOOL students, as well as optional uniform components for K-8 students, to strengthen the bond and sense of belonging to our La Salle Academy Den. These changes serve to compliment the level and types of activities that are part of the developmentally appropriate prekindergarten through first grade and K-8 curricula targeting development of mind and body. Change is hopefully perceived as a reflection of the direct line of success we strive for from preschool through first grade and beyond at La Salle Academy. The Principal remains the final word on compliance with the dress code and reserves the right to make changes throughout the year if necessary in response to the needs of the student body. La Salle School Uniforms are available from store or online, McGinn School Apparel, located at 12 S. 5th Avenue, West Reading (610-939-1503), www.mcginnschoolapparel.com).

The New Gym Uniform Pieces for 2017 are available now for purchase through the school. Order forms are available on line at the La Salle website listed below or may be obtained from the school office.

The complete Dress Code may be found on the La Salle website—www.lsabear.org under the **Student** Tab, then click on **Announcements** and scroll down to **School Uniforms** and then to **2016-2017 La Salle Academy Dress Code and Gym Uniform Requirements**.



Things You Should Know:

Books: All books are to be covered and carried in a school bag or tote bag. Textbooks are to be covered with brown paper, Book Sox, or a book cover that can be purchased at the school.

All workbooks must be covered with clear contact paper. Workbooks covered with contact paper are easy to identify and stay in good shape for the whole year. Workbooks should be covered by Monday, September 12th.

Before you put the contact paper on, please write your child's name and grade on the cover of the book.

Written & Verbal Communications:

School-Home Communications have a "Got-It" Slip on the bottom. Please sign and detach slip and return it to school the next day.

Verbal Communications—We are requesting that all members of our faculty and staff be addressed as Miss, Mrs., or Mr. at school and school functions. We feel that this is a good policy when conducting school business. We will likewise address our parents in this manner. Our students are encouraged to address all adults as Miss, Mrs., or Mr., both in and out of school.

Youngest & Only Take-Home Folder—Information from school is sent home weekly on Wednesday with the youngest child.

Bus Schedule—If you haven't requested bus transportation by filling out a form during the past school year, please contact your local school district. The public districts do not provide Preschool or Prekindergarten busing.

BCIU	610-987-8620
Cocalico School District	717-336-1574
Conrad Weiser School District	610-693-8561
Daniel Boone School District	610-582-6161
Exeter	610-779-0410
Eastern Lancaster Sch. District	717-354-1133
Governor Mifflin Sch. District	610-775-1464
Muhlenberg School District	610-921-8000
Oley School District	610-987-4100
Reading School District	610-371-5824
(Call La Salle Office for Schedule)	610-777-7392

Twin Valley School District	610-286-8624
Wilson School District	610-670-0180
Wyomissing School District	610-374-0739

La Salle Academy Website, Isabear.org

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La Salle Telephone Numbers

La Salle Academy Office	610-777-7392
LaCare (2:30-6:00 PM)	610-777-8403
La Salle Academy Fax	610-777-1280
La Salle email	altblsa@ptd.net
Web Site:	www.Isabear.org

La Care Extended Day Care—“La Care” is an extended day program at La Salle for children in grades Prekindergarten-6. La Care provides a safe, loving environment, a daily snack, a designated homework period, outdoor playtime, arts and crafts, games, and activities. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 2:30—6:00pm when school is in session. Fees are \$8.00 per day if picked up by 4:30pm or \$10.00 per day if picked up after 4:30pm for registered families. Drop-in fees are \$9.00 per day if picked up by 4:30pm or \$11.00 per day if picked up after 4:30pm for non-registered families. For more information and registration, please call the school office. New students to La Salle planning to use La Care on August 30th, please be sure to contact the office prior to the first day of school.

Earning Super Saver for La Salle Tuition—If you shop at Redners, Weis, or Giant, your family could be earning credit for tuition with the PTO Super Saver Program. For every \$100 in certificates purchased, your account earns \$3 credit toward your child's tuition for the following year (for use at La Salle Academy or Berks Catholic High School for 8th grade students). Simply fill out the Super Saver envelope indicating your store card preference, enclose a check to La Salle Supersavers, and turn in the order to the La Salle office. Orders may be sent home with your child or picked up in the office. More complete information on the program will be sent home from the PTO in September.

Redner's Receipts —La Salle Academy invites you to participate in Redner's Save-A-Tape Program. The school receives a 1% rebate on total allowable purchase. Once enrolled in the program, your receipts can then be sent to school, and the office will process them for rebate. Enrollment is easy, just fill a one-time, short application at the courtesy desk.

Box Tops For Education—La Salle's PTO is also continuing to collect Box Tops For Education. As in the past, the box tops can be turned in to your child's homeroom teacher. At year-end, the PTO sponsors a homeroom pizza party for the winning homeroom.

Donating or Memorializing—If you would like to memorialize a loved one, La Salle provides opportunities to do so. One way that you can memorialize a loved one is by donating to La Salle. We welcome monetary donations, no gift is too small. Please keep in mind that we have a Library Fund, a Science Fund, and a Technology Fund. Please call the school office for details.



Volunteering Requirements for 2016-2017

The United States Conference of Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People mandates that every diocese implement Safe Environment programs for all children, parents, and adults. The principal purpose of this Charter is to ensure a safe environment for the children of each diocese. Here in the Diocese of Allentown, a number of steps have been taken in order to implement these guidelines pertaining to reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. Below is a list of the requirements necessary to volunteer at La Salle Academy. Your patience in obtaining the proper certifications in order to keep our students as safe as possible when you volunteer is greatly appreciated!

Requirements for La Salle Academy Adult Volunteers

As of **July 1, 2016**, the following documents must be on file in the correct format with the La Salle Academy School Office **before** volunteering for school or CYO functions may occur. Many of our volunteers from this last school year will need to update one or more of the documents listed below. If you are unsure if all of your clearances are in order, please contact the school office for verification at 610-777-7392.

(Please note: This policy applies to anyone 18 years and older who will be volunteering while minors are present, which includes, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, etc.)

State Required Clearances *(will need to be updated every five years)*

- #1 Submit a PA State Police Background Check
- #2 Submit a PA Department of Welfare's Child Abuse Clearance
- #3 Submit the Diocese of Allentown Background Check and Fingerprint Authorization Form (submit the completed form to the office for processing. A voucher for the actual fingerprinting will be given to the volunteer as well as locations.

Diocesan Requirements

- #4 Read and sign the Policy Regarding the Sexual Abuse of Minors acknowledgment form
- #5 Read and sign the Code of Conduct policy acknowledgment form

Free Required Trainings

- #6 Submit a Protecting God's Children workshop certificate of attendance
- #7 Submit a Mandated Reporting Training certificate of completion (3-hour course). The most commonly accepted version can be obtained at the following web address, www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu. However, there is a list of others that may be acceptable. Please bring your completion certificate to the school office for verification.

Further details and the actual links for Clearances 1, 2, 3, and 7 can be found on the www.lsabear.org website under the **Parents Tab** (Simply scroll down to **Volunteering/PTO**, and scroll down to **Volunteering Requirements**) or under the **Youth Protection Tab**.

Moving to Trimesters and New Report Cards in 2016

The Diocese of Allentown's elementary report card has gone through a revision to accommodate the Diocesan expectations and standards, the awareness of the skills of understanding that students will need in order to find success in secondary school, college and the workplace. The purpose of the change is that we continue to plan, work, and teach in order that our students achieve academic excellence. This is done by using research based standards, best practices from the literature, and the experience of successful teachers, all within the context of a faith community.

In addition to our new report card, trimesters will be implemented beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. Trimesters are a research based grading opportunity that is developmentally appropriate for elementary and middle school students. Instead of the 9 weeks that we have now, each trimester will be 12 weeks in length, extending the instruction and assessment period from 45 to 60 days. Trimesters begin in August, November, and March and reports will be given in December, March, and June. Progress reports will be distributed in the middle of each trimester. The additional instructional time afforded through the trimester model will provide more in-depth teaching, systematic pacing and ongoing assessment opportunities.

Lastly, conferences will be scheduled toward the end of October. This will allow for more collaborative information gathering by teachers and parents. The scheduling of conferences at this time not only allows an opportunity for schools and students to improve in their efforts, but also provides opportunities for parents and teachers to collaborate by sharing insights into the needs of each child. Mr. Mickulik will present a more in depth overview of the new report cards and trimester model at the upcoming Back to School Night on Thursday, September 15th beginning at 6:45pm.

Parents/Guardians—Be sure to send your child's/childrens' Emergency Forms to school on Tuesday, August 30th, 2016.

Grades 1-3 Individual Student Transportation Information

(Please complete and send to school on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 with your child.)

Student Name: _____ Grade _____

Please check one: Public School Bus/Van _____ Walker _____
Car Rider _____ Lot 2 _____ Lot 3 _____

If you checked Public School Bus/Van, complete the following:

*Name of Public School District: _____

*Bus Number(s) that you use to come to La Salle: _____
1st bus no. _____ Transfer Bus No. _____

*Bus Number(s) that you use to leave La Salle: _____
1st bus no. _____ Transfer Bus No. _____

Please make a major effort to make your children's first day transportation plan the same plan that they will be following throughout the year.

Please be aware of the following special circumstances concerning my child's transportation arrangements:

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(Please complete and send to school on Tuesday, August 30, 2016 with your child.)

Student Name: _____ Grade _____

Please check one: Public School Bus/Van _____ Walker _____
Car Rider _____ Lot 2 _____ Lot 3 _____

If you checked Public School Bus/Van, complete the following:

*Name of Public School District: _____

*Bus Number(s) that you use to come to La Salle: _____
1st bus no. _____ Transfer Bus No. _____

*Bus Number(s) that you use to leave La Salle: _____
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