



# THE PACKER DICTIONARY

## AN EXPLANATION OF SPS EVENTS AND TERMS

The mission of Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic School is to proclaim the Gospel message within a caring community that fosters academic excellence, personal integrity, leadership, and a life of Christian service.

### **Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic School**

720 S. Floyd Road  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-235-3263  
[www.spsdfw.org](http://www.spsdfw.org)

Dates are subject to change.  
Please check [www.spsdfw.org](http://www.spsdfw.org) for the latest updates on time/location.

**Academic Reporting** – SPS formally communicates grades with parents every 4 ½ weeks. Students in 1st grade through 8th grade will receive an electronic **progress report** at the 4 ½ week mark and then an electronic **report card** at the end of each 9 week quarter. Please make sure that SPS has an accurate email address on file for parents/guardians so that we may communicate this information. Students in PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten will not receive a report card until the end of the first semester. All teachers will communicate with parents frequently, regarding student progress. Parents are encouraged to set up a conference with a teacher, if they have questions or concerns between grading periods.

**Altar Servers (Grades 5-8)** – This ministry is open to students in grades 5-8 who have previously received the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Altar server training will be provided to all students as part of the 5th grade Religion program.

**Auction** – March – The SPS Auction is sponsored by the Home and School Association. It is our opportunity to get dressed up and have an evening out! Please join other SPS families, parishioners, alumni, and friends, in supporting SPS in this fundraiser. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact the Home and School Auction Chair ([auction@spsdfw.org](mailto:auction@spsdfw.org)) for more information.

**Back-To-School Nights** - August - Back-to-School Nights provide parents with the opportunity to meet their children's teachers and the staff of SPS. Parents will visit their children's classrooms. Home and School members will be available to answer parent questions about how to get involved. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available. These nights are designed for parents only. Please leave your children at home with proper supervision. The school does not provide child supervision on these evenings.

**Badges - Safe Environment** – Any individual 18 years of age or older on the SPS campus during the school day, including Extended Day (7:00 AM – 6:30 PM) must wear an SPS picture ID at all times. For more information, contact [safeenvironment@spsdfw.org](mailto:safeenvironment@spsdfw.org).

**Band / Music Learning Band** (Grades 4-8) - The Music Learning Band Program is available to any SPS student in grades 4-8. Band instruction happens after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Band tuition and instrument rentals can be arranged through Music Learning Band.  
<http://musiclearningband.com/Home.html>

**Blessing of the Animals** – October - This special ceremony will take place after the 8:00 AM Mass honoring St. Francis of Assisi. Parents may bring friendly family pets to the athletic field to be blessed. Animals must be restrained and accompanied by an adult and will not be allowed in the church or the school building. Please be prepared to clean up after your own animals. Students who cannot bring their animals to the school for this ceremony are encouraged to bring a picture for the blessing.

**Bubble Celebration** – August – The Annual Bubble Celebration follows our All School Mass on a Friday morning. Students will send up bubbles to welcome in the new school year. All parents are welcome.

**Care Bear Program** - SPS provides our older students with the opportunity to model active participation in the liturgy to our PreK through 2nd grade students. Middle school and 5th grade students are paired with primary level students for the entire year. They attend Mass together and interact for many planned activities throughout the school year, creating a bond between the oldest and youngest children at Saint Paul.

**Catholic Schools Week** – January/February – SPS will celebrate Catholic schools with a week dedicated to our Catholic identity, family, and community service. During this week, Saint Paul hosts a Community Leaders Luncheon, our New Family Open House, a special lunch to which parents are invited, the Saint Paul Day of Service, and our Grandparents’ Breakfast. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer for these events.

**Choir** (Grades 3-8) - The choir is open to all SPS students in grades 3-8. The choir sings at the All School Masses on Friday mornings, on Holy Days throughout the school year, and at other special events.

**Christmas Celebrations** – December - SPS students and teachers will participate in a prayer service followed by Christmas carols and Christmas parties. Note: This is an Early Dismissal Day; school will dismiss at 12:15 PM. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to participate in school Christmas activities.

**Christmas Parade** - December– SPS enters a float in the Richardson Christmas Parade each year. Adult volunteers build and decorate the SPS float between Thanksgiving weekend and Parade Day. For more information, contact Home and School at [HSA@spsdfw.org](mailto:HSA@spsdfw.org). Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to participate.

**Christmas Programs** – December – PreK3 and PK4 will host a Christmas program for parents and guests. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will perform in a Children’s Christmas Musical in the Church.

**Communications** – SPS communicates with parents in many ways including weekly emails and information posted online as well as the methods listed below.

**Website:** [www.spsdfw.org](http://www.spsdfw.org)

**Twitter:** [@spsdfw](https://twitter.com/spsdfw)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/spsdfw](http://www.facebook.com/spsdfw)

**Instagram:** [Instagram/spsdfw](https://www.instagram.com/spsdfw)

**Pinterest:** [pinterest.com/spsdfw](https://www.pinterest.com/spsdfw)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/spsdfw](https://www.youtube.com/spsdfw)

**Dads' Club** - The purpose of the Dads' Club is to provide financial and physical support to SPS, its organizations, and SPS individuals as deemed appropriate by the Pastor, Principal, and Dads' Club members. The Dads' Club manages the SPS Annual Gap Drive, a key diocesan initiative which allows the school to take advantage of other funding opportunities in the future. The Dads' Club sponsors periodic “Sweat Equity” Saturdays, on which our dads help SPS with repairs or upgrades to the school facilities. The Dads' Club also sponsors the annual SPS Golf Tournament in May. The Dads' Club provides its members with many opportunities to socialize and network with fellow dads. To learn more about the Dads' Club, please contact the Dads' Club President at [dads@spsdfw.org](mailto:dads@spsdfw.org)

**Dallas Parochial League (DPL)** – SPS 5th through 8th graders have the opportunity to participate on a variety of SPS sports teams which compete against other Diocese of Dallas schools through the Dallas Parochial League. Younger SPS students have the chance to compete on SPS teams through the Richardson Area YMCA. For more information on any of these athletic opportunities, contact the SPS Athletic Director, Thomas Barton, [t.barton@spsdfw.org](mailto:t.barton@spsdfw.org)

**DECATS (Grades 3-8)** - Junior DECATS is sponsored through the DeBusk Enrichment Center for the Academically Talented Student. This three week summer program takes place in June. It targets students in grades 3-5 who are identified as the top 5% academically. Students are nominated in the fall by Saint Paul staff based on ITBS results. The determination of admission to the program is made by DECATS.

Senior DECATS is a summer program targeting students in grades 6-8 who are identified as the top 5% academically. This three week summer program takes place in June. Students are nominated in the fall by their Saint Paul teachers based on ITBS scores as well as achievement in art, drama, or music. The determination of admission to the program is made by DECATS.

**Diocese of Dallas** – Bishop Edward J Burns, and the Diocese of Dallas Catholic Schools Office provide guidance and oversight to the Catholic schools in the Dallas area. All Diocesan elementary schools share a common curriculum which Saint Paul School uses as a foundation upon which to base our daily lesson plans and programs.

**E&E Food Services** - Provides fresh hot, wholesome, nutritious meals that will be prepared in the kitchen onsite at the school. They provide online services that will allow you to monitor your children's lunchtime purchases, track what your children have been eating for the last 30 days, make deposits directly into their meal accounts, and have an email reminder sent to you when an account balance gets low. Student debit account deposits can be made through ACH payments and credit card payments. Each child's account will be updated nightly so that account balance information and payments will be current as of the following day.

**Early Dismissal** – About 10 times each year SPS will have an early dismissal day. On an early dismissal day, school dismisses at 12:15 PM. No lunch is served on early dismissal days. The YMCA Afterschool Program does not operate on early dismissal days. Students staying in the Afterschool Program on an early dismissal day will need to bring a sack lunch.

**Emergency Notification System** – SPS has implemented an Emergency Notification System to alert parents and family members in case of a school closing, tornado warning(s), or if the school goes into a Lock-Down situation. Please make sure that your contact information is updated in our RenWeb so that you will receive our notifications.

**Extended Morning Program** – SPS offers morning extended day programs to help our busy parents. Morning Extended Day program opens for early drop-off of all students before school, beginning at 7:00 AM each school day. Parents must make necessary arrangements so that students do not arrive at school earlier than 7:00 AM. Students need to enter through the Kindergarten door as the front door remains locked until 7:30 AM. Students will be dismissed to the cafeteria/gym at 7:30 AM. Any student arriving on campus before 7:30 AM must check in to Morning Extended Day.

**FACTS** - SPS works with FACTS Tuition Management to provide parents with options for payment of tuition and fees. A FACTS account provides families with options to manage education costs over time. All SPS families will have a FACTS account to which the school will charge tuition, fees, and incidental expenses throughout the year.

**Fair Day** – SPS students will all receive free tickets to the Texas State Fair in September for the Private School Day.

**Fall Festival** - October - Fall Festival is a parish and school festival celebrating our entire Saint Paul Community. Food, fun, festival games and more make for a fun Saturday! If you would like to be involved in the planning or volunteer at the event, please contact the Home and School Fall Festival Chair at [HSA@spsdfw.org](mailto:HSA@spsdfw.org) for more information! Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer.

**Field Day** – May- PreK3 through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in Field Day. Field Day provides students with a day of structured events and physical competitions that bring the children together and end the school year with a day of fun. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer.

**Field Trips** – SPS incorporates field trips at each grade level to enhance learning and give students hands on experience with the topics discussed in class. Field trips are planned by the teachers, have academic value, and complement our students' well-rounded educational experiences. Teachers will ask for adult chaperones to sign up as needed a few weeks before field trips. All chaperones must be Safe Environment cleared.

**GAP Drive/North Texas Giving Day** – The Annual Gap Drive, held every year, bridges the difference between what is charged for tuition and actual costs incurred to educate each child and run the school. Its purpose is to meet expansion needs and to provide enhancements to our school's educational programs which are not covered by tuition. Our goal is for the Annual Gap Drive to reach 100% participation of all school and parish families. Annual giving supports quality programs provided to the children of the school.

**Grandparents' Breakfast** – January - Saint Paul School will host our annual Grandparents' Mass and Breakfast. We invite all of our SPS Grandparents to join us for breakfast after Mass in the Cafeteria

**Halloween Celebrations** – October - PK3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students may bring Halloween Costumes for the afternoon celebrations. PreK3-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will participate in a Halloween Costume Parade and Trick-Or-Treating through the hallways of SPS. Grades PK3-4 will have organized parties in the classrooms arranged by the teachers and/or room parents. Grade 5-8 classes will enjoy pizza parties outside of the classroom. Halloween parties provide many volunteer opportunities. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to attend.



**Home & School Association** - The Home & School Association (HSA), the SPS equivalent to a PTO or PTA, is an organization of parents, teachers, and clergy interested in SPS. HSA is responsible for fund raising and support activities. Parents are encouraged to become active participants in HSA. HSA meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. To learn more about HSA, please contact the HSA President at [HSA@spsdfw.org](mailto:HSA@spsdfw.org).

**Inclement Weather Days** – March/April (see calendar) - These two days are reserved on the calendar in case the school needs to close for inclement weather. In the event of a school closing, we will hold classes on these two days to make up for the time lost due to weather. If we do not need to make up days, these days will be school holidays.

**IXL – Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science Program** - For all Grades PreK3 through 8th, the SPS curriculum includes a supplemental online program called “IXL.” This online program provides reinforcement for math, language arts, social studies and science concepts being taught in class and enrichment in a wide range of age-appropriate topics.

**May Crowning** –May - During First Friday mass in May, all students in 2nd and 8th grade will participate in a May Crowning Procession. An 8th grade girl drawn at random from amongst those students who have attended Saint Paul since kindergarten, and two kindergarten students, one boy and one girl, chosen at random, will have the opportunity to crown Mary at the end of the Mass. Students involved in the procession and the ceremony will be asked to wear First Communion or Confirmation attire. This ceremony provides the Saint Paul community with an opportunity to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary and to celebrate all mothers. Students are encouraged to bring a flower for Mary, and parents are invited to join students after mass for Pastries with Parents.

**Mentor Family** – HSA will assign each new SPS family a mentor family to guide you through your first year at SPS. We encourage you to contact your mentor family, the SPS Office, or your child(ren)'s teacher(s) with any questions you may have as you make your transition to SPS!

**Monday Morning Breakfast** – Several Monday mornings throughout the year, SPS parents show their appreciation for the teachers of Saint Paul by providing breakfast for the faculty and staff. Parents can sign up for a Monday, work as a grade level or share with another family or group. For more information, contact [HSA@spsdfw.org](mailto:HSA@spsdfw.org).

**National Jr. Honor Society** (Grades 7-8) – National Junior Honor Society is a co-curricular opportunity that recognizes middle school students who demonstrate outstanding performance in each of the following areas: scholarship, leadership, service and character. This program provides the school an opportunity to recognize the academic, service, and leadership characteristics of students and, more importantly, engage participants in further leadership and service experiences aimed at nurturing and, in some cases, enhancing the spiritual, academic, and social goals of the school.

**New Parent Meeting** – August - All parents new to SPS will meet in a social setting to hear from the principal and the faculty. This meeting provides an opportunity to ask questions and get answers. After the introductory meeting, the faculty will hold separate grade or level meetings.

**Packer Lab – Academic Resource Services *Packer Pride Leadership Program*** SPS offers the Packer Pride Leadership Program, an enrichment program specifically designed for proven, motivated learners in grades 1 through 4. This program is facilitated by the homeroom teacher and will begin in November.

***Remediation Programs*** SPS provides some remediation services through Packer Lab. Students with standardized test results falling below the 50% mark in the areas of Reading, Language Arts,

English, and Math will be referred to the Packer Lab for individualized work in small groups.

### ***Lab Services to Accommodate Diagnosed Learning Differences***

Packer Lab provides additional instruction in Math and Language Arts to those students in grades 3 through 8 who have been diagnosed with a mild learning difference and need a little extra guidance in order to achieve success. Students need to have current testing results and a current diagnosis on file to qualify for Packer Lab services. Students may also utilize Packer Lab services with a referral from a teacher.

**Packers** – The SPS athletic teams are known as the Packers. Back in 1957, when SPS opened, some of our founding families came from Wisconsin. The Saint Paul Packers were named in honor of the Green Bay Packers; SPS also adopted the Packer colors, green and gold.

**Parent/Student Handbook** -The Parent/Student Handbook is provided electronically to answer questions about your child(ren)'s school life and to act as a guide for a successful school experience.

It is our premise that education at SPS is a cooperative responsibility of Church, school, and home. As part of the process to complete registration to SPS, parents and students will be asked to read the handbook together; parents are required to submit a digital signature and date.

The school reserves the right to amend the guidelines and regulations set for just cause. Parents will be notified promptly in writing if changes are made.

By the act of registering at SPS, a student and his/her parents (or guardians) understand and agree to pursue the educational objectives and practices as stated in this handbook and to observe the disciplinary code and all other policies of the school.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences – October - Parent/Teacher** Conferences take place at the end of October. All parents/guardians will receive a scheduled time and day for your child(ren)'s conference(s). If you have more than one child, the teachers will arrange meetings close to each other for your convenience. Parents may also wish to schedule meetings with teachers at other times during the year. Please contact the teachers individually to set up a time. Please do not conference with teachers in the hallways before or after school or in car line. Our teachers' first priority is to monitor the children during those times.

Spring conferences will not be automatically scheduled. Teachers will notify parents if a conference is necessary. Parents may also feel free to contact the teacher at any time to schedule a conference.

**Picture Days –** Student pictures are taken 3 times yearly, fall, winter (group class pictures), and spring. All students should wear polos for fall individual pictures (except for 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and should wear dress uniforms for class pictures. Eighth grade students will wear dress uniforms with ties for both pictures. Pictures will also be taken for SPS clubs, groups, and teams on dates yet to be determined.

**PreK3, PreK4 and Kindergarten Parent Meeting-** The PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten Meetings are part of our new parent meeting. Kindergarten and Pre-K teachers will discuss their plans for the school year. We invite all PreK3, PreK4, and Kindergarten parents, even if this is not the family's first year at SPS.

**Principal's Breakfast –** December - The principal will host a Christmas breakfast for all SPS Faculty and Staff at 7:00 AM. Home and School works with the teachers to provide coverage that morning for the classes as the teachers finish up their breakfast and make their way back to class. For more information or to volunteer to supervise your student's classroom contact [HSA@spsdfw.org](mailto:HSA@spsdfw.org). Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer.

**PSIA (Grade 1-8)** – PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Association) is an organization designed to inspire student achievement through academic competition. Students in grades 1-8 are eligible to serve as representatives of SPS and to compete against other students from across the state of Texas. Students are eligible to compete in nineteen different subject areas. Students are selected in the fall to represent Saint Paul in this competition based on practice test scores, interest, achievement, behavior, and teacher recommendations.

**Questions?** – You may also ask questions through the SPS website. If you have a general question, or if you don't know for sure who to ask, please feel free to email us at [questions@spsdfw.org](mailto:questions@spsdfw.org).

### **Reasoning Mind: Blueprint-Math Curricula for PK-1**

Reasoning Mind Blueprint is an online, supplemental software program for students in pre-K through first grade that covers the skills and knowledge that are essential to future success in mathematics. Students are immersed in a virtual world much like the real world – allowing them to connect the mathematics they are learning to their everyday surroundings. The program builds conceptual understanding through a combination of educational animations, instructional exercises, and detailed explanations.

### **Reasoning Mind: Foundations-Math Curricula for Grades 2-5**

Reasoning Mind Foundations is a blended learning math program focused on developing the number and operation sense, critical thinking abilities, and problem-solving skills students need to be successful in later grades. Students learn math in an engaging, animated world at their own pace, while teachers use the system's real-time data to provide individualized instruction.

**Renweb** – SPS uses Renweb to manage our student and family information. Parents will all need to set up a Renweb password to access grades and to update contact, medical emergency, registration information, and teacher class web pages.

**Sacramental Preparation** - Second grade Catholic students may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the fall and Eucharist in the spring. Catholic Middle school students may prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is conferred in the fall of the eighth grade year.

**Safe Environment Program** - SPS and the Diocese of Dallas are committed to the safety of all of our children. With this in mind, SPS requires all adults wishing to volunteer or spend time on campus during the school day to have gone through the Diocese of Dallas Safe Environment Program and to wear an SPS Photo ID at all times. Please consult the Diocese of Dallas website for a schedule of Safe Environment classes. Parents who need to renew for the current school year can do so with an online training module available at: <https://www.cathdal.org>. All Saint Paul School Safe Environment Badges expire on July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

If you have questions about the Safe Environment Program or your status, please contact [safeenvironment@spsdfw.org](mailto:safeenvironment@spsdfw.org).

Parents who have a current Safe Environment Badge will be assigned an access code for the front door of the school which will allow access to the building between the hours of 7:30 AM and 6:00 PM. In the interest of safety, we ask that parents do not share their codes with anyone else. Building access is restricted to ensure a Safe Environment for our children. All parents, even those with an access code, must check in at the front office during the school day.

**Saint Paul Community Center (Parish Center)** – Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Community Center is located at 900 St. Paul Drive, Richardson, Texas 75080. The Community Center is used for parish and school meetings, community gatherings, small receptions, and Youth Ministry Activities. For questions or to inquire about space reservations contact Beckie Soto at [beckie@saintpaulchurch.org](mailto:beckie@saintpaulchurch.org).

**Saint Paul the Apostle** – (Feast Day – June 29) Saint Paul the Apostle, “The Indefatigable Apostle,” is the patron saint of our parish and school. Saint Paul, who, in his early life, persecuted Christians, converted to Christianity on the road to Damascus. He traveled Europe and Asia as a Christian missionary, establishing churches everywhere he went. He is considered to be one of the most influential religious thinkers, and had a profound impact on the development of Christianity. Saint Paul died in the year 67 AD, a martyr to the faith.

### **PRAYER TO THE APOSTLE PAUL**

Glorious Saint Paul,  
Most Zealous Apostle,  
Martyr for the Love of Christ,  
give us a deep faith,  
a steadfast hope, a burning love for our Lord  
so that we can proclaim with you  
‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.’  
Help us to become apostles serving the Church with a pure heart  
witnesses to her truth and beauty amidst the darkness of our days.  
With you we praise God our Father  
‘To Him be the glory,  
in the Church and in Christ  
Now and forever’.  
Amen.

**Saint Paul Outdoor Science Lab and Community Garden** - The Saint Paul Outdoor Science Lab and Community Garden known as THE ROCK (The Roots of Christian Knowledge) is growing in the lower courtyard. The Outdoor Science Lab and Community Garden provides a contained space with restricted access, allowing all classes PreK3 through 8th grade access to the space. Students will be included in the decision making and design process as the Outdoor Lab and Garden continue to grow, having the opportunity to conduct research and develop plans for future use of the space.

Parishioners and school adults with Safe Environment Clearance are welcome in the gardens at any time. We hope that our entire community will take advantage of the space as an extension of the Upper Courtyard.

**Saint Paul Parish** – Saint Paul Parish is a Catholic community based on Christian values. Saint Paul promotes the enrichment of God's kingdom on earth through spiritual, educational, charitable, and social programs for its members and the Christian community at large.

Pastor John Szatkowski can be reached at 972-235-6105 or [frszatkowski@saintpaulchurch.org](mailto:frszatkowski@saintpaulchurch.org).

**Saint Paul Weekend Mass Times:**

Saturday – 5:30 PM;

Sunday – 8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM,

1:00 PM (Spanish), 2:30 PM (Spanish).

Weekday Mass: 8:00 AM.

Supporting parishioners of Saint Paul qualify for a reduced tuition rate at SPS.

**Scholastic Book Fairs** – December & May - The Westerman Library at SPS holds a Scholastic Book Fair each year before Christmas to help our parents with gift ideas and again before summer break to offer great deals on required summer reading materials. For more information or to volunteer to help with the Scholastic Book Fairs, please contact [library@spsdfw.org](mailto:library@spsdfw.org). All volunteers must have a Safe Environment Badge.

**School Advisory Council (SAC)** - The mission of the School Advisory Council at SPS is to: "Further the advancement of quality Catholic education for students in Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic School by providing leadership, direction, and support to the Pastor and the Principal."



The SAC is comprised of up to twelve appointed/elected school, parish, and community volunteers, along with the Pastor and the Principal of the school. Some of the areas in which SAC is involved include: budgeting, marketing, development, school facilities plans, community building, other strategic work, and generally supporting the Pastor and Principal of SPS. SAC meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. For more information about the School Advisory Council, please contact the SAC President at [SAC@spsdfw.org](mailto:SAC@spsdfw.org)

**Scrip Program (gift cards)** – SPS families can raise funds while shopping, just by using gift cards instead of cash, checks or credit cards at your favorite retailers. The Scrip Program offers a variety of brands from which to choose, and with a little advanced planning, scrip makes an easy addition to any shopping routine. Just by regularly using scrip, you can generate hundreds of dollars in rebates in just one year! With over 600 retailers ranging from restaurants to drug stores to movie theaters to airlines, you are sure to find scrip to use on your everyday purchases, special purchases, and to give as gifts. For more information, please contact [scrip@spsdfw.org](mailto:scrip@spsdfw.org)

**Soft Fundraisers** – SPS offers a variety of ways to contribute and help raise funds. Many are at no extra cost to you and still help the school raise thousands of dollars each year. We collect Boxtops, Labels for Education, Coke Rewards bottle tops or cartons, and many more! Please check out other ways to help on our webpage under Giving.

**Spelling Bee** – In November - (Grades 4-8) - Each homeroom or English class will conduct a classroom spelling bee in November. Two winners from grades 4-8 (total of 10 students) will compete in the school wide bee in mid-December. The winner of the school spelling bee will represent Saint Paul School in the Diocesan bee in January. The alternate will also attend as a spectator as well as receive the study guide. The spelling bee coordinator will administer rules, study lists, and a suggested word list for in class bees. The coordinator will also provide the winner with the necessary lists to study for the Diocesan bee.

**Spirit Day** – The third Wednesday of each month beginning in September, students may wear jeans (no holes, rips or tears), a SPS “Spirit T-Shirt,” and tennis shoes. The SPS School Spirit Store is open the first two weeks of each month. The link can be found on the school website. Check the website for open order dates.

**SPS Day of Service** – January - In keeping with our mission, to foster a life of Christian service, SPS sets aside one day each year for the entire school to perform service for our greater community. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will go off campus to a service location in the community to actively participate in serving others. Even our PreK3 and PreK4 students participate by providing simple services around the campus. Parents are encouraged to speak with homeroom teachers about volunteering on this day! Remember, all parents must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to participate.

**SPS Discipline System** – SPS uses an electronic system of merits and demerits in the discipline system provided by Renweb. Students and parents should carefully review the SPS Parent/Student Handbook for more information on the discipline system and the notification process. [questions@spsdfw.org](mailto:questions@spsdfw.org)

**SPS Back to School Fair and Ice Cream Social** – August –This fun family event is a Saint Paul Back-to-School tradition. Come view class rosters and meet your teachers and classmates. Visit booths set up in the gym to get your questions answered about our school, parish, and community organizations. We’ll even have ice cream treats available for all of the kids!

**Student Council** (Grades 6-8) - Students in grade 6-8 are eligible to participate in the Student Council. In order to maintain eligibility for participation in Student Council, students must keep a behavior/conduct grade of 94 average or better in all subject areas. Serious or ongoing misconduct can be cause for removal of a student from Student Council at any time during the year at the discretion of the principal and the Student Council sponsor. Student Council elections will take place early in the school year.

**Summer Camps** – Saint Paul offers a variety of enrichment programs over the summer. Offerings vary from year to year, but have included Art, Science, Theater, Piano, Cheer, Dance, Volleyball, Football, Basketball, ISEE Prep...the possibilities are vast! Summer Camps run from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM weekdays during June. Other camp times vary. Check out the SPS Website in the spring for more information!

**Teachers' Wish List** – Teachers' wish lists are shared on the SPS website and during the annual auction. This gives families an opportunity to support specific teachers in their classrooms with items that make teaching easier and education more engaging for the students.

**Testing Week** – October - SPS administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) each year in October to students in grades 1-8. The test is used as a tool to help teachers in curriculum planning and identifying student strengths and areas of need. Please be sure your child has a well-balanced breakfast, a healthy lunch, and ample sleep during this week.

**Thanksgiving Feast(s)** –November - The primary grades engage in the preparation and celebration of Thanksgiving with a Thanksgiving Feast on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Break. All families are invited and are welcome to join in the festivities. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to participate.

**Tie and Bow Ceremony** – May -Saint Paul 7th and 8th grade students participate in a Tie and Bow Ceremony at the last all School Mass before graduation. This ceremony provides the opportunity for the graduating 8th grade students to pass the mantle of responsibility and servant leadership to the new 8th grade students.

**Uniforms** - SPS uses Risse Brothers Uniforms as our official uniform supply store.

**Risse Brothers Uniforms**

15048 Beltway Drive  
Addison, Texas 75001  
972-231-2903  
[www.rissebrothers.com](http://www.rissebrothers.com)

**Valentine Parties** – February - Grades PreK3- 4th will have organized parties in the classroom arranged by the teacher and/or room parent. Grades 5-8 will have pizza parties outside of the classroom. Adults must have a Safe Environment Badge to volunteer or to participate.

**Veterans Day Parade** – November - SPS, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Chapter and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, hosts the only Veterans Day Parade in Richardson, Texas. Please join SPS and Community Leaders as we honor our Veterans with a special parade and program.

**Weekly All School Mass / Holy Days** – Every Friday at 8:00 AM and Holy Days on which school is in session, students will participate in an All School Mass. Masses are planned by grade levels, with the students doing the readings, participating as altar servers, singing with the choir, and taking up the gifts. Dress uniforms are required for Fridays and Holy Days.

**YMCA Afterschool Program** - Saint Paul School works with the YMCA Afterschool Programs to offer an Extended Day Program at Saint Paul School. The YMCA offers a fulltime option and a drop-in “punch card” option for families. Students registered with the YMCA will go to Extended Day at dismissal.

Students not formally registered with the YMCA will still have emergency paperwork with the YMCA. If a student who is not formally registered with the YMCA has not been picked up by 4:00 PM, the student will be released to the YMCA, and the YMCA will assume responsibility for them. Parents’ accounts will

be billed accordingly through FACTS. The YMCA Program runs until 6:30 PM.

**YMCA Youth and Government Program** – Youth and Government™ is a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model-government programs. Students from every corner of the U.S. have the opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement and to, quite literally, practice democracy. Teens from across every state meet in their local Youth and Government™ groups throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation. The program culminates with teens serving as delegates at their state conference, debating bills on the floor of the legislature.