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Newsletter—January 29, 2021

We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service



Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

January 31 - February 6

#CSW21

Theme – Catholic Schools:
*Communities of Faith,
Excellence and Service*

**Sunday – School Virtual
Tour—***We will also have
school representatives
available in the back of the
church after the 9:00 and
11:00 a.m. masses to speak
with prospective families*

Monday – Celebrating our Community

*Students will take pictures to share with parents,
grandparents or friends.*

*Students will also make Valentine's for nursing
homes*

Tuesday – Celebrating our Nation

*Students may wear red, white and blue tops, gym
shoes, and uniform bottoms.*

*Please bring a canned soup or food to donate to
the St. Thomas Food Pantry.*

Wednesday – Celebrating Vocations

Bishop Tylka will live video chat with grades 5-8.

Thursday – Celebrating our Students

Student Appreciation Day – Out of Uniform

Virtual Talent Show sponsored by Student Council

Friday – Celebrating our Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers

**Students/Faculty/Staff MAY WEAR A FAVORITE
TEAM SHIRT or JERSEY or an STS SHIRT AND GYM
SHOES in exchange for a canned food donation* If they
brought a canned food item on Tuesday, that counts!*

School-wide BINGO

Student Council sponsored Faculty Luncheon

12:15 p.m. dismissal



Preschool Space Camp!



**Astronaut
Training
Station**
5

Statements for Childcare & Tuition for Taxes:

If you go to the FACTS Family Portal you can get all of your tax information. Next to the words PAYMENT PLAN AND BILLING, you can click on VIEW DETAILS. On the next screen, you can click on VIEW PAYMENT SUMMARY. That page breaks down tuition and other expenses by child for the calendar year.



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Financial Assistance Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2021-2022 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under **Catholic Education** and then under **Financial Assistance**. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2021-2022 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 30, 2021**. Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2021.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a new program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at www.empowerillinois.org. Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.

Anyone interested in doing the Peoria Area **Performing Arts Studio's Summer Theatre Institute** this year. I'm so looking forward to this year's Institute. #ProcessMeetsProduct.

Last summer Dedra Kaiser and I produced a Youth Summer Theatre Institute outdoors. This summer it will be returning with two large scale musicals with an educational component. Our Musical is *High School Musical* at Peoria Players and *Oklahoma* at *Three Sisters Park*. Information on auditions and the summer institute itself can be found at our website listed below. We have opportunities for (1st-6th grade) and (7th-college aged)

Visit www.performpeoria.com to learn more. Simply click on the headline: Summer Institute. We will also have opportunities for our younger performers to attend our *Cowboy and Cowgirl Camp/HSM Wildcat Camp* (1st-6th grade). These campers will be a part of *Oklahoma* and *High School Musical* productions, depending on which camp they sign up for. Our Institute will bring in various instructors and professionals to conduct workshops and sessions on Stage Combat, Hip-Hop Dance, Cheer and Basketball Technique, Storytelling through song, Square Dancing, Mental and Physical Health for the Performer, and more.

[CLICK HERE FOR A VIDEO ABOUT OUR INSTITUTE](#)

Sincerely,

Bryan Blanks

Assistant Director/Education Outreach

Theatre Specials Instructor and Director- Pleasant Valley Middle School

Theatre Program Director, St. Vincent de Paul School



Notification of Vision/Hearing Screening

Children do not really know how they are supposed to see or hear. Therefore, they may not complain about poor vision or hearing. Each year your school provides screening to ensure children are seeing and hearing optimally for their growth and learning. This is done in accordance to the IL Rules and Regulations of the Child Vision and Hearing Test Act. ***In the event you are unable to participate in this free service provided, it will be your responsibility to ensure your child does not have vision and/or hearing deficits.*** This may be done at your cost by making a screening appointment with Tazewell/Peoria County Health Department, or by seeing specialists for eyes and ears including an audiological examination. The results are required at your child's school to show there are no vision & hearing barriers to learning.

**The screening dates for 2020/2021 school year will be:
February 12, 2021 with a rescreen date of February 26, 2021**

Students who are new to the district, attend any special education classes, or are referred by a teacher will be screened for both vision and hearing along with the following grades:

Hearing Screens:

PRE3/PK

Kindergarten

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

Vision Screens:

PRE3/PK

Kindergarten (If student has not had an eye exam for Kindergarten)

2nd Grade

8th Grade

"Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months." (Section 27-8.1 of the School Code)

Lori Leskovisek and Deanna Frye, administrators of School Sight & Sound, Inc. along with their staff, are certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) as vision and hearing screening technicians. They are, for this purpose, considered "school officials" as they conduct a program that has "legitimate educational interest". Under the State codes 99.31 and 99.7, as *school officials*, they are authorized to share screening results with the school office since these results have *legitimate educational interest*. School Sight & Sound, Inc. will notify parents/guardians if a child is recommended for further testing.

This service has proven to be very valuable in discovering those children who may be struggling academically due to vision and hearing needs. Although this service is meant to benefit your child, it is your right to refuse it for religious purposes. According to the Child Vision and Hearing Test Act, a written statement of objection must be submitted by any parent/guardian who chooses to not have their child tested. (410 ILCS 205/6)



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FINANCIAL PEACE *University*

Never worry about money again with *Financial Peace University*! It's the proven plan to help you master budgeting, beat debt, and live the life of your dreams. Through nine lessons rooted in biblical wisdom, you'll learn from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts.

Class starts Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in the
St. Thomas Parish Hall.

We have a limited number of memberships at the
discounted rate of only \$80. Call the Parish Office
@ 309-688-3446 to register.

LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK
IS NORMAL
And that's not okay!