

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 2025

THE FRIDAY CRUSADER



ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

414 Michigan Street, Petoskey, MI. 49770

School Office: 231.348.2360

REMINDERS

9/2- First day of school; 11:40a dismissal

9/3-First student mass at SFX Parish at 8:30a (parents invited to attend!)

9/8 - PTO Meeting in the library at 8:05a

9/11 & 9/12 - School picture day

9/26-Fall Fun Run

10/8 - Parent Commitment Night -
MANDATORY MEETING



A Message from Our Principal

Dear SFX Parents,

I am writing to inform you about our revised cell phone policy for the 2025-26 school year. *Please review this policy with your child.* By working together as a team, both school and parents, we can create a phone-free environment that minimizes distractions and keeps the focus on each child's education.

Last year, at the Parent Commitment Meeting held at the Grand Unity Event Center, I recommended reading *"The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt* ([click here to order from Amazon](#)). In his book, Haidt discusses how smartphones and social media are negatively impacting young people, emphasizing that digital experiences are a poor substitute for real-world interactions and play, crucial for developing social skills and a healthy emotional life. There is more and more emerging evidence that suggests that delaying the age in introducing cell phones to children can have great benefits for cognitive development, social emotional development and mental health.

SFX has maintained a phone-free policy for many years. However, with the introduction of new technologies like smartwatches, which can receive texts, stream videos, and access the internet, we are reintroducing the very distractions our cell phone restrictions aim to prevent. **If devices are brought into the school, they need to be kept in backpacks for the duration of the school day.** On behalf of our staff, thank you for your partnership and support of this policy and in helping us to minimize distractions during the school day.

Sincerely,

Adam Dobrowolski, principal

REVISED Cell Phone & Communication Device Policy

Restricted use of cell phones and smartwatches

Cell phone and smartwatch use is strictly prohibited for use by students at school **If a student must bring a cell phone to school for after school use, they must remain powered off or in silent/airplane mode and stored in their backpacks or lockers from the start of the school**

day until dismissal (last bell). A smartwatch is any watch that receives messages or notifications and/or connects to the internet and is subject to the same restrictions as a cell phone.

Prohibited uses during school hours

Cell phones and smartwatches are not to be used at school during the school day from 7:55 a.m - 3:05 p.m. This restriction also applies to non-instructional times, including lunch, recess, passing periods, and in restrooms. *Recording audio or video of others without permission from authorized staff is prohibited.*

Communication with students during school hours

Parents or guardians who need to contact their children during school hours should call the front office and the message will be relayed. In emergencies, parents can still reach their children through the front office.

Consequences for policy violations

Violating this policy will lead to disciplinary actions:

-First offense: Parents will be notified and the device will be kept in the school office for the remainder of the school day until a parent can pick them up.

-Second offense: parents will be notified, the phone stays in the office for the remainder of the school day until a parent can pick them up, and the student will serve a one hour detention. A meeting may be held with the student, parent, and administration to create a cell phone plan moving forward.

-Third offense: the parents will be notified, the phone stays in the office for the remainder of the school day, student will serve one half-day of in school suspension, a cell phone plan will be created which stipulates that device must be turned into the office at the beginning of the school day and retrieved at the end of day dismissal.

You can read the revised Student Handbook, in its entirety, by clicking here.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND. THIS IS A HALF DAY; DISMISSAL IS AT 11:40AM; NO PETOSKEY BUSING AVAILABLE. Our teachers and staff are SO excited to see everyone!

School Lunch Information - Lunch money has to be applied to account this year, it will not be accepted in the office. **Click here to view the lunch menu for the month of September!**

The students attend school mass every **Wednesday at 8:30am**. ***Parents are invited and encouraged to attend at St Francis Xavier Parish!***

PLAYGROUND Volunteers needed! NEW - please click here to view the SignUp Genius for September. If you haven't completed the necessary volunteer requirements, please do so before signing up. The VIRTUS training and Background Check forms are linked here for your convenience and must be submitted to the office before you can volunteer at the school.

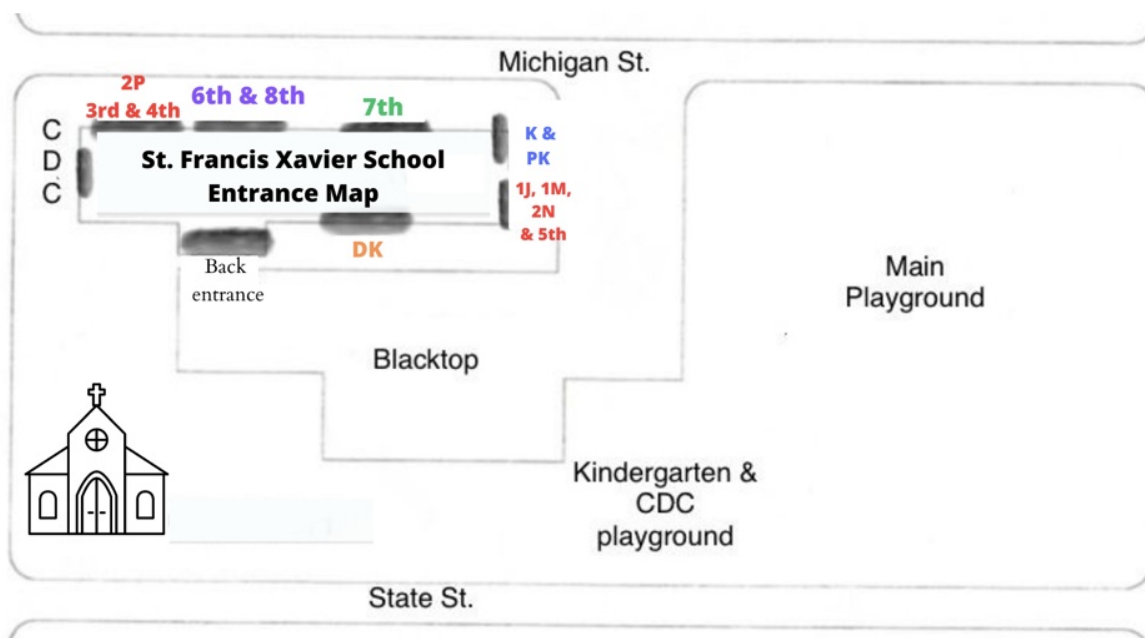
Our Parent Commitment Night will be held on Wednesday, October 8th @ 6:30p at the Grand Unity Center. This is a **mandatory** meeting - we will be discussing volunteer requirements and the current financial status of the school. Thank you for marking this date in your calendars.

****Raffle Tickets** Our Grand Raffle Drawing is our largest fundraiser of the year.** The grand prize is \$15,000 CASH! Each family has received five raffle tickets for our Grand Raffle fundraiser. These tickets are in a red envelope; if you didn't pick them up at the Open House, please go to the school office during the first week of school. Our school goal is to sell 1,000 raffle tickets and we have exceeded this goal the last FIVE years. *Let's*

make this our best year yet!

Student pick-up and drop-off; please see the map below for each grade.

ENJOY YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND! We'll see you on Tuesday!



PTO & GALA UPDATES



The PTO welcomes all parents to attend the first meeting on **Monday, September 8th at 8:05a in the school library.** We will be discussing our upcoming events and we always welcome FRESH ideas! PTO sponsors Teacher Appreciation Week, bussing for field trips, the digital school directory, daddy/daughter dance, and much more. Teachers can make requests throughout the year for items such as STEM equipment, musical instruments, books, learning tools & subscriptions, and more! The funds raised from our events (Fall Fun Run, Turkey Bingo, etc) go directly to the teachers & the students. **It's a great way to get involved and meet new parents! We hope to see you there.**

The **FALL FUN RUN** is on **Friday, September 26th** - mark your calendars! Parents are encouraged to attend & cheer on their kids.

Our 35th Annual Fundraising Gala is Saturday, March 7th.



OTHER HAPPENINGS....



ATTENTION DADS & MEN of SFX School

***That Man is You!* begins September 6!** Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God? Be a better husband? Become a more loving father? Build friendships with other like-minded men? And seek to be the best man you can be? **That Man is You!** is an interactive men's program that combines the latest findings of modern science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. Join us for coffee & donuts, fellowship, and faith on **Saturday mornings, beginning September 6, 6:30-8:00 am in the SFX Parish Hall.** All men college age and above are welcome. Learn more at thatmanisyou.com. For questions text or call Bob Rasmussen at 231-330-3388 or Greg Law at 231-330-2832.

ATTENTION MOMS & WOMEN of SFX School!

SFX has a chapter of the national book club **Well Read Mom!** We meet monthly, read mostly classic fiction (with a few contemporary fiction and nonfiction selections), and discuss the books in light of our faith and our role as mothers. *It's a great way to socialize with other moms and establish/deepen a habit of reading.* More information about the national club is at wellreadmom.com. Please contact brigidpasulka@gmail.com with questions or to join our local email list.

Getting ready for the the 2025/2026 School Year

This year's theme: "Our gifts for His glory."



A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED SPREAD MULCH ON THE PLAYGROUND! And thank you to Clark Hoffman Landscaping for providing mulch!!





Father Peter blessed all of our classrooms - it's going to be a great year.



Each fall, **John Hoffman & Sons Landscaping** generously beautifies our school and church grounds — a true labor of love and a beautiful gift to our parish and school community.



St. Francis Xavier School and Parish | 414 Michigan St | Petoskey, MI 49770 US

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