

# Principal Post #1: A Message from Dr. Kozlowski August 20, 2025

Our faculty and staff returned this past week for the 25/26 school year. They will be ready to welcome students and families on Friday, August 22, 2025 between 9 am and 11 am for our "Meet & Greet" event. This is an "open house" event where students can come anytime during the two hour period. Students do not need to wear their uniforms on Friday, but should bring any school supplies as well as completed summer reading and math work. For the 7th and 8th grade math students that were assigned IXL, you have until August 27 to complete your work due to the interruption with the IXL service. All students will check in at the tent on the parking lot, receive important documents and then will be able to go to their homeroom teacher's classroom. We look forward to seeing all our Eagles in just a few days!

Mark your calendars for the Back to School Picnic, sponsored by The Father's Club. This is going to be "Nacho Average Back to School Picnic." From 5-7 pm on Friday, September 5, 2025, the Father's Club will be serving "walking" tacos for the kids (chicken/beef options) with a fixing bar, and regular tacos and such for the adults outside by the pavilion. This is a great event for fellowship, fun and good food for our Eagle students and families. There is no cost to attend and it will be an event that we will "taco 'bout" for a long time to come!

Please check your inbox on Friday, August 22 for an important communication regarding the arrival and dismissal procedures for the 25/26 school year. I ask that you read it carefully and share the information with anyone who will be picking up or dropping off your child throughout the school year. For the first two weeks of school, I appreciate your patience and understanding with these procedures as our new families learn the system and our students get into the groove of the new school year.

Finally, with the new school year starting on Monday, you still have a few days to purchase your uniforms from Flynn & O'Hara, get haircuts and remove nail polish. We appreciate all of our families adhering to our uniform and personal grooming standards as listed in the school handbook. With you taking care of those items from home, our faculty can spend their time focusing on their teaching and student learning. It's going to be a great year with all of us working together.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Marianne Kozlowski

Additional Information:
Boonli Ordering Now Open

For the 2025/26 school year, St. Stephen School will be again using Boonli as the ordering platform for hot lunches. Instructions for ordering hot lunch are attached to this email. Thank you to the HSA for setting up the hot lunch vendors for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, as well as the Athletic Association for hot dog lunches on Thursday. All hot lunches will be run through Boonli and no paper or cash will be accepted in the main office. Per the handbook policies, families can not order directly from the restaurants and are not permitted to have food delivered via GrubHub, Uber Eats, etc. If you have any questions regarding hot lunch, please email Jen Kim at jenmillskim@gmail.com

### **Opt-In Text Messages**

For the 2025/26 year, St. Stephen School is using the BrightArrow system to send urgent and important text messages to cell phones. The messages will include information about early dismissals, inclement weather closures,or other urgent alerts or reminders. In order to opt-in to these messages, text "YES" to 79041, and you will be added to the contact list to receive text alerts. Each phone number that would like to receive these text message alerts must follow the steps above. Even if you have received text messages in previous years, you must re-do it again for this school year. If you do not opt-in, you will not receive future text messages, but the option to opt-in is available at any time. We will be testing this system on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. Thank you for taking the time to complete this important communication step between school and home.

#### **PowerSchool Parent Access**

Families in grades 3-8 will have access to their child's Powerschool account beginning the week of September 8, 2025. A communication will be sent shortly to all families highlighting the changes the Archdiocese made to the report cards, as well as to grading policies.

### Staffing for 25/26

We are pleased to announce our staffing for the upcoming school year. We have had a change in our middle school science teacher and welcome Mr. Andy Moscato, who comes to us from Baltimore County Public Schools. Our entire faculty and staff are excited for the year of learning and faith ahead. You can access the faculty and staff directory <a href="HERE">HERE</a>

### Once an Eagle, always an Eagle!

We're gathering stories and accomplishments from our incredible alumni to share on social media. Whether it's you, your child, or another Eagle you know, we'd love to hear about it! Share your update or nominate a fellow alum here: https://forms.gle/mx3jGMMEPBJEckcJALet's celebrate the amazing things our Eagles are doing out in the world!

### **Share Your St. Stephen Story!**

We're updating our website and would love to feature testimonials from our incredible families, especially about our Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Middle School programs. Your story could help future families see what makes our school so special! Please <a href="share-your testimonials here">share-your testimonials here</a>.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**August 23 & 24, 2025:** Blessing of the Backpacks and Students. All students are invited to attend any Mass at St. Stephen or Holy Spirit this weekend in their school uniform to receive a special blessing and gift for the start of the school year. At St. Stephen Church, Masses are Saturday at 4:30 pm and 6:00pm and Masses on Sunday are 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and noon. At Holy Spirit, Mass on Saturday is at 5:00 pm and Masses on Sunday are at 9:30 am and 11:00 am.

**August 25, 2025:** First day of school for kindergarten through grade 8 students with a noon early dismissal; Prek also begins this day with an abbreviated schedule, which was shared earlier this week via email

August 26, 2025: Full day of school

**August 27, 2025:** Back to School Night Presentations from teachers for prek3 through grade 5, beginning at 6:00 pm in your oldest child's homeroom classroom

**August 28, 2025:** Back to School Night Presentations from teachers for grades 6-8, beginning at 6:00 pm in your oldest child's homeroom classroom

August 29, 2025: Early dismissal for students and faculty at noon

September 1, 2025: School closed for Labor Day

September 2, 2025: Aftercare begins

**September 3, 2025:** System check for receiving text messages

**September 5, 2025:** NFL Kick-Off Weekend Uniform Add-On - students can wear their favorite NFL shirt/jersey/team colors with SSS PE shorts and tennis shoes. No additional accessories or make-up. There is no cost for participation. The Father's Club is hosting a "Nacho Average Back to School Picnic" from 5 - 7pm for students and families.

**September 7, 2025:** Class of 2025 Parent Meeting for the HS Admissions Process at 6:00 pm in the school gym

**September 16, 2025:** Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic High School Open House at St. Joseph Fullerton from 5:30-7:00 pm. This is open to all middle school students.

**September 17**, **2025**: Early dismissal at noon for students due to Professional Development day for faculty in the afternoon

### **Community Updates:**

#### **KC Dance & Fitness**

Registration is open on the website (<u>www.kcdanceandfitness.com</u>) for the after-school dance program on the dates/times listed below. We are so pleased that Mrs. Kristin Celano, owner and proud St. Stephen parent, is offering these classes again for our students.

Mondays 3:15-4:00 -- Hip Hop grades 1-5

Wednesdays 3:15-4:00 -- Intro to Dance prek3-K

The Fall session dates are: Mondays -- Sept 22 - Nov 17 (no class on 10/6) Wednesdays -- Sept 24 - Nov 19 (no class on 10/22)

## Fall CYO Soccer Registration is Now Open!

Registration for Fall CYO Soccer is officially open! All students and members of the parish community are welcome to join the fun.

Clinic Team: Pre-K & Kindergarten

League Teams: Grades 1–6

Whether you're just starting out or already love the game, there's a place for everyone to play, learn, and grow as a team. <u>Sign up today!</u>