

Principal Post #2: A Message from Dr. Kozlowski August 27, 2025

We look forward to welcoming our families onto campus this evening and tomorrow evening for our Back to School Night presentations. Prek3 through grade 5 families will meet on campus today (August 27) in your oldest child's homeroom. Presentations will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. There will be two sessions of presentations that evening from teachers. Grade 6 -8 families will meet in their oldest child's homeroom on August 28. Presentations in the homeroom will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and parents will rotate through academic classes until 7:45pm. Thank you, in advance, to our teachers and faculty for the work they are doing to prepare for these evenings with all of you.

Today we held our first evacuation/fire drill of the new school year. During an evacuation drill, students depart their classrooms and buildings and meet by the rectory fence. They are lined up with their teacher and attendance is taken. In the event we would need to evacuate further, we would move in orderly lines to the soccer fields. These drills are in accordance with protocols of the "I Luv U Guys" emergency preparedness program that is followed in all Archdiocese schools. I will announce to you, as well as the students, what drill we will be practicing prior to it occurring.

On Friday we are going to launch our first Saint Team meeting of the new school year for students in kindergarten through grade 8. Our Saint teams align with our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). You can read more about our saint teams <u>HERE</u>.

Finally, 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. If you can RSVP <u>HERE</u> for planning purposes, it would be greatly appreciated. There is no cost to attend and it will be an event that we will "taco 'bout" for a long time to come!

Grace & Peace, Dr. Marianne Kozlowski

Additional Information:

Updated Grading Policy from the Archdiocese of Baltimore

For the 2025/26 school year, all schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will be following new grading guidelines and policies. These will be reflected in updated report cards (three times a year) that are easier to understand and read for families. You can read about these updates in the Student/Parent Handbook, as well as on this document <u>HERE</u>

Action Needed: Income Survey for Grant Money

In order to determine the funding available for State of Maryland grant money, we must have an accurate record of family income information. To obtain this information, we are asking each family to complete our **2025-2026 Income Survey**. Less than five minutes of your time can translate to large benefits for our school community. Thank you for your support and cooperation as the due date for this survey is Friday, September 12, 2025. This year we will be using the online survey format and it can be accessed <u>HERE</u>

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

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/mx3jGMMEPBJEckcJA Let's celebrate the amazing things our Eagles are doing out in the world!

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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

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

Week of September 8, 2025: Powerschool access opens for families in grades 3-8

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)