

St. Peter's Parish School Commission
High School and Junior High Report for Tuesday, October 20, 2009

1. School Nurse Mrs. Jenny Spires has been doing a good job of communicating with parents, students, and staff about H1N1 and seasonal flu. An interesting debate has begun because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site explains that doctors are no longer testing specifically for the H1N1 virus. We suspect that several have it, including several of our own students, because it is becoming so wide-spread. The test for Influenza A is what we're hearing about lately. Several strains of flu that are identifiable in a group by the Influenza A test do include H1N1. The problem is, people want to know whether or not we have a *confirmed* case. The kind of testing that is being done now won't accomplish this confirmation because it does not separate the H1N1 flu strain from the others for which it tests. We have been stressing the need to keep a student home if he or she has flu symptoms. In particular, no one should come to school with a fever. Students who have had a fever need to stay home for an additional 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications. Of course, we are also constantly reminding students and staff of the need to wash hands, sanitize hands, clean their areas, cover their coughs, dispose of tissues, and not share any drinking or food containers or utensils. Our school building cleaners have always used germicide cleansers. They continue to maintain their high standards for cleaning for good health. Mrs. Spires discussed flu season issues with teachers during in-service on Thursday, October 8. Along with all these other topics, she explained that we will need to have make-up work plans in mind for students who need extended absences.
2. Our St. Peter's High School and Junior High Marching Spartans will participate in the annual Mansfield Halloween Parade during our meeting on Tuesday, October 20. These students will march again in the Veterans' Day parade on November 11. The Veterans' Day parade takes place during the school day in the morning. Our entire grades seven through twelve student body will view the parade in support of their band and in support of our Veterans. Parents have been invited to join us as we walk there and back or as we stand and watch the parade across the street from the Holiday Inn.
3. Mr. Jim Bisenius will present an assembly for students in grades 7 – 12 in the Robert Frye Auditorium on Wednesday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m. His topics will include body language and other verbal, physical, and social responses we can use to ward off people who try to intimidate. He will also speak with the students about cyber-bullying, sexting, and avoiding intimidation in relationships. Parents are welcome to attend this session. It will be a different presentation than the parent program scheduled for that same evening. Sincere thanks to Parents Club for bringing Mr. Bisenius to school for us again this year!
4. Eighth grade Power of the Pen had their first meeting on Thursday, October 15. Four interested members showed up. It takes six plus an alternate to make a team. I'm hoping an email to parents will improve attendance at the next session. Mrs. Geiger is the eighth grade coach. Seventh grade coach is Mrs. Marshall.

5. The sophomore and junior classes will each participate in class retreat days this week on Wednesday and Thursday, October 21 and 22. Our retreat facilitators this year will be the National Evangelists Team (NET) which is made up of 19 – 24 year old men and women who dedicate a year of their lives to this ministry.
6. The first high school dance of the year will be the Halloween dance in the Franciscan Activity Center Atrium on Friday, October 23, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. The first junior high dance of the year will take place on Friday, November 13, same time and place.
7. The senior class will sponsor the annual Powder Puff Football Tournament the weekend of October 24 and 25. Specific day and time will depend on soccer tournament timing. We do not want this event to conflict with Confirmation on Sunday, October 25, at 2:00 so Powder Puff will take place either Saturday after soccer or Sunday after Confirmation.
8. Ohio Graduation Test make-ups for any junior or senior who has yet to pass any section will take place October 26 – 30. The Ohio Department of Education dictates which test section is given on each day.
9. The high school Fall Sports Awards Banquet is scheduled for Monday, October 26.
10. The annual homecoming assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27. This year's homecoming game and dance are scheduled for December 4 and 5 so it is necessary to begin the homecoming season earlier than usual. (We do know that December 5 is the Christmas Classic date. I checked with the Academic Boosters last year to see if this dance date would be a problem and we were given the green light to proceed.)
11. Parent/Teacher Conferences were well-attended on October 13. This date was chosen for parents who wanted to use it as a response to interims which were mailed on September 30. The next set of conferences takes place on Thursday, November 12. This conference opportunity is timed for reflection on first quarter grades. Quarter 1 ends on October 30.
12. The seniors will leave for Kairos on Wednesday, November 4, and return on Saturday, November 7. Please pray for the success of this retreat. The adult team is Father Chris Bazar, Charlie Henrich, Mike Mulherin, Maryanne Chengelis, and Tressa Reith. We are still seeking adults to help with night duty. Thanks to staff members and parents who commit all this time away from their families for the success of this retreat. Thanks, also, to Parents Club who helps fund this endeavor. It is well-worth the time, effort, and expense. This year's retreat site is Carey, Ohio as it has been for the last several years.
13. Our administrative team has been invited to spend part of a day at Pioneer Career and Technology Center to see their facilities and discuss ways that we might be able to work together for the benefit of our students. We have accepted that offer and also plan to investigate potential opportunities with Mansfield Senior High's vocational program (more feasible location?) and the tech prep program through North Central State College, accessible through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

14. It was necessary to postpone the fall play. New performance dates are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 13, 14, and 15. Times to be announced.
15. Our high school Key Club will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Mobile on Friday, November 13, in the Church basement.

**I have a conflict next month on Tuesday, November 10. I am to be in Toledo for a Bishop's Education Council meeting from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. that evening. I will submit a detailed report in advance of the School Commission meeting. Thank you.