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Subject: PONY Newsletter July 31, 2026
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To: smackowiak@stpatlou.org



PONY Newsletter | Summer 2026



Welcome Home!



Pictured above: Incoming Kindergartners had a fabulous week attending our Jumpstart to K program.

School Updates

There is one word that best describes the energy around Saint Patrick this week: anticipation.

There is anticipation for a new school year, new students, new homerooms, new teachers, and the many opportunities that come with a fresh beginning. As I walked the hallways yesterday, I could feel that excitement building. Classrooms were coming together, names were being placed on lockers, and colleagues were collaborating and preparing to welcome our students back. There is something special about watching our school come to life again.

One of the greatest gifts of a new school year is the opportunity for a fresh start. Over the next few days, I encourage you to ask your child what they are looking forward to most this year. Their answers may surprise you, and those conversations can help build excitement for the year ahead.

As for me, I am looking forward to greeting our students on their first day, seeing their smiles, and officially beginning another wonderful year together. I can't wait to welcome everyone back to Saint Patrick!

Mrs. Caitlin Protenic
Interim Principal

Staff Updates

Staff Transitioning to New Roles

K-8 Physical Education Teacher

Mrs. Nikki Betz - I am excited to announce that Mrs. Betz will be taking on the role of our new K-8 Physical Education teacher. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sports Administration with a minor in Physical Education from the University of Louisville. Over the past two years, Mrs. Betz has been a valued member of our school community, supporting our youngest learners in kindergarten and first grade. We are excited for our students to learn and grow under her leadership and look forward to the positive impact she will have across all grade levels.

K-5 Spanish Teacher

Mrs. Carmen Torres - Mrs. Torres was previously introduced in our last PONY as one of our newest Kindergarten assistants. She has welcomed the opportunity to be our new K-5 Spanish teacher. Mrs. Torres holds multiple degrees and worked as a psychologist in Spain with specializations in children with special needs and early interventions. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Torres as our new Elementary Spanish teacher.

6th Grade Math Teacher

Mrs. Annie Sander - Mrs. Sander has served as Saint Patrick's 7th and 8th Grade Instructional Assistant for the past seven years. This year, she will be transitioning into a new role as our part-time 6th grade Math teacher. Throughout her time at Saint Patrick, she has been an invaluable support in the math classroom, using her extensive background as a math educator to help students build confidence and achieve success. Prior to moving to Louisville, Mrs. Sander served as both a kindergarten instructional assistant and a classroom math teacher, bringing a wealth of experience and passion for mathematics to her new role.

3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Kathleen Nilsen - Mrs. Nilsen is transitioning to our 3rd grade team this year. She has spent the past several years teaching 6th grade Social Studies and Science, where she fostered a love of learning and curiosity in her students. Most recently, she played a key

role in piloting our Gifted and Talented program. We are excited for Mrs. Nilsen to bring her experience, creativity, and passion for teaching to our 3rd grade students.

New Staff

6th Grade Social Studies and Science

Mr. Bryson Clark - We are excited to welcome Mr. Clark as our new sixth grade Social Studies and Science teacher. A DeSales High School alumnus, Mr. Clark recently graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education for Social Studies and a minor in History. He completed his student teaching at Assumption High School this past year, where he quickly realized he wanted to continue his career in Catholic education. His enthusiasm for history and commitment to fostering meaningful relationships with students will make him a wonderful addition to our middle school team. We are excited to welcome Mr. Clark to the Saint Patrick community.

6th Grade Homeroom and Religion Teacher

Mr. Justin Ernst - Mr. Ernst will be joining our 6th grade team as a homeroom and Religion teacher. During the past school year, he served as a substitute teacher across all grade levels, building strong relationships with students and staff throughout the school. For the past five years, he has also assisted with the parish's P.R.E.P. program, reflecting his commitment to faith formation and Catholic education. Mr. Ernst earned his bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of the Cumberland and is currently pursuing his Master's in Teaching. We are excited to welcome him to our middle school team.

Staff Not Returning

Ms. Kathryn Reichert - Ms. Reichert will not be returning to Saint Patrick for the 2026–2027 school year. We are grateful for the care and dedication she has shown our students and school community, and we wish her all the best as she begins this next chapter.

Miller Transportation Bus Updates:

Bus routes will be sent early next week prior to Back to School Night. Miller Transportation is aware of the road closures for the AikenRd/Arnold Palmer intersection and are diligently working through route changes. Please contact [Hannah Schmidt](#) or [Kristina Conlin](#) for bus-related questions.

Homeroom Assignments:

Homeroom assignments will be released on August 4th at 12pm by email from your child's teacher.

YMCA - Repeat announcement:

The YMCA afterschool care registration [link](#) is now open and accepting reservations for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in YMCA services, please complete the online registration form to secure your child's spot.

Tuition Payment Schedule

Please contact the Parish office if you would like to change your tuition payment schedule to Annual, Monthly, or Semi-Annual.

A little preparation now makes for a healthy and successful school year!



PARENTS:

Will your child need

MEDICATION

IN SCHOOL FOR THE

2026-2027

SCHOOL YEAR?



If your child will need to take medication during the school day (prescription or non-prescription), a **Permission for Medication** form must be completed each school year.

This includes medications such as allergy medicine, inhalers, epinephrine, pain relievers, ADHD medication, and more.

GET A
STEP
AHEAD!

You can get a head start now by completing the **Permission for Medication** form over the summer!

Having it ready helps ensure a safe and smooth start to the 2026-2027 school year.



HOW TO GET THE FORM:



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

The **Permission for Medication Form** is in the student handbook.



CONTACT THE SCHOOL NURSE

Email or call the health office and we will be happy to send the form to you.

tletourneau@stpatlou.org



STOP BY THE SCHOOL

Pick up a copy of the form from the main office or health office.

Thank you for helping us keep your child safe and healthy!



★ WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR! ★



SUMMER *reading*

ST. PATRICK FAMILIES,
CLICK YOUR CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL BELOW TO ACCESS YOUR
SPECIFIC BOOK LIST AND ASSIGNMENT.
FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO MRS. HENRY (MHENRY@STPATLOU.ORG)
OR YOUR CHILD'S ELA/HOMEROOM TEACHER WITH MORE QUESTIONS.

K-3

Students are encouraged to participate in the optional Summer Reading Challenge and log their progress to win prizes. All students who return their reading log will be rewarded. All work should be returned to their homeroom teacher on the first day of school.

[Click here for the reading log](#)

4-8

Students are required to complete the following assigned summer reading. All work should be returned to their ELA teachers at the beginning of the school year.

[4th Grade](#)

[5th Grade](#)

[6th Grade](#)

[7th Grade](#)

[8th Grade](#)

Get ready to "move it, move it" because St. Patrick Drama is heading off on the adventure of a lifetime!

That's right. This year's 4th through 6th grade fall musical is Madagascar Jr. Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, and Gloria the Hippo as they escape from their home at the zoo and find themselves on an unforgettable journey to the wild island of Madagascar.

Get ready for mischievous penguins with secret plans, lemurs who love to party, and plenty of laugh-out-loud surprises along the way. Will Marty find the freedom he's always dreamed of? Will Alex learn who he really is outside the zoo? And can anyone keep up with King Julien's royal dance moves? One thing's for sure- This adventure is going to be wild!

Auditions will be Tuesday, September 1st. More information about auditions, along with all

monologues and music, can be found at www.stpatdrama.com.

Get ready for an unforgettable journey from New York City to Madagascar as we bring this beloved animated adventure to life on stage. We like to move it, move it, and we can't wait for you to join us!

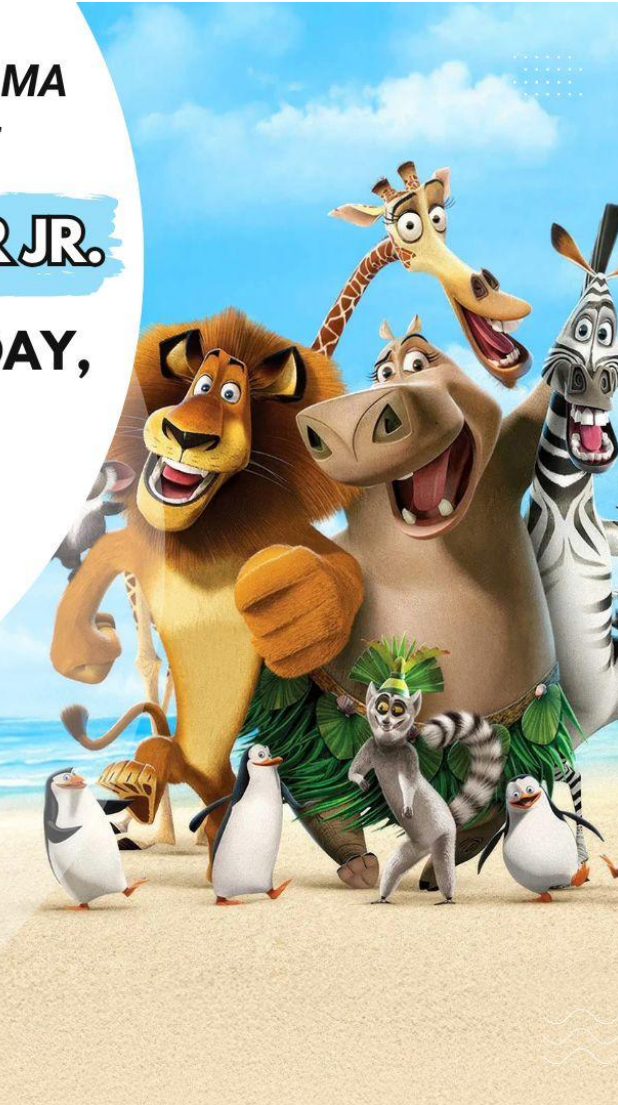


ST. PATRICK DRAMA ANNOUNCEMENT

MADAGASCAR JR.

AUDITIONS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

Any student in grades 4-6
is invited to audition! Select
an audition time using the
SignUpGenius link on
www.stpatdrama.com



Audition Details

- Students should prepare a monologue and 20 seconds of a song from *Madagascar Jr.*
- Monologues and music can be found on the St. Patrick Drama website.
- Rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Thursdays

from 3:00-5:00 PM.

- Performances will be November 13th and 14th at 7:00 PM and November 15th at 2:00 PM. Students must be able to attend all performances in order to audition.



PTO News

We hope everyone is having a wonderful and relaxing summer! The PTO is busy preparing for an exciting start to the new school year and we could use your help!

Volunteer Opportunities

Our **Back-to-School Fair** is just around the corner, and we'd love your support!

Please consider signing up for a volunteer shift to help make this event a success.

[BTS Fair Volunteer](#)

We're also looking for volunteers to help distribute school supply kits. Please sign up!

[School Kit Volunteer](#)

BooHoo/Wahoo Breakfast

For Kindergarten Families

Join us on **Tuesday, August 11** (the first day of school) immediately following morning drop-off in **Schindler Hall**, located at the main entrance of the school. Whether you're shedding a few tears or celebrating this exciting milestone, we'd love to welcome you!

Spiritwear Webstore

We have partnered with TAG SWAG to provide a more streamlined Spiritwear webstore. Below is the new live link! 10% of proceeds go to the PTO.

[New Spiritwear Site](#)

Mark your calendars!

Back-to-School Fair Thursday, August 6 | 3:30–6:30 PM

Stay connected! Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for the latest PTO news, event reminders, and school updates - @STPATPTO and St. Patrick PTO
We look forward to seeing everyone back at school soon!

Important Dates

Have you subscribed to our 26-27 PTO Parent Calendar? Click [HERE](#) to load the Google cal to your own device!

- **August 5: 5:30-7:30 New Family Orientation**
- **August 6, 3:30-6:30: Back to School Fair**
- **August 11: First Day of School 1:00 p.m. Dismissal**



St. Patrick Catholic School 2026-2027 Elementary School Calendar



First Day of Instruction	8/11
Last Day of Instruction	5/21

1000 N Beckley Station Road Louisville, KY 40245

Phone (502)244-7083 Website - school.stpatlou.org

Holidays	
Labor Day (P)	9/7
Fall Holiday Break	10/9 - 10/12
Thanksgiving (P) Break	11/23 - 11/27
Christmas (P) Break	12/21 - 1/1
MLK Holiday	1/18
Winter Holiday Break	2/12 - 2/15
Good Friday	3/26
Easter Monday	3/29
Spring Break	3/29 - 4/2
Derby Eve Holiday	4/30
Memorial Day (P)	5/31
PTS Conferences	
1st Trimester/Fall	10/8
2nd Trimester/Winter	2/11
Trimester Dates	
1st Trimester	8/11-11/6
2nd Trimester	11/9-2/19
3rd Trimester	2/22-5/21
Holy Days/Church Celebration Days	
Immaculate Conception	12/8
Ash Wednesday	2/10
Good Friday	3/26
Ascension of Jesus	5/6
Assessment Dates	
MAP Assessment	8/24-9/25
	1/4-2/5
	4/12-5/14
8th Grade Algebra	4/19-4/21
HS Placement Test	12/12
ACRE Assessment	3/1-3/12
Other Dates	
Educators' Luncheon	10/28
Discover Catholic Schools Week	11/15 - 11/21
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week	1/31 - 2/6

August 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

December 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

January 2027

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February 2027

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March 2027

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April 2027

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May 2027

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				



Parish Happenings

Best Place to Worship 2026 WINNER

We can't wait to see you at Mass!

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30, 11:00, 5:30 p.m.

WINNER





Cafeteria

Check out the latest newsletter from Taher! For the latest information you may access their full website [HERE](#).

Have a great summer!

St. Patrick Catholic Church | 1000 North Beckley Station Rd. | Louisville, KY 40245 US

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