

SS. Peter and Paul School
317 Baldie Street
Ionia, MI 48846

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No.
429

Address Service Requested



Saints Peter and Paul School

Excellence in Education

Annual Alumni Appeal

March 2023

Dear Saints Peter and Paul Alumni,

Greetings from Saints Peter and Paul School!

The 2022-2023 school year has brought many new faces to the Saints Peter and Paul school community. We have welcomed four new staff members, many new Preschool students, and a handful of new students throughout the elementary and upper elementary classes.

At Saints Peter and Paul, we can often be found celebrating our daily victories, yet we continue to be challenged financially. While our enrollment continues to grow, this year the addition of staff members to help support that growth has become a challenge. Our ability to successfully continue to provide a Catholic education, with small class sizes in a family-friendly setting, depends upon the generous ongoing support of our parish and our alumni. Whether spiritual or monetary, whatever support you can give is very much appreciated.

If you are looking for yet another way to give back to the school, please consider attending our annual school auction. We are back in person on **Saturday, April 29th**, with a "Let's FIESTA" theme. We hope you can join us! Tickets will be available in the school office, the parish office and at the door. Come reminisce with your former Panthers and support a great cause!

Although many years may have passed since your time at Saints Peter and Paul School, the same spirit still exists here at SSPP. We often say, "Once a Panther, Always a Panther!" We are proud of the loving manner in which we care for both our students and our facility. Be sure to watch Facebook and the parish bulletin for the exciting things happening at our school.

Thank you, and may God bless you!

Jenny Leik

Principal
Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School

The Mission of SS. Peter & Paul School is to provide a high quality Catholic education in a Catholic Christian environment.

Through the Word, example, and service, students are taught a sense of responsibility for others and are encouraged to be actively involved in their faith and local communities.

Our goal is to form future leaders, productive citizens, and active faith-filled Christian men and women.

New Faces and Spaces!



This has been a year of a lot of change. We began our new all day Developmental Kindergarten, moved Preschool to the former Kindergarten room, moved Kindergarten upstairs and welcomed four new teachers, all while continuing to provide a Christ centered education for all students!

Miss Emily Gerdes graduated from Ionia High School in 2015 and went to North Central University. There she received a Bachelor's degree in Music. Emily spent the previous school year as a preschool aide to Mrs. Barb Voet, who is now teaching all day Developmental Kindergarten. Emily became our lead preschool teacher this year, and she is pursuing her teaching

degree through Michigan T.E.A.C.H.! Emily has worked hard to make Preschool a magical place for our youngest Panthers while sharing her love of music and learning!

Mrs. Danielle Wandel graduated from Ionia High School in 2008 and went on to Ferris State University, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Danielle is wrapping up her Master's Degree in Curriculum Design and Instruction from Central Michigan University. She is teaching 2nd grade and is sharing her love of reading with all of her students!

Mr. Kyle Grummet graduated from Ionia High School in 2011 and went to Saginaw Valley University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. After earning his degree and working for several years, Kyle decided to pursue his true passion for education. He is currently finishing up his teacher education program through Teachers of Tomorrow. He has been blessed to work alongside Brad Starks, who is serving as a mentor to Kyle as he teaches 3rd and 4th grade.

Mr. John Vaarberg graduated from Ionia High School in 2016 and went on to Grand Rapids Community College. From GRCC he received an Associates of Arts. He continued his education at Aquinas, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Education in 2021. He is teaching 7th and 8th grade homeroom, middle school math, middle school science, and middle school language arts. His weekly science labs are a big hit with our students!

Mr. Vaarberg has taken the place of Mrs. Julie Baty, who retired as of June 2022. Mrs. Baty is spending her time with her new puppy, Cooper, and enjoying life by the lake. We still get to see her as she still comes in to sub once in a while. Congratulations to Mrs. Baty on her retirement!

Parents of Alumni—Did this year's annual appeal come to your house?

Please send us your child's updated mailing address to get this corrected!

Corrected mailing addresses can be sent to Jenny Leik at jleik@ssppcatholic.com



SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2023 Annual Appeal

The SS. Peter and Paul faculty and Board of Education deeply appreciate your support as we continue our mission of educating children in a warm, faith-filled, academically rigorous fashion. You may make a one-time donation or a monthly or quarterly pledge. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and will help support our school. If you desire, you may designate your tax-deductible donation to be used for a specific category. You can mail your donation to the school or give us a call and we can help with electronic giving. Regardless of your ability to make a donation at this time, please remember the students and staff of the school in your prayers. Thank you, and God bless you!

Please use this space to share any special memories of your school days:

At this time, I can make the following donation to help fulfill the mission to meet the educational, spiritual and physical needs of the students of Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School:

- I would like to make a single, lump-sum donation in the following amount (circle one):

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

- I pledge \$ _____ to be paid in installments over the next twelve months.

- I would like my donation applied to the following area(s) of need. (Circle one or more)

Curriculum Technology Physical Plant Student Financial Support Any need

SSPP will send a letter for tax purposes confirming the amount of your donation. Thank you!

Name: _____ **Year of graduation:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email address:** _____