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## ST. PETER SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

### COMMUNICATIONS

**AP Notify.** Our school-wide automated announcement system is used for emergency messages and important announcements. The usual format is email; however, both email, phone, and now text messages can be sent in an emergency. Routine email messages are sent to one or both parents; emergency messages are sent to parents and those listed as emergency contacts.

**Social Media.** If you are on Instagram, 'follow' StPeterSchoolDC. If you are on Facebook, 'like' St. Peter School DC. Neither are used as primary communication tools, but we post reminders, great pictures capturing student life, and other news about our school community. Your child's teacher also has a private class Instagram, which you will learn more about during Back-to-School Night.

**The Rock.** Our school-wide newsletter is sent electronically every Friday. It provides critical information for parents and families to know. If it is something you need to know it'll be in The Rock.

**Website.** The school website, [www.stpeterschooldc.org](http://www.stpeterschooldc.org), supported by Rediker, includes updated information for families. Teachers post information, assignments, and special events on their homepages. The website also provides a direct link to PlusPortals, the online attendance and grading system.

### SCHOOL EVENTS

**Annual Giving Kick-Off. (Modified due to COVID)** Annual Giving Kick-Off. Our top major fundraiser begins with a reception in the Rectory in early October. Come learn about how donations to this key fundraiser - large and small - contribute to improving our already repeat Blue Ribbon School winner. We strive for 100% participation from families, friends, and faculty and staff. [For 2020-2021, our top major fundraiser will be virtual.](#)

**Back to School Nights. (Modified due to COVID)** These parent-only evenings are an important ritual marking the beginning of the new school year. On this night, your child's teacher explains their goals and expectations for the academic year. We start with a general meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room and a brief welcome by the principal, advisory board president, and Home and School Association co-chairs. Then parents separate to visit their child's classroom. Two Back to School Nights are held; the first is for Grades PreK-3 and the second is for Grades 4-8. [For 2020-2021, Back to School Night will take place via Zoom on the second Wednesday in September. We will open with brief remarks by the Principal, Pastor-Principal Advisory Board President, and Home and School Association Co-Chairs. Then parents will enter breakout rooms to visit their child's classroom.](#)

**Back to School Picnic. (Suspended due to COVID)** The first opportunity of the year to gather, share food and conversation, and bear witness to a whole-school water balloon fight. The picnic takes place on the Sunday after Labor Day and is traditionally held on the lower playground. Look for more information to be available in August.

**School Mass every Wednesday at 8:45am. (Modified due to COVID)** Students serve as the chorus, readers, and gifts bearers, and each homily is created just for the school community. All families are invited to join and sit in the side pews. [For 2020-2021, the priests will visit each grade and offer Mass in the classrooms. Teachers will provide the schedule for their grades.](#)

**School Blessing. (Suspended due to COVID)** Father Gary joins the school community, including families who wish to attend, to offer a blessing for the school year. It is held on the first Friday of the school year at 8:45am on the upper playground.

**Fall and Spring Adult Social Nights. (Modified due to COVID)** Join your fellow parents and SPS adult supporters for fun gatherings in the fall and spring. The last several years these have been Bingo and Trivia nights and have been hosted on Friday evenings at the American Legion. [For 2020-2021, HSA will plan virtual events. Look for e-vites.](#)

**Walk / Run / Scooter to School Day. (Suspended due to COVID)** SPS participates in the annual Walk to School Day event with schools from across the Capitol Hill area. Join students in “walking” to school (which really means running or scootering as it may be).

**Moms Night Out. (Suspended due to COVID)** Who says Concerned Fathers get to have all the fun? Join other moms for this get to know each other night out somewhere on the Hill, hosted by the HSA.

**Halloween Parade. (Modified due to COVID)** On the afternoon of October 31 (or the closest school day), the children gather in costume to walk around Providence Park. Don't forget your camera for this school-wide tradition, followed by schoolwide merriment! [For 2020-2021, teachers and room parents will plan physically distant festivities in classrooms or outside, weather permitting.](#)

**Grandparents and Special Friends Day. (Suspended due to COVID)** On Wednesday morning before Thanksgiving, grandparents and special friends are invited to join the students during the 8:45am school Mass, followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall, and a visit with children and teachers in the classrooms.

**High School Evening. (Modified due to COVID)** Parents of students in Grades 6 and 7 gather at 6 p.m. in April to learn more about the high school application process and requirements, which includes their student taking the High School Placement Test (HSPT) in late November each school year.

**Christmas Concert. (Modified due to COVID)** Polish the patent leather shoes and join fellow SPS families and community members and disconnect from the hustle and bustle for an evening. Hearing those sweet voices lifted in song is the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season.

**Annual Auction Gala. (Modified due to COVID)** Get your paddle and book a sitter. Now. It's a night to remember and raises a load of money for our kids and our sister school in Haiti, just don't tell them how much fun we have doing it! [For 2020-2021, the auction will be virtual.](#)

**Ice Skating Family Social. (Suspended due to COVID)** Brave the colder temperatures and lace up your skates for this fun ice skating family social. The last several years the Ice Skating Family Social took place in either January or February at Canal Park Rink with generous support from local businesses, Wiseguy and Altani.

**Cookies and Cocoa with Santa. (Suspended due to COVID)** Each December PreK and Kindergarten host Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, an all school event prominently featuring a visit from Santa with some help from middle school elves.

**Book Fair. (Suspended due to COVID)** Are you a bookworm? Love seeing the enthusiasm the students have when they get to make their “wish list” of books with their class? Look no further than the fall and spring book fairs. This twice-yearly event is a great way to earn volunteer hours and get your fix of the printed word – on paper.

**End of Year Movie Night. (Suspended due to COVID)** On the last day of school, parents and kids gather at sunset to watch an outdoor movie on the upper playground.

## GLOSSARY

**Car Line.** St. Peter School is known for excellence in many areas, including the Hill’s most efficient car line! Please enter the E Street, SE carline from 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Street, SE. Be a good example, prioritize student safety, and do not cut the line by entering from 4<sup>th</sup> Street! Help keep students safe by not dropping off or picking up on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SE. If you need to park please do so legally in the neighborhood and give yourself extra time.

**Catholic Schools Week.** Traditionally the last week in January, Catholic schools across the nation celebrate Catholic schools and promote school spirit through a variety of special activities and events.

**Corner Store.** Located on the corner of E and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets SE, the store offers a variety of food and beverages that our middle school students (and faculty/staff) enjoy.

**Free Dress Day.** Occasionally, the principal awards free dress days, on which students can wear appropriate casual attire. No fee is required.

**Garfield Park.** Located near South Carolina and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets SE, this park has tennis and volleyball courts, playground equipment for younger and older children, and wide-open spaces. (*Capitol Hill Day School uses it as their playground when their school and summer camp are in session.*)

**HSA.** Home and School Association. Led by parent volunteers, HSA organizes school community-enhancing events (and the associated parent volunteers) throughout the school year and serves as the St. Peter School liaison between the school’s administration and families.

**Home Line.** Students who are picked up at 3:15 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. dismissal (by car and by foot) will be dismissed as “Home Line” and will exit the school through the E Street, SE exit. Home Line pick up rules are the same as car line drop off rules. Please enter from 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Street, SE and wait patiently on E for a teacher or staff. Be a good example, prioritize student safety, and do not cut the line by entering from 4<sup>th</sup> Street! Do not pick up from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, SE. If you need to park please do so legally in the neighborhood and give yourself extra time. Students authorized to walk home on their own will be dismissed separately through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street doors.

**Leprechauns.** Around March 17 these mysterious creatures cause mayhem in the school. **(TBD 2021)**

**Marion Park (aka Turtle Park):** Situated between 4th, 5th, E, and D/South Carolina Streets SE, this park is a gathering spot for families with younger students after school.

**Notre Dame D'Altagrace.** We raise funds for this school, which is our twinned school in Cap Haitien, Haiti.

**Panther.** Our fierce (but friendly) school mascot.

**The Panther Post.** Our school newspaper is written by students with our librarian facilitating their efforts.

**PPAB.** Pastor-Principal Advisory Board.

**Providence Park (aka X Park).** The wide-open space, crisscrossed by sidewalks, directly across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from St. Peter School's main entrance.

**Room Parents.** These invaluable volunteers facilitate communication between class parents and the teacher, school administration, and the Home-School Association (HSA), and supports the teacher in classroom events, activities, and other needs that may arise.

**Safety Patrol.** Our capable middle school volunteers graciously open the school's doors each morning and afternoon and escort the PreK and Kindergarten students with care.

**Sign Up Genius (SUG).** The online tool used throughout the school (room parents, HSA, etc.) to request needed volunteers for any and all school events. This online tool is also used to track hours toward completing the volunteer requirement.

**Ski Club. (Suspended due to COVID)** Popular activity for middle school students to spend Friday late afternoons and evenings hitting the slopes together. SPS teacher and volunteer parents chaperone.

**Student Families. (Modified due to COVID)** Families are composed of students from each grade working together on service projects, with middle school students serving as House leaders (a.k.a. Head of House). Each month one House can earn free dress, which is typically honored on the first Friday of the month. **All gatherings for Student Families will be held on virtual Fridays.**

**Tag Day. (Suspended due to COVID)** Student Council sponsors themed dress days for which students make a small donation to a local cause.

**Uniform Closet. (Modified due to COVID)** Second-hand uniforms for a bargain! Only \$4/garment. By the stairs near the main office. **For 2020-2021 and based on availability, please submit your requests for specific uniform items to HSA. The items will be bagged and sent home with students who are in school or ready for pick up if your child is virtual.**

**VIRTUS Training.** Parents must take this one-time class before they are able to volunteer at school events involving student interaction. This is a requirement of all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW). Want to earn your family's volunteer hours by being a mystery reader or going on a field trip? Get your VIRTUS training done early. Fingerprinting is a required part of this training; additional information is available from SPS.



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