



ST. PETER SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Classroom Newsletters. Teachers in PK-Grade 5 send a weekly newsletter each Friday with assignments and classroom-specific news. For Grades 6-8, a single weekly newsletter is sent that includes all middle school news.

Coming Soon! School Messenger. Our school-wide automated announcement system is used for emergency messages and important announcements via text message, email, or both (depending on the situation).

ParentPlus. Linked from the website home page and available as an app on iOS and Android, the online portal for attendance and grading.

Website. The school website, www.stpeterschooldc.org, includes information for current and prospective families.

Social Media. *The Rock*, classroom newsletters, and emails/texts remain the primary source of school news. But if you're on [Instagram](#) (StPeterSchoolDC), [Facebook](#) (SPSCapitolHill), or [Twitter](#) (@stpeterschooldc), please follow us for a dose of Panther Pride in your news feed! Your child's teacher also has a private class Instagram, which you will learn more about during Back to School Night.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Annual Giving Kick-Off. This major fundraiser begins with a reception in the Rectory in October/November. Come learn about how donations to this key fundraiser contribute to improving technological and academic offerings. We strive for 100% participation from families, friends, and faculty and staff. No gift is too small!

Back to School Nights. 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 Multipurpose Room and a brief welcome by the principal, advisory board president, and Home-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.

Back to School Picnic (HSA-Sponsored). 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. 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.

School Blessing. Father Dan 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.

Pet Blessing. Father Dan joins the school community, including pets, to offer a blessing over our beloved family members. It is held on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (or the closest school day) at 8:45am on the Upper Playground.

Fall and Spring Adult Social Nights (HSA-Sponsored). 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 Post 8.

Walk to School Day. SPS participates in the annual Walk to School Day event with schools from across the Capitol Hill area.

Moms Night Out (HSA- Sponsored). 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.

Halloween Parade. 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 school-wide merriment!

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day. On Friday morning before Mother's Day, grandparents and special friends are invited to join the students during the 8:45am school Mass, followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall and a visit with children and teachers in the classrooms.

High School Evening. Parents of students in Grades 6 and 7 gather 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. 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. Get your paddle and book a sitter. Now. It's a night to remember and raises a load of money for tuition assistance and our sister school in Haiti, just don't tell them how much fun we have doing it!

Ice Skating Family Social (HSA-Sponsored). 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 with Santa (HSA-Sponsored). Each December PreK and Kindergarten host Cookies with Santa, an all-school event prominently featuring a visit from Santa with some help from middle school elves.

Book Fair. 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 (HSA-Sponsored). On the last day of school, parents and kids gather at sunset to watch an outdoor movie on the upper playground.

Cotillion. The four-week course offered to middle school students culminates with a dinner and dance service. Students showcase their excellent etiquette and manners while engaging in conversations with parents and students.

St. Peter Golf Classic. The annual event is a fundraising effort to benefit St. Peter School. Tee-off starts at Country Club at Woodmore, with awards and celebrations at Tune Inn on Capitol Hill.

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 6th or 5th Street, SE. Be a good example, prioritize student safety, and do not cut the line by entering from 4th Street! Help keep students safe by not dropping off or picking up on 3rd 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. The week ends with the Auction on Saturday.

Corner Store. Located on the corner of E and 4th 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 3rd 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-School Association. Led by parent volunteers, the 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. (regular dismissal) or at 12:30 p.m. (early dismissal), either by car or by foot, will be dismissed as "Home Line" and will exit the school through the E Street, SE door. Home Line pick-up rules are the same as car line drop-off rules. Please enter from 6th or 5th 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 4th Street! Do not pick up from 3rd 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 3rd Street doors.

Leprechauns. On or near March 17, these mysterious creatures bring delight to classrooms.

Marion Park (a.k.a. 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. Our sister school in Cap Haitien, Haiti. St. Peter School has donated classroom supplies and medical equipment from funds raised at our auction.

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, a.k.a. X Park. The wide-open space, crisscrossed by sidewalks, directly across 3rd Street from St. Peter School's main entrance.

Room Parents. These volunteers facilitate communication between class parents, teachers, school administration, and the Home-School Association (HSA) and support 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 all school events. This online tool is also used to track hours toward completing the volunteer requirement.

Ski Club. 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. Families are composed of students from each grade working together on service projects, with middle school students serving as Family leaders.

Tag Day. Student Council sponsors themed dress days for which students make a small donation to a local cause.

Uniform Closet. Second-hand uniforms for a bargain! Only \$5/garment. By the stairs near the main office.

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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