



IRISH ITEMS



St. Vincent - St. Mary High School • 15 North Maple Street • Akron, OH 44303 • 330.253.9113 • www.stvm.com

NOVEMBER 2009

Open Letter to the STVM Community: STVM is strong to the core

Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends,

Several members of the broader community of STVM have asked that I share information with everyone, and thus this open letter is being sent to our parents, our alumni, and any other interested parties in support of both the short and long range plans for our school. So, I hope you will take the information I share with you and spread the good word to others who are interested.

First of all, there are a number of people who wonder how the school has fared given the current economic crisis that has occurred over the last year. There were, of course, fears that all the Catholic schools would suffer significant decreases in enrollment and have major financial concerns as a result. We were pleased to find that we decreased, not as some might have feared, but only by ten students. Our 2009 opening day count was 688, compared with 698 on opening day in 2008. After ten consecutive years of increase in population, it is completely understandable that there was economic impact on the families who are trying to pay private school tuition. I know one young man paying his own tuition because his family took a financial "hit," and I cannot be more proud that he is taking such ownership of his own education and helping his family at the same time. Someone has taught him some good lessons along the way.

Indeed, the whole reason that the school had to set up a new financial arrangement for our parents was that there were those families who had tried to pay on a monthly basis and found themselves unable to complete their commitment. Those families were going to put the school in a bind, so the school arranged for other kinds of financing that would benefit the parents and the school and help everyone through this crisis. We are doing what we can to help families to help themselves.

In spite of the larger economic situation, our school was able to open our new Student Activity Center, the Cosgrove Center, based upon the donations and pledges that have already been made. We began construction last school year and finished just in time for our use this year.

And if all that was not enough about where your school stands, add a few more points of actual fact:

1. The school set a new school record as the 2009 graduating class earned eight million dollars in scholarships and grants, with 96% of them being accepted to their first choice college.
2. We have another Russian Laureate Scholar this year.
3. Five of our teachers were Ohio Magazine Teachers of the Year again.
4. Our art students set a new record for awards and prizes won last year.
5. Art, Music, and Drama, individually and collectively, are known as the best around, considering both public and private schools.
6. We are the only school in Ohio, as far as we know, that has added to the Spanish and French curriculum with the more exotic Russian and Chinese instruction, all in one school.
7. Our chaplain, Fr. Gordon Yahner, is celebrating Mass in the school two times per week, as well as on the Holy Days throughout the year.
8. Father Joseph Kraker continues to serve on our Board of Trustees overseeing the Catholicity of our school, the implementation of social justice issues, and the fostering of appropriate Peer Ministry.
9. We continue to garner more than our fair share of National Merit Scholars; this year is no exception.

The list goes on much longer, but the point is that we are "strong to the core" and committed to the whole person.

David Rathz
Headmaster

ALUMNI

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TAILGATE 2009

The STVM Alumni Association hosted the 5th Annual Alumni and Friends Tailgate Party on Friday, September 11, 2009. The evening was delightful with the wonderful fall weather and over 100 alumni friends and family gathered for good food and good conversation! Reunion teams from V49 and V59 enjoyed celebrating their event on campus. Thank you to all who attended. Hope to see you there next year!

Coming soon to the Photo Galley – photos from recent events! Be sure to visit our website www.stvm.com and turn to the Alumni Section's Photo Gallery to view all the wonderful pictures of our alumni and friends!

November prayer intention: Pray for those who are hungry in our world.. **Scripture Verse:** Psalm 145:15 "The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season." **Activity:** Generously donate to a canned food drive or volunteer at a soup kitchen.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of the Gospel, we are committed to educate the whole person to lead and to serve, enlightening the mind, developing the body, touching the heart and inspiring the soul.

NOTEWORTHY NOTES

MAHAR OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD AND IRISH CRUSADER AWARD

Reminder: The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2010 Mahar Outstanding Alumni Award and the 2010 Irish Crusader Award is December 31, 2009. Nomination forms can be found in the Awards and Scholarship part of the STVM Alumni website section. The Annual Mahar Banquet will be held on April 22, 2010 at Tangier Restaurant.

Please contact Alumni Director, Kathy Holaday, at 330-253-9113 x120 if you have any questions or require assistance.

	ALUMNI, SAVE THE DATE!
Jan. 11, 2010	Alumni Association General Meeting 7 p.m. STVM Conference Room
April 12, 2010	Annual Memorial Mass STVM Chapel 6:30, reception LRC
April 22, 2010	Mahar Awards Banquet/Dinner Tangier Restaurant
May 27, 2010	Senior Farewell Mass Alumni Pin Ceremony
June 14, 2010	Elections/Installation & Transition Meeting



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OCTOBER MARKET DAY!

Get ready for "November Dessert Bonus Days!"

The more we sell, the more funds we raise for the STVM Retreat Program!

*Dessert Bonus Days include: Delicious pies, cheesecakes & individual desserts
PLUS, when you purchase 3 desserts, you will receive a FREE 12 oz. bag of coffee!

Market Day order forms are available in the STVM Bookstore & the STVM Campus Ministry Office.

Log onto marketday.com and place your order today using STVM Account #8191!

Mark your calendars! Order desserts in November!!!
Just in time for the holidays!

Questions? Call Ken McDonald 330-253-9113 x118
or e-mail: kmcdonald@stvm.com

Ohio Direction Card, Cash, & Checks are accepted
at all Market Day pickups!

* The goal is to sell 500 desserts. If we reach this goal, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Alvord will shave their heads BALD!

A "TRIO" OF THANKS!

"Thank you, thank you, thank you" to our Showcase 2009 organizers: Special Events Coordinator Jennifer Ringer and her Showcase Co-chairs, Beth Piglia and Debbie Chiarappa! Thanks for a fabulous evening and thank you for giving so generously of your time and talents to make it possible! The entire STVM community salutes you!

SENIOR PHOTOS DUE

Senior photos for the yearbook are due by March 1, 2010. Carmen Studios is the official school photographer for these pictures. Pictures will only be accepted from Carmen Studios. Call 330.253.7781 for an appointment.

The 2009, yearbooks are in. Email bharmon@stvm.com or call 330.253.9113 and leave her a message for more information.

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2013

The STVM Alumni Council attended the Freshman Breakfast on August 30, 2009 and was pleased to meet so many of the VM13 families!

The STVM Alumni Council sponsored the annual "Freshman Night at the Football Game" on Friday, September 4, 2009 and issued 138 free game tickets and refreshment vouchers to the STVM Freshmen for their first home football game.

"PENNIES FOR POSTAGE" CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN!

Please start saving your pennies (and other change) to help defray the cost of Irish Items expenses (postage, paper, copying). A large container will be provided daily in the Student Center for the collection of your "loose change." Encourage your students to bring in your change (we welcome dollars, too!) and drop it in the container provided. Thank you! Info? Call 330.253.9113 and ask for Jerry or Bev.

COUNSELORS'

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SAT TEST DATES 2009-2010

<u>Test Date</u>		<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	
		<u>Regular</u>	<u>Late</u>
December 5, 2009	SAT I & II	Oct 31	Nov 13
January 23, 2010	SAT I & II	Dec 15	Dec 30
March 13, 2010	SAT I only	Feb 4	Feb 18
May 1, 2010	SAT I & II	March 25	April 8
June 5, 2010	SAT I & II	April 29	May 13

Registration and information at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT TEST DATES 2009-2010

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	
	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Late</u>
December 12, 2009	Nov 6	Nov 20
February 6, 2010	Jan 5	Jan 15
April 10, 2010	March 5	March 19
June 12, 2010	May 7	May 21

Registration materials available in the Guidance Office or apply online at www.actstudent.org/register.

MISSED THE COLLEGE FAIR? NO PROBLEM!

Parents who missed the college fair, please consider attending College Camp on November 21. College Camp is a training program for parents from 9 am to noon at Dix Dining Hall, Kennedy Center at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. This is a free program to educate parents about the college selection and financial aide processes. Please register at <http://www.hiram.edu/collegecamp>.

If you cannot attend this event at Hiram, keep in mind that Junior parents will be invited to our STVM Junior Parent night where you can receive this information as well. **Senior parents, you will have a College Financial Aid Night on January 19 in room 256 at 7:00 p.m.**

Seniors: Remember to start applying for scholarships! Look on the board outside room 240 or visit our website at http://www.stvm.com/studentlife/college_links.php Also, check out www.summitcountyscholarships.org/ and www.fastweb.com

Dear STVM Family,

Remember that your students are still trying to discover who they are during high school. If you don't know who you are, how do you know what you want to be in your career? It takes time and experience to know these things. I am trying everything I can to expose students to different careers and to get them thinking about their futures. It's ultimately up to them to discover their personal path to a career choice.

Keep in mind that about 80% of students change their major at least once when they are in college. It's like trying on a pair of shoes. If the first ones don't fit, you try on another pair. I personally changed my major three times! Even though most will change their minds, I am still trying to expose every student to careers that fit their God-given talents. Career exploration is one of my favorite areas in which to help students. If you have any suggestions, please contact me! Go Irish!

Emily Knapp
STVM School Counselor

CAREER AND COLLEGE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY YOUR STVM GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

- Annual College Fair with 100 college admissions reps
- Program where students can shadow nurses, radiologists, pharmacists, lab specialist, physical therapists in local hospitals.
- Video conference with The Cleveland Clinic for students interested in the field of nursing.
- Career Exploration Groups which run for 3 6-week sessions each year and provide our students the chance to take the Self Directed Search, find careers that fit their personality, and research colleges with their chosen major.
- Assemblies that teach Juniors and Seniors how to conduct themselves in an interview.
- Career Connections Day - Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to speak to 50 professionals from various backgrounds.
- Annual seminars called "Making College and Career Count" for Seniors and "Making your College Search Count" for Juniors. Juniors are encouraged to make college visits.
- Monitoring of Seniors during their fall religion classes to make sure they are on the right track. Students can explore their career interests with the Self Directed Search and discuss financial planning. Seniors receive a break-down of the things they should be doing month by month. This document is also available on the Guidance website along with the latest scholarship information.
- A Financial Aid information night for parents is scheduled every year.
- Junior Parent Night – this is a time for parents to learn what their child should be doing in order to be prepared for college. An instruction book for parents of college-bound students is mailed home.
- Sophomores and Juniors discuss the results of their PLAN and PSAT tests and how to utilize them. Students are encouraged to take the ACT Preparation class.
- The college counselors call Juniors into their office to go over the college search process and advise students on the ACT and SAT. They recommend students take the ACT more than once. If the student is thinking of a highly selective school, they MUST take every portion of the SAT or ACT. Counselors also prepare students to apply for scholarships.
- College representatives visit students during lunch periods throughout the fall and winter.
- Students are called into the college counseling office during the fall of their senior year to make sure they have a plan for after graduation. Letters are sent home to parents if their student does not submit a college application by January. Seniors are made aware of any specific scholarships for which they may be eligible.

DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!

"Beacon's Best" Annual Contest rates Irish in Best High School Band category

St. Vincent - St. Mary High School Fighting Irish Marching Band was among the top ten high school finalists as voted by the readers of Ohio.com and the Akron Beacon Journal in a recent contest. *Play it loud! Play it proud! Go, Irish!*

2009 STVM Music Boosters Fruit & Cheesecake Sale

Item #	Lbs.	Variety	#/box	Price	Amt. Ordered	TOTAL
1	38-40	Lg box FI Navel Oranges	40-80	\$30.50		
2	18-20	Sm box FI Navel Oranges	20-40	\$17.50		
3	38-40	Lg box Juice Oranges	80-120	\$27.00		
4	18-20	Sm box Juice Oranges	40-60	\$15.50		
5	38-40	Lg box Tangelos	80-120	\$27.00		
6	18-20	Sm box Tangelos	40-60	\$15.50		
7	38-40	Lg box Red Grapefruit	36-48	\$27.00		
8	18-20	Sm box Red Grapefruit	18-24	\$15.50		
9	22-24	2-Way Mix (12-15 Navels, 12-15 Grapefruit)	24-30	\$23.50		
10	10	10 lb bag Navel Oranges	12-14	\$12.50		
11	10	10 lb bag Grapefruit	8-10	\$12.50		
84	20	Lg Bx Anjou Pears	64-100	\$50.00		
85	20	Lg Bx Red Del Apples	64-100	\$46.67		
18	12	Golden Pineapples (3 per case)	3	\$18.50		
23	22-24	Trio Box 10-12 Navels, 12-14 Apples, 8-10 Pears	30-32	\$33.50		
37	18-20	Sm Bx Sunburst Tangerines	40-60	\$21.70		
48	5	Clementines (5 lb bag)	24-28	\$12.00		
74	14-16	Fruit Sampler (Navels, Apples, Pears, Tangerines)	16	\$24.50		
75	14-16	Apple Sampler (Red, Gld, Granny, Gala)	16	\$25.00		
76	14-16	Orange Sampler	12	\$23.50		
78	14-16	Apple/Pear Sampler	16	\$25.00		
79	12	Navel/Grapefruit Sampler	16	\$17.00		
84	20	Anjou Pears	20-22	\$23.50		
85	20	Wash State Red Apples	20-22	\$22.00		
100	20 oz	Plain Cheesecake	1	\$10.50		
102	20 oz	Cookies & Cream Cheesecake	1	\$10.50		
103	20 oz	Cherry Cheesecake	1	\$10.50		
104	20 oz	Chocolate Swirl Cheesecake	1	\$10.50		
108	2 lbs	Black Forest Cheesecake	1	\$16.00		

**Deadline to order is
November 11.**

**Order Pick-up is
December 2.**

Totals _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: "STVM Music Boosters" Questions? Call Deb Hoffman @ 330.608-8631 Mail check and order form to: STVM, ATTN: Fruit Sale, 15 N Maple St, Akron, OH 44303



St. Vincent - St. Mary High School
15 North Maple Street
Akron, Ohio 44303

Non-Profit Organization
 US.POSTAGE
 PAID
 Akron, Ohio
 Permit Number 21

**Report Card Pick-Up
 Parent/Teacher Conferences
 3:15 to 5 p.m. & 6 to 8 p.m.
 Tues., Nov. 24**

NOVEMBER



What's happening....

- 02 PLAN for Soph & Jrs - NO CLASSES FRESH & SRS
- 04 Band Banquet 6:30 p.m.
- 05 Open House 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- 07 Scholarship/Placement Test for 8th Graders
- 09 National French Week activities
 EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30 p.m.(Faculty In-Service)
 Alumni Council 7 p.m.
- 11 Kairos 8 begins
- 12 Fall Sports Awards Banquet 6 p.m.
- 13 Kairos 8 closing 5 p.m.
- 14 Market Day Pick-up 11 a.m. - noon
- 16 Sophomore Ring Ceremony 7:30 p.m.
- 17 SEC Meeting 7 p.m.
- 18 Sophomore Retreat
- 19 "It Was a Dark & Stormy Night" 7:30 p.m.
- 20 "It Was a Dark & Stormy Night" 7:30 p.m.
- 21 "It Was a Dark & Stormy Night" 7:30 p.m.
- 22 "It Was a Dark & Stormy Night" 1:30 p.m.
- 23 NHS Induction 7 p.m.
- 24 **Report Card Pick Up/ Parent-Teacher
 Conferences, 3:15 - 5 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m.**
- 25 NO CLASSES
- 26 Thanksgiving - NO CLASSES
- 27 NO CLASSES

BOOKSTORE NEWS

We are currently receiving new Winter Spirit Wear for all our Irish Christmas shoppers. Come in soon for the best selection and to guarantee the perfect fit. We have new designs in hoodies, zip jackets, long and short sleeve tees. We have reordered two different colors and styles of sweatpants, an assortment of flannel pajama pants, and a variety of blankets in assorted colors and designs.

New this year is a sure-to-be-popular Fighting Irish yoga pant! We will also wrap your Christmas gifts in decorative gift bags with ribbon and bows! Please come visit us soon. If you can't get here during the scheduled Bookstore hours, I will be happy to make arrangements to open at your convenience.

Call the Bookstore Lady, Nancy Bennett, at 330-996-0002 or email her at nbennett@stvm.com

"NEW ORLEANS JAZZ" ROCKED!

Showcase 2009 was a great success! The Tangier restaurant did a fabulous job with delicious food and our own STVM students served the dinners, valet parked cars, sold raffle items and did so much more! Co-Chairs, Debbie Chiarappa and Beth Piglia, chose the décor, the menu, and the centerpieces and worked tirelessly to raise funds for our school through advertising, auction items and other large donations. Underwriting and advertising were at an all-time high for Showcase, thanks to the hard work of these ladies! As always, our loyal volunteers worked many long and hard hours before, during, and after Showcase. We absolutely could not have done it without their efforts.

The 25th anniversary of Showcase will be celebrated on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School as we bring Showcase back to our home. We will transform our student center and gymnasium into a "Sterling Silver - Diamond Studded" palace! Thank you to all of our supporters, donors, and friends of Showcase!