



THE COUGAR



Message from Mrs. Gardiner

Dear St. Jude Families,

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the month of August - how time flies when you are having fun! For those families new to St. Jude, I want you to know your child is attending one of the top Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. To our returning families, thank you for your dedication to making St. Jude the best! This year promises to be a year filled with wonderful opportunities for all our students as we strive to educate minds, evangelize hearts, encourage talent, and embrace the future.

We are happy to report our standardized test scores ranked St. Jude School in the top 15% of schools in the nation. GO COUGARS! Throughout the month of September, teachers will be analyzing the Terra Nova results and data to make informed instructional decisions for their students.

There are a few items to bring to your attention.

General Illness: Students who have flu like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, sore throat, or any other general illness may not return to school until they have been symptom and **fever free (without medicine) for at least 24 hours**. If a student checks out because he/she is not feeling well, he/she must have a note from the physician as to when the student may return.

COVID: There are cases of COVID in Baton Rouge. If a student tests positive for COVID he/she will need to remain home for 5 days. He/she may return to school when he/she is symptom free after 5 days.

Absentee Assignments: Below is a link to a tutorial video on how to access your child's assignments when they are absent: <https://youtu.be/NneOYnXTFkA>

Labor Day: Monday, September 4th school will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Child Protected Volunteers: All volunteers, current and those wishing to become a volunteer are required to complete on-line training. Click <https://safeandsacred-diobr.org> for instructions on completing the training. By selecting St. Jude School as your primary institute, your certificate will be emailed directly to Lori Layman, Child Protection Coordinator.

As we embark on the 2023-2024 school year, the faculty at St. Jude pledge to you, our students, and parents, that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work in our classrooms, combined with special events and an array of extracurricular clubs, athletic teams and activities. We extend a special yearlong invitation to our families to join us at all school activities and events whenever possible and look forward to a positive and productive year together.

Again, here's to an AWESOME new school year as we work together to fill St. Jude's mission of providing a Catholic family environment, dedicated to the formation of each student's relationship with Christ through faith, academics, and excellence.

One in Christ,

Michelle Gardiner, M.Ed.

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School News



Important Dates

Wednesday, August 30: 4th-8th Grade Band Instrument Night at 6pm

Friday, September 1: Spirit Shirts with Uniform Bottoms Dress Day

Monday, September 4: Labor Day—No School

Friday, September 8: Maddie's Footprints Fundraiser— bring \$1 or more to wear Pink or Blue shirts with uniform bottoms and accessories

Thursday, September 14: Book Fair Kickoff—dress up as your favorite storybook character!

Saturday, September 16: St. Jude Parish Ministry Dinner—after the 4:00pm Vigil Mass in the St. Jude Activity Center. Register [here](#)

Wednesday, October 18: Parent/Teacher Conference Day for **PK through 2nd grade only**

Come Lord Jesus Volunteers

St. Jude School needs volunteers to serve as small group leaders for the weekly Come Lord Jesus program with 8th graders. This involves 20 Thursdays for about an hour. The program will begin in October and end in April. Discussion guides and activities are provided. If interested, please email Mrs. Sheri Allen at sallen@stjudebr.org.

St. Jude School Calendar—Located in FACTS

We have moved our school calendar from the school website to FACTS. This allows us to add more details for you to access in a secured location.

Follow Us on Social Media!

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [St. Jude BR Parents page](#)

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School Fundraisers

This year, we are focusing our school fundraisers to follow the [Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching for Children](#). When we have fundraisers and do things for the community, students should understand how it relates to their Catholic faith. It's important for our students to understand "why" over the reward they get for donating or helping others.

Our first school fundraiser is for **Maddie's Footprints**, which follows the social teachings of "God made us to be part of communities, families and countries, so all people can share and help each other;" and "God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life."



maddie's
footprints

Friday, September 8

Please bring \$1 or more to wear a pink or blue shirt with uniform bottoms and support Maddie's Footprints!

The mission of Maddie's Footprints is to provide emotional and financial support to families that have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss in the Greater Baton Rouge Area

Our goal is to raise \$2500 so that St. Jude students can become Water Station Sponsors at the Maddie's Footprints Race on October 28!

www.maddiesfootprints.org



Announcements



JOIN THE BAND!

Come learn more about joining our
Beginner and Advanced Bands!
Meeting starts at 6:00pm in the Cafeteria
Music and Arts will be in attendance for
instrumental rental and fitting

**AUGUST
30**

4th through 8th grade students: There will be a meeting for those students wanting to learn more about our Beginner and Advanced bands on **Monday, August 28th** at 8:00 a.m. **Parents,** there will be an instrument meeting in the Cafeteria on **Wednesday, August 30th**

ST. JUDE SCHOOL IS FULL OF CHARACTERS!

*Dress up like your favorite
storybook character on
September 14!*



St. Jude School Book Fair kicks off on **Thursday, September 14th!** Let's celebrate the day by dressing up as your favorite storybook character at school. Our official Kick Off event will take place after school from 4:00-7:30pm. More information about this event will be coming soon!

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Home and School

LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS: The St. Jude School Cafeteria depends on volunteers to help serve lunch to our students. Cafeteria duty will begin the day after Labor Day (September 5th). There are still a few slots available for September. You can sign up for a 1/2 shift or full shift, using the sign-up genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050944ada628a4f94-lunchroom>.

FUN RUN: The Fun Run committee would like to thank all of our generous corporate sponsors! Each corporate donation plays an integral part in the Fun Run each year from T-shirts for each child to day of event activities, to name a few! Please be on the look out for a list of all of our corporate donors on the Facebook page and throughout the Fun Run fundraising time! Without them, this event would not be achievable! **Fun Run will kick off on September 15.** All pertinent information will be provided in a packet that will be sent home on the 15th. If there are any additional questions, however, please feel free to reach out to Rachael Lanian at stjudebrfunrun@gmail.com.

Athletics

CROSS COUNTRY: The cross country team will compete in a practice meet this Saturday morning in preparation for the St. Jean Vianney meet on September 2nd. The runners have trained hard for 3 months and are excited to begin the season. We would like to thank Prentiss Wilks with United Community Bank for sponsoring the team again this year!

5th/6th FOOTBALL: The 5th and 6th grade boys football team has been working hard preparing for our opening game on September 17th at St John in Plaquemine. Come out and support the Cougars!

BOOSTER CLUB: The 2023 St. Jude Booster Club golf classic is quickly approaching! The tournament will be held on Monday September 25th at Santa Maria. There are still a few sponsorships and team registration spots available. For more information and to sign up online, please visit: [Booster Club | St Jude](#)

INTRAMURAL SOCCER: Reminder that if you have not already signed your child up for intramural soccer and would like to, the form is due this Thursday! [Sign-Up Link](#) and [Link to pay online](#)



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Open House

We had a wonderful showing at our SJS Open House on August 13! Thank you to all of our parent-run organizations for working the Cougar Pride Fair and to our speakers.

