

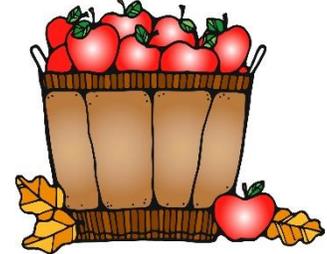
Welcome to the 2019-2020 Academic Year!

Our school officially opens for its fifteenth year as an Academy on **Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:45AM**. The faculty and staff have been diligently preparing classrooms and creating lesson plans to welcome students back into a learning environment that, for many, has become a proud second home. Undoubtedly, it is the people who make a school special; St. Peter Academy is very fortunate to have a dedicated and loving professional team who invests in our children every day to provide the very best in private educational experiences.

Undoubtedly, scholastic achievement cannot be limited to the faculty or staff. Our success as educators, parents, and administrators is found when we share a collaborative understanding on how we can best impact learners for the 21st century. From the courageous families who rallied to keep St. Peter School from closing in 2004, to the present community who keeps St. Peter Academy thriving in 2019, the success of our institution has relied solely on the collective agreement that we are all “Partners in Education”. Shared respect and open communication are essential elements in maintaining this important relationship that directly benefits our children. To ensure continued collaboration and support, I will be issuing a **Monthly P.I.E. (Partners in Education) Memo** and a “**Piece of the Pie**” sent out on a weekly basis and as deemed necessary to highlight the various initiatives, on-going efforts, and important reminders that further support collaboration as we embark on yet another academic year together.

Happy September!


Mr. Frank Galligan
Principal



Daily Arrival

The safety of all of our children is the primary concern for our community. It is essential that we work together (parents, children, and school professionals) to ensure the safe and secure arrival/dismissal from our Academy.

Supervision begins at 7:30AM in the school yard (Community Room during cold or inclement weather); our Toddler through Pre-Kindergarten Program begins at 7:30 AM in the building. *There is no supervision before these times.*

We begin each day in grades K-6 promptly at 7:45AM and in Pre-K at 8AM with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and special school announcements. We want all of our students to start the day orderly together so ***we look forward to all learners being present by the designated times.*** Please be aware that our school utilizes a “rolling drop-off” system for school arrival (addressed on the next page).

Afternoon Dismissal

To ensure adequate program time, ***our school day ends promptly at 2:55PM.*** Students will be escorted out of the school by their teachers who will wait with them until their rides arrive. Families/drivers are asked to park and approach the building to retrieve their respective students. During inclement weather, students will wait inside and be called upon as staff monitor those arriving. ***Any student who remains beyond 3:10PM will be automatically placed into our extended-day program and families are billed accordingly for the hourly rate.***





Rolling Drop-Off

Students in grades K-6 should arrive to school via a rolling drop-off, in which they have all materials readily available with them in the car; parents/drivers pull up to the school by way of E Street, where they will be greeted by the Principal and/or a member of the Academy staff. Students should quickly leave the vehicle with their belongings and proceed to their designated locations. Students in our Toddler and Early Childhood program should be escorted in by parents.

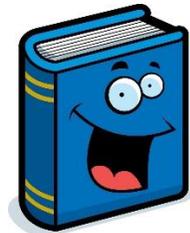
Please do not attempt to enter the school by way of double-parking. Aside from being disrespectful to our neighbors leaving for work, it poses a serious safety concern for our school and the surrounding community. Parents who must enter the building for any reason are kindly asked to provide themselves with enough time to park legally and safely.

Extended Day Offerings and Important Program Changes

Supervised extended day takes place *each school day (unless otherwise noted on the school calendar) from 2:55 – 6PM*. Any child who is present after 3:10PM is automatically placed into the extended day program for safety reasons. The cost of this service is \$10 per hour and it is billed weekly via email. Several professional staff members supervise students on campus in the community room and playground.



New in 2019-2020 – *all parents or drivers are asked to enter through the front door of the school during extended care to be identified*; this is to ensure safety and organization. Upon identification, the child will then be called or escorted to the office via school radio with their belongings. At no time should parents retrieve students from the school yard or Community Room without being checked-in at the office.



School Handbook

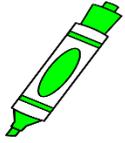
The new administration of St. Peter Academy is currently collaborating with the faculty and staff of our school to revise and re-issue our Family Handbook to enhance the institutional experience, while ensuring equity for all. The new handbook is slated to be provided to the community in mid-September. **Until then, continued enrollment indicates an agreement by our students and families to abide by the policies and procedures of our school as laid out in this P.I.E. Memo, our Code of Community, any “Piece of the P.I.E.” supplements, and those clearly communicated by the Principal or classroom teacher until the handbook is issued.** Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we collectively work to ensure clear, concise, and equitable expectations for all in our Academy.

New Policy -- Contacting Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff may only communicate with families *in their official capacity as employees* of St. Peter Academy through school-issued modes: including, and strictly limited to, email and school telephones. **At no time should parents ask for, obtain, or contact teachers through their personal cell phone numbers, social media accounts, or email addresses to discuss school business.** This is to protect the privacy and safety of our staff and to ensure that necessary, professional boundaries are maintained.



Our school values open-door policies. Therefore, all school professionals are expected to respond to parent emails or phone inquiries promptly, usually within 24 hours on days that school is in session. Appointments can also always be made at a mutually convenient time on school days. If you have obtained any personal contact information in the past, we ask that you kindly discard it at this time. Thank you for your understanding and support of this important new policy.



Label Personal Items

Please put your child's name on anything that has an opportunity to be left behind. Sunscreen, lunch bags, clothing, and personal items are often left around the school building and are easily returned to a student if the item has been labeled with the child's name.

Responsibility

Even the most responsible child may find it difficult to care for expensive items brought into a busy and dynamic school environment. Please know that a child and his/her family are personally responsible for any item brought into our school. *In any school, independent, private, or otherwise, children will act their age.* Please be cautious if you allow children to bring expensive clothing, personal items, or technology to school (Any student cell phones are to be turned off and kept in the child's backpack). **Please know that St. Peter Academy will not assume liability for any individual's personal toys, manipulatives, electronic devices, or items.**



Exciting New Changes - Academy Leadership Team!

Immediately upon arrival on August 19th, Mr. Galligan began meeting with faculty, staff, and community members on an individual basis. After many conversations, careful reflection, and a great concern for the mission and current needs of our school community, he is very happy to announce the strategic restructuring of our school organizational design and the establishment of an Academy-wide leadership team. This exceptional team of educators will support him in his role as school principal while enhancing the experience of our students and families through a more detail-oriented leadership approach. We are confident that our Academy can only grow and continue to flourish with the time and talents of these very respected individuals. Additional information about these roles will follow in future newsletters!

Educational Learning Community Team

These new roles are focused on providing increased support to the faculty and their related instructional programs through continuous collaboration with the Principal.

Mrs. Maria Blasi, *Division Director*, Lower Academy (Toddler – Grade K2)

Mrs. Laura Heseck, *Division Director*, Upper Academy (Grades 1 – 6)

Academy Life Team

These new roles are focused on providing increased support to enhance the experience of students and families through continuous collaboration with the Principal.

Ms. Ashley Crush, *Operations Coordinator of Specialized Programs*

Mr. Christian Hennessey, *Coordinator of Student Activities*

Mr. Jason Hubert, *Operations Coordinator of Student and Family Engagement*

Starting Tuesday, September 3rd –

Cultural Arts & Sciences Education (C.A.S.E.) Classes!

The 2019-2020 C.A.S.E. classes include **Physical Education, Music, Visual Arts, and Foreign Language** (Spanish instruction). In the past, these have been often referred to as “Specials”; however, this title sends an implication that such courses are a privilege. As an Academy that strives to educate “the whole child” through our mission, we value these courses and consider them *necessities*. Subsequently, it is very important to us that we begin them on the first day of school for all students and with how we regard or title them moving forward.



Welcome Ms. Brigid Grogin!

Our new **Visual Arts teacher**, Ms. Grogin, comes to us from the Umana Academy of Boston, with experience as an intermediate drama director, visual arts teacher, and Spanish teacher in several private schools. She is a bilingual educator, holding a MA state license in education, with degrees from St. Joseph and Tufts University. We are confident that our students and parents will appreciate her warm, dedicated approach to providing a dynamic, hands-on experience for kids.



New structure and premise - 2019-2020 Professional Days & Early Releases:

Discussions with faculty members, particularly those within our Toddler Program, indicated a significant desire to partake in the professional development offerings that have always been reserved for Elementary grade-level faculty in the past. The need to involve our entire staff on essential trainings or procedure briefings warranted a full closure of our Academy, too.

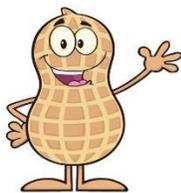
The first, upcoming **Professional Development Day on Friday, October 11th** will feature a seminar and training offered by Paratus Security. Faculty and Staff will gain valuable insight and undertake vital lockdown and evacuation training that will enhance the safety and security of our children. The day will also include important team-building and professional collaboration across all grade-levels; two features that have been largely absent in the past and are critical in moving our institution forward. The building will also be having lighting/electrical work done in the absence of our children. ***Due to the closure of school for a full day in October and a full day in February, we have decreased the number of early-release days from ten (10) to four (4) this year in order to maximize instructional time and further support the busy work schedules of our parents.***

Fire, Lockdown, and Emergency Drills

To ensure safety, and in accord with state mandates, our school will be running ***an announced Fire Drill to students, faculty, and staff within the first week of classes.***

Thereafter, Fire Drills will be un-announced by the Principal on a monthly basis, with appropriate steps taken to promote sensitivity and ensure comfort for our toddlers and students with sensory issues. The unannounced factor is critical for identifying measures that need to be taken or rectified in the event of an actual fire emergency within our Academy.

Lockdown and off-site evacuation drills will be conducted under state requirements in a sensitive, age-appropriate manner following protocols received during our school-wide Professional Development Day in October. There is no phone communication or parent notification of any drill in progress; families will be notified in the event of an actual emergency.



Nut-Free School

Due to the high number of nut allergies, to protect and ensure the safety of our students, St. Peter Academy is designated as a “Peanut/Tree Nut Free” Community. Parents are asked to not send any nut-based food items to school that could pose a detriment to their child’s friends. Thank you!

Coffee with the Principal

After they drop off students, parents are invited to park their cars and stop into the school for informal conversation with the Principal and other parents on **Wednesday, September 4th from 7:45 – 9AM** (following our morning school assembly). Coffee and pastry will be available. Can’t make it this time? The next “Coffee with the Principal” is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd! *Mr. Galligan looks forward to meeting you!*





Middle and High School Fair

Mark your calendars, 6th graders! There will be a middle and high school fair on **Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 12pm-2pm** at Boston College High School. More than 50 schools from all over New England will be sending representatives eager to meet students and families of all backgrounds.

Curriculum Night and “Meet the Teachers”

Parents are invited to visit their child’s classroom and learn more about the exciting plans in store on **Wednesday evening, September 11, 2019 at 6PM**. Meet our faculty, learn about classroom instructional practices, and gain insight into a great year ahead!

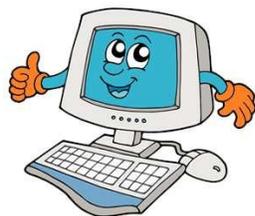


Back to School BBQ!

Please join us on **Friday, September 13th at 5PM** in the school yard for a traditional BBQ spread as we celebrate starting the 2019-2020 academic year!

South Boston Street Festival – St. Peter Academy Table

Parents and friends are invited to join us at the South Boston Street Festival on **Saturday, September 14th** as we proudly represent our school community. Stop by and help us greet prospective families or community members while enjoying the sights and sounds of the festivities! *We’ll see you there!*



School Website and Communication Upgrade

Mr. Galligan is currently working with an outside consulting firm to completely re-design our school website and communication platform. Information will continue to be posted to the present website as much as, and whenever, possible. ***However, in order to have the most up-to-date school information until then, parents are encouraged to check their email regularly, since this is the primary mode of communication for the school.***

Home-School Association Meeting

Are you looking to give back to your child’s school? Are you interested in having a say in the happenings at St. Peter Academy? Please join us for the Home-School Association’s first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 18th at 6PM in the Community Room. *We can’t do it without you!*



Looking ahead as a community...

Please note the following dates:

September 3-6: Assessment Test Week

(Please ensure your child is rested and has had a good breakfast!)

September 9: School Board Meeting, 5PM

September 24: School Picture Day: **Students in Full Dress Uniform**

September 25: Grades 3-6 Field Trip to the Commonwealth Museum

September 27: Toddler – Grade 2 Apple Picking Field Trip