

News & Notes *from* Saint Raphael Academy

A bi-weekly update of campus
events and happenings.



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"You don't choose your family. They are
God's gift to you, as you are to them."

--Desmond Tutu

News and Notices

Important COVID Information

- Every student, faculty and staff should complete the health assessment on MyMedBot app daily prior to coming to school or starting classes remotely.
- Do not come to school if you are feeling sick.
- Face masks must be worn at all times while on campus, except while eating lunch.
- Additional resources can be found on our SRA [Resources](#) page.

2020 Yearbooks

Some extra copies are available for purchase. Cost is \$75. Make checks payable to SRA, and include student's name on check.

School Picture Make-up Day Dec. 3, 8-9:15 am

Virtual-only students are invited to call Mare Studios (401-438-1555) to schedule an appointment at their East Providence location.

Seniors -- it's not too late to have your senior picture done! Call Mare Studios to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to be included in the yearbook.

News and Notices



As we enter the holiday season, it is important to keep in mind those who are less fortunate. There are people in our community who are struggling to make ends meet, let alone make the miracle of Thanksgiving a reality for their family. Your generosity with our food drives is always much appreciated!

Food Drive for Pawtucket Soup Kitchen

Non-perishable items may be dropped off until
November 22

Drop off locations:

Saint Teresa's Church, 358 Newport Ave, Pawtucket
(Side door, signs will be present to guide people;
drop-off hours correspond with church hours)

Every Body's Nutrition, 509 Armistice Blvd., Pawtucket

Sunday 9am-12pm
Monday 8am-2pm
Tuesday 8am - 2pm
Closed Wednesday
Thursday 8am - 2pm
Friday 8am - 2pm
Saturday 9am - 12pm

SRA Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

We can help by providing a Thanksgiving basket for them. Each class is asked to bring in one of the following items (sign-up sheets are provided through Theology classes):

FRESHMEN are asked to bring in bags of carrots, cans of corn, cans of cranberry, or boxes of cake mix

SOPHOMORES: bags of potatoes, cans of peas, hot chocolate mix, or packages of napkins

JUNIORS: boxes of stuffing, cans of soup, jars of jelly, or bags of sugar

SENIORS: bags of onions, bags of apples, jars of gravy, or boxes of rice

News and Notices

Spread the Word!
Virtual Admissions Sessions for
the Class of 2025
More Dates and Times!

Our November Virtual Admissions Events are coming up! Do you know someone who would be a perfect fit at Saints? Share this link with friends so they can register!

<https://www.saintrays.org/admissions/visiting-sra/>

- **Virtual Student Panel, Tuesday, November 10, 7 pm**
- **Virtual Coffee with the Administration, Thursday, November 19, 7 pm**

Also, Saints will be hosting the High School Entrance Test on **December 5 and 12 at 8 am.**

Purple and Gold Zone

School Store Hours for 2020-2021

Mon. - Fri., 7 am - 8 am

(email schoolstore@saintrays.org or call 401-723-8100 x130 for an appointment)

We encourage customers to be safe and order online!
Orders will be shipped within 10 days.

Orders can be placed online through the store Square site and either shipped or picked up at the store.

To make shopping safer and stress free - Saints is offering FREE shipping for orders over \$50! Take advantage - do your Christmas shopping now for your Saint!

Email schoolstore@saintrays.org to be put on their mailing list!



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER Calendar

8	9	10 Noon dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-6 pm	11 Veterans Day (no classes)	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 <i>Dress Down Day</i>	19 Virtual Coffee with the Administration 7 pm	20	21
22	23	24 Thanksgiving Mass 1 pm	25	26 Thanksgiving Break	27 Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30	1	2	3 Picture Retakes, 8 am	4	5 High School Entrance Test 8 am-1 pm

Guidance News

Job opportunities

Cardis is hiring students (minimum age of 15 is allowed, with time restrictions, etc.) to work part-time at our South Attleboro location. Applicants must be able to speak English and Spanish. Starting pay is \$14 per hour.

Work consists of assisting Spanish-speaking customers on our showroom floors to understand signage, translating and using store computers to key orders for customers to purchase.

All who are interested should apply at cardis.com/careers.

Hannah's Color Center in Pawtucket is looking for counter help. Call 725-6096 if interested.

Jeanne Jugan Residence, a small Catholic Continuing Care facility on Main Street in Pawtucket run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, is looking for a receptionist. The hours are Mondays 4pm-9pm and every other weekend, 8-3pm. There may be some holidays. Contact HR manager Lisa O'Donnell at 723-4314.

Virtual College Fairs and Open Houses

New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) Fall Virtual College Fairs:

Sunday, November 15, 2020 (1-3 pm)

[Registration for the NEACAC Virtual Fall College Fairs is now open!](#)

Springfield College

Sunday, November 1; access by visiting springfield.edu/virtualopenhouse. Pre-registration not required.

Manhattan College

Offering information sessions and tours in flexible formats. [Visit their website](#) for details.

University of Maine

Virtual Open Houses by major, **beginning on Oct. 26.** [Visit their website](#) for details.

Wheaton College

Multiple virtual events including open houses and online info sessions. [Visit their website](#) for details.

Rutgers University

Virtual Open House

Wednesday, November 18, 6 am- 8 pm

Virtual College Fairs and Open Houses

University of Rhode Island

College of Pharmacy Virtual High School Day

Friday,, November 20, 10-12 pm

[Register here](#)

Manhattan College

Fall Open House, **Sunday, November 15**, 1-3 pm

[Register here](#)

John Jay College

Virtual Open House - Frames of Justice evenings

November 2 -19

[Register here](#)

Lesley University

Undergraduate Academic Showcases and Virtual Student Tours

[More information](#)

Assumption University

* Application deadlines for Early Decision and Early Action have been extended to November 15. A fee waiver is available; please use code Extension2020 when you submit your application.

Common App Essay Prompts 2020-2021

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

College Application Essay Tips

During the 2019-2020 application year, the most popular topic of choice was: “Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.” (24.1%). The next most popular topics were: “Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.” (23.7%), followed by “The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?” (21.1%). --www.commonapp.org

Things to DO:

- Narrow your focus and keep it personal
- Prove a single point or thesis
- Try having someone read just the introduction to see what they think the rest of your essay is about
- Prove your point with specific information. Use vivid and specific facts, events, quotations, and reasons
- Proofread, proofread, proofread!
- Don't state a point, develop it
- If writing a personal narrative, tell your story - not your biography

Things to AVOID:

- Don't tell the reader things they already know
- They know their school is great, tell them something new that only you can say
- Don't write a resume. Admissions can find a list of your accomplishments elsewhere; leave them out
- Don't use 50 words when five will do
- Typos and errors can be interpreted as careless or just bad writing

How to apply for federal financial aid (college)

*** The FAFSA application for the 2021-2022 academic year is now open!**

FAFSA

1. You will first need an ID. (An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.)
2. Go to www.fafsa.gov and click “FSA ID” at the very top of the page. This will open a new window with www.studentaid.ed.gov
3. Click “[create an FSA ID Now.](#)” This will open a window where you can begin to create an account and ID to be used on your FAFSA form.
4. Go back to www.fafsa.gov and click “Start a New FAFSA”
5. You will need the tax return information for the previous two years—You will have access to the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to assist with this.

CSS Profile - College Board

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

WHAT is the CSS Profile? The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid. (For federal aid you must complete the FAFSA, available Oct. 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.) Some colleges may require the CSS Profile from both biological/adoptive parents in cases of divorce or separation.

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/pdf/css-profile-student-guide.pdf>

Scholarships

(Logos on this page are active links.)



RaiseMe



Cappex



Newly Posted in Bold

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority is offering a Knowledge for College Scholarship worth \$2,000 for Rhode Island students. For more information please visit: <https://blog.risla.com/introducing-rislas-knowledge-for-college-scholarships>

Stonehill College—All graduates from Diocese of Providence high schools will receive a minimum of a \$10,000 (up to \$25,000) merit scholarship. No separate application is necessary.

Regis College(Mass) Presidential Catholic Schools Scholarship (full-tuition, 4-year scholarship):
<https://www.regiscollege.edu/admission/undergraduate-admission/cost-and-financial-aid/scholarships> Students must be nominated by their school; see Mrs. Murphy for details. **Deadline: January 1, 2021.**

Scholarships

University of Virginia -- Jefferson Scholars Foundation awards full tuition, fees, and a living stipend for four years: <https://www.jeffersonscholars.org/> Students must be nominated by their school (**deadline Dec. 1**); if you are interested in attending UVA and you think the scholarship might be a good fit, let the Guidance Department know as soon as possible.

Salve Regina University -- RI resident students are guaranteed a minimum \$10,000 scholarship if they are admitted to Salve Regina. No separate application is necessary.

OppU Achievers Scholarship - Students submit a short response to the question "What makes you an achiever?" Must be High school seniors, college students, graduate students; cumulative GPA of at least 3.0/4.0; U.S. citizen or resident; Award is \$2,500. **Deadlines: December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30**

Additional Sites Providing Scholarship Information:

www.RIScholarships.org
www.finaid.org/state
www.cityyear.org

www.americorps.gov
www.scholarshipamerica.org

www.jobcorps.gov
www.risla/college-planning/scholarships

Guidance News

Mrs. Malaina Murphy

Guidance Director
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401-723-8100 X147

Ms. Rhiannon Palmieri

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401-723-8100 X121

Mrs. Leslie Walbridge

Guidance Counselor
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401-723-8100 X123

Sister Regina Brennan, RSM

Guidance Counselor
rbrennan@saintrays.org
401-723-8100 X119

Mrs. Ernestina (Tina) Ball

Administrative Assistant to Guidance
eball@saintrays.org
401-723-8100 X122

Saints is preparing to hold virtual parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, November 10, from 4-6 pm. More information will be forthcoming about how to participate.

If you notice your child struggling with classes, please reach out and contact their guidance counselor (this is noted on their class schedule).