



Shamrock News

The yearly St. Patrick School Calendar is [here](#).

12/13/24

Please Dress for the Weather: Cold weather is upon us and we require DK-5 grade students to go outside for recess when it is above 0°. Please wear boots, winter coats, hats, gloves, tights, and snowpants.

DK-5 Christmas Program: The Christmas program has been re-scheduled for Monday, December 16 at 1 pm and 6:30 pm. **Students should dress in Christmas dressy outfits/Sunday best, no jeans.**

High School Yearbooks: Order your high school yearbook today! For online orders: inter-state.com/order, use code: 91544C or send cash or a check made out to St. Patrick School. Students can give these orders to Mrs. Rockey. Order before January 1st - \$25. After January 1st - \$30.

Holiday Sale Alert! Looking for the perfect stocking stuffer or gift? Out of Dress Code Slips are a HUGE hit for both students and school staff! Don't miss out on this exciting SALE! Click on this link to order your Out of Dress Code Slips \$10 each. <https://one.bidpal.net/shamrockauction2025/welcome> Select Menu and then Out of Dress Code Slips. Please limit 10 per student. Orders will be ready for pick up from the main office the week of December 16th. The last day to order will be Sunday, December 15th. If you have not picked up your order by December 19th, the order will be sent home with your child on December 20th.

Reconciliation: The season of Advent (which begins Sunday, December 1st) is a beautiful time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. Fr. Mike has added times to the calendar for this amazing sacrament of healing! [Here](#) is a resource from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the how-to of receiving the sacrament! Confession times during Advent are:

Tuesdays: 5 - 5:45 pm and Saturdays: 10 - 11 am and 3 - 3:45 pm

GO GREEN! GO WHITE!

Friday, December 20 - Friday, January 3

Christmas Break

December 20 = 1/2 day, all grades dismiss after 10:30a Mass

No Preschool, no pm childcare, no pm bus

School resumes on January 6

Daycare closed December 24 - January 1

Friday, January 17

No afternoon buses - PPS 1/2 day

Monday, January 20, 2024

No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Toys for Tots: The National Honor Society would like to give a special thank you to all who donated to our Toys for Tots drive! We collected a total of 337 toys, which is amazing! Thank you for being the hands of Christ to the kids in need in our community. The results of our friendly school competition are as follows:

4th Place - 33 toys - Middle School

3rd Place - 94 toys - High School

2nd Place - 95 toys - Preschool-2nd grades

1st Place - 115 toys - 3rd-5th grades

3rd-5th grades, your out of dress code day will be after Christmas break on a date to be announced. Congratulations and thank you again on behalf of the NHS and all the children who will receive presents this Christmas because of your generosity.



Calendar of Events



- 12/13 JV & Var. Boys BB @ Fowler 5:30p
- 12/14 6th Boys BB CYAC Tournament vs. St. Thomas @ St. Casimir 12p
- 12/16 Christmas Dress Up Week - see schedule on next page
Advent Wreath Lighting in the gym 9:15a
DK-5 Christmas Program 1p & 6:30p
Var. Bowling vs. P-W @ KOC in Westphalia 3p
FAFSA Night at PHS 5p
7/8 Boys BB @ P-W 6p
- 12/17 Grades 6-12 - 7th hour exam 12:50-2:20p
Var. Girls BB vs. Potterville @ PMS 7p
- 12/18 Grades 6-12 - 6th & 5th hour exam 7:30-10:40a
No school Mass

- Preschool Christmas Program in Parish Hall 12p
- JV & Var. Boys BB vs. Potterville @ PMS 6p
- 12/19 Grades 6-12 - 4th & 3rd hour exam 7:30-10:40a
No school Mass
Elementary Christmas Parties - see classroom newsletter
JV & Var. Girls BB @ Perry 5:30p
7/8 Boys BB @ Saranac 6p
- 12/20 1/2 day of school - dismiss after Mass ~ 11:30a
End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
Grades 6-12 - 2nd & 1st hour exams 7:30-10:20a
All School Mass 10:30a
JV & Var. Boys BB vs. Perry @ PMS 6p

2024 Winter Exam Schedule
Secondary Schedule (Grades 6-12)

Tuesday, December 17:

7:30 - 11:06 Regular morning school day schedule
 11:37 - 12:09 5th hour class
 12:12 - 12:44 6th hour class
 12:50 - 2:20 7th Hour Exam

Wednesday, December 18:

7:30 - 9:00 6th Hour Exam
 9:10 - 10:40 5th Hour Exam - **No busing at 10:40 am**
 * **No High School Mass**

Thursday, December 19:

7:30 - 9:00 4th Hour Exam
 9:10 - 10:40 3rd Hour Exam - **No busing at 10:40 am**

Friday, December 20:

7:30 - 8:50 2nd Hour Exam
 9:00 - 10:20 1st Hour Exam
 10:30 - 11:30 All School Mass - **No busing at 11:30 am**

Please also note the following:

- All high school students are expected to have an exam during their scheduled exam time unless not having an exam has been approved by the administration. The only exceptions would be students taking a dual enrollment college course or a Michigan Virtual H.S. course (assuming they have completed the course work for that class). If a student does not have an exam scheduled, they should not be in the school during that time.
- Students in grades 9-12 will be allowed to leave the building as soon as their second exam of the day is complete EXCEPT on Friday. On Friday, all students who have a first hour exam are REQUIRED to stay for Mass.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK

December 16th-20th

Preschool-12TH Grade

***DK-5th grade Students should dress in Christmas dressy outfits/Sunday best, no jeans for the Christmas Program on Monday.

Monday: Christmas Spirit Day

Bring out all that Christmas spirit from head to toe.
JEANS AND HATS* ALLOWED, NO PAJAMAS, NO LEGGINGS

Tuesday: Winter Wonderland

Come dressed in white, silver, snowflakes, or anything wintery.
JEANS AND HATS* ALLOWED, NO PAJAMAS, NO LEGGINGS

Wednesday: Christmas Character Day

Come dressed as your favorite Christmas movie character.
JEANS AND HATS* ALLOWED, NO PAJAMAS, NO LEGGINGS



Thursday: Christmas Light Up Day

Show off all your Christmas sparkle and lights!
JEANS AND HATS* ALLOWED, NO PAJAMAS, NO LEGGINGS

Friday: Ugly Sweater Day

You can wear an ugly Christmas sweater or any sweater you have.
 DK-12 Mass at 10:30 a.m.
JEANS ALLOWED, NO HATS, NO PAJAMAS, NO LEGGINGS



* Hats must fit in with the theme of the day.

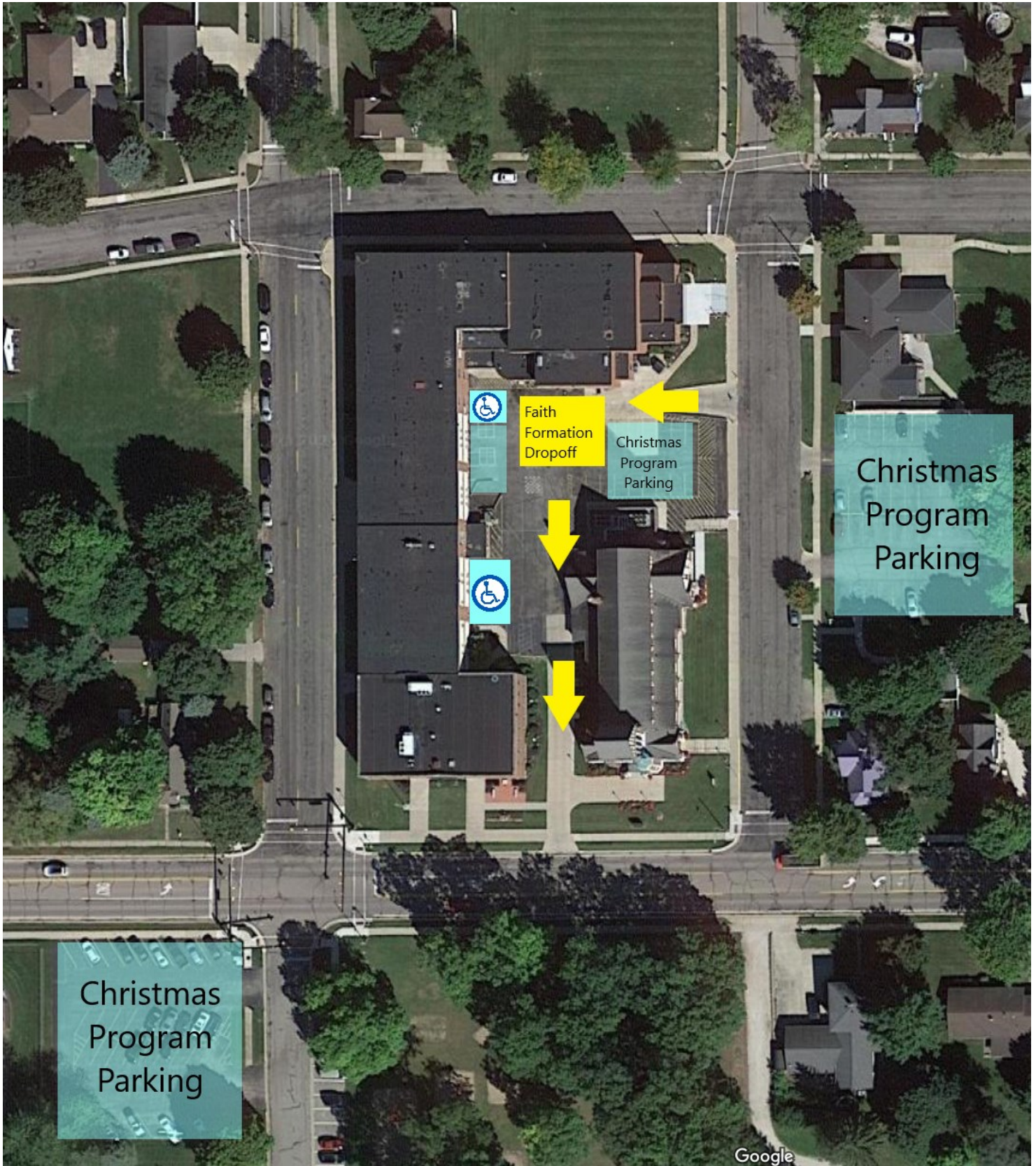


Lost and Found

Our lost and found has grown to two tables. Please have your student take a look if they are missing anything. Winter jackets, fleece jackets, sweatshirts, jeans, t-shirts, school uniform clothes, gym shorts, hats, gloves, mittens, water bottles, sandals, draw-string bags, hair ribbons, dishes, etc.

Anything left on the tables on December 20th will be donated to the uniform room or a local charity.

Parking for the DK-5 Christmas Program on Monday, December 16 will be in these locations. You may also park on the side streets. Please be aware that Faith Formation classes are also taking place at this time.



This is intended for families that utilize Portland Public Schools Transportation.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and support as we work through our driver and bus aide shortage. Over the past few months we have been able to make progress in hiring new staff but we are not fully staffed yet. We are going to need to extend the one route per week reduction calendar. Below is a calendar for a full rotation, A through L, of route reductions. We are hopeful that we will be able to remove the route reduction after winter break, but we need to be prepared just in case we are still short staffed.

Will Heath
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

PPS Bus Route Reduction	
Week	No Transportation
Dec 9 - Dec 13	Bus A (4)
Dec 16 - Dec 20	Bus B (10)
Jan 6 - Jan 10	Bus C (11)
Jan 13 - Jan 17	Bus D (18)
Jan 21 - Jan 24	Bus E (12)
Jan 27 - Jan 31	Bus F (13)
Feb 3 - Feb 7	Bus G (17)
Feb 10 - Feb 14	Bus H (19)
Feb 18 - Feb 21	Bus I (20)
Feb 24 - Feb 28	Bus J (21)
Mar 3 - Mar 7	Bus K (15)
Mar 10 - Mar 14	Bus L (3)

PPS Needs More Bus Drivers

The bus driver shortage is not solely a Portland issue. Numerous school districts across the State are also critically short bus drivers and are also reducing routes. While we have experienced this shortage over the last few years our current staffing levels continue to get worse. Unfortunately, there are not enough bus drivers for the demand across the state and for Portland Public Schools. We are eager to bring in new drivers and will work with them to complete their certification. We have worked with our drivers over the past few years to offer a competitive salary and have implemented a [Transportation Incentive Program](#), which includes a signing bonus of up to \$3,000 and a retention bonus for all current staff.

If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in driving part time or full time please have them contact our HR Specialist Diana Graef at dgraef@portlandk12.org or call our office at (517) 647-4161. We have hosted a job fair, purchased billboards, and created a recruitment video. Feel free to share our [video](#) to anyone that might be interested.

I apologize for the significant inconvenience this will have on our families. Transportation is going to continue to be a problem throughout the rest of the year as this current plan does not take into account any additional staff absences. We have great drivers and staff at the bus garage and they would love nothing more than to transport all of our students to school every day. Please know that as soon as we can resume normal operations, we will do so.

Again, my apologies for this inconvenience.



CITY OF PORTLAND
NEWSLETTER
www.portland-michigan.org
December 2024



Holiday fest

A special message from the
NORTH POLE

14 DEC. Saturday

- ◆ Morning—Old Red Mill Christmas Market & Santa
- ◆ 10a-3p Miracle on Maple St (Civic Players)
- ◆ 4pm (promptly) Snowball Drop at City Hall
- ◆ 4-6pm Open Houses, tasty treats and activities
- ◆ 4-6pm Visits with Holiday Characters
- ◆ 4:15-5:45 Horse & Wagon Sleighbell Rides
- ◆ 4:20-5:10pm Portland Public Schools Caroling
- ◆ 5:15 Opera Block Performing Arts Street Dance
- ◆ 6pm Holiday Light Parade
- ◆ Immediately after, Music & Light Show with music synced LIGHT Bracelets
- ◆ 7pm(ish) Community Orchestra presents Holiday Gala Concert (FREE) @ Theater

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS SHOWN ABOVE, AND
MADARANG HOORT, RIVERS EDGE GRILL, REED & HOPPES, COURAGEOUS COFFEE, ENDVI AB AND PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES / ORGANIZATIONS

Saturday DEC 14

Winter Sports Registration

DK/Kindergarten Basketball:

Leagues will take place in March. There are two options available: Mondays and Wednesdays OR Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teams will practice and scrimmage each hour-long session.

- Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2025
- Cost: \$45 Res/\$55 NR

