

St. Jude Catholic School PTO Meeting Agenda

August 27, 2026

Our email is PTO@sjsindy.org

Welcome and Prayer-Sarah Rose

Introductions of 2026-2027 PTO Officers

- President-Jennifer Rosenberry
- Vice President-Brittini Merkel
- Secretary-Sarah Rose
- Treasurer-Katrina Swartz



New News

- PTO Fee Mandatory this year
 - This is due by September 1.
 - **Please make sure this is paid by Tuesday!**
- Social Media-VP Project + Mrs. Samantha Piety
 - Aides in School & PTO goal this year to improve communication
 - **We are trying to increase our social media presence**
 - **Please follow us!**
- PTO asking Committee Chairs for more formal processes this year to ensure easy handoff and succession planning
 - **We will be transitioning out a lot of our committee chairs that have been doing it a while, so if you are interested please reach out**
- No more bounce houses on campus
 - **This is a mandate from the Archdiocese and due to an insurance issue**

PTO Events and Committees

- 10/15 Fall Field Trip-Lauren Shepard, Laura Wesbur
 - 2 years ago feedback was provided about wanting to know which animals were coming so that teachers had the option to do mini lessons on the animals.
 - **Arts and Crafts**
 - **Petting Zoo**
 - **Scavenger Hunt**
 - **Pumpkin Patch (little ones)**
 - **Snacks**
 - **Pre School-1st Grade will attend**
 - **We will need volunteers to help with this!**
 - **We will need about 250 small pumpkins for this, so if anyone has contacts for pie pumpkins please let us know**
 - **Sign up genius will go out for volunteers to help and for food donations**
- 3/17 Cultural Day- Tara Richwine, Rubi Reveles, Jennifer Rosenberry
 - **St. Patrick's Day!**

- Welcoming committee members especially with culturally diverse experiences!
 - We are going to try some new concepts and activities for Cultural Day this year
 - First meeting for the committee is in September
 - We will need volunteers to help with this day as well
- 5/24 Raiders Day-Amber Banks, Mandy Miller
 - One of the last days of the school year
 - It's a field day for the kids
 - Snow cones and snacks
 - Field games
 - We need lots of volunteers to pull this off for the day
 - Openings for committee members as well!
- 2/12 Harry Potter Night-Rachel Smith, Therese Houze
 - Grades 3rd-8th
- Hospitality-Lauren Shepard
 - Grandparents Day 9/17
 - Volunteers needed- sign up genius will go out to help work this day
 - Sign up Genius will go out for food/coffee/utensil donations
 - Grandparents will sign up for a time slot to come visit all of their grandkids at the same time
 - The kids will go meet the grandparents for a one hour slot
 - They will have snacks and do a craft
 - The grandparents can walk them back to class
 - Lauren needs contacts for anyone willing to donate food.
 - Meals for teachers throughout the year
 - Fall conference dinner
 - Lunch during Catholic Schools Week
 - Coffee Cart
 - Hot Chocolate Bar
- Room Parents-Tracy Petty
 - Sign up Genius was sent out to sign up for Room Parents
 - You do not have to have a child in the classroom to sign up
 - The school will set the time and day of any classroom parties
 - Room parents will ask for donations throughout the year
 - May come as sign up genius or Amazon wishlist
 - We will do staff appreciation meals
 - We are combining grades for this to help with donations
 - Stock the Pantry for Catholic Schools Week
- 12/3-12/5 Fine Arts Committee-Krissy Wilson
 - We need people that can help build sets for the musical
 - They will need the following for next year:
 - Director
 - Choreographer
 - Producer
- November Thanksgiving Baskets-Ann Schneider

- Uniform Stock Up-Lindsey Deterding
- Spring Flower Fundraiser-Andrew Castner
 - 25% growth last year
 - Please tell people outside of the Parish
 - Hoping for a May 1 pickup
- Spiritwear- PTO Vice President, Looking for a chair!
 - Good response to Spiritwear!!!
 - Catholic Concepts has more potential to make more money
 - We can ask for material and designs that we would like
- Dine to Donates- Brittini Merkel
 - This is a new idea that we are starting this year
 - We will work with local restaurants to advertise their company and we get a kickback of the money spent that day
 - September 16th at Heartland Ice Cream
 - Just mention St Jude when ordering
 - We get 20% back from 12-9 that day
 - Celebrity Scoopers!!!!
 - If you have any ideas for options- please let us know!

Budget Updates-Katrina Swartz

- We are still looking for all of the activity fees to come in!
 - 86% are in right now
 - These are due on 9/1
 - We will send home a friendly reminder to families that have not paid this yet
- If you want a copy of the budget, please email us and we will send you one!
- Committee chairs can contact Katrina to talk about budget for their specific committee

School Updates-Mrs. Jennifer McBride

- Emergency card forms- please fill out if you have not already!
 - We have to have these for each child! Not one per family
- Academics
 - NWEA - Kindergarten - 2nd Grade (3 times a year - BOY, MOY and EOY)
 - ILEARN Checkpoints - Checkpoint 1 - Completed in October
 - ILEARN scores last year - Released in September IDOE
 - These are just a piece of the puzzle- not the whole picture
 - 95% passing science last year
 - 95% passing iRead last year
- Upcoming calendar dates
 - Ice Cream Friday and Spirit Day Tomorrow
 - Next Week is a Raider Raffle Week
 - Early Release Day at 1:30 on Sept 4th
 - Heavier Traffic Possibly due to Roncalli's Grandparents' Day

- No school Labor Day - Sept 7th
 - Grandparents Day SJS - September 17th - Sign Up Coming Soon!
 - Fall Break - October 5th - 9th
- *100 Mile Club and Chess Club - Record # of Participants - Way to go, Raiders!
- *Coaching Cycles with Educators are beginning - Administrators within Classrooms :)
- Helping to support our teachers in their classrooms!
 - Highlighted educator
 - Fieldtrips
 - 2nd grade- zoo and Indians game
 - 3rd grade- TBD
 - 4th grade- Endress Houser- engineering company
 - 5th grade- Biz Town
 - 6th grade- St Theodora Guerin and Observatory
 - Fall Field Trip October 15th - ELM, K, and 1st Grade
 - St. Meinrad - October 16th - 7th Grade
 - 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat - October 16th

Additional Items:

- Coming to PTO meetings counts as Family Engagement if you come to 3 out of 4 of our meetings! If you attend virtually, it still counts!
- Any questions or concerns, please reach out to Jen McBride by email jmcbride@sjsindy.org
- We are looking into different ways to appreciate our teachers throughout the year

Round table

Closing Prayer-Brittni Merkel

Next PTO Meeting: October 22, 2026