



What's the Scoop 2023-2024 Events and Activities at SPPCS



This packet has been designed for both new and returning SPPCS families to outline and provide information about some of the events and activities that will occur during the school year. A brief description is provided for each item. We hope you will enjoy the year ahead and take every opportunity to participate throughout the year. Keep this listing as a quick reference guide throughout the school year. As we confirm the dates of activities and events we will post those on the calendars in Facts and the school website.

***Please check your child's folder and look for email updates along with calendar updates in FACTS.**

Student Events & Activities

Academic & Athletic Awards Day

This is an opportunity for students in 5th-7th grades to be recognized for their achievements. The Academic Awards and Athletic Awards are handed out. The Fabulous Falcon Awards are handed out at this time as well. A very prestigious honor, these awards are given to junior high students who exemplify character, hard work, Christian attitude, service, and/or leadership. Over the past couple of years, 8th grade Awards night has been combined with Graduation.

Accelerated Reader (A.R.)

All students in grades Kindergarten through eighth participate in the reading program, Accelerated Reader (A.R.). A.R. is a nationally recognized reading program which promotes reading growth at all reading levels, while helping the students become independent, self-directed readers. At the beginning of each quarter, students take a computer-based reading test (S.T.A.R. test) to determine their independent, targeted reading level and their reading "point goal" for the quarter. Students are then able to choose books to read independently in their reading level. Upon completion of each book, students take a short, multiple-choice quiz to assess his/her comprehension of the book. They will then receive "points" applied toward their "point goals" based on the level of difficulty of the book and the number of questions answered correctly. As an incentive, at the end of each quarter, students receive prizes and accolades for meeting and going "above and beyond" their "point goal". Parents can sign up for Parent Connect, an online website connected to A.R., to be notified via email when their child completes a quiz and to be able to view the child's score and progress. (Please check with your child's teacher for more information about how to sign up for Parent Connect.) In addition, the website www.arbookfind.com is always available for parents or students to look up reading levels of books with companion A.R. tests. This will help to determine if books that you already have at home have A.R. tests available, as well as the book level and points for each book.

Catholic Schools Week January 28th-February 3rd, 2024

Beginning with the last Sunday in January is designated as Catholic Schools Week. Each year has a new theme, and each day of the week provides the students with an opportunity for fun in celebrating attending a Catholic school. Student bingo, dress days, 8th grade versus staff volleyball and dodgeball games, Silly Olympics, talent show and an all school Mass are just some of the ways the kids celebrate. The talent show is an annual tradition, allowing students to volunteer to show their talents in front of the entire school during a performance at the end of the week during school hours. Parents are welcome to attend the school events and assemblies of the week, but are asked to please sign in upon entering the school.

Class T-Shirts

Class t-shirts are ordered and distributed at the beginning of the year. While the design is the same for the entire school, the color of the shirt changes depending on your child's grade level. These shirts are purchased by the school for our students. Typically these shirts are worn for Field Day, field trips (at some grade levels), and we encourage the students to wear them on the first Friday of the month with uniform bottoms. (Parents may purchase shirts as well, call or email Becky at the school office for more information on ordering extras.

bsimshauser@sppswaterloo.com or 618-939-7217) They can wear their class shirts or spiritwear shirts on the rest of the Fridays in the month with uniform bottoms.

D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

D.A.R.E. is a program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. An officer from the Waterloo Police Department conducts in-classroom lessons for 5th grade students to teach them how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug- and violence-free lives. The students graduate at the end of the program and are provided a certificate for their achievement!

End of the Year Celebration and Field Day

The SPPCS End of Year Celebration will be combined with our Field Day to add a Carnival atmosphere. We look forward to making this a fun and exciting event for our students and volunteers.. A raffle will also be held in conjunction with this Event. We hope to be able to provide the food truck and coupons for snacks again this year!

The event is held in May before the end of the school year. It's a day of fun and outdoor games at SPPCS Fields. Class T-shirts are worn on this day. Sunscreen and a change of clothes and shoes are often required. Students eat lunch and have snacks and drinks throughout the day.

Field Trips

Each grade participates in annual field trips. Permission slips must be returned to the teacher prior to the trip in order to attend. **Parent volunteers are welcomed, but must have the required Child Protection and CANTS forms turned in to the Diocese.** If you have not completed this training program, contact the parish office. Also, younger siblings are not permitted to attend the field trip with the parent volunteer.

Funderwear-Game/December Date TBD for 2024

SPPCS and ICS team together to have some fun by helping those in need. "Funderwear" is a competitive fundraiser to collect new underwear, t-shirts, socks, hats, and gloves for families in need in Cairo, Illinois. ICS and SPPCS basketball teams face off against one another in a special game at Gibault. At halftime of the game, the school with the most items collected will receive the "Tighty-Whitey" Trophy to be displayed proudly at their school.

Mass Servers

Beginning in the 3rd grade, students are provided the opportunity to serve Mass. Parent permission must be given before the student is trained and assigned to the Mass server schedule. Training is conducted at the beginning of the student's 3rd grade and during the student's 5th grade school year. More information to follow on server training.

Red Ribbon Week - October 23rd-27th, 2023

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug-free lives with the ultimate goal being-the creation of a drug-free America. Students are given a theme and/or specific dress code on certain days to remind them to live a drug free life. Signs are posted in the classrooms, hallways and teachers discuss the topics with their class.

Reindeer Games

Student Council sponsors Reindeer Games - fun activities for the entire school before we leave for Christmas vacation. Students Preschool and up, battle it out in Reindeer Relay Races, Christmas Cookie Eating Contests, Gift Wrapping, and more! Parents and grandparents are welcome to come enjoy the fun.

Santa's Cottage

Santa's Cottage is enjoyable for all ages and offers a variety of items for immediate and extended family members. It is normally held early in December, and it provides the children an opportunity to purchase small ticket items for their loved ones for Christmas and get them wrapped before bringing them home. Upper grade "buddies" accompany the lower grade children and help the younger ones budget their funds and purchase appropriate items.

School Pictures - K-8 October 25th 2023, retake- December 5th 2023 and Spring pictures February 20th 2024. PreK pictures - September 5th & 6th 2023.

Fall pictures are a traditional head-shot of each student in uniform and will be the picture that will be in the school yearbook. A classroom photo, including the teacher, Principal Matzenbacher, and Fr. Linus is prepared from these photos. Spring pictures are taken Feb 20th no retakes available. Pictures taken in the spring are a posed photo. The student is not required to wear the school uniform, but clothing worn should follow the school's Handbook and Policies. Both pictures are available for purchase, but parents are not required to purchase them at all. Sports' and activities' pictures are also taken on Oct. 25th, 2023 (Fall Sports) and March 20th, 2024 (Spring Sports). Soccer, baseball, cross country and softball pictures are taken in the Fall. Basketball, volleyball, chess team, scholar bowl, and track team pictures are taken in the Spring. Preschool pictures are taken by "Images 4 Kids" and we will have a background chosen for them. They are required to wear appropriate attire. Preschool photos will be in the yearbook as well.

Standardized Testing - September 25th 2023-October 5th, 2023

Every fall, our students in grades 2 - 8 take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. This test gives your child's teacher an indication as to where they are academically, compared to the national average. We use the testing data to modify our curriculum, make recommendations as to student placement, and to look for trends in our school-wide curriculum. During the week of testing, it is important that students get plenty of sleep at night, and eat a good breakfast. Testing results are sent home to parents. All students will be required to test in school.

Family Events & Activities

Kindergarten Play-Kindergarten Open House/Spring Concert - April 30th, 2024

The night begins in the gym with the Kindergarten play and is followed by the Spring Band and Choral Concert.

Book Fair - September Our Scholastic book fair is typically scheduled around Grandparents Day in September and then again closer to the end of the school year. Children will be able to visit the fair twice during the week that it is held and purchase books. Parents may also come in to visit the book fair and make purchases.

Christmas Band & Choral Concert - December 19th, 2023

The annual concert is a combination of songs performed by PreK through 4th grades, as well as the intermediate and advanced bands and Jr. High Chorus. A number of traditional and non-traditional songs are enjoyable for all attendees. The concert is held during a weeknight in early December in the school gymnasium. Students are asked to dress in dress clothes, and are welcomed to wear holiday attire.

Christmas Mass and Nativity - December 20th, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m.

Our school students and staff celebrate an annual Christmas Mass and Nativity. Preschool students through eighth graders all have a special role in Mass, and the first graders perform a live Nativity in church at 9:30am.

Grandparents' Day - September 8th, 2023 (Mass 9:30 a.m. & 11am Dismissal)

Students enjoy asking their grandparents to attend Grandparents' Day at SPPCS. The morning begins with Mass, followed by refreshments in the gym. All grandparents should expect to leave the school by 10:45 am in order for students to prepare for lunch. Grandparents have the opportunity to take their grandchildren to the Book Fair.

Life Network Walk in Celebration of Life - TBA

Friends of SPPCS, in conjunction with the Life Network of Waterloo, provide an opportunity for the students at SPPCS to show their support for Life. The whole student body walks the perimeter of the campus in silent prayer in honor of babies - born and unborn. It is encouraged that the money donated by students be from something they worked for or from a sacrifice they made.

STEM Family Night

This is a fun family night dedicated to "all things STEM". Lots of hands-on activities and challenges are set up to further explore the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. This is a great way to create excitement among students learning about STEM-related subjects. STEM Night offers activities for students of all ages.

Parent Events & Activities

Athletic Booster Club

The Athletic Boosters were formed in order to aid our Athletic Director, Mrs. Carrie Phelps, with the responsibilities of the Athletic Department, as well as to provide necessary fundraising efforts in order to keep our athletic department running smoothly. All parents are welcome to join the Booster Club. They currently meet once a month. For more information, contact Mrs. Carrie Phelps through Facts. The first Athletic Booster Club Meeting will be held in the school cafeteria. (cphelps@sppswaterloo.com)

Queen of Hearts Every Tuesday Drawing @ 7:00 p.m.

The SPPCS Queen of Hearts fundraiser is sponsored by the SPPCS School. The jackpot increases each week until the Queen is revealed by the winner. \$1 tickets are on sale at the "Outsider" in downtown Waterloo during normal business hours. The drawing is at 7:00 pm every Tuesday. You must register with the program before purchasing tickets. (Purchase tickets @ Outsider's by 6:30 pm for the 7:00 pm drawing)

Meet the Teacher - K-8: August 15th

Preschool: August 15th (8am -11:30am) & 16th (12:30-3:00pm)

Meet the teacher, sign up to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, and get an understanding of expectations for the new school year. This is usually held right before school starts. We ask that each student sign up in Facts for a 10 minute block of time to visit their teacher's classroom and drop off school supplies. Those who pre-ordered supply boxes, they will be in the classrooms waiting.

PTO Monthly Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m.

Our parent teacher organization meets the third Thursday of each month. Each meeting may provide a speaker or the opportunity to help with tasks that need to be accomplished for our school. PTO's purpose is to provide assistance to the school as needed; helping teachers with classroom needs, providing fun events for students and parents, as well as running the P.A.T.S. events throughout the year. If you attend, your child(ren) will receive a no uniform pass for the 2nd Wednesday of the next month. We encourage everyone - parents, teachers, and even grandparents - to attend.

➤ Secret Pal for Teachers and Staff- Contact a PTO officer

Due to the success last school year, the PTO is going to continue the Secret Pal program in the same format as last year with families or small groups of families signing up to bring in treats for the whole faculty once or twice a month. That sign up will be available soon.

Due to regular requests for teacher's wish lists and favorite items, we would like to invite you to our "About Us" tab on our website. Scroll to the bottom of this page, find your teacher and click on their "About Me" tab. A list of their favorite items and classroom needs will be listed. Many parents like to use this information for Christmas gifts or random treats throughout the year.

➤ Parent/Teacher Conference Dinner

Teachers are treated to a well-deserved dinner on the night of Parent Teacher Conferences. The food is provided, and three to four volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up.

➤ "Teacher & Staff" Appreciation Week - May 6th - May 10th 2024

This week is set aside to pamper the faculty and staff with anything imaginable. Personal thank you notes from the students and parents, sweet treats and surprises, an All School Mass in their honor and a luncheon with the works are just a few of the things we do to show our teachers and staff just how much they mean to us. Most of the activities are during school hours.

Communication

Be sure to find us online & Social Media for the latest pictures, updates and events:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SPPCSWaterloo>

Instagram: [sppcs_falcons https://www.instagram.com/sppcs_falcons/](https://www.instagram.com/sppcs_falcons/)

YouTube: SPPCS <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA2XwpUIWanMKwICQjcBEBQ>

Website (<https://www.sppcs.org/>)

FACTS Website

The most important communication tool with SPPCS is the FACTS Website <https://factsmgt.com/>. This website allows you to securely and privately login to communicate with teachers and staff, view your child's homework assignments and progress reports, keep up-to-date on your account balances (lunch, tuition, and fundraising), communicate with other parents, and more. If you cannot access the site or have other questions, please contact Jessica Eschmann at the school office. (618-939-7217 / jeschmann@sppswaterloo.com) Please keep in mind all payments made to the school will be through FACTS. Unless it is an emergency or a special event, our office no longer accepts cash or check payments.

Email Communication

Besides FACTS, we also send out communications via email. Weekly e-newsletters and other important messages are sent out through our school email address. If you are not receiving email notifications to your email account, please contact the school office or through FACTS or at bsimshauser@sppswaterloo.com so that your email can be added to the distribution list.

Friday Folders

The majority of information throughout the year comes home in your student's Friday Folder. Please be sure to check the information sent home at least once a week to make sure you're getting all the up-to-date news and information you need.

SPPCS Newsletter and SPPCS E-News

SPPCS News, a monthly newsletter, is distributed to all SPPCS families and available at nearby parishes or in the school office. *SPPCS E-news* is a weekly update emailed every Friday. If there is any information you would like to include in either of these means of communication, please contact the office or email Becky Simshauser @ pr@sppswaterloo.com

Fundraising

Education 1st

This annual drive enables our school to purchase items above and beyond what we would otherwise be able to do. The appeal goes out to all parish members. In the past this money has been used to purchase the playground near the gym, computers for our computer lab, purchase our mobile lab and Smartboards, and purchase chromebooks and tablets for our students.

End of Year Celebration/Field Day Cash Raffle

More information to come regarding the school carnival. Combined with this fun day is a cash raffle fundraiser, which helps support our school and offers three cash prizes to the winners, who are drawn on carnival day. We ask each student to try to sell as many tickets as they can, and give awards and incentives for ticket sales.

Gold Rush Raffle Ticket Sales

The Gold Rush Raffle is a tremendous way to support the school by purchasing a \$100 raffle ticket. An individual or a group can purchase tickets. The grand prize ticket is drawn at the Holy Name Trivia night in October. The proceeds of the raffle benefit the parish and the school equally. SPPCS families earn a \$20 credit toward their 2022-2023 Fundraising goal for every \$100 ticket they purchase or sell.

Laundry Detergent & Trash Bags

Knock a couple things off your grocery list and buy a year's worth of Detergent and Trash Bags from SPPCS! The SPPCS Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softener, Dishwasher Packs and Trash Bags Sale is held in the Fall of the school year. Order forms are sent home with students or you can place your order online with the provided information.!

Papa John's Night

The 2nd Thursday of every month during the school year is SPPCS Papa John's Night at Waterloo location. SPPCS will receive a percentage of all orders placed using the monthly promo code during the specified time period. Flyers with the monthly promo code are sent home with students several days before and are shared on our social media platforms.

Recycling

Recycling of Printer Cartridges & Cell Phones. All of these can be dropped off in the collection center in our school lobby. If your workplace doesn't recycle copier toner cartridges or printer cartridges, consider allowing them to be donated to SPPCS! It is advised to place the toner and laser cartridges back into their original box in order to keep them safe for shipping. If they are damaged or leaking they cannot be recycled.

Raise Right Cards (formerly ShopwithScrip)

This program raises a significant amount of funding for SPPCS, which helps us cover the gap between tuition and the cost to educate your student. If you are in need of Birthday, Anniversary, Valentine's Day, Easter and/or Graduation gifts or if you are planning a trip; some airlines, hotel chains and even Airbnb are available for purchase through this program. You can use these cards year-round at some of your favorite stores with a percentage of the sale coming back to SPPCS. Using these cards is a great way to add to your Fundraising totals for the school year. Use this link: <https://www.raiseright.com> the RaiseRight App, or purchase from inventory in the school office. Questions? Contact Jessica Eschmann 618-939-7217 jeschmann@sppswaterloo.com

SPPCS Attic

As quickly as children grow, keeping them in new school uniforms can become costly. The SPPCS Attic helps to offset those costs by allowing parents to exchange or donate uniforms. Please follow these guidelines:

All clothing/shoes must be clean (free of spots, pet hair, mud, etc.) prior to bringing them to the Attic.

All clothing/shoes must not be damaged (free of tears, missing buttons, worn out knees, etc.). These types of items typically do not move during the sale, and storage is limited. Keep in mind as a rule of thumb what condition of clothing that you would consider purchasing.

Items within the Uniform Guidelines are accepted as well as baseball, softball, & soccer cleats and any "Spirit Wear" items as well.

Most items can be "purchased" with a donation. There are a few items that are priced accordingly, but are still priced very low for your convenience.

The SS Peter & Paul Catholic School Attic/Resale Shop is located in the Quilt House Attic. Any items for the resale shop may be dropped off at school for Mr. Dorion to take to the resale shop. Please make sure your bags are marked "resale shop" on the outside. Also, please include your name on the inside of the bag with the number of items for recording purposes.

Spring Gala - March 9th, 2024

The Gala is a Saturday night of fun including appetizers, dinner and drinks, along with silent and live auction items. Donations of items are accepted throughout the year. Volunteers are needed for various activities prior to and during the night of the event. Don't miss being a part of its huge success!

T.J.'s Pizzas and Desserts

T.J.'s Pizzas and Desserts are sold several times a year in the Fall and Spring, and are great for helping to earn your fundraising goal. Forty percent of sales of these pizzas and desserts come back to SPPCS! For more information, contact the school office.

Volunteer Opportunities

Classroom or Playground Volunteers

Teachers occasionally need help in their classrooms with students and activities. Please contact your child's teacher to volunteer with their classroom. Volunteers can assist with classroom parties and events that take place at the school. At times there may be volunteer opportunities to help supervise recess. Please contact Becky Simshauser bsimshauser@sppswaterloo.com to be added to the volunteer-substitute list for playground duty.

Field Trips

Each grade participates in annual field trips. Permission slips must be returned to the teacher prior to the trip in order to attend. Parent volunteers are welcomed, but must have completed the Diocese of Belleville Child Protection Program. If you have not completed this training program, contact the parish office. Also, younger children are *not permitted* to attend the field trip with the parent volunteer.

Work Room Volunteer

As a workroom volunteer, various office duties such as copying, sorting, laminating, etc. are done to help lessen the load for the faculty. Email Becky Simshauser via bsimshauser@sppswaterloo.com to get on a list to be notified for various projects or pick a day to come to school for an hour or more to help teachers.

Latchkey

PURPOSE: To provide before and after school care, with your child's safety and happiness the number one priority. **HOURS:** 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. & 2:50 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FEES: Morning Session: 1st child - \$7.00**/day, additional child/children - \$5.00**/day each (**Includes a nutritional breakfast)

Afternoon Session: 1st child - \$12.00*/day, additional child/children- \$10.00*/day each. (*Includes a nutritional snack)

LATE FEES / PICK-UP: If a parent is late picking up a child, there will be a \$5.00 charge for every 10 minutes past 6 pm, for the first offense, and additional charges for repeated late pick-up.

LOCATION: Morning and afternoon drop off/pick up will be via the Latchkey entrance, currently located on the West (Preschool) side of the building.

ATTENDANCE: The Latchkey Program will be open for attendance the same days as Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School. On "snow days", no sessions will be held. On days of early dismissal, there will be morning and afternoon sessions. (Example: 10:50 a.m. dismissal days). Lunch is NOT provided for the latchkey students on early dismissal days. Please inform us on the Monday prior to the early dismissal day if your child/children will attend.

PROGRAM: The program will consist of a variety of creative and structured activities that will coincide with a daily routine of homework/study time and free play.

SNACKS: Snacks (in the afternoon) will be provided and will consist of a variety of healthy and fun foods. We try to keep them as nutritious as possible.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Please let us know of any changes so that we can keep your latchkey registration information up to date.

DAILY ROUTINE:

6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.—Breakfast and Free Play

2:50 pm. - 3:10 p.m. — Snack Time

3:10 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. — Homework

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.—Indoor and/or Outside Play

(music, games, art, movies, dramatics)

Summer Splash

Summer Splash is a summer program SPPCS offers to our students. Summer Splash runs through the summer from 6am - 6pm; Monday thru Friday. Summer Splash has part time & full time options along w/ sibling discounts. The students are involved in hands-on activities, guest speakers and field trips. The program is ran by our Director, Mr. Liefer, and a group of young adults. If you would like more information about the program or would like to inquire about employment in this program over the summer, please reach out to Mr. Liefer at nliefer@sppswaterloo.com.