



# SALES TALK

FOR THE PARENTS OF SALESIANUM SCHOOL

AUGUST 5, 2014

## A THOUGHT FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

**Let us strive to make the present moment beautiful.**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fr. Chris Beretta, OSFS – [principal@salesianum.org](mailto:principal@salesianum.org)

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your family are having a relaxing and rejuvenating summer. While the summer vacation is always appreciated by teachers and staff as well as students, we are very excited about the upcoming school year. As August begins, we want to make sure you have all the information you need to make the opening of the new school year as smooth and seamless as possible. Within this Sales Talk, please find updates on the following:

- **School Opening Information**
- **Student Schedules for 2014-2015**
- **Textbooks for 2014-2015**
- **New Wednesday Schedules**
- **Summer Reading and One School, One Book**
- **Student Handbook Changes**
- **iPad and Student e-mail Updates**
- **Physicals and Concussion Testing**
- **Dress Code Clarification**
- **New Website and Library Renovation Updates**

In addition, you may wish to review the previous summer newsletter sent to families at the end of June, posted [here](#), and check out the complete [2014-2015 School Calendar](#) if you have not done so already.

### ***School Opening Information***

Instructions for the opening days of school are posted on the website. Please take note of the following dates:

- Friday, August 15: **Fall Sports Practices Begin**
- Thursday, August 21: **Freshman Orientation, 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM**  
(*Freshman Parent Social 6:00 PM, Parent Orientation 7:00 PM*)
- Monday, August 25: **First Day of School for All Students, 8:00 AM – 2:40 PM**
- Wed., September 10: **Back to School Night, 6:30 PM** – at least one parent is asked to attend this mandatory meeting, hear important updates from administration, and meet your son's teachers.

### ***Student Schedules for 2014-2015***

Student schedules for 2014-2015 were available starting July 9 on NetClassroom. Schedules will not be mailed, but students will receive printed copies during orientation in August. Please see the SalesTalk previously emailed to all families and posted on our website [here](#). This letter gives important details concerning schedules and course change requests. No course change requests or inquiries should be initiated unless your son is a student transferring into Salesianum or is a current student with unexpected changes to course load needs. The Academic Office must be clear of course changes at this point to allow time for school year preparation.

## ***Textbooks for 2014-2015***

The previous summer letter includes important information about obtaining the appropriate textbooks for 2014-2015. All students will obtain books in a combination of several methods that will involve electronic books:

- 1) Purchasing hard copies through Follett or another online vendor
- 2) Purchasing a subscription to an electronic book by paying a fee to Follett
- 3) Purchasing an iBook or eBook after the school year begins

A ***Book Purchasing Guide*** organized by course number is available [here](#). This is not a booklist, but should help determine how books will be purchased for each course. If a class requires a fee to be paid to Follett for access to electronic books, please pay these fees as soon as possible so that your son will be given access to the proper books on the first day of class. For all other electronic books, we recommend students wait until the beginning of the school year to purchase and download required books; this will allow each teacher to ensure that the students are purchasing the correct electronic books.

## ***Summer Reading and the One School, One Book Program***

Please make sure that your son has kept up with his summer reading. This is an important school requirement that helps maintain academic momentum in the midst of a long summer break.

- **One School, One Book:** All students, faculty, and staff are required to read *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway. Students will be assessed on this reading through their Social Studies department courses.
- **Required Summer Reading:** Required reading for each grade level was posted by the English Department at the beginning of the summer on the website.
- **Please Note:** Additional information on summer reading listed above can be found on the website under the *Student* portal. Summer reading titles are not available on the Follett website. They should be purchased independently in print or for the iPad.

## ***New Wednesday Schedule***

In response to feedback from our faculty, we have adjusted our schedule to provide additional professional time for teachers as we embark on our two-year comprehensive Curriculum Review. Beginning the first week of September, we will feature a **Wednesday Schedule** every Wednesday during the school year [see ***Revised Bell Schedule*** below]. The schedule was designed to minimize the loss of instructional minutes while still providing meaningful and productive meeting time. On Wednesdays, classes will meet for 45 minutes, homeroom will be eliminated, and the school day will end at 1:50 PM, followed by a 2:00-3:30 PM block designated for specific uses for teachers.

For faculty, the 2:00-3:30 Wednesday block will be used for ***Faculty Meetings, Department Meetings, and Curriculum Review Meeting Time***. Wednesdays may also be used for ***Specific Professional Development*** topics, such as flipped-classroom training sessions, iPad app workshops, and complex topics difficult to address effectively during the year. This time will allow us to thoroughly examine our curriculum, including course offerings and requirements.

For students, this essentially means ***early dismissal every Wednesday at 1:50 PM***. Administrators will provide supervision while teachers are in meetings, with areas of the building clearly defined for students who remain on campus. **All students are welcome (but not required) to stay at school for study, tutoring, or recreational activities with friends and classmates.** Buses will still come at the regular time. Students may go to the library to start on homework, to the Brisson Center for tutoring, and to other locations for supervised activities. Student Council members are already planning optional programming (intramurals, house competitions, etc.) which many students may not have time for on normal school days.

When a G-Day falls on a Wednesday, there will be **no** "Super G-Day" ("extra early" dismissal). The new bell schedule will remain intact, with the G-6 period used for an all-school assembly concluding by 1:50. On such G-Days, clubs and activities will not meet, but we will use these occasions to minimize the need for additional special schedules.

Summary: This additional professional time, used well, has the potential to significantly enhance instructional effectiveness for your sons by providing needed time for collaboration among the faculty for professional responsibilities related to the Curriculum Review, the iPad implementation, and other projects related to ongoing school improvement. Thank you in advance for your support!

## ***Student Handbook Updates***

The [2014-2015 Student Handbook](#) is posted on the website, with updates highlighted. Within the handbook, please note the following changes and adjustments:

- **Principal's List and Dean's List requirements:** In *Section III: Academic Policies*, please note changes to Honor Roll, Dean's List, and Principal's List requirements.
- **Attendance:** Also in *Section III*, adjustments have been made to discourage students from missing school outside of illness or serious family needs. Previous versions that allowed some students to take advantage of loopholes in the policy that have been corrected.
- **Procedures for Detention (JUG):** In *Section IV: Disciplinary Policies*, detention will no longer permit students to do homework or use iPads, and hours for detention will be 3:00-4:00 PM.
- **Dress Code:** For important information and recent updates regarding the student Dress Code, please see the extended comments on the pages that follow.
- **School Safety and Safe Environment:** In *Section IV: Disciplinary Policies*, please see expanded explanations of the school's safe environment policies and procedures.
- **Service Requirement:** In *Section VI: Catholic Identity, Campus Ministry, and Christian Service*, please note important changes to the Christian Service requirement. A point system has been devised to encourage and reward students for engaging in service that places them in direct contact with those in need. Also, consequences for students whose service is not submitted by posted dates is clearly outlined.

## ***iPad and Student E-mail Updates***

This year, all students will be responsible to bring an **iPad** to school each day, and will be expected to use **school-issued email addresses**, an important step in how announcements and notifications will be communicated at school. Families are asked to carefully review details posted on the website, and instructions regarding iPad set up, educational apps, and student e-mail accounts are provided [here](#). Any questions concerning iPad purchase and setup should be directed to Mr. Andrew Coupe, the Academic Technology Coordinator, at [acoupe@salesianum.org](mailto:acoupe@salesianum.org).

As the **iPad program** moves into its second year, we will be making several important adjustments to our Responsible Use Policy (see *Student Handbook Section IX: Computer and iPad Responsible Use Policies*) which will be reviewed with the students when they return. The goal is to provide clear guidelines so that iPads will be used for educational purposes during the school day. Accordingly, the following will not be permitted:

- Playing games on iPads anywhere on campus during school hours.
- Sending e-mails or messages during class time.
- Accessing streamed media (live events, movies, etc.) without permission.
- Accessing or updating social media during school hours.
- Using iPads during homeroom without permission.
- Using iPads in locker rooms or restrooms, or in any other location where others have the reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Bringing iPads to the Dining Center during lunch.
- Using cameras or recording functions without permission.

Teachers suggested these modifications with both the educational and social needs of your son in mind. When he graduates, we want him to know how to use technology in a thoughtful and reflective way in an educational setting.

## ***Physicals and Concussion Testing***

Mr. Mike Hart, our Athletic Director, is coordinating **physicals** and **concussion testing**. All students participating in fall sports must have an official **DIAA physical form** on file prior to the start of tryouts and practices on August 15. These forms are available at [www.salliessports.com](http://www.salliessports.com). Football and soccer players must also complete **mandatory concussion baseline testing** administered at A.I. DuPont Hospital before participating. Please call Mr. Hart at (302) 654-7736 to schedule a testing appointment for August 9. If your son was tested last year through the specific battery of tests sponsored by A.I DuPont for Salesianum students, he does not need to test again; the test is valid for two years.

## ***Dress Code Clarification***

Many parents may recently have become aware of modifications made to the school dress code, and perhaps have heard some displeasure voiced by their sons over the matter. I want to spend some time addressing this in detail.

Over the summer, we have had a number of conversations at school regarding the **state of the student dress code**. The general consensus was that enforcement has become too relaxed. Some alumni, parents, and recent campus visitors have commented that while our students are always well-behaved, their appearance is less than they expected from Salesianum. Not all agreed with this assessment, and it certainly does not apply to all students, but on days when professional photographs are taken on campus, it is not uncommon for many to be dressed too informally to appear on the website or in printed publications.

One story in particular has motivated me to address this issue. Last year, an older alumnus visited school and commented on student attire, noting with disappointment that many apparently cared little about looking like Salesian gentlemen. Wearing a jacket and tie to school has long been emblematic of Salesianum, and was once a privilege and a point of pride for the students. To be sure, restaurants, offices, and churches today all require less formal attire than they once did, but our “whole person education” still includes teaching the students to present themselves as gentlemen. In the recent past, simply saying “come in school dress code” was enough. But too often, whether on a routine day, or even when specifically asked to make a special effort for a funeral, an awards presentation, or similar occasions, many students do not look their best.

All this led to the decision to rededicate ourselves to the enforcement of the dress code in the new school year. Former editions of the Student Handbooks have always required students to wear dress shirts (along with dress slacks, dress socks, a dress belt, and so on); **the change for 2014-21015 was the requirement of long-sleeve, solid-colored dress shirts**. As wearing more informal, short-sleeve, summer, or even Hawaiian shirts (and other collared shirts never meant for a tie) has become part of the problem, this seemed to be a straightforward solution.

Needless to say, I seriously underestimated the reaction of many students in concern to style, and more importantly, the reaction of many parents in concern for the unanticipated expense. Both reactions concern me, because although the dress code has an important place in our school culture as I have outlined above, we have many other educational priorities to focus on with both students and parents. Add the late notice and poor communication of the changes, and whatever good intentions were meant have been eclipsed by other concerns.

Our **Student Council officers** reached out to me at the end of last week as students became aware of the changes. Finding the changes too restrictive of personal style and unpopular with classmates, the Student Council asked me to reconsider. I explained my concerns regarding the dress code, and my resolve to improve it. They listened and genuinely understood, even though they disagreed respectfully with some of the critique. As with most Salesianum students past and present, they respect school tradition. But they asked for an opportunity to propose revised guidelines that would improve student appearance without being limited to such narrow restrictions on shirts.

I have now received their proposal and am impressed with their revisions. While still raising expectations, their guidelines are more specific and less restrictive regarding acceptable shirts, and should be far better received by their classmates than the original (as well as requiring less expense for parents). If improvements can be made with less aggravation, **I am happy to adopt these amendments**. I am grateful for the maturity and creativity demonstrated by our student leaders; their decision to address me directly is something I greatly appreciate. In the spirit of Salesian education, our dress code and many other disciplinary expectations designed for their personal formation as Salesian gentlemen should be a matter of involvement and participation rather than imposition whenever possible. As St. Francis de Sales famously wrote, “You catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than a barrelful of vinegar.” Therefore, **please find the amended guidelines below** that will soon appear in the Student Handbook online. (Some days may pass before online updates are made.) Changes proposed by the Student Council are highlighted in **yellow**.

I sincerely apologize for any unintended inconvenience, aggravation, or distress this may have caused. Please know that shirts already purchased might be good to have and are always appropriate at school or at some of the more formal occasions mentioned. Indeed, many students already wear shirts as described in the original changes. But there are many other shirts that are accommodated in the revised plan. As I shared with the members of the Student Council, I want what is best for the students and the entire community. Their participation in the process will help us start the year with a positive outlook while still improving our observance of the dress code.

Please feel free to contact me at [principal@salesianum.org](mailto:principal@salesianum.org) with any concerns or questions related to the dress code discussion or the Student Handbook in general. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

## ***Amendments to Dress Code Proposed by the Student Council***

*The following amendments to the Student Handbook have been adopted and will be added for 2014-2015.*

### **4.4 Dress Code**

**During the School Day:** The following are minimum standards required of all students for the school day:

- **Coats or sports jackets** are to be clean and in good condition and professional in appearance. **Acceptable jacket colors are black, navy, grey, charcoal, beige, or tweed fabric.**
- **Pants** are to be sufficiently formal. No jeans, **corduroys**, or other casual wear, ornaments, buttons on the sides, outside pockets, grommets, or large logos are to be worn. Pants must have loops and be worn with a **dress belt.**
- **Dress shirts** are to be formal and of solid colors, open-check, plaid, or pin-striped. Shirts may not be of extreme colors or have objects printed as a pattern. Ties are to be up with shirt collar buttoned, and shirts must be wrinkle-free and fit properly so they may be tucked in at all times. Collars should be crisp and pointed with either a collar stay, interlined collars, or collar buttons. **Short-sleeved dress shirts** may be worn during August, September, and May and must follow the same guidelines for the formal long-sleeved dressed shirts referred to above.
- **Dress shoes** are polished or brushed leather (brown, black, oxblood or suede brushed dress shoes only). Leather Sperry boat shoes with laces are acceptable, but may not appropriate for all school events. No recreational footwear, work boots, slippers, open front or back shoes, or any footwear judged insufficiently formal are to be worn. Examples of unacceptable shoes include steel tipped shoes, hiking boots, cowboy boots, athletic shoes, sneakers, **Sperry sneakers, Polo sneakers**, Doc Martens, and clogs.
- **Full length dress socks** are required. No ankle length socks or white socks are permitted.
- **Hair** is to be trim, clean, styled, and well-groomed (not below the eyebrows, nor fully covering the ears, nor more than collar length, nor bizarre in style). Students are to be clean-shaven, with no beards or mustaches, and sideburns neatly trimmed (i.e., at the bottom of the ear).
- **House Lanyards with Student Identification** are to be worn around the neck during the school day.
- **Earrings** are not permitted during school or at school events.
- Periodic Homeroom checks are scheduled to assure compliance with all of the above standards.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Student Council has made additional suggestions regarding how dress code infractions might be addressed in the future. This part of the proposal will be discussed by school leaders when we reconvene at school next week and may be used during the 2014-2015 school year. However, your support and encouragement of our renewed emphasis on the dress code with your sons will go a long way toward everyone arriving at school aware of the expectations from the start. Thank you for your understanding!

### ***New Website and Library Renovation Updates***

Many have already noticed the **new school website**. Much of the “front page” is directed at prospective families, but resources for parents and students are still available through easy-to-find portals. Look for the appropriate group name (Students, Parents, Faculty, Alumni) in the blue bar at the top of the screen. If you need assistance or are having trouble finding a resource that used to be available, please contact Betsy Dougert, the Director of Communications, at [edougert@salesianum.org](mailto:edougert@salesianum.org)). Expect more announcements and information regarding the website soon.

Finally, the work on the **Lawless Library** will continue for at least another two months and is scheduled to re-open in late September. While this will mean some makeshift arrangements for study hall and library resources in the first month of school, we are very excited about how the long-term changes will better serve our students. Much more on this in the days and weeks to come.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, and thank you for your attention to the many details that accompany the return to school. We look forward to seeing you and your sons soon!

Sincerely,

*Fr. Chris Buetta, OSFS*

## 2014-2015 REGULAR BELL SCHEDULES

<u>REGULAR SCHEDULE</u>			
1st Period	8:15 AM	to	9:01 AM
Homeroom	9:06 AM	to	9:20 AM
2nd Period	9:25 AM	to	10:18 AM
3rd period	10:23 AM	to	11:16 AM
4th Period	11:21 AM	to	12:49 PM
1st Lunch	<b>11:21 AM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>11:49 AM</b>
2nd Lunch	<b>11:51 AM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>12:19 PM</b>
3rd Lunch	<b>12:21 PM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>12:49 PM</b>
5th Period	12:54 PM	to	1:47 PM
6th Period	1:52 PM	to	2:40 PM

<u>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u>			
1st Period	8:15 AM	to	9:00 AM
2nd Period	9:05 AM	to	9:53 AM
3rd period	9:58 AM	to	10:43 AM
4th Period	10:48 AM	to	12:07 PM
1st Lunch	<b>10:48 AM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>11:13 AM</b>
2nd Lunch	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>11:40 AM</b>
3rd Lunch	<b>11:42 AM</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>12:07 PM</b>
5th Period	12:12 PM	to	12:57 PM
6th Period	1:02 PM	to	1:50 PM
Professional Time	2:00 PM	to	2:40 PM

### PERIOD CYCLES

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>1</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
<b>2</b>	2	7	5	3	8	6	4
<b>3</b>	3	8	6	4	2	7	5
<b>4</b>	4	2	7	5	3	8	6
<b>5</b>	5	3	8	6	4	2	7
<b>6</b>	6	4	2	7	5	3	G6
	7	5	3	8	6	4	1
	8	6	4	2	7	5	2
							3



## 2014-2015 SPECIAL BELL SCHEDULES

### AM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

1st Period	8:15 AM	to	8:55 AM
Assembly	9:00 AM	to	10:14 AM
2nd Period	10:19 AM	to	10:58 AM
3rd Period	11:03 AM	to	11:42 AM
4th Period	11:47 AM	to	1:12 PM
1st Lunch	11:47 AM	to	12:14 PM
2nd Lunch	12:16 PM	to	12:43 PM
3rd Lunch	12:45 PM	to	1:12 PM
5th Period	1:17 PM	to	1:56 PM
6th Period	2:01 PM	to	2:40 PM

### PM ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

1st Period	8:15 AM	to	8:54 AM
Homeroom	8:59 AM	to	9:09 AM
2nd Period	9:14 AM	to	9:53 AM
3rd Period	9:58 AM	to	10:37 AM
4th Period	10:42 AM	to	12:07 PM
1st Lunch	10:42 AM	to	11:09 AM
2nd Lunch	11:11 AM	to	11:38 AM
3rd Lunch	11:40 AM	to	12:07 PM
5th Period	12:12 PM	to	12:51 PM
6th Period	12:56 PM	to	1:35 PM
Assembly	1:40 PM	to	2:40 PM

### EXTENDED HOMEROOM

1st Period	8:15 AM	to	9:01 AM
Homeroom	9:06 AM	to	9:36 AM
2nd Period	9:41 AM	to	10:30 AM
3rd Period	10:35 AM	to	11:24 AM
4th Period	11:29 AM	to	12:56 PM
1st Lunch	11:29 AM	to	11:56 AM
2nd Lunch	11:58 AM	to	12:26 PM
3rd Lunch	12:28 PM	to	12:56 PM
5th Period	1:01 PM	to	1:49 PM
6th Period	1:54 PM	to	2:40 PM

### STATIONS SCHEDULE

1st Period	8:15 AM	to	9:00 AM
Homeroom	9:05 AM	to	9:17 AM
2nd Period	9:22 AM	to	10:07 AM
3rd Period	10:12 AM	to	10:57 AM
4th Period	11:02 AM	to	12:30 PM
1st Lunch	11:02 AM	to	11:30 AM
2nd Lunch	11:32 AM	to	12:00 PM
3rd Lunch	12:02 PM	to	12:30 PM
5th Period	12:35 PM	to	1:20 PM
6th Period	1:25 PM	to	2:10 PM
Assembly	2:15 PM	to	2:40 PM

### ONE HOUR LATE SCHEDULE

1st Period	9:15 AM	to	9:59 AM
2nd Period	10:04 AM	to	10:46 AM
3rd Period	10:51 AM	to	11:33 AM
4th Period	11:38 AM	to	1:06 PM
1st Lunch	11:38 AM	to	12:06 PM
2nd Lunch	12:08 PM	to	12:36 PM
3rd Lunch	12:38 PM	to	1:06 PM
5th Period	1:11 PM	to	1:53 PM
6th Period	1:58 PM	to	2:40 PM

### TWO HOUR LATE SCHEDULE

1st Period	10:15 AM	to	10:47 AM
2nd Period	10:52 AM	to	11:24 AM
3rd Period	11:29 AM	to	12:01 PM
4th Period	12:06 PM	to	1:26 PM
1st Lunch	12:06 PM	to	12:31 PM
2nd Lunch	12:33 PM	to	12:58 PM
3rd Lunch	1:00 PM	to	1:26 PM
5th Period	1:31 PM	to	2:03 PM
6th Period	2:08 PM	to	2:40 PM