



SALES TALK

FOR THE PARENTS OF SALESIANUM SCHOOL

JUNE 27, 2014

A THOUGHT FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Every one of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy – then we need an hour.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fr. Chris Beretta, OSFS – principal@salesianum.org

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a relaxing summer. Classes may not be in session here at Salesianum, but the work of preparing for the new school year is well underway, and we want to help make the return to school as smooth as possible for your son.

Mr. Dan Jackman, our Director of Student Activities, is coordinating our **One School, One Book** program. A handout explaining this program is included in this packet. Activities and speakers based on the selected book, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, are being scheduled to maximize this learning opportunity. All students and staff are required to read the book over the summer, and we encourage parents to read the book as well!

Mr. Jude Szczerba, our Dean of Academic Affairs, has prepared a packet containing a number of important details related to **courses, textbooks, and required summer reading**. Please read this section carefully, and take the time to emphasize the importance of summer reading with your sons. As with the *One School, One Book* program, summer reading for English classes is important for growth and expected.

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. 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 2 or 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.

This year will mark a number of firsts regarding **technology** at Salesianum. All students will have **school email addresses**, an important evolutionary step in the way announcements and notifications are communicated at school. And as the **iPad program** moves into its second year, we will be making important several adjustments. Our faculty has made excellent suggestions for responsible use guidelines which I will share in my August newsletter and review with the students when they return. When your son graduates, we want him to know how to use technology in a thoughtful and reflective way. Our iPad program is a golden opportunity to teach him this 21st century skill.

Finally, we are looking forward to the launch of our **new website** in early July. This has been a work in progress for many months, and I think everyone will enjoy the new look and organization of online resources.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer, and we look forward to seeing you and your sons when we return. Look for the next summer edition of **SalesTalk** around August 1!

Fr. Chris Beretta, OSFS

Principal

principal@salesianum.org

ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK: THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO

Mr. Dan Jackman

Director of Student Activities

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The idea of the *One School, One Book* program is that every student, faculty, and staff member reads the same book in the same school year. Time will be taken throughout the year to welcome guest speakers, share ideas, and create lessons developed from the pages of the selected book. All current and incoming students are **required** to participate. Students will be held accountable for reading the book with quizzes and evaluations.

This year's novel, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway, traces the stories of three fictional characters— a sniper, a father and a baker— against the backdrop of war-torn Sarajevo. The book is available as a paperback, as an iBook, and as an e-book (ISBN: 978-1594483653).

Reading Assessment

Upon returning to school in August, students will take a reading assessment during their homeroom period. Scores will be counted in students' Social Studies classes as their first test grade. Any student who scores below a 70% will receive an incomplete and will be required to sit for a second assessment.

The second assessment will be another multiple choice and matching exam with a new bank of questions. Students scoring higher than a 70% on the retake will receive a 70% and will have officially completed the assessment process. Students who do not pass the second assessment will be required to complete a third assessment.

The third assessment is a written assessment following a rubric assigned by their Social Studies teacher. Once passed, students will have their grade recorded.

Background Information

In 1992, without the threat of the Soviet state, the nation of Yugoslavia was fast dissolving. The nationalist secession of Slovenia and Croatia from Yugoslavia sparked military conflict, as the Serbian-dominated government of Yugoslavia engaged both Slovenia and Croatia, killing thousands.

The worst of the violence was precipitated, however, by the independence of the territory known as Bosnia-Herzegovina, composed of Serbians, Croats and Muslims. The Bosnian Serbs refused to take part in the referendum to declare independence and, instead, sought to retain control, threatening violence if Bosnian Muslims and Croats continued with a push towards independence. Upon a declaration of independence, Bosnian Serbs sought to seize large pieces of territory and eventually would control approximately seventy percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The conflict in Bosnia is noted for its extraordinary degree of violence. The conflict devolved into large-scale ethnic cleansing and unchecked violence on all sides. The U.S. State Department describes the violence in the three year conflict as "the most horrific fighting of [European] territory since the end of World War II." The capital of Bosnia, Sarajevo, served as a focal point for ethnic violence. Nick Hawton, BBC's correspondent in Bosnia, recalls the extent of violence and its impact on Sarajevo:

The Bosnian War was one of the most destructive of the late 20th century. Of a population of around four million people in 1992, two million were made refugees. In the three and a half years of conflict, more than 100,000 were killed. Sarajevo suffered the longest siege of any city in modern times, spanning the duration of the war. Ten thousand of its citizens were killed....The war had been characterized by acts of unspeakable cruelty – rape, torture, mutilation and indiscriminate murder.

Any questions about the *One School, One Book* program can be referred to Mr. Dan Jackman, the Director of Student Activities, at djackman@salesianum.org.

SALESIANUM SCHOOL SUMMER 2014 SCHOOL YEAR PREPARATION PACKET

Mr. Jude Szczerba

Dean of Academic Affairs

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Dear Parents and Students:

I hope this letter finds you well and you are having an enjoyable summer. Although the first day of school is in August, our hope is that you will take some time now to attend to some important administrative tasks to ensure a smooth transition into the school year. Below you will find important information on the following topics:

- **School Opening Information**
- **Summer Reading Information**
- **iPad Program Information**
- **Class Schedules for 2014-2015:** *NOT mailed to students, but available on NetClassroom for all students starting approximately July 8; the official "launch" date will be posted on NetClassroom.*
- **Form for Requesting Course Changes** (available on www.salesianum.org AND linked to NetClassroom)
- **Textbook Ordering Information** (Summer reading not available on the Follett books website; these books must be purchased independently in print or for the iPad. School books will be available in late July.)
- **Pennsylvania Textbook Program Information** (linked to www.salesianum.org)

School Opening Information

Instructions for the opening days of school and the complete *2014-2015 School Calendar* will soon be posted on www.salesianum.org. 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

Summer Reading and the One School, One Book Program

- **One School, One Book:** All students, faculty, and staff are required to read *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway. Parents are also encouraged to read this year's selection! Students will be assessed on this reading through their Social Studies department courses. ***Please see additional information about the book and the requirement for students included in this packet!***
- **Additional Required Summer Reading:** The English department has listed required reading by grade level and course. The 2014 Summer Reading List for English courses is available on www.salesianum.org under *What's New at Salesianum*.
- **Please Note:** Summer reading list reading books are not available on the Follett books website. They should be purchased independently in print or for the iPad.

iPad Program

All families are asked to carefully review the iPad program details posted on www.salesianum.org. Questions concerning iPad purchase and setup should be directed to Mr. Andrew Coupe at acoupe@salesianum.org.

Class Schedules and Course Change Requests

Please open your schedule for 2014-2015 in NetClassroom. To find schedules on NetClassroom:

- 1) Log on to NetSalesianum (linked to www.salesianum.org)
- 2) Under REGISTRATION, choose (student's name) SCHEDULE.
- 3) Under VIEW (left hand side), select GRID to see your whole schedule.
- 4) Under SHOW:
 - Select 2014-2015, Semester 1
 - Make sure you review Semester 1 AND Semester 2
- 5) Under TIME INTERVAL, select 10 minutes to make sure that the teacher name displays.
 - Adjusting the ZOOM on your screen may allow you to see the whole schedule.

Write down all course numbers and teacher names for book purchasing purposes (do NOT include course 970-open time). Schedules do not print neatly from NetClassroom, but students will receive hard copies of their schedules during orientation at the beginning of the school year. If you change the "VIEW" to "list," you will see an organized list of course numbers with teacher names. Be sure to view 1st and 2nd semester schedules.

On your schedule, check for the following:

- 1) All students should have at least 7 credits unless given approval for fewer credits by the Academic Office (very rare cases). Full year courses are generally worth 1 credit; ½ year courses are generally worth 0.5 credits.
- 2) All class periods should be filled with the exception of the G6 period (used for activities).
 - Students in Chorus may see this class listed in the G6 box, but it will meet on Tuesday nights.
 - Remember, not all students receive every class they requested due to scheduling limitations.
 - Juniors may not have JUNIOR ADVISORY assigned at this point. This class, which meets 1X per cycle in the 2nd semester, will be added before classes start. No book is required for this class.
 - Students were asked in the spring to provide suitable alternates for their electives. Students who did not provide alternates or did not select enough to fulfill credit requirements had appropriate electives chosen for them. Students are expected to remain in these electives and successfully complete them.
- 3) Check all courses to make sure that the phases have been assigned properly. In limited cases, the phase for a required course had to be adjusted in order to accommodate required courses for students. In other cases, teachers recommended a phase change at the end of the year after reviewing final grades.
- 4) When the books for next year are available (late July), use the COURSE NUMBERS and TEACHER NAMES to purchase the proper books (see link for Follett Virtual Bookstores on www.salesianum.org); TEACHER NAMES are only used if they affect the books needed for a class. Make sure you check the SECTION/COURSE NOTES associated with each course.

Many of the books for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be purchased through the iBook store or Kindle. These books can be purchased during the first week of school, and more information will be coming about these purchases. In some cases, you will see a "fee" listed for certain courses. In these cases, students will pay Follett for an electronic book, and Salesianum will allow those who have paid the fee access to the books at the beginning of the school year; it is important that these fees, as applicable, are paid to Follett before the first day of school so that students can access the books on the first day of classes.

- 5) Sophomores may see *Driver's Education* if this course is requested. There may be a fee associated with this course that is determined by the State of Delaware; depending upon the final budget for the State of Delaware, Delaware students may not have to pay this fee this year. Students from Pennsylvania and Maryland should check with their insurance companies to make sure that there is some benefit to taking this course in Delaware; students from New Jersey should not take this course. Please notify the Academic Office during the summer if you would like this course to be removed from your schedule. In the fall, we may not be able to remove this course after the State of Delaware assesses their enrollment-based bill.

Please note that a teacher for a certain course may change in order to maintain balance in class sizes. These changes will not affect the course identity, but they may involve a teacher, period, and/or room change. *If a change occurs that would affect the books you have to order AFTER the 2014-2015 school year books are available online, you will be notified before the change is made.* Some changes will still be made to teacher schedules; these changes will not affect books that you must purchase. Make sure you check your online schedule immediately before you order books.

If you notice an error OR would like to request that courses be added to increase your number of credits, please use the COURSE CHANGE FORM available on www.salesianum.org (see PARENT RESOURCES) AND linked to NetClassroom (print out and mail the completed form). Requests to drop an *elective* will only be granted in extreme circumstances; if you are enrolled in an elective, it is very possible that another student was denied this elective. The deadline for submitting these forms is July 31. After July 31, a \$50 fee will be charged for course change requests. Requests submitted after July 31 will only be granted in the most extreme cases. The time to request a change in the number of credits or study hall periods is now, even for 2nd semester courses.

Due to the nature of course change questions and requests, I would suggest using email to contact the Academic Office. This is often a better and faster way to address schedule conflicts in detail. My email address is juszcz@salesianum.org, and Mrs. Marston's address is cmarston@salesianum.org. If you feel a phone call is necessary, please do not hesitate to call 302-654-2495 ext. 104. Once schedules are posted in July, our phone call/email volume is extremely high; we will do our best to respond within 2 business days.

Textbook Ordering Information

This year, textbook ordering will be more complex than in years past. There are 3 different ways students will obtain textbooks depending upon their courses. Most students will use all 3 methods:

- 1) Order hard copy books through Follett or another online vendor (same as in years past).
- 2) Pay a fee to Follett to gain access to downloadable books; the fee is paid to Follett during the summer, and these books are downloaded during the 1st week of school (in class).
- 3) Purchase an iBook or e-Book through the iPad during the 1st week of classes (in class). For iBooks, students may want to use an iTunes card to pay for books. Most iBook *textbooks* cost \$14.99. The price of paperback-type iBooks (ex. *The Cellist of Sarajevo*) will vary. For other electronic books, students may want to download at home during the 1st week of classes, having parents choose the method of payment at the time of purchase.

Note: Where an option exists between iBook and e-Book formats, Salesianum recommends iBook versions as more reliable and compatible with iPad technology.

A comprehensive textbook list will be posted on our website in July to help sort out the method of book purchase for each course. This list summarizes the method you should use to purchase the appropriate materials for each course. This list, once posted, can be found under PARENT RESOURCES.

Salesianum will again partner with **Follett Virtual Bookstores** to provide many of our student textbooks. Highlights of the Follett Virtual Bookstores program include:

- **Easy Ordering** – The website (www.salesianum.bkstr.com) is user-friendly and the checkout process is quick and simple. If you wish to order via phone, you may do so by calling Follett Virtual Bookstores, toll-free, at 1-877-827-2665 and speaking with one of their Customer Relations Representatives.
- **Fast Delivery** – Over 99% of all orders are packed and shipped within one business day. In addition, Follett Virtual Bookstores offers a variety of FedEx services to ensure that your books arrive when you need them.
- **Convenience** – The Salesianum Online Bookstore is always open and ready to take your order – day or night, seven days a week. Our bookstore will launch on approximately July 26. The official launch date will be posted on NetClassroom. Please note that summer reading books will NOT be available on the Follett website.
- **Approved Editions** – The books listed in the Follett Virtual Bookstores catalog are the officially approved editions for your courses. Any other editions, copyrights, and versions of these books may vary in content, layout, and organization and are not approved by our school. Follett Virtual Bookstores has worked directly with your teachers and the publishers to ensure the approved book is available for purchase at www.salesianum.bkstr.com.
- **Used Books** – Follett Virtual Bookstores has dedicated itself to providing the largest selection of used titles available. Through their relationships with key used textbook vendors and by serving hundreds of private schools with their textbook Buyback Program, they will be able to provide our students with a wide selection of high quality used books at greatly reduced prices. *Please note that the quantity of used books is limited, so early ordering may increase your chances of obtaining used books.*
- **No-hassle Returns** – All books can be returned within 30 days from purchase or the 1st day of classes—whichever is later—for a full refund minus shipping, provided the books are in the same condition in which they were purchased.

The following are **instructions for ordering books** through Follett:

- 1) Find the FOLLETT BOOKSTORE link on www.salesianum.org (or go to www.salesianum.bkstr.com). This link is found at the bottom of the main page under QUICK LINKS.
- 2) Select FIND BOOKS - START HERE.
- 3) Under TERM, select SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015 for books needed beginning in August.
- 4) Search for courses by selecting the correct DEPARTMENT and SECTION (TEACHER). Most courses have the same books for all TEACHERS. If all teachers use the same book, the only choice under SECTION will be "ALL."
- 5) Once you have added the necessary books (and fees) to your cart, continue to checkout.
- 6) PLEASE NOTE: The total cost for printed textbooks and workbooks may be lower than in years past. **Keep in mind that there may be additional iBooks and e-Books to purchase at the beginning of the school year.**
- 7) See www.salesianum.org for a comprehensive book list with notes concerning electronic books and fees arranged by course. This resource will be helpful in making sure all of the correct materials are ordered. Again, remember that some books will be purchased in class during the 1st week of classes to make sure the students download the correct books.

If you have any questions about purchasing books or the book buyback, please feel free to contact the school or Follett Virtual Bookstores directly. Printed books will be shipped directly to your home; **there will be no book sale on campus prior to the start of school.** Schedules will be available shortly on NetClassroom so that you can view the progress of any requested changes.

Textbook rental option: When you browse the textbooks, you will see a "rental" option for a number of books. This gives students a cheaper option for many textbooks.

Please do NOT delay in ordering your printed textbooks and workbooks from Follett or another vendor. Once you feel your schedule is finalized, I strongly suggest that you order textbooks before the end of the first week of August. Ordering textbooks in late August could result in not having your books available when school begins. *This does NOT apply to iBooks and other electronic books that can be ordered during the 1st week of classes.*

As in the past, the ISBNs are available on the Follett Virtual Bookstores website for each book you would need. The ISBN is the key number for students to have in order to search for textbooks through other used book vendors. DO NOT purchase used books for any consumable book (workbooks).

Pennsylvania Textbook Program

The State of Pennsylvania offers some textbooks free of charge to Pennsylvania residents; this program is not comprehensive, but there is a limited amount of textbooks available. Pennsylvania students should check www.salesianum.org for a general letter from Mr. DiNardo outlining the steps you need to take to order Pennsylvania books; this letter will contain a list of books available. Any questions concerning Pennsylvania textbooks should be directed to Mr. DiNardo at wdinardo@salesianum.org.

Conclusion

Thank you for being a part of the Salesianum community, and for your attention to the many details that are part of preparing for the upcoming school year. Please contact us when we can be of assistance. I hope you all have a restful and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jude M. Szczerba

Dean of Academic Affairs

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