

# Fr. Sauer Academy

## Welcome to Our Back to School Newsletter!

Dear Scholars,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 academic year! I hope that you all enjoyed a restful summer and are ready to kick off a new year. My faculty, staff, Alumni Volunteers and I especially look forward to welcoming our new 6th graders and new and returning 7th and 8th graders as we embark on another Virtual and Distance Learning schedule of classes.

One of my many priorities is to keep our families informed and updated about important information as it pertains to your children’s education and progress. To that end, we will be using many virtual platforms daily to engage and instruct your children with meaningful and challenging curriculum. No longer are traditional classrooms part of your children’s experience, but rather students are expected to learn and be engaged from home, which is the safest place to be under the circumstances. This new online platform requires shifting the way we think about school and the learning process. This new model requires teachers and students to interact, share ideas, and be part of an online learning community while in separate locations.

We will continue to hold regular monthly parent meetings and share all our news on our website, through our monthly newsletter and other online platforms. Please check your email for all FSA information and remember that our FSA webpage is also a great source of information. Our Parent and Scholar portal on the FSA webpage holds our calendar that continually updates as we navigate the day to day challenges of Distance Learning. Check it out!

We are all in this together and can’t wait to get started! Go ‘Cats!

Take care and stay safe,

Theresa Bayze  
Director



### Mark your Calendar:



#### September 7th

Labor Day Holiday: No School

#### September 10th

FSA Virtual Parent Back to School Night (optional)  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

#### September 15th

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent High School Prep Meeting (Mandatory)  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

#### September 25th

FSA Faculty In-Service Day:  
No School

#### October 12th

First Quarter Ends

#### October 14th

Parent/Teacher Conferences

#### October 15th

Teacher Professional Day

# Message From Father Sauer, S.J.

## Welcoming the Students to the New School Year

Dear Scholars,

Welcome back to the FSA for the new School Year! When classes restarted, my old pastor always used to greet us with GOOD LUCK. In this case, LUCK is made from four components: *LOYALTY, UNDERSTANDING, COURAGE, and KINDNESS*, which are all qualities and virtues we desire in our academic, social, athletic, and spiritual endeavors as we begin again in school.

So GOOD LUCK and GOD BLESS as you start! May the Spirit of Jesus be with all of you, whichever grade you are in, as you reopen your books and laptops!

I look forward to seeing you all when travel restrictions are lifted. I can hardly wait to be with you! I have corresponded with your student leaders and hope to meet them soon – as well as ALL of you!

Today as I write – August 12 – Joseph Biden, Jr. named Senator Kamala Harris of California as his Vice Presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket. What a wonderful and wise choice for women, minorities, and our democracy's future!

Such an appointment tells us that in our nation, anything can happen! Anyone can advance to the pinnacle of service to our country. One day we shall see comparable advancement in our FSA graduates. Start now and God be with you **ALWAYS!**

Peace and love all school year long – and beyond!

Very truly yours,

Anthony P. Sauer, S. J.

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## FSA Student Council Messages

### Student Council Information

Although classes are not in person for the time being, our FSA scholars still have the opportunity to serve their classmates through Student Council. Led by Mr. Geraghty, Student Council will hold bi-weekly meetings on Thursdays during students' lunch break. All students are welcome to attend the meetings. For questions about Student Council and how to get involved, please contact Mr. Geraghty at [cgeraghty@siprep.org](mailto:cgeraghty@siprep.org).

### FSA Student Council Members

- Ana Diaz, 8<sup>th</sup> grade (President)
- Kiyoka Valdes, 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Vice President)
- Sean Milburn, 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Student Activities President)

- Trenia Dunbar, 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Secretary)
- Zoe O’Neal, 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Treasurer)
- Pamela Jones, 7<sup>th</sup> grade (Social Justice Officer)

## Interview with FSA Student Council President Ana Diaz



With Mr. Geraghty confirming that we will have FSA Student Council this year, we decided to ask our Student Council President, Ana Diaz, for her thoughts on serving the student body remotely:

Ana, what are your expectations and hopes for this year?

*“I expect and hope that everyone attends all their classes and that they also try their hardest during distant learning. I also hope that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, especially the Student Council, are able to create a suitable and friendly environment for the new 6<sup>th</sup> graders.”*

Ana, what are you most excited to do this year as student council president?

*“What I’m most excited to do this year as Student Council President is to help a lot of people as much as I can.”*

Ana, what is your favorite part about being on student council?

*“My favorite part about being on the Student Council is being able to be a leader and being able to be there more for others.”*

Ana, why should students get involved with the student council?

*“Students should get involved with the Student Council so that they can become more responsible and willing to contribute to the school environment.”*

Ana, who should apply to become a part of the student council?

*“People who should apply to become a part of the Student Council are people who are positive and believe in change.”*

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## **FSA Welcomes New Teachers**

### **Meet the Newest Group of Educators at FSA!**

We love our faculty at FSA, and we are so excited to welcome our new teachers this year! Here’s our newest members of the FSA family:



*“My name is Ms. Audrey Gomes. I am the choral director at SI and am so excited to be working with the FSA students! I graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in vocal performance and recently completed my Master's in Music Education Kodály at Holy Names University. I have worked with students of all ages (4 to 94) and truly believe that anyone can make beautiful music. When I am not singing or teaching, I love to bake. I have a cat named Gertie that you will see walking into some of our zoom calls.” – Ms. Audrey Gomes*



*“My name is Meg Crowley. I am working as an AVC, helping out as a teaching assistant for physical education and athletics at Father Sauer Academy. I graduated from St. Ignatius in 2016 and went on to study Political Science and Classical Civilizations at the University of California, Davis. At UC Davis, I played club field hockey and women’s club lacrosse. I also worked in the Sport Club Office as a Recorder Manager. I’ve coached junior varsity field hockey at SI for the past three years. I am so excited to coach every scholar this year in PE!” – Coach Meg Crowley*

**THIS IS JESUIT**  
**THIS IS SI**





*“Mr. Calvin Nickelson is thrilled to be joining the FSA staff as the new English Language Arts teacher. He is originally from Massachusetts, and moved to California a few years ago to complete the Teach for America program, during which time he taught 5th grade in Richmond. If you spend any time talking to him, you’ll find he often has one thing on the brain: movies. He won’t shut up about them, and he has a particular weakness for Disney musicals and superhero flicks. He is desperately awaiting the moment when it is safe to return to theaters with a bucket of buttered popcorn in hand.” – Mr. Calvin Nickelson*



*“My name is Emmanuele (Manny) Tonna. I am a graduate of the Magis Middle School program class of 2012 and an alumni of Saint Ignatius College Preparatory class of 2016. I will be serving at SI this upcoming school year as an Alumni Volunteer. I will be working within the Father Sauer Academy as the Math Teacher’s Assistant and in the Magis office at SI. I am a recent first generation college graduate from San Jose State University, where I studied Child and Adolescent Development and was a captain of the Spartan Ice Hockey team for three years.” – Mr. Emmanuele “Manny” Tonna*



*“Ms. Rojas-Martinez is a native San Franciscan, born in the Mission District. As a social worker for nearly 20 years, she has provided direct services to adolescents and families at various non-profit organizations. She has previously worked with issues such as teen pregnancy, juvenile justice, and mental health while always emphasizing the importance of education to her clients. She has a Master of Social Work degree from San José State University. She also has experience working as a coach for middle school track and field, as well as coaching adults. She is married and has two sons.” – Ms. Gabriela Rojas-Martinez*



*“Hi Scholars and Families! My name is Hart Ayoob, and I am an Alumni Volunteer working in the FSA. I am originally from Half Moon Bay and was a member of the SI class of 2016. After SI, I attended Boston College, where I graduated this Spring with majors in Applied Psychology and Faith, Peace, and Justice Studies. This year, I will be teaching Religion and working with all Scholars through the Wellness program. I’ve played Water Polo through high school and college, and look forward to coaching here at SI. I look forward to working with you this year!” – Mr. Hart Ayoob*



*“My name is Andrew Stranahan, and I am a graduate of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, class of 2014. At Syracuse University, I majored in history and minored in finance and Asian/Asian American studies. After graduating from Syracuse University in 2018, I worked in Los Angeles for two years, where I helped preserve the legacy of Japanese American World War II veterans at Go For Broke National Education Center. Now, I’m back at my alma mater, where I’ll be supporting the Father Sauer Academy, the Magis Office, and the library as an Alumni Volunteer. I look forward to getting to know everyone this year!” – Mr. Andrew Stranahan*



*“My name is Mr. Matthews. I was born in San Francisco and grew up in Petaluma, CA with my mom and three sisters. I attended St. Ignatius College Prep for high school before attending Santa Clara University for undergrad. I majored in civil engineering and worked on engineering projects from India to Liberia and all the way back home. After college I did a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working at a middle school in Milwaukee, WI. I directed the afterschool program there, organizing classes involving robotics, engineering, sports, and writing for the middle school boys. This year I am back at SI, working as an Alumni Volunteer in the Community Service Office in the high school, and as the 6th and 7th grade religion teacher for the Father Sauer Academy. I could not be more thrilled to be back!” – Mr. Richard “Ricky” Matthews*



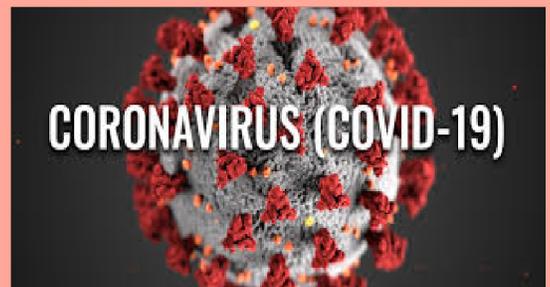
*“My name is Xander Paras, and I am a graduate of SI’s class of 2017. I am also a recent graduate of UC San Diego where I double majored in Linguistics and Classical Studies. Some of the things I enjoy are helping to coach SI’s Cross Country team, reading (anything from Spider-man to Cicero!), and getting buckets. This year I will be serving the community as a part of the Alumni Volunteer Corps. I am more than thrilled to TA ELA in the Father Sauer Academy and to work in the Community Service and Social Justice Office. Go Cats!” – Mr. Alexandros “Xander” Paras*



*“My wife and I are proud parents of two teenage daughters. We recently moved back to the Bay Area from Montana. This is my first year at FSA. I have been a middle-school teacher of many subjects, but mostly math, for 14 years. I returned to college in 2001 and earned a Masters degree in Education after working in the world of internet software. I firmly believe all students can enjoy learning math. I am committed to bringing this enjoyment to our classes. When I’m not at school or with my family, I’m usually surfing or riding my bike.” – Mr. Alex Eby*

## COVID-19: TIPS FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1. **STAY HOME** as much as you can
2. **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHERS**(6ft.)
3. **WASH YOUR HANDS**often
4. **COVER** your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
5. **SICK?** Call ahead



# Messages from FSA Teachers

## PE, Choir, and Yearbook, Oh My!

Even though we'll be learning virtually for the time being, our amazing teachers at FSA have some new and exciting messages for you!

### Weekly PE Challenge

It's hard to stay active when you're sitting at home all day. That's why Coach Mal and Coach Crowley have come up with a fun way to stay fit during quarantine:

**FATHER SAUER  
ACADEMY**

# WEEKLY PE CHALLENGE



**Get Walking!**

- **Goal:** walk for at least 10 minutes a day this week
- **Submit:** use your own or a family member's smartphone to track your walk/send in photos

\*App suggestions:  
Apple Health, Steps App\*

Grade with at least 75% participation and the highest scores for all the challenges earns a prize at the end of the semester!



# WELLNESS MESSAGE

## Why Should I Stay Active?

### Benefits

- Reduces risk of heart disease and diabetes
- Strengthens your bones and muscles
- Helps you sleep better
- Releases endorphins, which make you happy!

\*Information courtesy of the CDC\*



For questions about the Weekly PE Challenge, please contact either Coach Mal at [ibaugh@siprep.org](mailto:ibaugh@siprep.org) or Coach Crowley at [mcrowley@siprep.org](mailto:mcrowley@siprep.org).

## FSA Choir

This year, FSA will be unveiling a new extracurricular group for FSA: choir! The Choir will be led by SI's choral director, Ms. Gomes. Here is a message from her regarding the new FSA Choir:

"Do you love to sing? Join the FSA Choir! Our choir will meet on Wednesdays 2:00 PM – 2:40 PM and is open to all grade levels. Watch out for an email from Ms. Gomes, our music teacher, for more information. [Here is an example of what Ms. Gomes did with the SI high school last semester.](#) Come join our singing family!"

If you have questions about FSA Choir, email Ms. Gomes at [agomes@siprep.org](mailto:agomes@siprep.org).

## Yearbook Moderator Mr. Geraghty



Calling all students! We will still make a yearbook this year. Please send Mr. Geraghty pictures of your school set up at home and art that we include in the yearbook. Questions? Email Mr. Geraghty at [cgeraghty@siprep.org](mailto:cgeraghty@siprep.org).

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## Information for Parents About Upcoming Events

### Parent Groups

#### Ignatian Guild

The [Ignatian Guild](#) is comprised of SI and FSA mothers interested in supporting the entire campus community. All SI and FSA mothers are welcome to join and attend any and all Ignatian Guild events. Hyperlinks to upcoming September Ignatian Guild events can be found below:

1. Ignatian Guild Monthly Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
  - a. The Zoom Link will be sent to all moms by Stace Felder, SI's Digital Content Manager

2. [Chrissy Field “Walk Tail”](#): Every Monday and Wednesday in September from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
3. [Tennessee Valley Trail Hike](#): Every Tuesday and Thursday in September from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
4. [Golden Gate Park Run](#): Every Friday in September from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
5. [Noe Valley Stargazing](#): Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM
6. [Golf at Gleneagles Golf Course](#) (hosted by the SI Fathers’ Club): Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
7. [Group Bike Ride](#) (hosted by the SI Fathers’ Club): Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
8. [Fort Funston Dog Walk](#) (hosted by the SI Fathers’ Club): Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

### SI Fathers’ Club

Like the Ignatian Guild, the [SI Fathers’ Club](#) is comprised of SI and FSA fathers interested in supporting the entire campus community. All SI and FSA fathers are welcome to join and attend any and all Ignatian Guild events. Hyperlinks to upcoming September Fathers’ Club events can be found below:

1. [Golf at Gleneagles Golf Course](#): Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
2. [Group Bike Ride](#): Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
3. [Fort Funston Dog Walk](#): Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

### SIPAC

The [St. Ignatius Parents Asian Club \(SIPAC\)](#) supports the Asian American students and entire student body at SI and FSA. SIPAC holds multiple events throughout the year for students and parents to get to know one another and build community. All are welcome to join any and all SIPAC events. Hyperlinks to upcoming September SIPAC events can be found below:

1. [SIPAC General Meeting](#): Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
2. Community Service Meeting (hosted by the SI Alumni Director): Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 PM

### AALPA

The [African American and Latino Parents Association \(AALPA\)](#) supports the African American and Latinx students and entire student body. AALPA holds multiple events throughout the year for students and parents to get to know one another and build community. All are welcome to join any and all AALPA events. Upcoming September AALPA events can be found below:

1. AALPA Meeting: Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Corner

## SI Admissions Information

### Dates to Remember

1. **SI Applications Become Available On-line:** Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>
2. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent High School Prep Meeting (Mandatory):** Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
3. **Open House:** Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
4. **SI Applications Close:** Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 AM
5. **HSPT Exam Day:** Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### FSA HSPT Class with Mr. Geraghty:

From now until December, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking a HSPT prep class in lieu of their art class. This class is meant to help students focus on preparing for the HSPT, which is multiple choice, and its five sections:

1. Quantitative Skills that consist of 52 questions
2. Verbal Skills that consists of 60 questions
3. Reading that consists of 62 questions
4. Mathematics that consists 64 questions
5. Language that consists of 60 questions

It is important that students focus on preparing for the HSPT, because it is a large part of their application to high school. After the HSPT, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will transition into their art class. For additional information, please contact Mr. Geraghty at [cgeraghty@siprep.org](mailto:cgeraghty@siprep.org).

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We would like to thank our parents and volunteers for all of your support.  
Thank you so much for all that you have done and continue to do.



**AS ALWAYS, PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY  
QUESTIONS OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION.**

Website: <https://www.siprep.org/academy>  
Follow us on Instagram @lifeatfsa