



## **OUR MISSION**

St. Pius X Catholic High School is a Catholic community dedicated to the education of the whole person, in an environment where extraordinary care and concern for the individual is ordinary.

### **OUR VISION**

We, the Catholic learning community of St. Pius X Catholic High School, strive to maintain recognized excellence in all educational programs for students of all abilities. We strive to impart Christian ethical principles of living to students, preparing them to be productive and contributing members of a global society. We, as members of the St. Pius X Catholic High School community, seek to challenge each other individually to become lifelong learners in mind, body, and soul.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lucas Null '03 - Chair
Tim Almany
Travis Bannes '10
Steven Charleville '16
Tina (Kasmarzik '98) Duepner
Ben Ervin '94
Grant Jokerst '90
Jacqui Ortmann

#### **Ex Officio Members**

Jim Lehn President, St. Pius X Catholic High School

Karen DeCosty '93 Principal, St. Pius X Catholic High School





# **BUSINESS ALLIANCE**

#### **PLATINUM**

H.W. Herrell Distributing Company Sheet Metal Contractors, Inc., Home by SMCI State Farm Insurance - Sandy Vest Surdyke Motorsports The Pasta House Co.

#### **GOLD**

All Weather Sewer Service, Inc. Grind Coffee Company Leftridge Masonry, LLC Mercy Hospital Jefferson Sapaugh GM Country Twin City Toyota

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Kidz Biz Pediatrics
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#### **BRONZE**

PawJama Party Kennels StorageQ Karsch's Village Market

Thank you to all of our Business Alliance members. Please patronize these businesses that support our school. If you want to learn more about being a member of our Business Alliance program, please contact: Jim Lehn at (636) 931-7487, ext. 141 or president@stpius.com



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

For more than 65 years, St. Pius X Catholic High School has stood as a beacon of faith, knowledge, and community in Jefferson County and beyond. Guided by the mission of Catholic education, our purpose has always been clear: to form young men and women in faith, scholarship, and service so they are well-prepared for the opportunities and challenges life presents.

Today, that mission is alive and thriving. Our dedicated faculty and staff bring the Gospel to life in the classroom each day, encouraging students not only to learn but also to grow in character, compassion, and leadership. Beyond academics, St. Pius X continues to cultivate a spirit of service, preparing graduates who will contribute to their communities, the Church, and the world.

We are also committed to stewarding the blessings of our campus so that future generations of Lancers have the best opportunities to learn and grow. Recent and ongoing enhancements to our facilities, programs, and technology reflect our promise to provide a dynamic environment where faith and learning flourish side by side. These investments ensure that the tradition of excellence entrusted to us more than six decades ago will remain strong for the decades to come.

As an alumni, friend, and supporter, you are a vital part of this legacy. The strength of St. Pius X has always been rooted in the partnership between our school and the wider community of those who believe in the power of Catholic education. I invite you to continue that partnership. You can support our mission in many meaningful ways: by holding our students, faculty, and staff in prayer; by sharing the story of St. Pius X with others; and by making a financial gift that sustains our work today and secures it for tomorrow.

Together, we can ensure that St. Pius X remains a place where faith is deepened, knowledge is expanded, and future leaders are formed. The world needs graduates who are strong in spirit, grounded in values, and prepared to lead with integrity. Your support makes that possible. On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and the entire St. Pius X family, thank you for being part of this enduring legacy. May God bless you abundantly and continue to bless all who call St. Pius X their home.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Lehn

# ADMISSIONS

# Class of 2029 statistics

**FRESHMEN ENROLLED** 

**TRANSFER STUDENTS** 

ZIP CODES **REPRESENTED** 

OF THE FRESHMAN **CLASS ARE LEGACY FAMILIES** 

# Apply nou!

4 REASONS TO CHOOSE St. Pius X



**583** Program

- **5 CLASS TRIPS TO 8 DIFFERENT COLLEGES OVER THE FIRST**
- **3 YEARS**

SCHOLARSHIP TO ST. **PIUS X GRADUATES** WHO GET ACCEPTED AND ATTEND MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY \$500K

FINANCIAL AID & AWARDS **DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY** 

1 hour lunch

- STUDY ATTEND CLUBS
- TUTORING
- ATTEND MASS
  MEET WITH FACULTY
  MEET WITH COLLEGE REPS

Come grow with us!



Director of Admissions, Breanna Bannes, '15 bbannes@stpius.com (636) 931-7487 ext. 117



www.stpius.com/applynow

# CAMPUS MINISTRY



# WELCOME, MR. JAKE FOWLER!

Hello St. Pius X family! My name is Jake Fowler, and I'm excited to join you as your new theology teacher and campus minister. It's a true honor to be part of this community where faith and education come together so beautifully. I look forward to walking alongside each of you on your spiritual journeys, exploring our beliefs, and growing in faith together. I'm eager to contribute to the great life of St. Pius X and to support our students both inside and outside the classroom. Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

This year's theme, "Return to the Garden," combines two powerful ideas rich in spiritual meaning. The garden symbolizes a sacred place throughout biblical history, from Eden to the Promised Land, and in the New Testament events like the Annunciation, Gethsemane, and the Resurrection. Gardens represent the natural cycle of life, death, and renewal, mirroring our spiritual growth as God, the Gardener, nurtures and prunes us for deeper grace.

The second concept, return, means going back to a place or state, often for comfort or healing. Here, it paradoxically means returning to a place we've never been, symbolized by "anemoia." This return is not just to Eden, but to the New Jerusalem, the heavenly fulfillment of God's promise. We are pilgrims caught between the present and this future glory, called to press forward with faith and dedication. This journey embodies the school's spiritual mission, inspired by St. Pius X.

## WELCOME, FR. DONALD MORRIS!

My name is Father Donald Morris, and I am blessed to be serving as the Chaplain at St. Pius X. I was ordained in 2022, I grew up in St. Louis but have deep roots in Jefferson County as well. Northwest High School is my alma mater, and Our Lady Queen of Peace in House Springs is the parish where my faith was first formed. After high school, I studied at Rockhurst University before answering God's call and entering Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. High school ministry has been a true passion of mine since the beginning of my priesthood. There is nothing more rewarding than walking with young people and helping them grow closer to Christ. Please know of my daily prayers for this community, and I humbly ask for your prayers as I serve in this beautiful mission.



# FINE ARTS

## **MUSIC**

#### WELCOME, MRS. LORI HOKE-ODER

As a new teacher of the St. Pius X Catholic High School Music Program, I'm excited to bring over 20 years of experience to our thriving ensemble community. We kicked off the year with a strong foundation: two weeks of instrumental and marching fundamentals, plus a week of vocal training. Already, we've welcomed esteemed guest clinicians like Dr. Kristin Leitterman (Arkansas State), Dr. Barbara Lamont (SEMO), and National Blues Society's "Big George" Brock Jr., alongside former StPX Teacher Ron Roskowske, who inspired students with jazz clinics and a schoolwide Blues assembly. Our choral and band ensembles delivered a standout performance at a



Cardinals game, and enrollment in both programs continues to grow. Students are preparing for All-District auditions in choral, jazz, and concert band. We've also reinstated the beloved faculty-staff-student choir for all-school Mass and look forward to performing with our band at future events. There's no shortage of music filling the halls of St. Pius X!

### **THEATRE**



St. Pius X Circle Theatre brought the classic musical The Wizard of Oz to life on stage. Based on the 1939 film, the timeless story enchanted audiences of all ages. Senior Falyn Barnett shone as Dorothy Gale, capturing both the wide-eyed wonder and determination of the Kansas farm girl swept away on an unforgettable adventure. Her companions, the brain-seeking Scarecrow (Bailey Winkler), the hearthungry Tin Man (Parker Moreno), and the lovable but timid Cowardly Lion (Adam Grissom), brought humor and heart to the stage. Ramona Ruelas sent chills through the audience with her portrayal of the Wicked Witch of the West, her menacing presence and iconic cackle completing the magical cast. Circle Theatre now looks ahead to the spring, where students will prepare a one-act play as they set their sights on a fourth consecutive district championship in March.

## **ART**

Our students have been putting their artistic talents to the test! By sharpening their observation and value skills, they explored the grid method to create detailed celebrity portraits. Although the process challenged them at times, their dedication and perseverance paid off—resulting in stunning drawings that closely mirror their reference images.



# SUMMER RECAP

# FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

Our annual Fireworks Extravaganza took place on June 26, 2025 at St. Pius X. Families and friends came together for an unforgettable summer evening filled with tailgating, delicious BBQ, lively concessions, and incredible music by Blackbird Strut. The night ended with a breathtaking fireworks show that wowed the crowd and truly captured the spirit of community and celebration.





### GOLF TOURNAMENT



On July 25, 2025, the 36th annual St. Pius X Golf Tournament teed off at Crystal Highlands Golf Course. Despite the sweltering summer heat, the day was filled with energy, excitement, and incredible community spirit.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our participants, sponsors, and supporters, we are proud to announce that the event raised over \$45,000 in support of St. Pius X Catholic High School. This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without each and every one of you. Mark your calendars — the 37th annual tournament is set for July 31, 2026! We can't wait to see you there!



Thank you for attending ST. PIUS X SUMMER CAMPS!

# CAMPUS EVENTS

# **GIVING DAY**

StPX Giving Day is when the friends, alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff of the St. Pius X family are extraordinarily supportive. All gifts help St. Pius X Catholic High School students achieve their academic goals, embrace their local community, and celebrate Christ in everything they do. StPX Giving Day 2025 was Thursday November 6, 2025.



GOAL: \$100,000







# **CAREER DAY**

Career Day took place on Thursday, November 13 in the Ralph Boyer Memorial Gymnasium. Alumni came back to campus to show off their careers and share their professional development with our students. Students had a rotating 40-minute schedule and were able to visit tables that showcased their career of interest. We are so excited to be able to bring this featured event to our students. If you are an alumni and are interested in joining Career Day next year, please contact Alumni Coordinator, Katy Nesselbush, '09 at knesselbush@stpius.com.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

The St. Pius X Catholic High School Endowment Fund will serve as a long-term "savings account" for need-based scholarships, faculty and student enrichment, and unrestricted funds for the growing needs of our school.

## PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving is for everyone. Anyone – regardless of income or age – can make a planned gift! You can make a tremendous impact on St. Pius X Catholic High School.

For additional information please visit www.stpius.com/plannedgiving or contact Jim Lehn, president@stpius.com or (314) 608-0669.

# HOMECOMING RECAP

## 8TH GRADE DAY

On Wednesday, October 1, we welcomed 100 eighth graders from Catholic and public schools for our annual 8th Grade Day. Students explored their personality colors, joined in leadership and team-building activities, and impressed us with their kindness, creativity, and enthusiasm. A highlight was designing their own "field day" games, where their teamwork and energy truly shined. Our student ambassadors enjoyed guiding the visitors and making new connections, and the day was filled with laughter, learning, and school spirit. We pray the seeds of leadership, teamwork, and friendship planted that day continue to grow throughout the year.



## HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

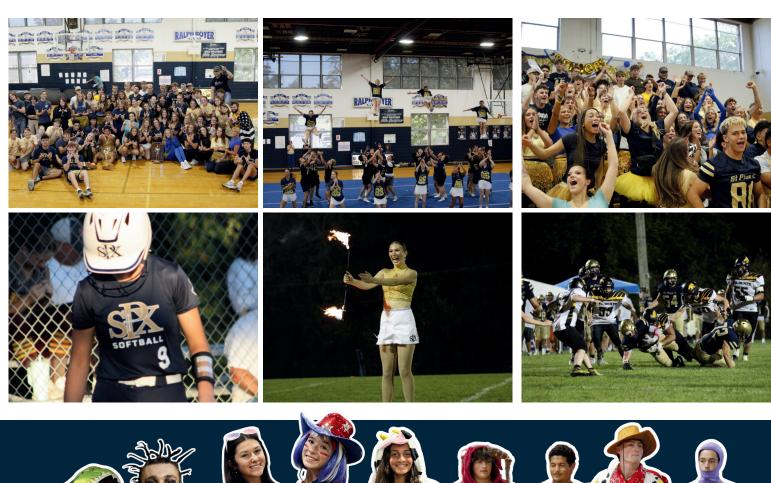
St. Pius X proudly honored the legendary 1967–68 Boys Basketball Team with induction into the St. Pius X Hall of Fame, celebrating one of the most exciting and successful seasons in school history. Led by Coach Ralph Boyer, the team's fast-paced play and record-setting success left a lasting legacy that still inspires today.

We also honored Lawrence Krodinger, '90 for his lifelong dedication and service to the school. Lawrence has poured countless hours into the community with enthusiasm, generosity, and heart. Known for his many talents, he's painted football fields, operated game-day fog machines and spotlights, announced basketball and volleyball games, filmed football for 14 years, and contributed to major campus projects like the Wellness Center and press box. He's also coached basketball and track, faithfully setting up equipment and supporting athletes with his signature positivity (and snacks). A true volunteer and role model, Lawrence embodies the spirit of St. Pius X through his selfless service, unwavering support, and deep love for the school.





Homecoming week brought out the energy and enthusiasm of the entire student body as each class rallied together to show their school spirit. Throughout the week, students embraced the daily themes with impressive creativity, teamwork, and school spirit, all while competing to earn points in categories like participation, sportsmanship, and originality. From coordinated outfits to spirited events, the friendly competition united the classes and set the perfect tone for a memorable homecoming celebration!





# ATHLETIC HIGHTS

#### **SOFTBALL**

At the start of this year, esteemed faculty member, softball coach, and role model Kevin Halley, '98 faced a difficult diagnosis of colon cancer. After a courageous battle, we are thrilled to share the incredible news that Mr. Halley is officially cancer-free! To celebrate his strength and show their unwavering support, our 2025 softball girls proudly sport their Halley jerseys, honoring their amazing coach, mentor, and inspiration both on and off the field.



#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

Senior Jayden Metzler has quickly established himself as one of the top cross country athletes in the state. Metzler has shaved more than a minute off his times from last year. He has captured first place in two of his first three meets this season. Currently ranked as the No. 1 runner in his district and among the top 10 statewide, He is preparing to continue his running career at the collegiate level, with Mizzou and Miami among his top choices.

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

The St. Pius X volleyball team is having a stellar season with an 18-4 record as postseason play nears. The Lancers opened strong, winning the Pony Express State Preview Tournament in St. Joseph. Junior Kate Sherry set a school record with 43 kills in a five-set win over Marquette, while senior setter Elena Ruble became the program's all-time assists leader with 3,723. With a No. 1 district seed and plenty of momentum, the Lancers look primed for a deep postseason run.



### **GOLF**

St. Pius X freshman Maggie Krutzsch proudly represented the Lancers at the Class 1 State Golf Championships held October 20–21 at Tanglewood Golf Course in Fulton. Krutzsch earned her spot at state after shooting a 112 on the par-70 course at the District 2 Tournament in Columbia—an outstanding accomplishment for the talented freshman in her first high school season.

#### **TENNIS**

The girls tennis team made huge improvements from their 2024 season to this current one. Senior Addie Wallis, juniors Kate Tilley and Julia Whitman, and sophomore Charlotte Kurzweil returned from last year and were joined by junior Amber Schelp and sophomore Campbell Herrell. The team heads to the District Quarterfinals.



# ATHLETIC HIGHTS

#### **FOOTBALL**

Defensively, StPX has been stout, allowing just 15 points per game, while the offense has been explosive, averaging 38 points per game. The program also reached a historic milestone this year, earning its first-ever win over a Class 5 opponent.





#### **SOCCER**

The St. Pius X boys soccer team has faced its share of challenges this season but is beginning to find its stride at just the right time. Over the past couple of weeks, the Lancers have scored 12 goals while not allowing a single one. The JV squad is also performing at a high level, recently capturing first place in the Union Tournament.





# FEATURED ALUMNI:

#### HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE CAREER

Jena Otec, '17, a standout volleyball player and rising coach, is known for her grit, intelligence, and deep love for the game. Her journey began at St. Pius X Catholic High School in Festus, Missouri, where she quickly became a dominant force on the court and a respected leader off of it. As a senior in the 2016–17 season, Jena led the Lancers to a 36–4 record and a Class 2 state championship, a season that cemented her legacy as one of the best players in school history. Her performance earned her the prestigious title of Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year, recognizing not only her athletic excellence but also her academic and personal integrity. Over the course of her high school career, she totaled 1,748 kills and 1,349 digs, showcasing her versatility, consistency, and leadership from the very beginning.

Jena's talent earned her a full athletic scholarship to Purdue University, where she transitioned from outside hitter to libero, quickly becoming one of the top defensive players in the country. She was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year (2020), received multiple All-American honors, and made history as Purdue's first-ever libero to earn All-American status.



#### **CAREER**

After graduating with a Bachelor's in Selling and Sales Management and a Master's in Technology, Leadership, and Innovation, Jena began her coaching career at Eastern Michigan University before joining the staff at Western Kentucky University (WKU). Now in her third season with WKU, Jena has played an instrumental role in the team's success, helping lead them to a 30–5 record and an NCAA Tournament appearance. In 2025, WKU is currently ranked 29th in the nation, a reflection of the team's hard work and Jena's growing influence as a coach.

In addition to her collegiate coaching responsibilities, Jena also runs youth volleyball camps and coaches club teams, with a special emphasis on defense, discipline, and fundamentals, passing on the values that have defined her own career. In a full-circle moment, Jena returned to the court in 2025 as a professional athlete, signing with the Grand Rapids Rise in the Pro Volleyball Federation. Her move back into professional play is a testament to her enduring passion for the sport and her elite level of skill and fitness. Despite her busy lifestyle in college athletics and professional volleyball, Jena remains committed to a healthy and balanced life. "When I have free time, I enjoy cooking and baking healthy meals, snacks, and desserts," she shares. "I love being active...whether that's lifting, Pilates, or just going for a walk or run. Spending time with friends and family is something I always make time for."

# JENA OFFIC



#### JENA'S TIME AT ST. PIUS X

Reflecting on her roots, Jena credits St. Pius X for laying the foundation for both her academic and athletic success. "St. Pius X prepared me for my higher education at Purdue, where I earned two degrees and received a full athletic volleyball scholarship," she says. "It helped develop my character, moral compass, and faith. I'm so thankful for that experience, it truly prepared me for the real world." Jena looks back fondly on the relationships she formed during her time at StPX. "I enjoyed the friendships I built with classmates and teachers. Being part of a smaller, private school community taught me the value of relationships and the importance of supporting one another. I have so many great memories, from Mr. Taylor's English class to volleyball pregame dance parties and the excitement of homecoming week." One moment stands out most in her memory: winning the state volleyball championship her senior year. "Two of my best friends, Shelby Meyer and Elle Russell, were on the team with me. We worked incredibly hard to achieve that goal, and sharing that moment with them is something I'll never forget." To current StPX students, Jena offers this heartfelt advice: "Your four years will go by very quickly...enjoy them! Don't wish time away. Cherish the moments you have with your friends, your family, and your school community."

Jena Otec's journey, from high school champion to collegiate All-American, from rising coach to pro athlete, is a shining example of what passion, perseverance, and purpose can achieve.







#### St. Pius X Catholic High School

1030 St. Pius Drive Festus, MO 63028 www.stpius.com

#### Return Service Requested

Parents: If this issue of the Lancer Legend is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a permanent address, please notify St. Pius X of the new address at (636) 931-7487, ext. 113 or bervin@stpius.com.

