

Lancer LEGEND



THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL
SPRING 2022



Board of Directors

2021-2022

Darin Basler

Chairman of the Board

Lucas Null '03

Vice-Chairman of the Board

Sue Vogt '78

Secretary of the Board

Eric Ammons

Emilie (Franke '03) Ayers

Travis Bannes '10

Denise Dix

Chris Eggert

Nancy Foy

Dr. Butch Jones

John Lamping '01

Fr. Dan Shaughnessy

Tim Surdyke '83

Rick Vest '76

Sandy Vest '78

Ex Officio Members

Jim Lehn

President, St. Pius X High School

Karen DeCosty '93

Principal, St. Pius X High School

Fr. Jack Ruzicka

Chaplain St. Pius X High School



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Letter from the President	2
Student of the Month	3
Campus Ministry	4
Class of 2022.....	5
Legacy Families	6
Cognia Accreditation	7 & 8
House System, Admissions.....	9
Legacy Gala	10
Sports Recap	11
Fine Arts	12
Featured Alumni	13
Upcoming Events	14

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Pius X 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.

VISION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic learning community of St. Pius X 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 High School community, seek to challenge each other individually to become lifelong learners in mind, body, and soul.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE LANCER FAMILY,

On behalf of the St. Pius X High School community, we hope you and your loved ones are well. At St. Pius X High School, we continue to provide our students with a vibrant, Catholic, Christ-centered education delivered within a caring, supportive community.

St. Pius X High School has been serving our community by providing an extraordinary education since we opened our doors in 1959. Our school's purpose is clearly defined in our mission statement:

St. Pius X 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.

Catholic Education is our mission, and we will continue to serve this mission to help form the future leaders of America.

We've seen firsthand just how important this school and faith community are to our students and their families and we are only further energized in our pursuit of this goal. One of the most significant learnings was how important it was to provide in person learning.

Our students continued to learn according to the predetermined curriculum and their success was evident in three key indicators...ACT scores, High School Placement Test by Scholastic and Scholastic Reading Inventory. In addition, the class of 2022 had an average ACT score of 22.4 (top 10% averaged 30.6, 50% averaged 26.1) and accepted over \$1.96M in scholarships at 30 different colleges in 10 states.

To further confirm and validate the success of St. Pius X High School, in January we received a high score of 365 out of a possible 400 on our accreditation review from COGNIA. Over the last five years, COGNIA's average score awarded to schools is 278-283. This is truly an accomplishment worth celebrating!

We are so proud of our faculty, staff and students for all of their hard work. While data does not tell the entire story of a student, or a school, we know that our mission of providing a vibrant, Catholic education is being fulfilled.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of St. Pius X High School.

Business Alliance

Platinum

Mercy Hospital Jefferson
Craig R. Ruble, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon
H.W. Herrell Distributing
Company
Sheet Metal Contractors, Inc.
Home by SMCI
State Farm Insurance - Sandy Vest
Tim Surdyke's Gold Star Harley
and Gold Star Outdoors
Surdyke Motorsports

Silver

Arnold Animal Hospital
Bauman Oil Distributors, Inc.
Cemtech
Dieb Enterprises Inc.
Genuine Appliance & Mattress
Hovis & Associates
Jones Animal Health Clinic
US Silica

Gold

All Weather Sewer Service, Inc.
Animal Care Service, Inc.
Carrollton Bank
Compi Distributing, Inc.
Leftridge Masonry, LLC
Live Stream STL
Sapaugh GM Country
Twin City Toyota

Bronze

Andre's – Oak Valley Golf
Course & Resort
Autumn Ridge Residences
Edward Jones - Scott Seek
PawJama Party Kennels
The UPS Store – Festus

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.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Molly Laiben

January

St. Pius X has challenged me, supported me, and guided me. The people I have been surrounded by and the environment I have experienced in my four years have been exactly what I needed to become who I am today.



Cheyanne Walt

February

St. Pius X has provided a community that has challenged me to become the best version of myself. The group of people here has pushed me to set goals for myself, grow relationships with my classmates and teachers, and has helped me to succeed.



Ray Hrdlicka

March

St. Pius X has shaped me through sports and being constantly surrounded by good people. Sports introduced me to how a team should function, The faculty, staff, and student body have all been an example to me of what a good person looks like, and how to model that on a day-to-day basis.



Carolina Kurzweil

April

St. Pius High School has shaped me into the well-rounded person I am today. It prioritizes academics, faith-life, and extracurriculars to better prepare me for the many options available in the real world.



Colleen Flanagan

May

St. Pius X has allowed me to grow academically, mentally, and most importantly spiritually. It has been a successful path in my life that bettered me and readied me for the future.

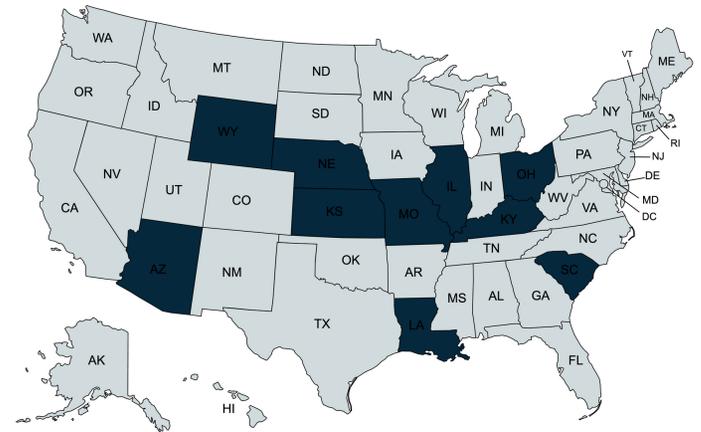
As we end the 2021-2022 school year, we look back on the year with a lot of gratitude for the many ways God has blessed us. Although we were not able to take a group of students to Washington D.C. for the March for Life, we still took a stand for life by holding our second March for Life in Festus. We had a group of seniors that took more of a leadership role in Campus Ministry, and we are looking forward to expanding this type of leadership with a peer ministry group next school year. It was beautiful to see so many students go to reconciliation or just talk to a priest during our Lenten penance service. This school year we have seen the Holy Spirit at work at St. Pius X even if it is in little ways. We ask for your continued prayers that the Lord's work is being done at St. Pius and that all students, teachers, and staff are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.





St. Pius X recently graduated 63 students in its 2022 class. 98% of the class is enrolling in college this fall. 62 students will be attending 30 different colleges in 10 states.

- Accepted at 66 colleges in 24 states
- 21 (33%) attending a two-year/technical college
- 39 (62%) attending a four-year college/university
- 2 (3%) will be attending a technical/trade school
- 50 students earned \$1.96 million in accepted merit/talent/athletic scholarships
- 24 students graduated with a 4.0 or above
- Top GPA is a 4.366/4
- ACT average composite score: 22.4
- Top 10% of the class: 30.6 ACT composite
- Top 25% of the class: 27.8 ACT composite
- Top 50% of the class: 26.1 ACT composite



CLASS OF 2022



Brendan Bishop, '22
Kelly (Wagner '90) Bishop



Nalasha Cook, '22
Chikosi Cook, '92



Lillian Engelskind, '22
Lisa (Weatherholt '91) Engelskind



Cassandra Feagan, '22
Gary Olinger, 84



Colleen Flanagan, '22
Mary (Condon '91) Flanagan



Toby Haselhorst, '22
Elizabeth Haselhorst, '99



Elijah Hunt, '22
Darrel Hunt, '95



Logan Jacobson, '22
Heather (Lang '94) Portell
and Aaron Portell, '94
Thomas Portell, '63 (not pictured)



Caroline Kurzweil, '22
Stacey (Burger '91) Kurzweil



Molly Laiben, '22
Michael Laiben, '92
Mark '69 and Joyce (Meyer '70) Laiben



Kyle Lewis, '22
Donald '90 and
Laura (Atzert '90) Lewis



Caleb Smith, '22
Matthew Smith, '01



Annabelle Stetina, '22
Jesse '02 and
Elizabeth (Christman '02) Stetina



Sophia Stolzer, '22
John Stolzer, Jr., '81



Cheyenne Walt, '22
Amy (Rauscher '99) Walt



Melanie Warden, '22
Julie (Blunk '89) Warden



William Wieland, '22
Joseph Wieland, '82

LEAVING A LEGACY

CLASS OF 2022 LEGACY FAMILIES

EST. 1959

ST. PIUS X EARNS COGNIA ACCREDITATION

COGNIA Accreditation Team recommended re-accreditation for St. Pius X High School!

COGNIA conducted the St. Pius X accreditation review January 19 to January 21, 2022. This review is a highly detailed, data-driven and an all-encompassing examination of school and school system practices. Based on the evidence the review team awarded St. Pius X high marks in standards covering leadership capacity, teaching and learning impact, and resource management.

Each of the 30 standards used to evaluate those three areas are ranked on a four-point scale. A three is the goal for each standard as it shows you are meeting expectations of that standard. A score of four shows exceptional effectiveness, or exceeding expectations, of that standard. Overall St. Pius X received a 4 on 28 of the 30 standards and a 3 on the remaining two standards! St. Pius X received an “Index of Education Quality” score of 365 out of a possible 400, which well exceeds COGNIA’s average score of 278-283 awarded to schools over the past five year.

During the review the team reviewed documentation and interviewed teams of teachers, students, parents and board membering as well as the leadership team. The team found four “themes” during their review of the school.

- A strong, supportive culture honors and celebrates a sense of family and community at StPX. “What the school is about and who they are was evident in all the discussions with the groups the team interviewed and within data provided. The recurring theme of “The St. Pius Way” was so strong and evident that it is obvious that this is not just a motto, but an actual living and breathing part of the school.”
- The school is high achieving and is well served by focused professional development of the staff. “The team saw the concerted effort of leadership in focusing resources to train and retain the best-qualified staff to deliver instruction in the collaborative environment of the school community as a priority that helps the school continue to support a culture of powerful relationships that elicit relevance and enable a rigorous program for all learners is essential for continued improvement”.



- St. Pius X intentionally implements a curriculum based on high expectations and supporting the learning needs of all students. The team noted that “across the spectrum of academic levels in the student population, the concerted effort to ensure the academic, social, emotional and spiritual wholeness and success of each child is without questions and fully embedded in the school. The school and all its stakeholders describe St. Pius X as respectful, united, a partnership and, most importantly, a family striving to achieve their highest possible level”.
- The leadership team and advisory board plan for and are committed to the success of learning in a whole child setting. The team noted that “there is a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the school and that the school has taken multiple steps across several areas to achieve assets that can best support the needs of the student community and support further strategic planning”.

St. Pius X will continue to hold itself accountable to provide the best well rounded Catholic educational experience in Jefferson County and surrounding areas for years to come. We are so proud of the teachers and students and the entire St. Pius X community for their hard work and their faith in St. Pius X High School.



St. Pius X High School *Endowment Fund*

The St. Pius X 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. St. Pius X partners with the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri to manage funds.

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 High School, likely at no cost to you during your lifetime.

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

HOUSE SYSTEM

Congratulations to Deutschmann House on winning the House of the Year award!

"I think the best benefit of the House System is that it gives people in different grades something to bond over. Going up against the other houses in games and competitions gives people who would not have previously gotten to know each other something in common, and something to be proud of. It brings us together."

-Teresa Hrdlicka

"The benefits to the House System are a family environment that you may not get with other people in the school, you are congregating with other grade levels, you can meet new people, and you also have the competitive side of it with games and challenges."

- Hannah Hovis



ADMISSIONS

On Friday, January 28 we accepted 68 students into the Class of 2026 and as of April 29, we have a total of 73 students enrolled. The number is continuing to grow its way to our goal of 80. We ended the school year with 286 students and have a goal of 300 for the new school year.

Enrollment is still open for the 2022-2023 school year. At St. Pius X we strive to provide our students with a vibrant, Catholic, Christ-centered education delivered within a caring, supportive community. Our school's purpose is clearly defined in our mission statement:

St. Pius X 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.

Catholic Education is our mission. If there is ever any concern about tuition, please give us a call. Jim Lehn is passionate about making St. Pius X within reach for all families.

If you or someone you know is interested in a St. Pius X education for their child please contact the Director of Admissions, Breanna Easter '15 at (636) 931-7487, ext. 117. Tours are available daily at each individuals request. Come see what St. Pius X has to offer!

Apply Now

FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

CONTACT BREANNA EASTER '15, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS, AT BEASTER@STPIUS.COM.

LEGACY GALA

The Legacy Gala was an exceedingly successful event this year. We hit a record net revenue number of \$159,569.47!

This year we held a class challenge to see which class could bring in the highest gross revenue of all donated items at the Gala. Here are the results:

- 1st place – Class of 2024 - \$15,358
- 2nd place – Class of 2025 - \$7,062
- 3rd place – Class of 2023 - \$5,053
- 4th place – Class of 2022 - \$2,460

In total, the students and families brought in over \$29,000 in donations, baskets, live auction items and more! This is incredible and we can't thank our amazing school community enough. We also wanted to thank Laurie Lewis, Jaci Baker, & Peggy Flanagan for being the parent leaders.

Our Fund-A-Need for 2022 will go towards St. Pius X's continued mission to renew, repurpose and restore the facilities and resources we have, specifically a Student Service Center, renewed storage spaces and an expanded Media Productions Room. The Fund-A-Need raised \$21,400! The Friends of Father Dalton Scholarship was created in 2011 to provide financial assistance for families who may need assistance to make Catholic education a reality for their child. Father Dalton committed a lifetime of service, pouring his heart and soul into growing St. Pius X. This year we were able to raise \$15,400 for this amazing scholarship!

As with any event of this magnitude, there are many thanks due. Thank you to anyone who donated, attended, volunteered and supported the event financially. Thank you to Nancy Foy and the entire decorating crew for making the gym/school look so beautiful. Thank you to the staff and faculty for all of your help in the many weeks it took to plan this event. We couldn't have had the huge success of this event without your help.

May God bless you,

Amy Atzert '01, Director of Events



SPORTS RECAP

Basketball Lady Lancers (16-9) won their first district title since the 2010 season when Assistant Coach Tori Aubuchon was a senior in high school. This is one of the best defensive teams in the St. Louis area only allowing 32 points a game from their opponents. The St. Pius X Boys Basketball season came to an end on Friday, February 25th, in a 34-42 loss to Carnahan High School. While losing in the district semifinals cut the journey short, the Lancers had nothing to hang their heads about when looking back on their 2021-2022 basketball season. They finished with an overall record of 18-9.

Wrestling The St. Pius X boys wrestling record was 6-15 and finished ninth of 16 teams at Districts. StPX had two state qualifiers, Jon Halfmann and Andrew Boldt. The team had the following wins; Brentwood, Cape Notre Dame, Affton, Borgia, Lift for Life Academy, and St. Clair. Took 9th at Districts. The girls wrestling team's dual record was 8 wins and 7 losses. Senior Captain Maddie Birkenmeier led the team. Freshman Ava Gilbreth and Sophomore Jillian Grissom both came within one match of qualifying for State. Team wins, two against Affton, Herky, Festus, Cape Notre Dame, Hancock, Lift for Life, and Potosi. A great start for the first year of this program.

Baseball St. Pius X Varsity baseball team went 20-6 for the season. After winning the 2022 Conference Championship for Class 3 District 3, they successfully made it to a State Sectional game. What a season! The baseball team was fortunate enough to play at GCS (Minor League stadium in Sauget, IL) and Busch Stadium. This season the Lancers welcomed former Major League player and St. Pius X alumni Mike Henneman (Class of 1980) back and retired his #18 jersey.

Girls Soccer St. Pius X varsity girls' soccer team is currently 11-5-1 and the #1 seed in their Class 1 District. We are anticipating our first district championship in 7 years with hopes to get back to the Final Four this season. This season the girls have worked hard to improve each day, the chemistry of the team is amazing and a joy to coach.

Track & Field This year has been a great year for the St. Pius X Track team. We had the largest turnout since the mid 1990s. The athletes all worked hard and it was evident because we had 18 athletes place in the top four in Districts and move on to sectionals. Out of these athletes six made it through sectionals to compete in the Class 2 State Track meet on May 20-21: Hanna Burch, Katie Rakers, Michaela Eimer, Reagan Edwards, Rachel Eimer, PJ Krodinger

Boys Tennis After graduating the majority of the team last year, the boys tennis team revamped itself with brand new players across the board. The varsity team consisted of seniors Jon Halfmann, Logan Jacobson, Caleb Houston, Brendan J Bishop, and Tyson Schaeffer as well as freshman Christian Leicht. While they were all brand new to the sport, each one of them brought skills from other sports they've played, the ability to take coaching advice, and a competitive attitude. By the end of the season, each one of them had notched wins over much more experienced players and even snagged 2nd place at the JCAA Conference Tournament. The boys tennis season ended with a 3-8 record.

Golf While the St. Pius X golf team had its unforeseen share of difficulties this season, the end result would definitely be considered successful. The overall record for the team was 7-7, which included a 6-3 record in conference. Two Lancer golfers (Will Becker and Jack O'Connor) earned All-Conference Honors, and for the first time since 2018, multiple individuals (Will and Connor Isenman) qualified for the State Championship Tournament. With the new home of the Lancer golfers being at Crystal Highlands Golf Course, we were able to host our first high school golf tournament, a huge milestone for the program.

Boys Volleyball The boys volleyball team lost in the first round of districts on Friday, May 13th against Ft. Zumwalt East. The Lancers put up a good fight, but unfortunately could not advance to the semi finals of districts. Even though the team did not advance, there is much to celebrate when it comes to the first boys volleyball team at St. Pius X High School. The team managed to gain volleyball knowledge throughout the season by playing both JV and Varsity teams.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

May 5th was the Fine Arts Festival and Senior Exhibition. As guests entered St. Pius X and made their way to the second floor, they could view a variety of artwork made by the StPX students. The exhibition focused on senior artists. With each senior's body of artwork was a QR code linking viewers to their portfolio websites. The portfolio websites gave a glimpse into the year's progress, the process associated with each individual project, as well as insight into the inspiration and personal story behind the work. Three Seniors were given awards for their exemplary achievement in skill and creative expression. First place was Madi Birkenmeier for her work in drawing, and her piece called Critical. Second place was Cathryn Carron for her work in paper sculpture, and her piece called Native Beauty. Third place was Connor Isenman for his work in painting, and his piece called Anxiety. The exhibition also featured underclassmen ceramic and multimedia sculpture, as well as drawing and painting. Some of the projects included model architectural homes, gothic art inspired teapots, ceramic bobble heads, portraiture, and freshmen memento mori paintings. After viewing the art, guests could then head to the gymnasium to listen to the Concert portion of the evening.

During the concert, guests experienced a wide array of music including selections from time-old classics like Antonin Dvorak's "New World Symphony" to more modern works like "How Far I'll Go". The Beginning Band, Chorus, Percussion Ensemble, Concert Choir, Concert Band, and even the original songs created by the Music Tech students were played at the concert. The Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Concert Choir also performed the works that they took to a music festival in early April at Jefferson R-7 where their performance was evaluated by clinicians. At the end of the concert two new, nationally recognized awards were given out. The first is the John Philip Sousa Award. This award went to Chase Tipton (11) who has demonstrated superior musicianship and outstanding dedication to the ensemble. The second award is the National School Choral Award. This went to Collin Smith (12) in recognition of his dedication and musical achievement in choir. Both students received a trophy, and will have their name added to a plaque that will hang on the music room stage. Each senior was also recognized at the concert. They were given a photo board of their memories from their freshmen to senior year, and a certificate listing all of their musical accomplishments during high school. The seniors who will be leaving the band and choir are Collin Smith, Kacie Kurrus, Colin Brown, Will Wieland, Nathan Schwer, Michael Argana, and Noah Boldt. The band and choir will miss you all! Lastly, to round out the night, the concert ended with a performance of "All Star" featuring all of the ensembles, as a last hoorah to the seniors.



FEATURED ALUMNI: DR. NATALIE BREAKFIELD



Dr. Natalie (Leonard) Breakfield, class of 1991, is the Vice President of Research & Discovery at NewLeaf Symbiotics, a biotechnology startup based out of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The company focuses on sustainable agriculture using helpful bacteria in the plant microbiome called pink pigmented facultative methylotrophs (PPFMs). PPFM act as a probiotic for plants as they promote plant growth and increase

yield naturally. Natalie's expertise has been invaluable in the discovery, development, and commercialization of this technology, which is available today under the brand name of Terrasym.

Natalie received her Bachelor of Science in biological sciences from Quincy University (Quincy, IL), her Master of Science in molecular biology from University of Missouri (Kansas City, MO), and her Ph.D. in genetics and genomics from Duke University (Durham, NC). She is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Phytobiomes Alliance and is on the Scientific Advisory Board for the new nitrogen and carbon center at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. In 2021, she was named one of the Top 25 Women Leaders in Biotechnology by the Healthcare Technology Report. Over the course of her career, Natalie has co-authored 12 peer reviewed papers, 10 published patent applications, and 3 granted patents.

St. Pius X has been an important part of Natalie's life as she met her future husband, Mark Breakfield, while attending St. Pius (both class of 1991). Mark and Natalie have been married 27 years and have three children, Ian, Andrew, and Grace. Natalie's parents also graduated from St. Pius (Rebecca (Taylor) Leonard '65 and Lawrence Leonard '66) along with Natalie's siblings (Nathan Leonard '89, Rachel Leonard '94, and Valari (Leonard '95) Clough. She has many cousins and in-laws that are also St. Pius graduates. She credits her wonderful physics teacher, Ms. Krussel, as one of the teachers who helped inspire her to pursue a science career. Of course, she also fondly remembers her softball coach Charb!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

50th Class Reunion for Class of 1972 & 1973

Oak Valley Golf Course
1230 Abby Lane
Pevely, MO 63070
September 24, 2022

45th Class Reunion for Class of 1977

St. Pius X High School Pavillion
September 10, 2022
5:30 PM - tour of the school
6:00 - 10:00 PM (appetizers and beverages)

40th Class Reunion for Class of 1982

St. Pius X High School Pavillion
October 7, 2022
6:00 PM - tour of the school
7:00 - 11:00 PM (during Homecoming football game)

30th Class Reunion for Class of 1992

Taytro's Bistro
331 N Creek Dr.
Festus, MO 63028
July 16, 2022
6:00 PM

Are you having a reunion? We want to help!
Contact pflanagan@stpius.com for more
information.



FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 9:15 PM

- TAILGATING -
- EXIT 180 BAND -
- BBQ & CONCESSIONS -

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL

1030 ST. PIUS DRIVE, FESTUS, MISSOURI 63028

GATES OPEN AT 6:30 PM // \$20 PER CAR

WEATHER PERMITTING

33RD Annual
St. Pius X
High School

GOLF TOURNAMENT



JULY 29, 2022

Crystal Highlands Golf Club

3030 US Hwy 61, Festus, MO 63028



St. Pius X High School

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

Address Service Requested

Parent: 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.



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @StPXLANCERS

ST. PIUS X 2022 SUMMER CAMPS

Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball,
Tennis, Wrestling, Theatre, and more!

REGISTER NOW!

stpius.com/summercamp

