

**St. Paul the Apostle**  
**Home & School Organization**  
**2016-2017**

**Welcome to the St. Paul the Apostle (SPS) Home & School Organization (HSO). Parents of children attending SPS are automatically members of the HSO. The SPS HSO exists for four main purposes.**

- To provide communication between parents of students and members of the school staff. Communication is provided in the form of newsletters, messages from our Principal and teachers and HSO & School Board sponsored meetings. The meetings will be held at scheduled times throughout the year. At least one parent per family is asked to attend each of the meetings.
- To provide support for the educational programs of the school. This support comes from our members in the form of time and treasure.
- To provide the school with financial support for needed expenses not included in the school's budget as needed throughout the year. This would include such things as new textbooks, educational resources for the teachers, aiding in the classrooms, library, playground, school maintenance projects and Junior Achievement to name a few.
- To provide the families of SPS a sense of community through HSO sponsored events and activities held throughout the year. These events help form a bond between our students, our families and our staff, further promoting the school's mission of empowering students, through love and virtue, to develop their Catholic faith, their intellect, and a community of one Spirit in Christ Jesus.

#### **HSO Financial Obligation**

As a member of St. Paul the Apostle Home & School Organization, each school family will be required to contribute \$200 annually to our Home & School. This can be accomplished in 1 of 3 options: First – earning rebate profit from our Panther Perks program, Second - volunteering their time and talent in the amount of 20 hours or Third - they may choose the buyout option of \$200 to support the organization per school year. **If there are circumstances that make payment or your time difficult, please call the principal to discuss your situation confidentially.** The calendar year for generation of these funds or the contribution of your time & talent generally runs June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. All families, existing and new, may begin purchasing and earning June 1<sup>st</sup>. **It is important to understand that the HSO is simplifying our fundraising by having this obligation. We have eliminated the magazine/gift sales and coupon book sales.** HSO Financial Obligation can be generated in the options listed below:

- **Panther Perks Purchases**  
SPS offers a Scrip program known as Panther Perks. SPS purchases store shopping cards at a discounted rate. We sell these cards to our families at a face value and keep the difference as profit. Each family's share of these earned rebate profits is recorded by Home & School. Earned rebate profit reports are distributed on a quarterly basis. For example--if you purchase \$100 of Kohls and receive a rebate of 4%-\$4.00 is credited to your family account. The percentage earned varies with each vendor (1-1/2% to 25%).

- **Panther Perks Continued**

Families are able to accrue earned rebate profits to meet their \$200 HSO Obligation. Once you reach an account total of \$200, 50% of earned rebate profit over your chosen obligation will be deducted towards your next year's tuition bill.

When you buy Panther Perks you are purchasing gift certificates that are used just like cash or a debit card. The most appealing aspect of Panther Perks is that this is money you would normally spend on groceries, clothing, gasoline, restaurants, home improvements, etc. This means, if you choose to purchase Panther Perks, you are spending no additional money than what you would normally spend on these household expenses and it enables you to generate earnings to satisfy your own \$200 HSO Financial Obligation. Your earnings from the Panther Perks program are endless and are totally dependent on the volume and frequency Panther Perks is purchased. Routine weekly purchasing is the key to your success. Pennies made each week add up to hundreds of dollars in your family account.

Panther Perks is available in the Parish office during regular business hours and sold after all Non-Holiday Masses.

More information on the Panther Perks program is available from our Panther Perks Coordinators. Please email [saintpaulhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulhomeandschool@gmail.com) or look on our schools website.

- **Cash Payment Option**

The HSO will accept \$200 as a buy out from all fund raising obligations. Your checks should be made payable to SPS Home & School Organization. If you choose this option, payment is due at registration. This option is tax deductible.

- **20 Hours of Volunteering**

There are several ways for you to volunteer at our school as well as in the Parish to fulfill the obligation of 20 hours for the school year. Any unfilled hours by May 31<sup>st</sup> will be charged \$10 per hour not served. A few ways to help are shown below:

- Community Building Events: Back to School Ice Cream Social, Back to School Block Party, Trunk or Treat, Ladies Night Bingo, Spruce up the School, Fall Registration Helpers, Ambassador Families
- Home and School - Blue & Gold Bash – Silent Auction committee, Live Auction Committee, Set up, Clean Up, Panther Perks Program – selling after mass, Tuesday Processing, picking up gift certificates at local retailers.
- Classroom Helpers – Teacher Appreciation luncheon, tutors, recess supervision.
- Future Club planning, setting up, clean up
- Opportunities to Head or Serve on Home & School Committees.
- Calendar Church Activities – some examples: Church Cleaning, serving & clean up at Soup Suppers, VBS, Decorating the Church for Easter or Christmas, Ignite.
- Chairing or Co-Chairing Home and School Events.
- Coaching or leading any SPS affiliated sports team or program, includes Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and all St. Paul's Sports Teams.

