



SAINTS SCENE

Augustinian Mission Strengthened Remarkable School Year in Academics & Athletics

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



President Edwin Hearn

I have had the vantage point of observing Catholic education from various perspectives throughout my five and a half decades of service in the field. Now in my 20th year as President of St. Augustine High School, I have come to understand the rhythm and development of outstanding Catholic high schools. I have taught and coached at two of them and led three more.

Continued on page 12

Cell Phones On Campus Why a Phone Ban is Not the Answer

By Principal, James Horne

Across the country, schools are asking serious questions about how—and whether—cell phones belong in the school environment. Thought leaders like social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Anxious Generation*, have elevated the conversation in thoughtful and challenging ways. The questions raised are important, and here at St. Augustine High School, we take them seriously.



Continued on page 14

Fast Forward New School Year – New Beginnings

By Gregory Hecht, Saints Assistant Principal for Academics



Mr. Gregory Hecht

As the new school year dawns, it brings with it a sense of excitement, anticipation, and the boundless promise of new beginnings. At St. Augustine High School, this season is not only a time for academic and personal growth, it is also a sacred moment rooted in our Augustinian Catholic identity and enduring traditions.

Continued on page 15

Together Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

Welcome back to a new school year at St. Augustine High School!

As we open our doors once again and welcome the

young men of Saints back to campus, we also welcome you—our valued partners in this important mission of Catholic education. Whether your son is stepping onto campus for the first time or entering his final year with us, we are honored to walk this journey together with your family.

This year, our school-wide theme is drawn from the wisdom of St. Augustine himself:

Before all else, be of one mind and one heart on the way to God.

RULE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Continued on page 13

Beaniemanía 2025



NEXT ISSUE. Look for the October issue of *Saints Scene* to highlight this year's beanie hijinx. Plus other coverage of Freshman Welcome Week.

Community of Faith on Campus

Join St. Monica's Prayer Group at Saints



Who is St. Monica?

St. Monica is the mother of St. Augustine. She prayed many years for her son's conversion to the Catholic faith. Without the prayers of St. Monica, there would have never been St. Augustine. St. Augustine High School today is here because of St. Monica's love and persistent prayers for her son.

Our Mission

Like St. Monica, we as parents pray for our children to be guided by Christ, especially during the formative years of high school. Our mission is to pray for our sons, our families, and the St. Augustine High School community.

Join Us for "St. Monica Mass" on Thursdays During the School Year

We gather Thursday mornings when school is in session for Mass at 7:50 a.m. in the Monastery Chapel in Vasey Patio. The schedule allows you to drop off your son, park your car, and join us in the Chapel. After Mass, those who can stay are welcome to pray the Rosary.

Requesting Prayers

If you would like more information or if you would like us to pray for a special intention, send your request to: SaintMonicaPrayerGroup@gmail.com.

Consider joining us for these "special" gatherings:

Sept. 4, 2025 – Start of the year reception

Dec. 11, 2025 – Christmas reception and potluck

March 12, 2026 – St. Patrick's Day reception and potluck

May 14, 2026 – End of year reception



Calendar Highlights

Saints School Year 2025–2026

The journey through an Augustinian Catholic education is unlike any other—rich in faith, rigorous in intellect, and rooted in love. May the 2025–2026 school year be filled with growth, grace, and great joy for every member of the Saints community. God bless.

2025

September 3, 2025

Meet the Teacher Night
@ 6:30pm

September 7, 2025

Family Mass & BBQ
@ 4:00pm

September 20–21, 2025

Frosh Retreat

October 12, 2025

Father/Son Breakfast

November 27–30, 2025

Thanksgiving Break

December 15–17, 2025

Semester Exams

December 18, 2025

End of 1st Semester,
Christmas Break Begins

2026

January 5–30, 2026

Intercession

February 2, 2026

2nd Semester Begins

March 13, 2026

Grandparents Day

March 18, 2026

New Family Night
@ 5:30pm

March 20, 2026

Junior Mass and Brunch

April 2, 2026

Easter Break Begins

April 13, 2026

School Resumes,
End of Easter Break

April 19, 2026

Senior Mother/Son Luncheon

May 2, 2026

Senior Prom

May 15, 2026

Senior Class Awards Assembly

May 16, 2026

Saints “Taste of Saints” Event

May 18–20, 2026

Final Exams

May 22, 2026

Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation,
@ 9:30am (GYM)

June 8, 2026

Summer School

Follow Saints on Facebook, & Instagram

Are you looking for up to date info on meetings, announcements, activities, breaking news and game times, locations and results. Do you wish you had a reminder for all these events?

 facebook.com/st.augustine

 instagram.com/saints_info

You can set up an account to have news sent directly to your e-mail or sent as a text to your phone, or you can simply link to the Facebook/Instagram feed by clicking on the icons at the top right of the Saints home page.



The

Sports Page

Saints Scene's updates



A quick interview with Saints Varsity Football Coach Ron Caragher

Q: How did the Saints off season preparation go?

A: Our offseason went very well. Our overall program numbers have improved from a year ago. We had many athletes attend our offseason strength and conditioning program with the intent of gaining strength, quickness, and speed. We have seen many improvements in those areas.

Q: Share who are the team's senior leaders?

A: We have some good senior leadership. QB Vince Smith, LB/TE Parker Cresswell, WR/DB Austin Lambeth, OL Brock Benson, OL Marcel Sandoval are just a few of our senior leaders who have been very committed to having a very good offseason and are all very good representatives of Saints Football.

Q: Share some good news expectations for the team?

A: The start of a new season is an exciting and opportunistic time of year for young men to come together and form a new team. Ideally, the new personalities, talents, and skills of our new members acclimate to the program with a quest to contribute (in any role) to help the team.

Q: Saints has been shifted to a new league with what other teams?

A: The CIF shifted Saints football to the Eastern League, which includes, La Jolla, Pt. Loma, Madison, Christian and San Diego Highs claiming competitive balance of schedule.



2025 Football Schedules

Varsity, St. Augustine High School

Day	Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Week	Notes
Fri.	Aug. 15	7pm	Granite Hills	Granite Hills	0	Scrimmage
Fri.	Aug. 22	7pm	La Costa Canyon	La Costa Canyon	1	
Fri.	Aug. 29	7pm	Del Norte	Mesa College	2	Faculty Night
Fri.	Sept. 5	7:15pm	Helix	Helix	3	
Fri.	Sept. 12	7pm	Brawley	Mesa College	4	Hall of Fame
Fri.	Sept.19	7pm	Mater Dei	Mater Dei	5	
Fri.	Sept. 26	7pm	BYE		6	
Fri.	Oct. 3	7pm	Madison *	Madison	7	
Fri.	Oct. 10	7pm	San Diego High *	Mesa College	8	Catholic Schools Night
Fri.	Oct. 17	7pm	Christian *	Mesa College	9	Homecoming
Fri.	Oct. 24	7pm	La Jolla *	Mesa College	10	Senior Night
Fri.	Oct. 31	7pm	Point Loma *	Point Loma	11	

CIF playoffs begin Friday, Nov. 7

* League play

Everyone is a Member of the Austin Parents Association

By Cathy Horne, APA President

When your son(s) enroll at St. Augustine High School, parents are automatically made members of the Austin Parents Association. That way parent involvement is built into the very spirit of the school community. So, to all new Saints parents and or guardians welcome to the APA, the parent support organization dedicated to connecting families with the life of the school.

The mission of the APA is simple but powerful: to serve as a bridge between home and school and provide a forum for open communication with faculty and administration. Through this partnership, we aim to enrich the overall educational experience for our sons and ensure that parents are active participants in the “Saints Experience.”

If you’ve never been involved before, this is your year to jump in. Whether it’s helping with the band, supporting a sports team, pouring coffee at a campus event, or even chairing a major fundraiser, there are countless ways to get involved. And every bit of service counts. The school encourages families to donate hours of service, and APA helps coordinate those volunteer efforts throughout the year.

Participation not only strengthens our school—it creates lifelong friendships and lasting memories. To find out how to get started, visit the APA webpage at www.sahs.org/austin-parents-association. You’ll also spot APA Board members at events wearing their purple and gold name badges—don’t hesitate to say hello and ask how you can get involved.

Supporting the Saints community is one of the most rewarding things you can do—not just for your son, but for your whole family. We’re excited to welcome new families and reconnect with returning ones this year.

Let’s make this Saints another year to remember—together.



Austin Parents Assn. (APA) President Cathy Horne with sons Matthew (2025) and Zachary (2024) and not pictured Daniel (2028).



Welcome Letter

From Student Body President Tom Battaglia ('26)



Dear Saints Community,

Everyone better squeeze in their last few beach days because summer is slowly drifting away. If I were a student attending a normal school I would be extremely sad my summer is coming to an end, however, I do not attend a normal school. Here at Saints were excited to get back into the swing of things and be around our brothers.

ASB has been working hard all summer to pump SAHS spirit and brotherhood into every aspect of this school year. We are sliding into fall with slippin' slide lunch events, water balloon wars, and dunk tanks (so maybe don't put those board shorts away yet). We will be packing the PIT like never before, cheering loud for our brothers on the field. Fall rallies will set the tone for the new level of hype that will fill the halls.

Speaking of new additions to the halls, I would like to welcome in the Freshman class of 2029. I can still remember the feeling of constant excitement I had in your shoes 4 short years ago. You guys have your whole high school career ahead of you that flies by faster than you think. **I strongly encourage you to get out there! Go join clubs, participate on teams, go to football games, and embrace freshman dance lessons (you will thank me later re: the dance lessons).**

All of these make up the core of a Saintsman's journey. The ASB team is here to make this transition year as easy as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask myself or other members of the ASB for help, whether it be new locker combinations, or where to find Friday night football tickets! We cannot wait to guide them through freshman welcome week and show them what saints is all about.

New parents, thank you for giving your child the unique opportunity to be a part of something greater than himself here at Saints. The brotherhood that is professed so strongly is indescribable but I guarantee that after a few short weeks, your son will be rooted within a community with morals more than 100 years old.

Our school is very lucky to have the Augustinian friars on our campus, we even have a new chaplain! Welcome to the saints community Brother Tony. The Augustinain presence on campus provides a unique sense of community and faith. They continue to instill in us the importance of our core values of Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas. We are all unified as one body of Christ, one school, and one community. We are true disciples of Christ and the greatest part about being a Saintsman is being the living example of Christ in our community.

Finally, St. Augustine High School is a fraternal community and I am so honored to be representing Saints this year.

A toast to another year of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular strides! I am looking forward to all the rich new memories, long laughs, and lasting lessons we will experience. Go Saints!

Most Sincerely,

Tom Battaglia, Class of 2026
ASB Executive President



BEANIE SEASON. Here is an archive photo of Beaniemania assembly in the old Dougherty Gymnasium (circa 2010).



Textbook Shopping Simplified for Saints Families

Follett Virtual Bookstore Now Open for 2025–26 School Year

St. Augustine High School is once again partnering with Follett as its official textbook provider for the 2025–26 academic year. This exclusive collaboration ensures that students and families have convenient access to the correct editions of all required books, with added benefits for the school and our community.

Beginning July 1, 2025, families can browse and purchase textbooks through the Saints virtual bookstore at www.sahs.bkstr.com. The store can also be accessed via the Follett virtual store banner on our main school website at www.sahs.org.

Follett offers a range of purchase options, including new and used books, as well as rental choices for select titles—rentals typically cost half the price of a new book. Digital textbooks are also available for certain classes.

Books ship quickly, usually within one business day, via FedEx. To encourage early shopping, Follett is offering **50% off** ground shipping for the first 30 days after the booklist becomes available.

Families also benefit from Follett's flexible return policy—books can be returned up to 30 days from the order date or 30 days from the start of classes, whichever is later. A dedicated customer service team is available daily at 877-827-2665 to assist with any textbook-related questions.

As a bonus, every purchase made through the virtual bookstore helps support St. Augustine High School through a small commission that goes directly back to the school.

To stay informed on all bookstore updates, parents are encouraged to join the Follett email list at: www.sahs.bkstr.com/email.

For any additional questions, contact the school directly or reach out to Follett's support line at 877-827-2665.



Let's Get Started!

1 YOU'RE APPROVED! EMAIL

Receive an email from your school giving you exclusive access to get started at sahs.carpooltoschool.com

2 CREATE PROFILE & LOGIN

Create a profile to ensure you get matched perfectly!

3 GET MATCHED

AI-powered matching based on distance, your student's grade, schedule, and exclusively with your school.

4 CREATE A POOL

Get started creating your first trip today!

Powered by **go>>>>together**



LiveChat and 800-514-3808
Available Monday-Friday 7am-7pm

Fact Finding Guide to Campus

A Quick Tutorial for New Parents



As a new Saints Parents, you should know there are really five (5) main ways to obtain information about what's happening at St. Augustine's.

1. Saint's Website

www.sahs.org (browse the whole site, but the links you might need most are the calendar and the Faculty/Staff directory)

2. Saint's Scene

(on-line newsletter delivered direct to your email at the start of each month, please sign-up on Saints home page to subscribe)

3. Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/st.augustine> (filled with pictures, event updates, community news and student highlights)

4. Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/saints_info/ (filled with pictures, community news and student highlights)

5. CANVAS

this is our student learning management system. Everything about your sons academic journey (assignments, grades, discussions, teacher and class contacts) can be found here. By registering for your own parent account you can “observe” your sons academic classes and see what is happening.

You'll find most everything you need amongst the sites above, including information and points of contact for important events.

Respect the Drive 25 Sign

In the quiet, residential blocks of North Park, an important street sign is catching the attention of motorists—especially those headed to and from St. Augustine High School. Boldly marked “DRIVE 25” beneath the distinctive Saints “STA” logo, the sign is part of a simple but vital campaign: slow down.

Principal James Horne explains, “These signs are up to remind our student and parent community that we share this neighborhood. The streets around Nutmeg Street are

narrow, lined with family homes, and often busy with foot traffic during the school day.”

St. Augustine High School has long been part of the North Park fabric. The Drive 25 initiative is another example of how the school promotes responsibility and respect—not just within campus gates, but beyond. A 25-mile-per-hour limit may seem modest, but on these streets, it makes a world of difference in keeping pedestrians and neighbors safe.

AROUND CAMPUS

Lots to Do During Office Hours

Office Hours are two regularly scheduled blocks of time (usually Tuesday/Friday), that precede the school day. Some mistakenly think that academic tutoring is the only use of the office hours' time when there are many other great uses of the time that students should consider. Look at the following suggested uses for the time set aside for office hours. Saints strongly encourages all students to be on campus for office hours weekly.

Student Engagement/Student Success

- Tutoring
- Group projects with classmates
- Make up Exams
- Make up missing work
- Extended time testing
- Essay review and writing workshops
- Extended time for labs and projects
- Review sessions - semester or AP exams (optional)

Time

- CANVAS review
- Club meetings
- ASB meetings
- PIT meetings
- Intramural team, referee, and captain meeting
- Rally/Activity planning
- Sports team meetings
- Shepherding (Tuesday's)
- Retreat team meetings
- Campus ministry meetings
- Service hour submission
- Society of Saints Scholars
- Mass band rehearsal
- Liturgy planning
- College visits
- UC/CSU application workshops

Conferencing

- Student/teacher
- Family/teacher
- Student/counselor
- Family/counselor
- Family/teacher/counselor

Other tasks

- Work permits
- Transcript requests
- Course and schedule changes
- Schedule doctor and dentist visits during office hours to minimize class absences



Encourage your son to stay focused this semester! Get off on the right foot and use the Office Hours time slot to seek the tutoring, extra help or time needed to support his academic work.

Augustinian Mission Strengthened

Continued from page 1

As an educational community, we have grown immensely over the past several decades. Some of our best teachers were our students. This growth begins in the relationship of friendship between teacher and student, from which achievement naturally follows. It is a process refined over the past 103 years, preparing our graduates to enter the world with purpose, self-knowledge, and a growing confidence that bears fruit throughout a lifetime.

Each year, Greg Hecht, our Assistant Principal for Academics, receives Advanced Placement (AP) results from the College Board in July. These college-level courses are taught in high schools across North America. While Saintsmen have consistently performed at the highest levels, this year's results marked a new high point.

In the 2024–25 academic year, 248 Saintsmen took a total of 470 AP exams. Since freshmen do not take AP courses, this means that 43.4% of our sophomores, juniors, and seniors took at least one AP test this past spring. Among seniors, 89 of 174 (51%) sat for at least one AP exam.

The Class of 2025 led the way, with 53.6% of students enrolled in these challenging courses—and 86.5% of them earned a passing grade.

Across all subject areas, the results were outstanding. Whether in science, mathematics, foreign language, English, or the social sciences, our young men excelled. For example:

- Science & Math: 20 of 21 passed Physics 1; 8 of 9 passed Chemistry; 14 of 17 passed Biology; 18 of 24 passed Calculus AB; and 7 of 7 passed Calculus BC.
- English: 51 of 51 passed English Language; 43 of 45 passed English Literature; and 9 of 9 passed AP Seminar.
- Foreign Language: 26 of 26 passed Spanish Language; 43 of 45 passed Spanish Literature; and 8 of 11 passed French.
- Social Sciences: 20 of 22 passed U.S. Government and Politics; 74 of 77 passed U.S. History; and 44 of 47 sophomores passed World History.

These results reflect the quality of our instruction. Success at this level depends not just on direct classroom teaching, but on the strength of preparation that begins years earlier. Our faculty across all departments contribute to this foundation, ensuring students are equipped for the rigor of AP coursework. While intellectual ability, motivation, and home support are important, none of it works without great teachers. When great teaching is combined with authentic friendships between students and faculty, the sky truly is the limit.

The Augustinians serve as both bridge and catalyst for the Saints community. When Jim Horne was named principal in 2003, and I was appointed president in 2006, Saints entered a new chapter—led for the first time by laymen. It became essential that the Augustinian community ensure the school remained rooted in Augustinian values, offering students a worldview grounded in this rich tradition. It is this spiritual and cultural foundation that binds us and cultivates the brotherhood seen daily on our campus.

Continued on next page.

St. Augustine High School Proudly Presents:

Meet the Teacher Night

Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

St. Augustine Commons

- There will be presentations by the Administration, Campus Ministry, Athletics, and the Austin Parent Association
- Parents and Guardians will have the opportunity to follow their son's schedule, meet his teachers, and receive an overview of each course
- Light refreshments will be served courtesy of the Austin Parent Association
- We look forward to sharing a little slice of the "Saints Experience" on the evening of September 3rd

These values are especially evident in athletics, where strong relationships, forged through shared competition, shape not only performance but character.

In the Southern Section of the CIF—covering Los Angeles and Orange County—there is a trophy called the Commissioner's Cup, awarded to the school with the best all-around athletic program based on championships and semifinal finishes. While no such award currently exists in the San Diego section, Saints would certainly be a top contender if it did.

This past year, Saints won the CIF Division III Championship in football, the Open Division Championship in soccer, and Division I Championships in both basketball and volleyball. Lacrosse reached the Division I title game. Saints also captured six league titles in beach volleyball, cross country, soccer,

basketball, track and field, and volleyball.

Equally important was the sportsmanship our athletes displayed. In one example, during a singles tennis match against San Diego High School, a Saintsman's opponent broke strings on both his primary and backup racket. Without hesitation, our player offered his spare racket. After the match, the opposing coach went out of his way to commend this gesture of sportsmanship.

In another case, during the Open Division tennis semifinals, our opponents exhibited poor sportsmanship throughout the match. Yet, after the contest, our team lined up to shake hands—something not customary in high school team tennis. The opposing coach was so struck by this gesture that he said his team would begin doing the same.

To close the year, *Broadway San Diego*

named Saints' production of *She Loves Me* one of the five best high school musicals in the county. Max Leadley '25 was among 20 students nominated for the prestigious Jimmy Award. His performance left him one point from the national finals.

It was a remarkable leap forward in academics, athletics, and the arts. It was also a year that renewed our spirit and affirmed our mission. As is our annual custom, the administration met in June with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors to study key questions for the future: how to implement learning accommodations more effectively, how to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence, how to move from a Homeroom to a House System, and how to use financial aid more effectively to further the Augustinian Promise that Saints and St. Patrick's have been exploring in recent years.

Together

Continued from page 1

These words are not only a call to unity, but a blueprint for our purpose. They remind us that education, when rooted in faith, is not a solitary endeavor. Rather, it is a shared pilgrimage, a path we walk together as students, families, faculty, and staff, striving not only for academic success, but for formation in virtue, character, and faith.

In a world that often pulls people apart, togetherness is countercultural. It means building genuine community. It means seeing each other with compassion, listening with humility, and supporting one another through both challenge and triumph. It means forming young men who are not only college-ready, but life-ready: capable of brotherhood, leadership, and love.

At Saints, we take seriously our responsibility to teach and guide your sons - intellectually, morally, spiritually, and emotionally. But we cannot do it alone. Your faith, encouragement, and trust are indispensable. Our Augustinian schools is forged in communion.

And in this spirit, we recommit ourselves to working alongside you in joyful collaboration to build a better future for your son(s).

May this year be filled with meaningful growth, enduring friendships, and shared purpose. Let us keep our eyes fixed on the journey ahead; one mind, one heart, together on the way to God.

James Horne

James Horne
Principal



Cell Phones On Campus

Continued from page 1

For over a decade, educators have been wrestling with this issue from all sides. As you might expect, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Some advocate for a complete ban on phones during the school day, while others argue for open access with limited restrictions. At Saints, we believe both extremes miss the mark. In a community grounded in faith, brotherhood, and growth, we aim for something wiser—a path rooted in formation and responsibility.

Let me explain our approach.

A Measured Path Forward

We do not believe an “all-in” approach—either full access or total prohibition—serves our boys best. Instead, Saints has taken a balanced, formative approach.

Students are **not permitted to use phones in classrooms** unless explicitly directed by a teacher. We also **discourage passive screen time during lunch and free periods**, where we believe social interaction and real presence with peers matter most. At the same time, we recognize the importance of **helping young men learn to manage technology responsibly**, rather than shielding them from it entirely. As educators and mentors, we are not only responsible for teaching math, literature, and theology—but also for cultivating habits, virtues, and discernment.

In short, we want our Saintsmen to practice **self-regulation**, not just obedience. We have seen that, with mentorship and clear expectations, they can rise to the challenge. This formation—of both mind and character—is at the heart of our mission.

Educating for Discernment

Last year, we dedicated a month of **Homeroom programming to educate students about screen time**—its impact on productivity, focus, and in some cases, moral decision-making. We will continue this effort in the coming year. Education is our greatest tool: not only academic education, but moral and digital formation as well.

Using the Research Thoughtfully

We strive to be **data-informed in our decision-making**. A 2023 study published in *Pediatrics* showed that **schools implementing phone-limiting policies (rather than outright bans)** saw meaningful gains in student focus and peer interaction—especially when paired with strong adult modeling. Likewise,

developmental psychologists like **Dr. Michael Rich of Harvard’s Digital Wellness Lab** emphasize that teens must learn to manage technology if they are to become successful, ethical adults in our digital world.

We share that belief. Removing phones entirely from school hours may simplify enforcement, but it doesn’t equip boys with the wisdom to navigate the complexities of the world they’re growing up in.

Practical Implementation

You may not know this, but **every classroom at Saints is equipped with phone pouches**, and teachers routinely require students to check in their devices during class. When phones are needed for educational purposes—research, assessment, or collaboration—they can be used under direction. This approach gives our faculty the flexibility to choose what’s best for their classrooms while maintaining boundaries that support focus and healthy habits.

As we enter a new school year under the theme “**Together**,” we are reminded that forming young men for life requires partnership. We are grateful for your engagement as parents—your optimism about technology’s potential, your concern for its effects, and your desire to see your sons thrive.

Thank you for walking with us. May we continue to form Saintsmen together: young men who are focused, virtuous, and prepared to lead well in a complex world.

Endnotes

1. Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* (Penguin Press, 2024).
2. “School Cell Phone Policies and Student Outcomes,” *Pediatrics*, vol. 152, no. 2, 2023.
(This study analyzed the effects of various school phone policies on student focus, social engagement, and well-being.)
3. Michael Rich, MD, MPH, Director of the Digital Wellness Lab, Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School. See: Digital Wellness Lab, “Technology and Adolescent Mental Health,” <https://digitalwellnesslab.org> (accessed June 2025).

Fast Forward

Continued from page 1

By embracing these values from the very first day, we lay the groundwork for a year that is not only successful but truly transformative. Guided by our faith, strengthened by community, and inspired by a commitment to truth and wisdom, we step into this new chapter with hope and purpose.

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they rest
in You.”

— St. Augustine, Confessions, Book I

1. Recognizing the Gift of Education

St. Augustine, one of the Church’s most profound thinkers, remained a lifelong seeker of truth. He believed education draws us closer to God. As we begin, let us pause in gratitude for the privilege of learning within a community that unites intellectual growth with spiritual formation.

2. Cultivating Spiritual Grounding

At the heart of the Augustinian tradition lies interiority, the inward journey toward God. Amid full schedules and lively classrooms, daily prayer, quiet meditation, and active participation in the sacraments keep Christ at the center of every pursuit.

3. Setting Purposeful Goals

Whether aiming for academic excellence, exploring extracurricular passions, or deepening one’s faith, now is the moment for thoughtful, attainable goals. Parents, consider a candid conversation with your Saintsman about his hopes; your encouragement can turn aspirations into achievements.

4. Fostering Meaningful Relationships

St. Augustine reminds us that authentic friendship mirrors the love of Christ. Urge your son to build bonds with peers, faculty, and

spiritual mentors. These relationships will sustain him in moments of challenge and amplify moments of joy.

5. Striving for Balance

Intellectual rigor thrives when paired with healthy equilibrium. Sports, clubs, family time, and silent reflection each play a role in forming well-rounded young men who honor body, mind, and soul.

6. Learning Through Mistakes

Augustine’s own path to holiness was paved with struggle and redemption. Encourage your child to see errors not as failures, but as invaluable lessons that refine wisdom and virtue.

7. Engaging as Parents

Your presence matters. Attend events, communicate with teachers, and monitor both academic and spiritual progress. Your engagement testifies to the value of the journey your son undertakes.

8. Inspiring a Love of Learning

Cultivate curiosity beyond the classroom: shared reading, dinner-table discussions, museum visits, or podcasts can spark wonder. The Augustinian tradition celebrates every sincere pursuit of truth.

9. Preparing for Vocation and Service

High school forms more than résumés; it shapes hearts for lifelong vocation, service, and leadership. Invite your Saintsman to discern God’s call with courage and trust.

10. Living with Gratitude and Purpose

Finally, nurture a spirit of thanksgiving. Through campus ministry, parish outreach, or neighborhood service, acts of charity anchor us in humility and purpose.



Sunday, September 7, 2025 • 4:00pm

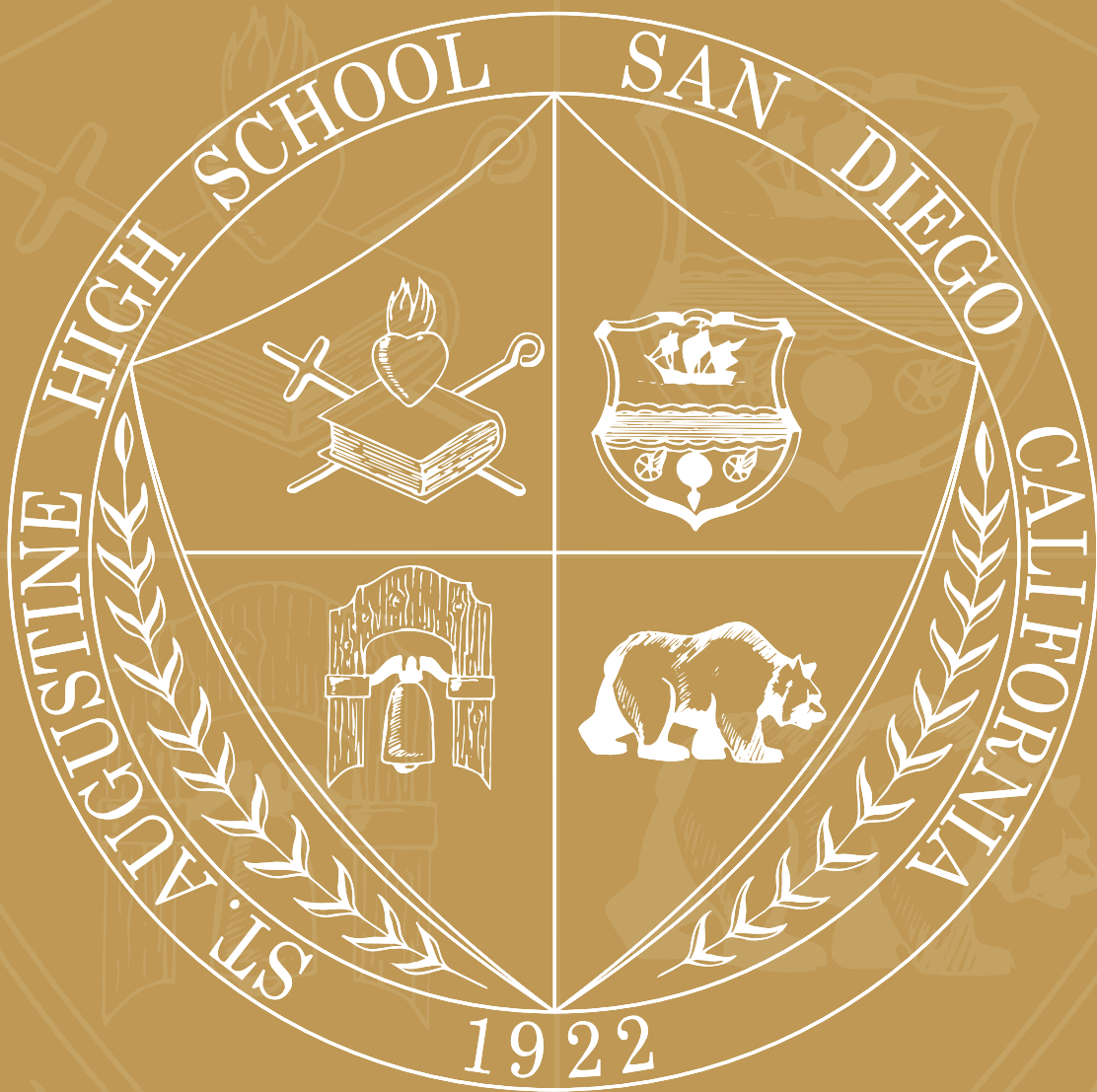
Family Mass & BBQ

at St. Augustine High School

Bring a lawn Chair.
Mass will be held on
the Athletic Fields.
BBQ to follow.



A great opportunity to see old friends and create new relationships with others in our Saints Community.
The Mass is graciously hosted by the Augustinian Community and the APA!





Campus Goes Solar

St. Augustine High School continues to invest in its future with the completion of a major sustainability project: the installation of solar panels over the North Parking Lot. The panels not only provide much-needed shade but are expected to reduce electricity costs for the St. Augustine Commons by nearly 80%.

The upgrade also includes eight new EV charging stations, answering the growing demand from the school community. The project was led by Kevin DeRieux, Director of Finance and Facilities, and stands as the latest example of Saints' commitment to innovation, stewardship, and long-term planning.



SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

Publisher: Edwin J. Hearn, Jr. Saints President

Editor-in-Chief: James Horne, Saints Principal

Senior Advisor: Fr. Barnaby Johns, OSA, Augustinian Provincial

Senior Editor: Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director

Senior Editor: Gregory Hecht, Assistant Principal for Academics

Saints Scene Coordinator: Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com

Art Director: Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com

Circulation Director: Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events

Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55)

Staff Photographer: Bill Hill, Saints Parent



Correction Policy: While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err. We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator: Thomas.Shess@gmail.com for any corrections.

***Awards:** Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.

Mission of St. Augustine High School – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.