



SAINTS SCENE



SAINTS SOCCER

The Winning Tradition

By Coach Brendan Johnston

Saints Soccer enters the new season carrying one of the most remarkable legacies in San Diego prep sports.

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Let Him Figure It Out

Sometimes the best solution is allowing our boys to solve problems themselves.



Principal James Horne

Technological advances enable us to be there for our children no matter where they are. There are advantages to accessibility, especially in times of genuine crisis, but there are also occasions when instant access deprives our sons of the opportunity to cope with and hopefully resolve challenging situations on their own.

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Frosh Election Lottery Results



Breaking News: The Frosh Leadership Lottery results are in, and the Class of 2029 has its new officers. Liam Sartain has been elected President, with Mauricio Zaragoza chosen as Vice President.

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Looking Ahead to Intersession 2026

By Greg Hecht, Assistant Principal / Academics



Mr. Gregory Hecht

Intersession is a unique term of study designed to provide our students the chance to enrich their Saints Experience and their college prep curriculum by engaging in a variety of interest-based courses.

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Ho, Ho, Ho, Again.

As we enter December, we are reminded of the holiday traditions experienced at the school. Here are a few events we can all look forward to for so many good reasons.

- **Update our Saints Gear at Halo Joes.** Dad's Saints baseball cap is AWOL. Halo Joe's is the place to replace it. You'll find Halo Joe's on campus.
- **Holiday Concert on Campus.** Saints Music Director Cindy Au has been working with student musicians all semester to be ready for the annual concert held December 9 at 6:30 pm in the Raymond Theatre. Spotlight is on student musicians of all levels. It's one of the best ways into the holiday spirit.
- **Christmas Prayer.** This December the school has a new Chaplain. He's Brother Tony Moreno, O.S.A. He has penned this year's Christmas Prayer.
- In the December issue of *Saints Scene*, a student artist is commissioned to create the Christmas Card from staff and faculty. This year our holiday artist is Senior David Sabaga.
- **Christmas Cards to the school.** Add Saints to your Christmas card list. And a terrific time to include a check to the following school worthy causes. Send that card to school President Mr. Ed Hearn. He'd love to hear from you @ 3266 Nutmeg Street, SD, CA 92104 and indicate on the check whom you wish to support:
 - Endowment Fund. ▪ Hogar. ▪ Sports Team.

Merry Christmas Card

One of the school's most enduring traditions is the annual Christmas Card signed by the faculty and staff of St. Augustine High School. Created each year for the Saints Augustinian community, the card (See Page 3) has long been guided by the art teachers. Ms. Cindy Au continues that custom by choosing one of her art students to create an original illustration. This year's artist is Saintsman David Sabata ('26).



Christmas Prayer

By Saints Chaplain Brother Tony Moreno, O.S.A.

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for bringing us together this Christmas to celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ—the Word made flesh, our Lord.

Bless us on our journey to You, like the three Magi following Your star.

May our search inspire others to join us in seeking Your Light.

And may we use the gifts You have given us—faith, hope, and love—

to give back to You and to our neighbors,

especially those without food, shelter, fellowship, or joy.

Keep us mindful of their needs this Christmas.

We pray for them, and for our loved ones who are away from us,

especially those whom You have called home to Yourself.

Bless this meal we have received from Your goodness, and bless all of us gathered to share it.

We thank You for the gift of faith in Your Son, Jesus, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, who leads us ever closer to You.

Amen.

Billy Morstad

Wally Brulle

Madison Pachyanky

Chris

Enoch Oliva

Richard

John

John

Chris Yoakum

Ken

John

Hugh

Kevin

Ed

MERRY
Christmas

James

John

Ken

Chris

Chris

John

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AROUND CAMPUS

Augustinian Values Institute Welcomes Saints Delegation

Several Saints faculty and staff recently attended the Augustinian Values Institute at St. Rita's High School in Chicago. The three-day institute introduces participants to the core Augustinian values of Unitas, Veritas and Caritas, which guide all Augustinian schools across North America.

While in Chicago, the Saints group posed for a lighthearted photo with a cardboard likeness of Pope Leo.

Pictured, left to right: back row – Jordan Adams (science), Ed Hearn (President), Andrew Hitchcock (math); front row – Mariah Strausbaugh (finance), Pope Leo, Elsie Lopez (registrar).







***Halo Joe's
Holiday Sale***
20% OFF

Dec. 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Dec. 4, 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Dec. 9, 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Dec. 10, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Dec. 11, 7:30-9:00 a.m.





Let's Get Started!

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Turkey Trot's Place in History



TURKEY TROT 2025. Turkey Trot gets everybody in the action as students, faculty, family and friends participate. *Photos: Mr. Jim Horne.*

If you're a fan of sports trivia, 1954 offered its share of milestones. That spring, England's Roger Bannister stunned the world by running the first sub-four-minute mile in official competition. (For the record, Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj pushed the boundary even further in 1999 with a 3:43 mile.)

Later that year, the San Diego Padres—then a minor-league club—captured the Pacific Coast League pennant by defeating the Hollywood Stars. San Diegan Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly claimed the Wimbledon title, and 1954 also ushered in the dawn of live television coverage for major sporting events.



Closer to home, St. Augustine High School launched a tradition destined to endure: the inaugural Turkey Trot, run through the neighborhood streets of North Park in the fall of 1954. No television cameras were rolling, but the Saintsman yearbook preserved the moment with the first published photograph of Saintsmen lining up for that maiden race.

More than seventy years later, the fabled Turkey Trot remains a beloved 1.5-mile dash through North Park. Little has changed except one quaint custom—the champion no longer goes home with a live turkey. Today, every runner is rewarded the modern way: with turkey pot pies and a heaping helping of bragging rights.

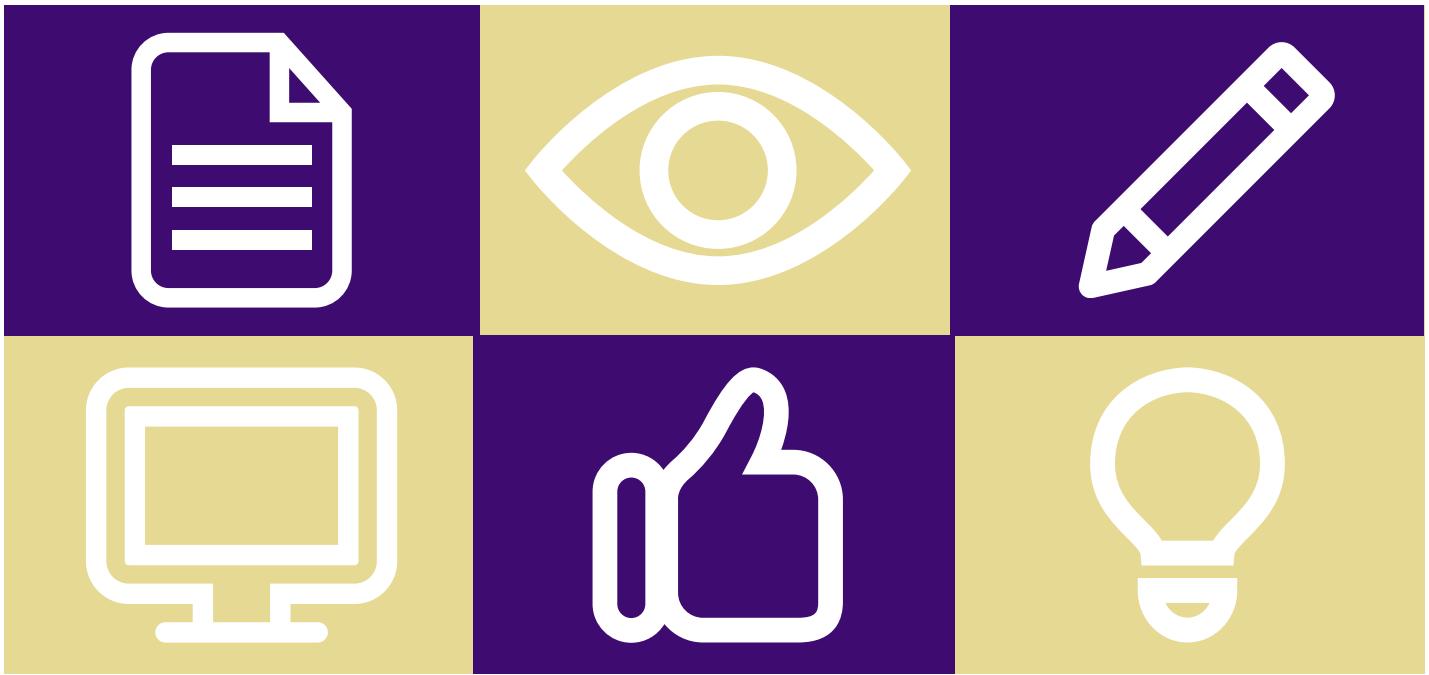


FOR THE WINNERS. Coaches Carl Bronson, Coach Mike Haupt wait at the finish line to assist distributing Turkey Pot Pies for all. No truth to the rumor Coach Matt Linville stayed up all night baking the pies.



FOR STARTERS. As per tradition the official starters for Turkey Trot races are Halo Joe and Tom Turkey.

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Turkey Trot's Place in History

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TURKEY TROT 1954. Here's the first ever Turkey Trot map from Saintsman yearbook 1954. Sharp eyes will note the finishing line is no longer Bancroft Street. Back then the street ran through the middle of Saints campus.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER. Faculty member and Turkey Trot Organizer Aaron Okuley in race day mode with his children, Eden (left) and Poppy.

2025 KID DAY. Every year the children of the Faculty and Staff at Saints join us for a Kids Day at Saints that coincides with the Turkey Trot. Here is the gang from the 2025 Kid Day gathering.



2025-26 Varsity Soccer Schedule

Varsity, St. Augustine High School, Defending CIF Open Division Champions

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Non-League				
Wed	12/3	Torrey Pines (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Tues	12/9	Monte Vista (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Fri	12/12	Loyola (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Fri	12/19	Helix (Away)	Helix	6:00 pm
Dec 20–25: Christmas Break				
College Showcase – Chapman University				
Sat	12/27	Bellarmino Prep	Bellarmino Prep	5:00 pm
Mon	12/29	Santiago	Santiago	11:00 am
Tue	12/30	Brophy	Brophy	2:00 pm
Dec 31–Jan 4: Break				
Tue	1/6	Del Norte (Away)	Del Norte	7:00 pm
Western League				
Fri	1/9	Mission Bay (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Wed	1/14	San Diego (Away)	San Diego	6:00 pm
Fri	1/16	Scripps Ranch (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Wed	1/21	Point Loma (Away)	Point Loma	6:00 pm
Fri	1/23	Cathedral (Away)	Cathedral	4:00 pm
Wed	1/28	Mission Bay (Away)	Mission Bay	6:00 pm
Fri	1/30	San Diego (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Wed	2/4	Scripps Ranch (Away)	Scripps Ranch	6:00 pm
Fri	2/6	Point Loma (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm
Wed	2/11	Cathedral (Home)	Saints Stadium	3:00 pm

Postseason

Feb 16–25 | CIF Playoffs ▪ Feb 26–28 | CIF Finals ▪ Mar 3–7 | CIF Regionals

SAINTS SOCCER

The Winning Tradition

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The program has captured **seven straight Western League titles, ten CIF championships overall**, and an unprecedented **three consecutive Open Division CIF crowns**. Saints also remains the **only San Diego school ever to win the Division I State Championship**, claiming statewide titles in **2012, 2021, and 2024**.

After graduating more than twenty seniors in the last two years, this year's squad is young but fiercely committed. Our Saintsmen train daily with the knowledge that every opponent on the schedule is a Division I powerhouse.

The season opens on December 3 against Torrey Pines, followed by a December 12 home match with Loyola of Los Angeles. After Christmas, we travel to Irvine for the SoCal College Showcase, where we will meet three elite all-boys programs: Bellarmine Prep of San Jose, Santiago of Corona (whom we defeated in the 2021 State final), and Brophy Prep of Phoenix. All Showcase matches will be played at the stadium field at Chapman University.

Our final test before entering league play comes against Del Norte—another rising Division I challenger we have defeated in the last two Open Division championship games. It promises to be a measuring-stick match for both teams.

This demanding preseason is designed with purpose. It sharpens our competitive edge and prepares our young men for the grind of Western League play, where every opponent aims to unseat the champs. Leadership will come from senior Andre Odish and our dozen senior veterans, along with returning standout Maximo Piancone—an All-Western League selection last year—and promising sophomore Emilio Ybarra.

Most importantly, this group loves playing for each other and for the Saints community. Their pride, work ethic, and commitment to excellence continue the winning tradition that has defined Saints Soccer for more than a decade.



ON TOP. Saints Faculty Member and Varsity Soccer Head Coach Brendan Johnston prepares to defend the team's remarkable winning tradition. Earlier in the year he was named Coach of the Year 2024 by the California Soccer Coaches Assn.



THREE PEAT. Saints Powerhouse Varsity Soccer teams gears up to defend its amazing record. Team, shown here earlier this year, has won three straight Open Division Soccer titles.



2025–26 Varsity Basketball Schedule

Varsity, St. Augustine High School

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Wed	12/10	Carlsbad	Saints	7:00 pm
Fri	12/12	Steele Canyon	Saints	7:00 pm
Fri	12/19–23	Tarkanian Classic (4)	Bishop Gorman, LV	TBD
Fri	12/26–30	Torrey Holiday Classic (4)	TBA	TBD

Western League

Tue	1/6	@Santa Fe Christian	SFC	7:00 pm
Fri	1/9	SAN DIEGO	SAINTS	7:30 pm
Tue	1/13	@Mira Mesa	Mira Mesa	5:45 pm
Fri	1/16	@Mission Bay	Mission Bay	7:30 pm
Tue	1/20	MARANATHA	SAINTS	6:00 pm
Fri	1/23	CATHEDRAL	SAINTS	7:30 pm
Sat	1/24	Roosevelt-NIKE X	Mater Dei-Santa Ana	1:30 pm
Tue	1/27	PATRICK HENRY	SAINTS	6:30 pm
Fri	1/30	@San Diego	San Diego	7:30 pm
Tue	2/3	MIRA MESA	SAINTS	5:45 pm
Fri	2/6	MISSION BAY	SAINTS	7:30 pm
TBD	TBD	SAGE CREEK	SAINTS	6:00 pm
Thu	2/12	@Cathedral	Cathedral	7:30 pm

Let Him Figure It Out

Continued from page 1

We all know what this looks like: a student gets a bad grade in a class or is confronted for a disciplinary infraction, and within seconds is on the phone home. This could have a positive benefit if the message from home is, "Thanks for the heads-up, and good luck working through the issue with your teacher or assistant principal." However, the response is often, "I will help you straighten things out right away."

In an era of instant access and the quick fix, we rarely afford our children the opportunity to sit reflectively with their own problems. Working through a challenging issue for a teenage boy requires thought, perspective, and reflection on what the adults he respects and values might have done. Rather than ask important questions to provide perspective, we tend to jump in with both feet and attempt to solve their problems for them.

There is a delicate balance. We want our children to be happy and fulfilled, but we occasionally create the opposite effect. For our Saintsmen to develop into resilient, compassionate, and thoughtful adults, they need latitude to work through their own issues, to see the world from a variety of perspectives, and to develop their own voice. If we constantly invade their space, they have little room to grow and mature into the strong, independent adults we want them to be.

In the Spirit,



James Horne
Principal



Frosh Election Lottery Results

Continued from page 1

Like most things in life, leadership at Saints comes from preparation, desire, and a little good fortune. For the fifth year in a row, Saints ASB used the Frosh Leadership Lottery system rather than a traditional popularity election. The goal is simple: open leadership to more freshmen, encourage them to interview, participate, and step forward. Students not selected for an official title may continue to serve as frosh ambassadors, reinforcing the idea that leadership is defined by what you do, not the title you hold.

Late last month, the 35 students in the Frosh Leadership Program gathered to select their officers for the remainder of the school year. Using ranked-choice voting, Liam Sartain was elected president and Mauricio Zaragoza was chosen as vice president.

Congratulations to all members of the Frosh Leadership team for stepping forward and setting a proud example for the Class of 2029.



Pictured: Frosh Officers and Pit Leaders.

Top Row, left to right: Isaiah Villafana, Kash Reyes, Broc Thorn, Miles Miller, Logan Owoc.

Bottom Row: Brandon Montivirdi, Jorge Armando Osuna Felix, Liam Sartain (President), Carlo Redelings, and Mauricio Zaragoza (Vice President).

Looking Ahead to Intersession 2026

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Our desire to help students develop a passion for learning can sometimes be difficult to accomplish in traditional college prep classes. Providing students the opportunity to investigate studies in areas that interest them sparks a curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally stimulates their desire to learn new things. Offering courses like Christian service in a cultural context, marine biology, architecture, small business management, sailing, cooking, and a host of internship opportunities, will give the students new and unique opportunities to discover a passion and/or skill set that they may embrace well beyond high school.

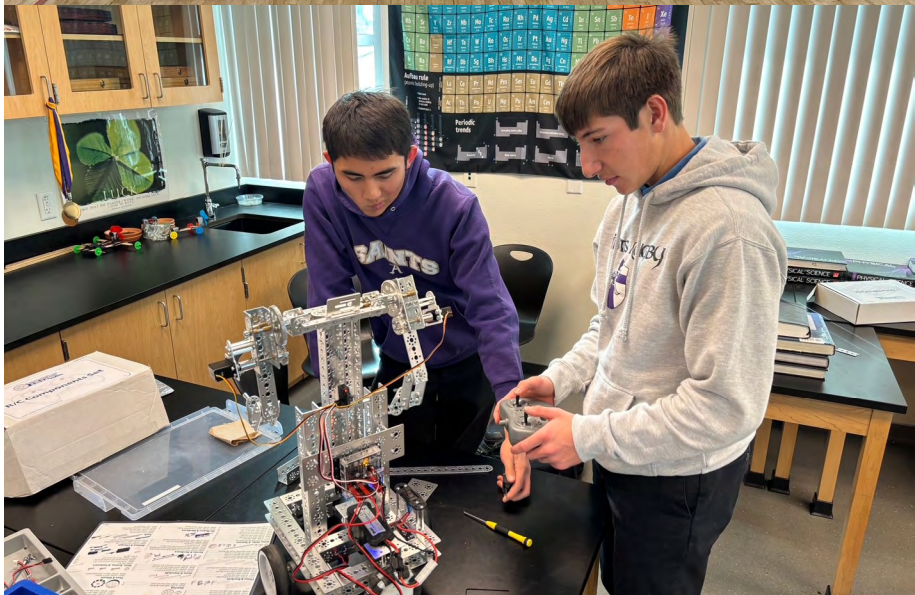
The Intersession term for the 2025-2026 school year begins on January 5, 2026, and ends on January 30, 2026. Martin Luther King Day will be observed on January 19, 2026.

All Intersession courses are a significant part of the graduation requirements for St. Augustine High School. Regular attendance during Intersession is also necessary for a meaningful learning experience. Since Intersession courses are compacted semester courses, students should not miss more than two days of Intersession. **Please be aware, if a student is absent three (3) days from an Intersession course, he may be denied credit in that class thus affecting his graduation credits required for the St. Augustine High School diploma.**

Every Wednesday during Intersession, school begins with Mass followed by the courses in which students are enrolled. Please note that “Tie Day” attire will be observed on all Mass days. For those students enrolled in courses that take place on campus, each school day will take place from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those students enrolled in courses that take place off campus should consult with their faculty supervisor to verify daily start and finish times.

During Intersession, every course which includes those taught on campus, as well as those that take place off campus, (i.e., sports/athletics, internships, and travel courses) will follow ALL regular school policies with respect to grades, attendance, standards of dress, and student discipline. If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding Intersession please e-mail Mr. Hecht at ghecht@sahs.org.

File photos.





THE BIRTH OF
Christ



Merry Christmas
from all of us at
St. Augustine High School



SAINTS SCENE

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

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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.