YOUR MONTHLY REPORT ON THE ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
St. Augustine High School • 3266 Nutmeg Street • San Diego, CA 92104-5199 • 619.282.2184 • www.sahs.org
NOVEMBER 2026

# SAINTS SCENE

## Everything You Need to Know About Saints Vaunted Intramural Sports Program

### Saints Intramurals: House Pride, Competition, and Community

Saints intramurals have been a mainstay for community building and competition at lunchtime. This article shares how intramurals are run and how students can participate under the new house system.



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**AWESOME END TO AN AMAZING SEASON.**

**Saints capture football crown.**

**See page 10 for Eastern League wrap-up.**

## Saints and Polamalu Finish as League Champions

While final statistics had not been posted at deadline, Saintsman Paisios "Pai" Polamalu entered Friday's Eastern League championship game ranked No. 1 in the CIF San Diego Section in both reported rushing yards and total touchdowns. His 179-yard, two-touchdown performance against San Diego High capped a remarkable 10-game senior season with 1,848 rushing yards and 33 total touchdowns. For more Saints Football see page 10.

## Confident Young Men

### Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

Our Faculty and staff work very hard to develop a well-rounded skill set in each of our Saintsmen. After all, today's Saintsmen are tomorrow's leaders and through activities that build self-confidence, creative decision-making skills, and teamwork, Saintsmen develop real-world leadership abilities that will last them a lifetime.

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## Saints to Host Open House, Nov. 8

### Free BBQ to Follow

St. Augustine High School will welcome prospective students and their families to its annual Open House on Sunday, November 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event offers visitors an opportunity to discover the Saints experience firsthand, beginning with campus tours from 11 a.m. to noon. A formal presentation follows at 12:10 p.m. with additional tours, a question-and-answer session and barbecue scheduled from 1 to 2 p.m.

No reservations necessary. For information, contact the Admissions Office at (619) 282-2184 or visit **sahs.org.**

## Intersession Preview, Dec. 3

### Instructors Outline January Courses Attendance Essential at Preview Session

St. Augustine High School students will get an advance look at their January Intersession courses during a special Preview Day on Thursday, December 3, from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

Students must report directly to their assigned Intersession classrooms, where instructors will explain course details, review expectations and assist with any required paperwork.

*Continued on page 15*

THE SEASON AGAINST TIME

St. Augustine High School Drama Department Presents...

# CARELESS PEOPLE

# A GREAT GATSBY

PLAY ADAPTED BY:

## KATHRYN FUNKHOUSER

BOOK BY: F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

DIRECTED BY: MR. TRAVIS BLUMER | CHOREOGRAPHY BY: MR. JOSEPH ROUGAS

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF PLAYSCRIPTS, INC

NOVEMBER 13TH | 7 PM
NOVEMBER 14TH | 7 PM
NOVEMBER 19TH | 7 PM
NOVEMBER 20TH | 7 PM
NOVEMBER 21ST | 2 PM

Raymond Center for the Performing Arts
St. Augustine High School
3266 Nutmeg St. | San Diego, CA 92104

@saints_drama_dept

@saints_drama_dept

# When Colleges Come Visiting Saints

By Mr. Timothy Golden, Saints Director of Counseling Services



**INTERACT.** Campus reps offer vital college admissions data.



**COLLEGE FAIR.** Representatives from visiting schools answer student questions.

Demonstrated interest is not a new concept in college admissions. For years, some colleges have tracked student engagement to gauge how interested applicants are in attending.

As college admissions change, many schools are placing greater emphasis on that interest. Test-optional policies and questions about the authenticity of personal essays and recommendation letters in the age of AI have added to the uncertainty. Some colleges now use the term “likelihood to enroll” rather than “demonstrated interest.” Admissions officers value applicants they believe will accept an offer. The percentage of admitted students who enroll is known as a college’s yield, a figure colleges closely track.

How, then, can students best demonstrate their interest? A recent survey by the National Association for College Admission Counseling identified five leading ways admissions officers assess it:

1. Visiting the college campus.
2. Interacting with a representative at a college fair or during a visit to the student’s high school.
3. Communicating with the college’s admissions counselor by email, phone or other means.
4. Attending a virtual information session or webinar.
5. Logging in to the college’s applicant portal after submitting an application.

With the second item in mind, Saints was proud to host San Diego County information nights for Vanderbilt, MIT and Notre Dame this fall, making it easier for our families to attend and connect with college representatives. Over the past two months, we have also hosted a Big Ten college fair and individual visits from more than 80 other colleges during the school day.

Keep in mind that not every college tracks demonstrated interest, and these five methods are not the only ways to show it. The survey also cited opening emails from colleges, scheduling interviews when available, and submitting applications and financial aid forms early.




Our cornhole and bocce ball tournaments will be celebrated on the same day this year! Saturday, November 14th, grab a partner and join in on the Alum fun. Registration includes entry into the tournament of your choice plus food and beverages.

**Registration is available on alumni.sahs.org.**




The 30th Parochial Football Tournament presented by the Saints Alumni Association will take place on Saturday, December 5th. For any interest in helping or questions about games themselves please contact: **Phil Sciuto at president@alumnisahs.org**

Follett

**Have textbook needs?**

Do you need any new or different books for your 2nd semester classes? Go to Saints' homepage (sahs.org) and click on the Follett link, select "Buy Books" and follow the online instructions. Follett customer service is standing by to help at 855-277-6006 or email customerservice@fvc.follett.com






# AROUND CAMPUS




It was a spooktacular Thursday before Halloween as Saints faculty and staff got into the spirit of things with a colorful cast of characters straight out of the  nearby zoo! The fun didn't stop there. Following Priory, students, faculty and staff headed upstairs to explore the Haunted Hallway atop Villanova, where trick-or-treating was only the beginning. Next stop: the Haunted Theater, where brave souls ventured into the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts to uncover its spooky secrets. A frightfully good time was had by all. All in good fun, of course!  Bee Quiet may be this year's costume highlight (Mr. Cudal).

## Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord we thank you for this meal we are about to enjoy and for bringing us together to share it. Bless the lands that yielded it and the hands that prepared it. Give us also the spiritual nourishment we deeply long for. We pray, also, for those who have nothing to eat, no one to share this Thanksgiving, and for loved ones who could not make it. We ask all these things through Christ our Lord.—Amen.

# The Sports Page

## Saints Scene's updates

### Hoops Season Ahead

Here are the schedules for Saints Varsity and JV Basketball for the 2026–2027 season.

Recapping last season, St. Augustine's varsity basketball team finished 2025–26 with a 14–16 overall record and a 3–5 Western League mark, placing fourth. Under Coach Mike Haupt, the Saints experienced their first losing season in many years, a rare setback for the traditionally successful program.

Despite last year's challenges, the Varsity gained valuable experience for returning underclassmen for the upcoming season.




Varsity Basketball Coach Mr. Mike Haupt in a team huddle from last season.



# St. Augustine High School
# Varsity Basketball Schedule 2026–27

'63, '70, '77, '92, '93, '94, '99, '01, '05, '06, '14, '15, '17, '19, '22, '23, '24, '25 League Champions
1993, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2013, 2015 (Open), 2017 (Open), 2022 (Open), 2023 (Open), 2025 CIF Champions
1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2014 (Open) CIF Finalists
2005, 2013 Southern California Champions

### 2013 California State Champions

| Day | Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sat | 11/14 | @ St. John Bosco (Scrimmage) | Bosco | Mass 9, F 10 am, V 11:15 am, JV 12:45 pm |
| Tues | 11/17 | Torrey Pines (Scrimmage) | SAINTS | JV 3:30pm, V 5 pm, Fr 6:30 pm |
| Fri | 11/20 | CHAMINADE | SAINTS | 6 pm |
| Mon | 11/23 | @ Canyon Hills | Canyon Hills | 6 pm |
| Tue | 11/24 | Scripps Ranch @ Helix | Helix | 4:30 pm |
| Wed | 11/25 | Mission Hills (Madison Trtny) | SAINTS | 7:30 pm |
| Sat | 11/28 | Madison Tourney Champ. Day | TBD | TBD |
| Wed | 12/2 | San Clemente | Mission Viejo | 7 pm |
| Sat | 12/5 | Fairmont Prep | Mission Viejo | TBD |
| Tue | 12/8 | @ Carlsbad | Carlsbad | V 7 pm, JV 5:30 pm, F 4 pm |
| Wed | 12/9 | Wrestling | | |
| Fri | 12/11 | @ Steele Canyon | Steele | V 7 pm, JV 5:30 pm, F 4 pm |

Saints Academic Finals 12/14, 15, 16

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thu | 12/17 | Crawford | SAINTS | 6 pm Varsity only |
| Thu | 12/17 | St. John Bosco v Mater Dei | SAINTS | 7:30 pm |
| Wed | 12/23 | Tip-off v LCC or Victory | Torrey | |
| Sat | 12/26–30 | Torrey Holiday Classic (4) | TBA | TBA |

## Western League

| Day | Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tue | 1/5 | @ La Jolla Country Day | LJCD | 7 pm V, 5:30 JV |
| Wed | 1/6 | Wrestling | | |
| Fri | 1/8 | Mira Mesa | Saints | V-7:30 pm, JV @ Saints 6 pm |
| Tue | 1/12 | @ Christian | Christian | V-5:45 pm, JV-4 pm |
| Fri | 1/15 | Mission Bay | Saints | V-7:30 pm, JV @MB |
| Tue | 1/19 | Cathedral | Saints | V-7:30 pm, JV 5:30 pm |
| Wed | 1/20 | Wrestling | | |
| Fri | 1/22 | Santa Fe Christian | Saints | 4:30/6/7:30 |
| Sat | 1/23 | Nike X-Corona Del Mar | Mater Dei-Santa Ana | 6 pm |
| Tue | 1/26 | @ Patrick Henry | Patrick Henry | 6:30 pm V, JV 5, Fr 3:30 pm |
| Fri | 1/29 | @ Mira Mesa | Mira Mesa | V-7:30 pm, JV @ MM 6 pm |
| Tue | 2/2 | Christian | Saints | V-5:45 pm, JV4 pm |
| Fri | 2/5 | @ Mission Bay | Mission Bay | V-7:30 pm, JV @ STA 5:30 pm |
| Tue | 2/9 | @ Cathedral | Cathedral | TBD |
| Thu | 2/11 | San Diego (Sr. Night) | Saints | 7:30 pm, JV @ STA 5:30 pm |

2/15-24 CIF PLAYOFFS, 2/25-27 CIF FINALS, 3/2-11 REGIONALS, 3/12-13 CIF STATE FINALS

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL CORDIALLY INVITES STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO OUR

# Open House

**Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 11 am–2 pm**
**Learn what the St. Augustine "Experience" is all about.**

The schedule is as follows—no RSVP necessary:
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Campus Tours
- 12:10 pm – 1:00 pm Formal Presentation
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Open Tours, Q&A and BBQ

**Director of Admissions** | Paul Sipper | psipper@sahs.org
**Asst. Director of Admissions** | Brendan Johnston | bjohnston@sahs.org
**Administrative Assistant to Admissions** | Zorinna Aceron | zaceron@sahs.org

# Making the Team

## How to Try Out for Sports at St. Augustine High School

By Matt Linville, Saints Athletic Director

Here at St. Augustine High School, athletics play an essential role in developing the mind, body, and spirit of every Saintsman. We encourage all students to investigate being a part of our vibrant athletic program to experience the camaraderie, discipline, and growth that come from being part of a team.

### Tryout Information

Each sport at St. Augustine High School holds open tryouts before the start of its season. Students of all grade levels are welcome and encouraged to participate.

**Here is what you need to know to get started:**

### 1. Athletic Clearance

Before participating in any tryout, every student must complete the online athletic clearance process. This includes:

- Submitting a current sports physical signed by a licensed physician.
- Completing the online clearance form (found on the school's website under Athletics > Athletic Clearance).
- Signing all required parent/guardian consent and emergency contact forms.

### 2. Tryout Dates and Times

Sports are divided into three CIF seasons. The dates of each season are determined by the official CIF calendar. Teams will hold interest meetings in the weeks leading up to a team's official start date.

- Fall: Football, Cross Country, Beach Volleyball; approximate start date is late July/early August.
- Winter: Basketball, Soccer, Wrestling, Rugby, Surfing; approximate start date is the first week of November.
- Spring: Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Golf, Swim & Dive, Track & Field, Volleyball; approximate start date is the beginning of February.




### 3. Preparation and Commitment

Students/parents should contact the head coach of any sport in which they are interested. Most head coaches are on campus; however, the Athletic Director can assist with connecting a student/parent with an off-campus coach. It is recommended that contact is made roughly 6 weeks prior to the official start of a season. Preliminary information can be given so that the student/parent can prepare for the tryouts and upcoming season.

Students should come to tryouts dressed in proper athletic gear, ready to demonstrate effort, teamwork, and coachability. Coaches evaluate not only athletic ability but also attitude, discipline, and willingness to grow.

### 4. Communication:

If a student cannot attend a scheduled tryout due to illness or unavoidable conflict, they must notify the coach in advance to discuss alternative arrangements.

### Questions?

Our Athletic Department is here to support you. For more information, please visit our Athletics page or contact the Athletic Office directly at mlinville@sahs.org.

We look forward to seeing many of our young men take this important step in their Saints experience. Participation in athletics helps develop character, build lasting friendships, and strengthen the bonds of our community. **Go Saints!**

# A Tale of Two Halves, a Tale of Two Seasons

## Saints Storm Back to Claim Eastern League Championship

**It was a tale of two halves, a tale of two seasons, and a comeback that Saints fans won't soon forget.**

On a breezy Friday night before Halloween at historic Balboa Stadium, St. Augustine High School and San Diego High squared off in a winner-take-all showdown for the Eastern League championship. Both teams entered undefeated in league play at 4-0, but only one would leave as champion.

For much of the first half, it appeared the Cavers would claim the crown.

San Diego High stunned the Saints by recovering an onside kick on the opening kickoff and racing to a 21-0 halftime lead. The Cavers struck with a 50-yard touchdown run by Kye Cooper, a 2-yard score by Jayden Johnson, and a 5-yard touchdown pass from Jayden Harris to Delontay Williams.

But the Saints had been here before.

After opening the 2026 season with three consecutive losses, St. Augustine had turned its fortunes around, discovering the resilience and determination that would eventually define its season.

And on Friday night, history repeated itself.

Whatever head coach Ron Caragher and his staff said at halftime ought to be bottled for future use.




The Saints erupted for 35 unanswered second-half points, turning a three-touchdown deficit into a stunning comeback. Stanford-bound senior Paisios "Pai" Polamalu electrified the crowd with a spectacular 70-yard punt return touchdown and powered the Saints' rushing attack. Polamalu finished with four touchdowns on the night.

Saints Head Football Coach Ron Caragher and his staff guided the Saints to a perfect 5-0 Eastern League championship season.



Junior defensive standout Stephen “Stevie” Haskett added a game-changing pick-six off a tipped pass, one of his two interceptions, as the Saints defense helped turn the tide.

After closing the gap to 21-20 in the third quarter, the Saints seized their first lead early in the fourth. Junior quarterback Julian Chanfreau added a crucial two-point conversion, putting St. Augustine ahead 28-21.

The Cavers refused to surrender. Following an injury-related interruption, both teams continued battling, with San Diego scoring its final touchdown with just six seconds remaining. But a missed extra point and a failed onside kick sealed the Saints’ unforgettable victory.

From an 0-3 start to a 5-0 Eastern League championship, the Saints had completed one of the most remarkable turnarounds in recent school history.

St. Augustine finished the regular season 6-4 overall and a perfect 5-0 in league play, earning the Eastern League title.

It was a night of perseverance, brotherhood, and belief. A night when the Saints refused to let a difficult beginning determine their ending.

A tale of two halves. A tale of two seasons. One championship.



# A Season to Remember

## Photo Gallery of New Eastern League Champs

By Mr. William Hill, Saints Dad

The Eastern League title game was just one game in a season filled with comebacks. As mentioned before, three games into the season, St. Augustine High's varsity football team had three losses and no wins. The Saints had fallen to Rancho Bernardo, 28–24, Del Norte, 19–14, and Helix, 27–20. Every game had been close enough to offer hope, but close was getting tiresome.



**FIRST WIN.** Junior wide receiver Mateo Iuli breaks into the open helping to lead Saints first win of the season 41-23 over Mater Dei High.



**PICK SIX.** Teammates congratulate Junior defensive standout Stevie Haskett #33 after making one of two interceptions in the Saints/Cavers title game. One of his picks went for six points.



**NOISE BOYZ.** A.K.A "The Pit." No one out yells St. Augustine High's award-winning cheer section.



**STRONG ARM.** Saints Varsity will return starting QB Julian Chanfreau and a host of returning champions. Number 7 shown in action topping La Jolla 35-18.



**SENIOR NIGHT.** Senior Paisios Polamalu streaks for one of his 33 league leading touchdowns in a 49-35 Senior Night victory over Scripps Ranch. This season he ran an amazing five touchdowns three times.



**NEXT YEAR.** Sophomore Ephraim Polamalu and a host of starting underclassmen will return next in 2027.



**TV TIME.** KUSI's Prep Pigskin crew interviews Saintsmen after winning Homecoming game over University City 48-40.



**KICKERS.** Good news Juniors Saints Kicker Alfred Attallah and QB and Holder Luke Penick will return for next year.

## Confident Young Men

*Continued from page 1*

Often, teens lack the self-confidence to make this transition alone and lack the ability to overcome procrastination, fears, inhibitions and adversities for taking action. Lacking self-confidence can affect every aspect of a young man's life.

As much as teens wouldn't want to admit it, family relationships are also important to their lives. Strong parental relationships are key to helping teens with peer pressure, stress, and the development of self-confidence. However, teens are notorious for not wanting to tell their parents anything. I know I am preaching to the choir but if you ask how school was today, you'll get a shrug and a mumbled answer. And it's easy to give up in the face of this reticence but do everything you can to keep the lines of communication open. Teens can feel confident in even the most difficult decisions if they know they will find support at home.

Research strongly indicates that being involved in extracurricular activities is a surefire way to build self-confidence. And at Saints, there's a little something for everyone. The musically inclined will want to join our band or choir while your family's Trivial Pursuit champion may want to join the Academic League team. Campus clubs (listing provided in the Oct. issue) and teams give teens an instant peer group, allow them to experience the satisfaction of working with others towards a goal, and often help them develop leadership skills. Every aspect of the experience lends itself to increased confidence.

Just because the teen years have hit, all is not lost. With a solid foundation at home, a school environment that promotes Christian values and high academic standards, and a bit of parental encouragement teenagers can make the most of this exciting yet trying time with their confidence intact.

In the Spirit of Catholic Education,

James Horne

James Horne
Principal

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL
ACCEPTING BOYS AND GRADUATING MEN WHO CHANGE THE WORLD!

# 72ND Annual Turkey Trot

**Tuesday, November 24 | 11:30am**

All Saintsmen, Families, and Alumni

Start and finish lines are on campus,
2.1 mile trot through the neighborhood.

$40 race fee includes a long sleeve race shirt along with a pot pie and Gatorade lunch at the finish. Awards will be given to the top runners!

**Registration closes on Thursday, November 5!**



## Everything You Need to Know About Saints Vaunted Intramural Sports Program

*Continued from page 1*

With the recent change over to the Priory House home room system, the makeover also impacted Saints popular Intramural sports program. Questions are answered here.

**How are intramurals different under the House system?**
Under the House system, intramurals are about more than winning games. Students compete for House points, privileges, and, most importantly, the pride of representing their House. Because students compete alongside the same group of classmates over four years, they can build lasting camaraderie, teamwork, and a true team identity. In addition, the new format allows students to play in at least 5 games during the intramural season (in the old format it could be only 2-3 matches). Each House represents a division (think like NL West or NFC East). The priories inside the House play each other within their House/division in order to win and represent their House in the playoffs. Division/House Champions with a couple of wild card entries then compete for an overall winner.

**How can students sign up to participate?**
Every student is automatically included on his Priory's intramural roster. No separate sign-up is needed! Students can check the Saints Intramural website for upcoming games, schedules, and other ways to get involved. Announcements inside the priories also allow students to know when they are playing. Rules regulate to make sure each class (Freshman through Senior) is playing in a game.

**Is there a cost to participate?**
No! Participation is free. All it takes is hard work, dedication, and a willingness to compete for your Priory and House. One of the goals of intramurals in the upcoming years is to have students participate in something that piques their interest or join their priory in something that allows the priory to bond and strengthen brotherhood within the priory they are in.

**What sports are offered throughout the year?**
Flag football takes place during the first semester, while basketball is offered during the second semester. Looking ahead, we hope to expand our lineup with activities such as trivia, wiffle ball, and futsal. Our long-term goal is to offer more sports and activities throughout the year, giving even more students opportunities to participate.

**What's new with intramurals this year?**
One of the biggest additions is the new Saints Intramural website, accessible through the Saints website. Students can find upcoming games, House schedules, and power rankings all in one place. House rankings are based on average point differential, while Priory rankings take both strength of schedule and win-loss record into account.

**Who's leading the competition right now?**
The Faculty Priory leaders in each House are:

- Alypius House: Hitchcock
- Cascia House: Isaak
- Monica House: Chesser
- Tolentino House: Pruter
- Villanova House: Bachynsky

These leaders are helping set the pace as the competition continues!

**Why should students get involved?**
Intramurals are a great way to represent your House, build friendships, develop teamwork, and contribute to something bigger than yourself. Whether you're competing on the field or cheering on your Priory, every student can help build House pride.

**Where can students find schedules and current standings?**
Visit the Saints Intramural website through the main Saints website, or scan the QR code included with this feature. Check back regularly for upcoming games, updated power rankings, and the latest intramural news. Get involved, support your Priory, and help your House climb the standings!

Scan the QR code to stay up to date on Saints Intramurals.

## Intersession Preview, Dec. 3

*Continued from page 1*

School officials emphasize that this is the only scheduled preview session before January's Intersession begins. All participating students are expected to attend and arrive promptly at their designated classrooms.

# *Student Intersession Preview Day*

# *Thursday, December 3rd*

# *7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.*

**On this special day, students will report at 7:45 a.m., on campus, to their Intersession course classroom.**

**Instructors will review course details, expectations, and facilitate the completion of any necessary paperwork (if applicable).**

**As this will be the *ONLY* day of its kind in advance of the start of Intersession, it is imperative that students are in attendance and on time to their designated course location on campus.**

**We look forward to another remarkable Intersession come January!**







## SAINTS SCENE

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

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***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.**