



Welcome to St. Pius X High School quarterly Alumni Newsletter. The focus of the newsletter is to inform you, our Alumni, what is happening on campus and to celebrate all accomplishments. We would love to hear from you!

[Connect](#)

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## Recent Events

### Sporting Clay Shoot

St. Pius X High School hosted its Sporting Clay Shoot at Sandy Valley Hunt Club on February 22. The top three teams were team Basler, team Null and team Kutilek. Thank you to all the teams who came out to support our school especially our sponsor Darin Basler with RAYMOND JAMES and Tim Loveless.



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### Black History Month



Rick Overberg invited Gary Underwood and John (Jackie) White (both Class of '68) to share their experiences as the first black students at St. Pius X High School. The presentation was originally intended for religion class, but the interest was so great that their reflections were presented in the Ralph Boyer Gymnasium for the entire school on Thursday, March 5th.

[Read More](#)

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### Wellness Center Grand Opening

St. Pius X High School held its grand opening ceremony on Tuesday, March 10th at 5 pm. The Wellness Center and equipment is partially funded by two grants from the Jefferson Foundation.



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### Alumni Association Quarterly Meeting

The Alumni Association held its second quarterly meeting on March 11th in the Annex. You can review the minutes on the Alumni Page at [stpius.com](http://stpius.com). The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10th in the Annex at 7pm.

[Minutes](#)

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# Legacy Gala Virtual Auction

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Today begins two weeks of celebrating 60 Extraordinary Years of St. Pius X with our Virtual Gala! Join us by registering here or text StPius2020 to 76278 to stay up to date as details become available. The site is open for you to purchase your Lucky Lotto ticket and purchase your Retro Logo champagne flute and champagne to toast St. Pius X High School's 60 Extraordinary Years of Catholic Education! #SPXGala2020

[Register Here](#)

## School Notes

**SPX**  
2019 - 2020  
**LANCER BASKETBALL**

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
21 - 8

- FIRST DISTRICT TITLE SINCE 2006
- BACK-TO-BACK 20 WIN SEASONS
- WON VALLEY PARK HS TOURNAMENT

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
21 - 5

- WON ORCHARD FARMS HS & VALLEY PARK TOURNAMENTS
- MOST WINS IN A SEASON SINCE 2013

**FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY  
BOTH TEAMS WON 20+ GAMES**

The poster has a dark blue background with a textured, metallic appearance. A white diagonal line separates the boys' and girls' statistics. The SPX logo is at the top center.



## 2019 - 2020 LANCER DANCERS

- 4TH FOR POM ROUTINE
- 2ND FOR MIX ROUTINE

**FIFTH OVERALL IN STATE!**

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### Mr. Ralph Boyer



Athletic Director, teacher, basketball and baseball coach Ralph Boyer passed away January 14<sup>th</sup> at 86 years of age. Ralph started his longtime coaching career in 1959 with the founding of St. Pius X High School in Festus, and continued working at St. Pius X as a teacher, coach and athletic director until his retirement in 1998.

Mr. Boyer dedicated his teaching vocation to St. Pius X. Many of his former players and students attended the wake of Mr. Boyer. There was much joy in the memory of his life and his legacy, but particularly as it applied to his coaching. The wake was a great tribute to his life.

The conversation at the funeral home moved to basketball and baseball. A number of Mr. Boyer's athletes wanted to get to a home game for the current St. Pius X team. This evolved into an informal gathering at the St. Pius X boys basketball game on February 4. His memory was commemorated with a short prayer before the game in the gym that bears his name. Following the game a reception was attended by former players in the school cafeteria. Two of his children, Robert Boyer '82 and Liz (Boyer '80) Rothweiler were part of the memory trip. Ralph would have been pleased. Thank you Mr. Boyer for 39 years of your life.

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### Faculty Focus: Marty Zielonko



Marty Zielonko started at St. Pius X High School as an English teacher, Freshmen/JV assistant football coach and freshmen basketball coach in the 1977/78 school year. Around 1980 Fr. Dalton asked him to become the Coordinator of Disciples (which was not a paid gig at the time). This position title was eventually changed to Dean of Students. In 1982, with the approval and support of Fr. Dalton the Drug Ed class began at St. Pius X High School. It began as one-quarter of junior year Religion. After many years as an English teacher, he gave it up to focus solely on his position as Dean of Students and his Drug Education class. After spending 20 years as Dean of Students, Marty transitioned to the role of College Counselor. Now semi-retired he returns to campus to “just do drugs”. Drug Education is a semester credit class meeting every other day for the entire year. The junior-level students take this via the Wellness Department and it is required for graduation. They write 7 papers, take tests and every drug category and hundreds of drug issues are covered. Nothing is taboo. They spend three months covering Addiction alone! This is the 36th year the class has been offered, and we believe this is the only class of its kind in the entire United States.

### Featured Alumni: Phillip Klahs '08

*Phillip Klahs '08*

Location: Ames, IA

Iowa State University in Ames recently awarded Phillip Klahs '04 a 2019-2020 Brown Graduate Fellowship. Klahs is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State. His research focuses on the grass flower and the aerodynamics of wind pollination. Klahs majored in biology and mathematics at Westminster ('12) before earning a Master of Science degree in biological sciences at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN, in 2014...



NOMINATE AN ALUMNI OR BE OUR FEATURED ALUMNI AT [WWW.STPIUS.COM/FEATURED-ALUMNI.HTML](http://WWW.STPIUS.COM/FEATURED-ALUMNI.HTML)

More on Phillip's Story

We want to hear from you!

## Featured Alumni

### Virtual Learning



St. Pius X High School will be closed to students from March 18 through April 3 to minimize potential student and faculty exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

In anticipation of this closure, St. Pius X faculty and staff have been preparing for an extended period of virtual learning for their nearly 300 students. Faculty meetings and training took place on March 17 and 18. Students will start receiving lessons and assignments on Thursday, March 19 via tools such as Google's G-Suite.

"These unprecedented circumstances do not mean we cannot continue to educate our students," Principal Karen DeCosty said. "We gained valuable experience with eLearning on a couple of snow days earlier this year, giving our faculty and administration the confidence to implement a longer-term solution via technology while we fight off this virus."

Virtual learning at St. Pius X is much more involved than sending packets of worksheets home with students. Teachers, working from home or on campus, will be using various educational and technological tools to both deliver content to the students and encourage collaboration to complement the student's virtual learning environment. Faculty members will have "office hours" during which students can reach out to them with questions about assignments.

"While it is no replacement for in-person interaction with faculty, this is the best solution for the situation we are in," said DeCosty, who has been the St. Pius X principal for 13 years. "We have an obligation to our students and families to do everything possible to provide them with a high level of education they have come to expect from our school."

St. Pius X is scheduled to reopen to students on Monday, April 6. Any changes to that date will be published on [www.stpius.com](http://www.stpius.com).

[More Information](#)

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## Alumni News



If any alumni have personal or professional news to share, please let us know what that is. To lower cost, The Alumni Association Quarterly Newsletters will be sent electronically via email. We truly want to include more alumni - even all alumni. But we need email addresses. Obviously, those emails we don't have will not know this. If you know alumni email addresses from reunions or those of friends, please share them with us (c/o [dparker@stpius.com](mailto:dparker@stpius.com)). More information about St. Pius X and its alumni activities can be found [here](#).

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### Class Representatives Needed

The Alumni Association wishes to organize and communicate more inclusively. It is seeking class representatives for each graduating class. Most classes have someone who is performing this service now and we would like to connect with those folks as part of the larger Alumni Association. We would like to thank **Donna Stahl '63, Beth Eiler '64 and Erin Halley '00** for representing their classes. If you are already serving as a class representative for your class or know who is please email Diana Parker '01 at [dparker@stpius.com](mailto:dparker@stpius.com).

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# DID YOU KNOW?



# 288

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

# 283

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 2020/2021

# 320

MOST EFFICIENT ENROLLMENT

# 512

LARGEST ENROLLMENT (1976)

# 248

SMALLEST ENROLLMENT (2010)

# 93

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

# 5,391

ALUMNI

# TUITION

**MOST AFFORDABLE  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN  
THE ST. LOUIS AREA**



# \$9,792

2019 - 2020 TUITION

AVERAGE TUITION

# \$14,600

# 1 OF 4

SCHOOLS WITH  
TUITION UNDER  
\$10,000

# \$7,995

LOWEST TUITION:  
ST. FRANCIS BORGIA  
(WASHINGTON)

HIGHEST TUITION:  
PRIORY  
(CREVE COEUR)

# \$24,525

**ST. PIUS X CONTINUES TO BE AN  
EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION VALUE  
FOR AN A-RATED SCHOOL WITH  
MANY EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP THE WHOLE  
PERSON. THAT EDUCATION IS  
PROVEN BY HIGH ACT SCORES AND  
STUDENT-EARNED COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS.**





# St. Pius X LANCER for a Day

**SPEND A DAY  
ATTENDING CLASSES WITH A  
CURRENT SPX STUDENT**

**MEET OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

**EXPERIENCE OUR LUNCH HOUR AND  
HIGH SCHOOL LIFE AT ST. PIUS X FIRST-HAND**

*Schedule your visit today!*

**CONTACT BREANNA EASTER AT (636) 931-7487 EXT. 117  
OR BEASTER@STPIUS.COM**



Please give thought to any family or friends who have a 7th or 8th grader who might benefit from attending St. Pius X. Any prospective students are invited to be a Lancer for a Day. This experience gives students the opportunity to spend a day attending classes with a current StPX student. In addition, the student will meet other students and teachers, experience our Lunch Hour and high school life at St. Pius X first-hand. To set up a visit, contact Director of Admissions, Breanna Easter '15 at (636) 931-7487, ext. 117 or [beaster@stpius.com](mailto:beaster@stpius.com) or [click here](#). Tuition assistance may be available, based on need.



### Join our St. Pius X Alumni Facebook Group for more up-to-date information!

Search "St. Pius X Alumni" on Facebook and request to join.

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go we take a little of each other everywhere"  
- Tim McGraw

St. Pius X High School | 1030 St. Pius Drive | Festus, MO 63028

Phone: (636) 931-PIUS | Fax: (636) 931-3519

