

Welcome to La Salle! We are so glad you are a part of this **amazing** high school!

Below, please find a list of some of our most **Frequently Asked Questions**, with information that will, hopefully, ease the transition to La Salle.

Are you a Catholic School, or a Christian School, or both? La Salle-Yakima is a Catholic, college preparatory school, established in 1998 by the De La Salle Christian Brothers—a Catholic teaching order of Brothers. Our school is named for Saint John Baptist de La Salle, a French priest and theologian, who believed that a quality education should be available to **all** young people, and thus, in 1680, began opening schools and teaching and educating students in France. He convinced other teachers to join him, renounced his family wealth and formed the community that became known as the Christian Brothers. Today, the De La Salle Christian Brothers operate more than 1,600 educational institutions in 84 countries around the globe. More than 1 million students attend grade and middle schools, high schools and universities operated by the Christian Brothers. We are a part of the District of San Francisco-New Orleans; our Brothers are headquartered in Napa, California.

What is the prayer I always hear at sporting events and La Salle activities? Here at La Salle, prayer is very important. We begin each day, each sporting event, and each activity with prayer. We have a special way that we begin our prayers, too. It goes like this:

Reader: Let us remember...

All respond: That we are in the holy presence of God.

We then pray together, which is followed by a special ending to our prayer...

Reader: St. John Baptist de la Salle...

All respond: Pray for us.

Reader: Live, Jesus, in our Hearts...

All respond: Forever.

So, each day, around the world, more than 1 million Lasallian students begin school remembering that they are in God's holy presence.

Are there other La Salle traditions that I should know about? Even though we are still a young school, we have established some cherished traditions. For instance, on the first day of school, the seniors gather on campus at the "crack of dawn" for **senior sunrise!** During our home football games (held at Marquette Stadium), when the Lightning scores, **we light off a cannon!** After football games, **everyone forms a "huddle" on the field**, we say a prayer and offer "shout-outs" to key players. We go "all out" for **Spirit Week** prior to Homecoming and everyone gets involved in the **Powder Puff** football game at Marquette Stadium. **Community Service** and **Service Immersions** are very important at La Salle. We have full days of service, like Pick-A-Thon day, weekly Wednesday service at Northwest Harvest, and five weeklong Service Immersions throughout the year. All grade levels participate in **class retreats**, too. They help to bond each class, bringing everyone closer together. We enjoy a wonderful sit-down **Thanksgiving lunch** together and place our tables in the form of a cross. We celebrate **Catholic Schools Week** and **Founder's Week**, and student leaders join with other Lasallian students for retreats and training in Portland and the Bay area. All our

home volleyball matches and home basketball games are now played on our **home court**—named in honor of beloved La Salle alumni, **Chelsea Heffner**—in the **Cardinal Francis George gymnasium!** In the spring, almost every student volunteers to help at our **St. Patrick’s Day Gala**—and not just for the free tee-shirt! The spring is also the time for **Follies**—our annual talent show, featuring class acts, group and individual performances. We also **play dodge ball, BBQ carne asada** for the whole student body, and celebrate **Faith in Action week** twice per year. We celebrate Mass often and extend a **warm welcome to all parents to attend Mass with us.**

So, I understand that I need to volunteer during the school year. Tell me more about that. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved at La Salle, and lots of ways to meet other parents and La Salle supporters, too. Each year, our parents are asked to volunteer a **minimum of 30 hours** at La Salle events, fundraisers and activities as a way to offset the full cost of educating our students, while also keeping tuition costs from escalating. Each of you received a **Parent Hours Opportunity Checklist for 2016-2017**, which offers you the opportunity to see what kinds of activities and fundraisers we hold throughout the year, thus allowing you to choose the type of volunteer work you are most interested in. If you ever have questions about Parent Volunteer Hours, or would like to know about current opportunities, please contact Debbie Moorer at debbiemoorer@msn.com or at 945-3123. We will track your completed volunteer hours and post them for you in **Power School** (see below), so that you are always kept apprised of where you are with your 30 hour obligation.

So, what are our fundraisers for the school year, and when do they take place?

- Our first fundraiser of the year takes place prior to our first home football game. It’s an adults-only tailgate event called “**Suds ‘n’ Sliders**”, and we will hold it this year on **Sept. 2nd** from 5-7pm outside of Queen Gym and Marquette Stadium, in the courtyard. This year, “**Suds ‘n’ Sliders**” will precede the **Holy Bowl—La Salle vs. De Sales of Walla Walla**. We hope you will join us!
- The **La Salle Sports Boosters** hold fundraising activities all year long, and thus need help from August through May. Volunteers are needed to work the ticket gate at sporting events, help in the concession stand, and sell advertising for programs and a whole host of additional activities that benefit our athletic teams.
- Also in September, students will take to our valley’s orchards for our annual **Pick-A-Thon**. Students pick apples and/or pears, which are then donated to Northwest Harvest and other local food banks to help feed the hungry in our valley.
- In October, we begin our annual Christmas **Wreath Sale**, during which each student is expected to sell a minimum of 18 wreaths. We then deliver ordered wreaths right before the Thanksgiving holiday..
- In January, your student will be given **St. Patrick’s Day Raffle Tickets** to sell for our annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala. Each family is responsible for \$360.00 in raffle ticket sales. All sold ticket stubs and money will be due back at school the beginning of March.

- Our **St. Patrick's Day Gala and Shamrock Cup Fun Run** are our biggest fundraisers for the year, and will take place this year on Saturday, March 11th. Many volunteers are needed for these events. Likewise, we hope that you will attend the Gala and Fun Run. The Gala is a true "Irish" celebration, complete with Irish music, traditional corned beef and cabbage, and dancing 'til the wee hours! Please consider becoming a sponsor for this event, or purchasing a very special "Shamrock Table".
- Our 10th annual La Salle Foundation Golf Tournament takes place on May 12th, the Friday of Mother's Day weekend. It is held at the Apple Tree and features a BBQ lunch, lots of hole prizes, a great raffle, appetizers, awards, and free beer! Please consider putting a team together, sponsoring a hole, or donating a raffle prize for this fun-filled afternoon.

What about lunch? How does that work here? Even though we don't have a traditional cafeteria, there are lots of lunch options available for your student. Students can purchase microwavable items, veggie trays, and humus plates from the "Student Store", and then use our microwaves if needed. Also, each day, a different food vendor allows our students to purchase lunch to be delivered to campus. This year, our food vendors will be **El Porton, Peppermint Stick, Famous Dave's BBQ, and Panda Express**. Of course, students can always pack and bring a lunch from home, too.

What about clothing? What is appropriate for my student to wear? Although we don't have a uniform code, we *do* have a dress code. For a complete description of what is acceptable dress for both genders, please read the "Dress Code" section of the Parent Handbook. Sometimes, changes to the dress code do occur over the course of the school year. In that event, all students and parents will be made aware of any changes or modifications in a timely manner. Also, once per month or so, we hold Mass or another event that requires students to wear "Professional Dress" to school. Your student will be given information as to what is appropriate to wear on those days. Typically, our young men wear slacks, a dress shirt and tie, and our young ladies wear a dress, skirt and blouse/sweater, or slacks and a blouse. Again, please consult your Parent Handbook for details. And boy...do our students look great on Professional Dress Day!

What about transportation, especially to athletic events? Here at La Salle, our students participate in 16 different WIAA sponsored varsity sports. We therefore recruit parents to help with student transportation to our athletic events. Coaches and Team parents will offer you the opportunity to sign up to drive students to games and matches. BTW...**you will get parent volunteer hours for driving**, too!

My student sometimes struggles, academically. Is there help available for him/her? First of all, our faculty members are awesome teachers... they care about every student and their goal is to help **every** student succeed. In the event that your student is having difficulty with any subject, we have **Academic Guidance** classes throughout the day to help with instruction and tutoring. For some, attending **Academic**

Guidance might be a requirement. Others simply attend to help boost grades or spend time on homework.

How do I find out about the “happenings” at La Salle, and who do I speak with if I have a problem? What forms of communication are there? We understand that being able to communicate effectively with both our parents and our students is paramount. We have therefore implemented several lines of communication to inform our students and families about upcoming events, school updates, daily bulletins, calendar changes, important information and the like. Each month, we publish a **Parent Newsletter**, which will be emailed to each family with hard copies available if needed. The **Parent Newsletter** is a wealth of information for upcoming events, and is great for offering a re-cap of activities our students have recently participated in. Please make a point to read it each month. Mr. K and the front office will often send out **Lightning Updates** via email to all of our families. These updates will provide you with schedule changes, last minute additions to our calendar, important reminders, and, sometimes, requests for volunteers or help needed with particular events. Please make sure to check your email for the updates. The **La Salle website** is also a resource you can access for events, due dates, activities, etc. Our **calendar, on the website**, is another great source for the most current information regarding the day-to-day activities at La Salle. Please remember that sometimes changes or cancellations occur, and we try our best to make changes to the calendar in a timely manner. Likewise, our **Daily Bulletins** are posted on our **website**. These bulletins are also announced to the student body each and every morning at the start of the school day. For those of you who are Facebook fans, La Salle maintains a **Student Life Facebook Page**. Simply go to your FB page, search for **La Salle Student Life**, and “like” the page to start receiving notifications. It is a wonderful way to see photographs of our daily activities, here at La Salle...and ***it’s a great way to see your school and your students in action!*** Each month, we provide our parents, donors and supporters with a school update aptly called “**Spotlight on La Salle.**” This emailed newsletter, sent out to nearly 1200 people, offers school information, sports updates, upcoming events, and “spotlights” a couple of students each month who are doing terrific things here! And of course, if you are unsure about anything or need additional information, please feel free to call the school. This school is **your** school, too, and we greatly value your involvement with it!

Lines of Communication-If, indeed, you do have an issue or problem you wish to discuss with a teacher, coach or administrator, we ask that everyone please follow proper lines of communication in order to effectively reach a resolution in a respectful way. “Respect for all persons” is one of our core values, and we all know just how much respect and courtesy can help remedy a stressful situation. Please follow the lines of communication listed below whenever you are faced with a problem or concern.
Academic Concern: Teacher—Department Chair—Dean of Studies—Principal
Athletic Concern: Coach—Athletic Director—Principal
Student Social/Emotional Concern: Counselor—Principal
Student Behavior: Dean of Students—Principal

So, I keep hearing about “Power School”. What exactly is it? Power School is an on-line tool we use to monitor student academic progress. Power School also has a link to our Daily Bulletin and student attendance records. Parents and students will be given individual user names and passwords in order to log in to Power School. Typically, teachers update student progress on a weekly basis.

My student is really being issued an iPad? Yep...it’s true! Our students use iPads for almost all class and home based school work, and we were the first school in Central Washington to fully implement our 1:1 iPad initiative. You and your student will receive an iPad manual and training regarding appropriate use of these learning devices. And, it’s really important that all students realize that iPads can break when dropped or tossed into the seat of a car...please encourage them to be really careful and cautious. Students turn in their iPads at the end of the school year, and they are checked out again to them at the start of the following school year. We have found that most students go through “iPad withdrawal” during the summer months!

Can my student take courses outside of the regular La Salle course curriculum? You bet! And in fact, we offer UW classes, Grand Canyon University courses, and other high school courses available on line through Red Comet. We also offer Honor courses and AP classes as a part of our regular high school course selections, as well.

Aside from athletics, what other kinds of activities can my student get involved in? Well, we have tons of activities for students to take part in! And, we encourage **every** student to get involved and stay involved! There are student leadership activities like **class counsel** and **ASB**; likewise we have opportunities to provide **community service** and **service activities**, like organizing our **Blood Drives** and **Food Drives**, and participation in **WE Day**. Some students prefer our **campus ministry activities**, and help our Campus Minister to plan **liturgies**, **dedications**, and our **Thanksgiving luncheon**. We have a boat-load of **clubs** that meet every other Tuesday and after school or weekends as activities are planned. Those **clubs** touch a variety of student interests, ranging from cooking and yoga to gardening, ping-pong, chess and debate. We hope that every student is a part of our **Blu-Kru**, cheering on our student athletes. Of course there are **dances** to attend, **theatre** and **drama** to participate in, **Lasallian Youth Leadership immersions and assemblies**, and five different **week-long service immersions** in other communities. We also have all students join a **lodge** at the start of the school year. Our **lodges** have students from each grade grouped together, so upperclassmen can help underclassmen get involved in La Salle

I see names engraved on bricks leading up to the Gamache Student Commons. What’s that all about? Our “Pave the Pathway” serves a couple of purposes. First, it’s a school fundraiser—folks and businesses purchase a granite paver for \$100 per brick, let us know how they would like it engraved, and we take care of the rest. Secondly, it’s a way to spotlight our many donors and supporters, thus allowing them to be a part of catholic school history, here in the Yakima Valley. You see, the “Pathway” leads us all to the Gamache Student Commons and the **Cardinal Francis George gymnasium**--- the first Catholic High School gym built in our 100+ year tradition of Catholic schools in

our valley! If you would like to preserve your place in Yakima's Catholic School story by ordering a brick or bricks, you can pick up an order form in Roy Hall or the Administration building.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Aug. 15 | Mandatory Fall Sports Meeting—6:00 pm |
| Aug. 18 | Class Orientation Day—Students attend a 1-hr. orientation by grade level
9:00-10:00 Freshmen
10:00-11:00 Sophomores
11:00-12:00 Juniors
12:00-1:00 Seniors |
| Aug. 19 | 1st Day of Class—Regular Schedule |
| Aug. 23 | Back to School Dance—Gamache Student Commons 8:00-11:00pm
Back to School Night (Mandatory)—Visit your student's classes/teachers
from 6:30-8:30pm |
| Aug. 29 | Late Start—10:00 am |
| Aug. 30 | Mass of the Holy Spirit—8:15—(All are welcome!) Professional Dress and
School Picture Day |
| Sept. 2 | Suds 'n' Sliders Tailgate Fundraiser—Queen Gym courtyard—5:00-7:00 pm |
| Sept. 2 | The Holy Bowl—Lightning Football Home Opener vs. De Sales—7:00 pm |
| Sept. 5 | Labor Day Holiday—No school |
| Sept. 6 | Girls' Soccer Home Opener vs. Selah @ Marquette Stadium—6:00pm |
| Sept. 8 | Volleyball Home Opener vs. Riverside—6:30pm—Dedication of the
Chelsea Heffner court |
| Sept. 12 | Late Start—10:00 am |
| Sept. 14 | Pick-a-Thon |
| Sept. 24 | Barn Party |
| Sept. 26 | Late Start—10:00 am |
| Sept. 29 | Cross Country 1st Meet @ Ki-Be—4:00 pm |
| Sept. 30 | Homecoming Game vs. Highland—7:00 pm |
| Oct. 1 | Homecoming Dance 8:00-11:00 pm |