**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. As our new school year kicks off each August, we come together and celebrate the **Mass of the Holy Spirit; this year it will be held on August 25th…all are welcome!** **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 several 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 right before the holiday, and everyone brings food to share, as we feast on turkey and give thanks for all our blessings. 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 soccer matches, and football games are held at Marquette stadium on Chestnut and 55th avenues; our volleyball matches, and basketball games are 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 all our students volunteer 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 **BBQ carne asada** for the whole student body in May 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 and required to volunteer 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 will receive (as soon as we are clear to hold events) a ***Parent Hours Opportunity Checklist for 2021-2022,*** 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 cannot overstate the importance placed on volunteerism, here at La Salle. By being volunteers ourselves, we model this important behavior for our children, and help to create a new generation dedicated to serving others.

***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 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, Panera 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 17 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. Mike Vavricka is our Academic Guidance teacher…he is also a La Salle alum!

***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 and text message to all 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 and texts 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 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 High School of Yakima,** 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!*** Our student videographers and Tech Executives film and produce announcement videos each Monday and Friday morning, too. You can access these videos via FB or YouTube.

**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—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 usernames 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 schoolwork, and we were the first school in Central Washington to fully implement a 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, Central WA University and Western WA University courses, and other high school courses available online 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 participate in **community service** and **service activities,** like organizing our **Blood Drives** and **Food Drives,** and taking part 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 boatload 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, **band and orchestra classes, Follies, Lasallian** **Youth** **Leadership immersions and assemblies,** and several different **week-long service immersions** that take place in other communities. Our student leaders plan assemblies and pep rallies and travel throughout our district, meeting with student leaders from other Lasallian schools.

***Tell me more about the week-long service immersions…what are they?*** Each year, La Salle students apply to participate in one of the service immersions we hold in various locations around the state and country. In fact, we also have some international service immersions. At La Salle, we believe that learning is enriched by service to society. And, as such, our students spend time serving the homeless, tutoring and mentoring low income youth, making home repairs for low income seniors, caring for infants and toddlers in child care facilities, and a whole host of activities that provide relief and comfort to those who need it most. Typically, our immersions take students to places like urban Seattle, rural Browning, Montana, and the Yakama Indian Reservation. Students also participate in immersions in places like Los Angeles and Guanajuato, Mexico. La Salle also holds Cultural Immersions in places like Costa Rica, Italy and France.