

August Letter from the Principal

August 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Friends of All Saints,

Welcome to the start of the new academic year – a time of great rejoicing as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of All Saints Catholic School! The details are now being finalized for what will be a festive celebration in September. Be sure to mark your calendars now for our signature events!

Friday, September 22nd – *An Evening under the Stars* from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the courtyard with music, entertainment, food trucks, alumni displays, children's activities, a photo booth, and more!

Saturday, September 23rd – 60th Anniversary Ceremony, Mass & Reception – 10:00 a.m., All Saints Catholic Church

As we begin the new year, I wish to extend a special word of welcome to those families who have just joined our All Saints community! We are delighted that you have chosen a Catholic education for your children and even more pleased that you have selected All Saints. Again, welcome to our All Saints family!

In many ways, the anniversary year will not only be a time to highlight the legacy and shared blessings of our school, but also an opportunity to begin a new chapter, a period of continuing innovation and new beginnings as we welcome the following members of our faculty & staff.

Mrs. Stefanie Horgan (Assistant Principal) - Originally from Manassas, Mrs. Horgan has most recently resided in Raleigh, North Carolina where for the past twelve years she taught 3rd and 5th grade at The Franciscan School. She is a recipient of the Time Warner Cable National Teacher of the Year Award and has twice been nominated as the Diocese of Raleigh Teacher of the Year. With expertise in the area of technology and student engagement, she has twice presented at the annual convention of the National Catholic Education Association. In addition to being a recognized innovator among her faculty, she co-led her school through the AdvancEd reaccreditation process. Mrs. Horgan earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Barton College and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

Mrs. Samantha Pryor (2nd Grade) – For the past four years Mrs. Pryor has taught 5th grade at St. Bernadette Catholic School in Silver Spring, Maryland. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Childhood Education from the State University of New York College and a Master of Science in Education as a literacy specialist from the State University of New York University at Albany. With particular expertise and experience in the area of differentiation and Reader’s Workshop, she will be a wonderful addition to our faculty as we continue to implement these approaches in the primary level classrooms.

Mrs. Cynthia Horan (3rd Grade) – Over the course of the past four years Mrs. Horan has worked as a substitute teacher, PALS tutor and kindergarten assistant in the Prince William County School system. She is a product of our diocese, having attended both Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Vienna and Bishop O’Connell High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Fairfield University in Connecticut. Having great energy and enthusiasm for teaching, she will be an engaging presence in the third grade classroom.

Mrs. Vianney Perez (6th Grade Religion/Primary Level Spanish/Math Lab Coach) – Mrs. Perez earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education from George Mason University and for the past four years has taught math in the Manassas Park School system. In addition to teaching the 6th grade religion classes and Spanish for grades 1-2, she will also serve as a math coach for 6th grade students during a class period that in previous years was a study hall/study skills session. She will also be working part-time as a school bookkeeper, assuming responsibility for on-going financial procedures and special projects. With many gifts and tremendous enthusiasm for her Catholic faith, she will be a great asset to our program.

Miss Devon Bell (8th Grade Homeroom & Middle School Social Studies) – We welcome Miss Bell from All Saints Catholic School in Moundsville, West Virginia! Miss Bell earned her Bachelor of Specialized Studies with a concentration in History, Political Science and English from Ohio University. She was a 2017 recipient of the Silver Apple Teaching Award from the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese in recognition of her excellence in teaching and ability to implement her school’s mission statement. With excellent classroom management skills and a commitment to preparing students for life, Miss Bell will be a terrific role model for our students in the middle school.

Miss Madeleine Charboneau (Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, Morning Session) – Miss Charboneau is also a product of our diocese, having attended St. Thomas More Cathedral School and Bishop

O'Connell High School. As a former volunteer in our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes for the past couple of years, she is already very familiar with our program and routines. With her cheerful manner and enthusiasm for early childhood education, she will be a wonderful support to the teacher and students.

Mrs. Angela Ward (Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, Afternoon Session) – Having previously worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Mrs. Ward looks forward to her new role of instructional assistant in the Pre-Kindergarten class. With an understanding of child development from her medical background and her positive and supportive approach, she will be a strong addition to our program.

Interviews for a new Director of Extended Day, library assistant/technology specialist and resource teacher are continuing at this time. I look forward to providing you updates regarding these positions as they are filled.

Programs & Innovations for 2017-2018

As we continue to focus on the differentiation of learning and opportunities for customizing instruction to better address the needs of our learners, I am pleased to share with you three initiatives that we will be implementing this year in support of this goal.

One-to-One Device Program – As announced during the spring, we will introduce a one-to-one device program that will provide all of our 6th & 7th grade students with a Chromebook for their use both at home and school. A copy of the program handbook as well as the user agreement forms will be forwarded to parents in the days ahead. Parents will be asked to review these materials carefully, to complete the forms, and to submit them along with their fee payment to the computer lab on Friday, August 25th.

Ten Marks – An online program that will allow for individualized reinforcement of math skills, Ten Marks will replace Accelerated Math that we adopted last year. This program will be more user-friendly for our students and faculty and provide for targeted reinforcement of key concepts.

Reading A-Z – By being able to access a collection of leveled readers, teachers will be able to provide guided instruction that fosters literacy skills and that is aimed at each student's

particular ability in the primary and elementary grades.

Important Reminders

Orientation Day for Students in Grades K-8 (Friday, August 25th from 9:00 a.m. to noon)

This day provides you and your child the opportunity to meet the teachers and visit classrooms. The classrooms will be open for visits until 11:00 a.m. while cafeteria ticket sales and distribution of information will continue in the gym until noon. On Orientation Day, parents/visitors are invited to park in either the front or rear parking lots.

- New families are invited to arrive early on Orientation Day. Faculty and staff will be available to greet you and guide you through the school beginning at 9:00 a.m. Returning families are asked to begin arriving at 9:30 a.m.
- Throughout the course of the morning, you are asked to keep your children with you at all times since the teachers will be occupied with meeting new students and will not be available to supervise the children.

First Day of School for Grades K-8 (Monday, August 28th)

8:00 Morning Bell

8:05 Classes Begin

Since you will already have had the opportunity on Orientation Day to meet teachers and visit classrooms, you are asked to drop off your children in the carpool line by 7:58 a.m. Students will enter the building via the breezeway connecting the new facility to the original wing and report directly to their homerooms. The breezeway doors will open at 7:40 a.m. at which time the cars in the front of the carpool line will begin dropping off students at the direction of patrols and the supervising staff. Any child dropped off before 7:40 a.m. must be escorted by a parent or guardian to the Extended Day Program in Father Kelley Hall.

Dismissal will occur at noon on Monday for students in grades Kindergarten through eight. Dismissal for grades 1-8 will be at 3:00 p.m. for the remainder of the week. However, the Kindergarten program will dismiss at noon for the entire first week of school.

Dismissal Procedures

Parents will once again be assigned one of five parking areas for afternoon dismissal based upon where their last name occurs in the alphabet. Parking assignments for the new year will be posted on our school website in the coming weeks. Additionally, copies of the procedures for afternoon dismissal as well as parking assignments will be available on Orientation Day. All parents are asked to review these items prior to the first day of school. Parents whose children will be walking to and from school are asked to provide written authorization to the office on Orientation Day.

In an effort to ensure the safety and security of our students, children will only be released to their parents via the organized dismissal system. Only parents completing volunteer hours during the school day, as well as those who are parents of Safety Patrols or students attending after-school activities, are permitted to park in front of the church.

Immunizations

Virginia law requires that parents of students enrolling in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade provide documentation of appropriate immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella. All children who have not received a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine will be required to receive such immunization prior to entering the 6th grade. Additionally, in accordance with the immunization requirements for the State of Virginia, all 6th grade students must receive a Tdap booster before returning to school in the fall. Please be aware that providing documentation of immunization is a necessary condition for enrollment at All Saints. Those students who have not received proper immunization will not be permitted to attend school. Should you have any questions about immunization requirements, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Roth, at [703-368-4400](tel:703-368-4400).

Background Checks – Policies for School Parent Volunteers

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, all volunteers in the school are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training within 45 days of commencing service.

In accordance with diocesan policy, full compliance for an adult parent volunteer is not required for *open* events. (An open event is one that is open to the public, infrequent and publicized, such as Field Day, concerts and special events/assemblies.) However, full compliance is required for adult parent volunteers who wish to participate in closed events. (A

closed event is one that is not entirely open to the general public such as classroom activities, parties, field trips, etc.) For this reason, all parents who wish to attend field trips or volunteer in support of classroom activities are required to complete the background check process and attend VIRTUS training.

As it typically requires approximately six weeks for the diocesan office to process completed forms, parents are encouraged to complete this paperwork prior to the start of the new year if interested in volunteering in the school during the fall semester. Those who have not yet completed the background check process may request a packet of forms from either the school or parish offices.

Opening of School Mass

At 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 1st we will celebrate the beginning of the new year with a school-wide Mass. All parents are cordially invited to join us for this liturgy as we unite our hearts in prayer asking for God's continued blessings on our school community in the year ahead.

2017-2018 School Calendars

New calendars may be picked up on Orientation Day. We are grateful to Mrs. Laurie Short who again this year designed our school calendar. The calendar was printed by JM Gaske with the financial support of local businesses that purchased advertisements included in the publication.

Parent/Student Handbook

Information related to the updated student handbook and corresponding acknowledgment forms will be issued to all families via upcoming school newsletters and posted on our website.

School Supplies

Supply lists were distributed in the spring in order that you might take advantage of sales during the summer. A complete list of supplies remains available for review on our website. Parents who ordered supplies through the school-organized supply project may pick them up on Orientation Day in the classrooms. All students are asked to come to school prepared with supplies on the first day of classes.

FACTS Tuition Program

Parents are reminded that the first tuition payment for the 2017-2018 school year is due in August and will be submitted directly to FACTS via electronic funds transfer. Should you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Joyce D'Eugenio at [703-393-1490](tel:703-393-1490).

Information for Kindergarten Families

Parents who have a Kindergartner starting at All Saints this year are invited to a special orientation meeting on Thursday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Mrs. Katherine Izquierdo and Mrs. Julie Feltman will present an overview of the program and will be available to answer questions.

Information for Pre-Kindergarten Families

Parents and students in the Pre-Kindergarten program are invited to attend a special Meet & Greet with the teachers and staff on August 30th & 31st. Customized invitations will be mailed to each family in the days ahead. The first day for the Pre-Kindergarten will be Wednesday, September 6th.

Upcoming Special Events – Back to School Night & Welcome Back Barbecue

Back to School Night & PTO Meeting (Parents of Grades 1-5) – Tuesday, September 5th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center. Following an opening presentation and introduction of the PTO Board, teachers in grades one through five will present an overview of programs in their classrooms.

Middle School Back to School Night (Parents of Grades 6-8) – Thursday, September 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center.

These sessions will provide parents with important information about our many programs and plans for the 2017-2018 school year. For this reason, at least one parent from each family is required to attend Back to School Night.

All school families are cordially invited to attend the **13th Annual Welcome Back Barbecue** hosted by the PTO. This popular and well-attended event provides a wonderful opportunity for families to visit with friends old and new as we begin another year together. Once again this event is free of charge, courtesy of the PTO. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. on August 25th and will take place on the parking lot and grassy area located behind the school. Parents are asked to park in the front lot and to either walk around the

school or pass through the breezeway entrances when arriving for the event. Families are asked to bring lawn chairs and a cooler full of favorite drinks. (Non-alcoholic beverages only) Although there is no need to RSVP, should you have any questions or wish to volunteer to assist with the event, please contact Mrs. Floribel Fleisig at ffleisig@hotmail.com. Volunteers are still needed to assist with set-up, serving and clean-up. Plan to join us for an evening of barbecue and fellowship!

In the days preceding the opening of school, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [703-368-4400](tel:703-368-4400). We look forward to seeing you in the weeks ahead and again, a very warm welcome to our new families!

Happy 60th Anniversary!

In Christ,

David E. Conroy, Jr.
Principal