

The Sentinel

September 6, 2017

Principal's Message

The safety of your children is always a top priority at All Saints. In recent years, in accordance with national initiatives and diocesan policy, we have taken additional steps to do our part to ensure that your children are in a safe place when they are participating in a program at All Saints Catholic School. The *Formation in Christian Chastity Program* is one part of our commitment to establishing and maintaining a safe environment for our students. As outlined in the materials, information is provided primarily to parents as a resource to be used in the formation of their children. There is one classroom lesson for students in grades one through four and two lessons for those in grades five through eight.

We will be integrating the objectives of the program into our religion lessons during the next three weeks beginning on Monday, September 11th. The entire curriculum can be accessed through the diocesan website: www.arlingtondiocese.org. (Click on the Protecting Our Children tab at the top of the homepage. To view the grade level lesson plans, click on Youth Training Programs followed by the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program*.)

You are encouraged to spend some time reviewing this information yourself and to then share pertinent aspects with your children. Each of the lessons contains some application to common sense safety tips that you may wish to share with your children. Other parts of the resources apply to some of the decisions that you make as parents for the safety of your children. Our goal is to equip both you and your children with the knowledge that can help to keep them safe.

The essential point is that parents need to be involved with their children. The more you know about the daily events of your child's life, the better you are able to spot any danger signs that may surface. The more regular communication you have with your children, the freer they are to come to you with their concerns.

Should you have any questions about the *Formation in Christian Chastity Program* or about the classroom lessons, please do not hesitate to let us know. In the event that

you would prefer to not have your child participate in the classroom training, please contact the front office to request an opt-out form.

Fall Picture Day (Monday, September 11th)

Two years ago the decision was made to host only one picture day per year in an effort to reduce costs for parents and to streamline our schedule. Based on feedback received from parents last year and so as to provide a little variety from one year to the next, students are invited to dress-up for Fall Picture Day on Monday.

Although Splendid Portraits is now part of Lifetouch, a large school picture company, this change will have little impact on the scheduling, process and pricing of our existing program.

2017-2018 Family Directory

The annual All Saints Family Directory is a valuable communication tool for parents in our community. It contains an alphabetical listing of all current students along with their grade, address, phone number, as well as the names of their parents/guardians and home email address.

The information for the Directory is taken directly from PowerSchool, our student information system. Please notify Mrs. Irene Kruppa in the front office of any changes to your contact information. (ikruppa@allsaintsva.org)

Families who do not wish to be listed in the Directory are asked to complete an Opt Out Form and submit it to the front office by Wednesday, September 13th. (A copy of this form is attached as a link to this week's newsletter.) If a family does not submit this form, their information will automatically be included in the Directory.

Middle School Back to School Night (September 14th @ 7:00 p.m.)

Back to School Night for parents of students in grades 6-8 will take place on Thursday, September 14th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Parents are asked to report directly to their son or daughter's homeroom classroom for the opening session.

Room Liaisons Needed

Room Liaisons are critical for the teachers to communicate with their classroom parents as well as instrumental in planning and assisting with classroom activities throughout

the year. It is a wonderful leadership volunteer opportunity that earns you 25 stewardship shares. If you have any questions, please contact Sherie Kristiansen at thekristiansenfamily@yahoo.com. A volunteer form can be found in the front office or you can print out the form attached as a link below. Please return completed form to the front office by September 8th.

Two applicants will be selected by random drawing for each classroom. Once selected applicants have the option of accepting the position. Selected room liaisons will receive a description of duties, training, and ongoing support from the Room Liaison Coordinator.

Uniform Exchange – New Form and Updated Email Address

A new form has been created to request items from the uniform closet and is linked below. If you are in need of uniform pieces, please fill out the *Uniform Closet Request Form* and drop it off at the school office or email it to uniformexchange@allsaintsva.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Messenger Emergency Notification System

All Saints will conduct a test of the emergency notification system tomorrow. A test message will be issued via recorded phone message, text and email to the emergency contacts of all students and staff at approximately 10:30 a.m.

To sign up for text alerts via *SchoolMessenger*, simply text the word “subscribe” to 68453.

New Parent Coffee

All new parents (and second year parents!) are invited to enjoy “coffee with the principal” on Tuesday, September 12th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed every day to assist in the cafeteria with serving and supervising. This is a vital role in supporting the daily operations of the school and staff. If you are already VIRTUS approved, please go directly on Help Counter and choose the spots that fit to your

schedule <https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140e9a4d205>. If you have any questions please contact Carol Rice ckrice@verizon.net 703-380-5990.

Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers & VIRTUS Requirements

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, all volunteers with children are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training within 45 days of commencing service. To register for an upcoming training, please visit www.virtus.org.

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 we begin a new year, in accordance with diocesan policy, only those parents who have completed the criminal background check are eligible to volunteer in the school. Those who have not yet completed the background check process may request a packet of forms from the front office.

Community service opportunity with House of Mercy

Partner with House of Mercy for a fun way to receive two hours of community service hours while packing rice for the local poor and the Mission in Banica, D.R. Join HOM for the 7th Annual Campaign to End Hunger on Saturday October 7, 2017 near the House of Mercy in Manassas. Two hour shifts begin at 8am, and the last starts at 2pm. The easiest way to register for this affordable FUNdraising event is: www.HouseOfMercyVA.org/about/events OR email help@houseofmercyva.org.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 7th

- *School Messenger* System Test (10:30 a.m.)
- Lock-Down Drill

Friday, September 8th

- School Mass – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 11th

- Scantron Testing (through September 29th)
- *Formation in Christian Chastity* (through September 29th)
- Confessions – 3A (9:30 a.m.) & 3B (10:00 a.m.)
- Fall Picture Day (Dress-Up Day)

Tuesday, September 12th

- New Parent Coffee (PAC/9:00 a.m.)
- Band Parents Meeting (6:45 p.m. for Returning/7:45 p.m. for New Parents)
- PTO Executive Board Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 13th

- Deadline: Directory Opt-Out Forms
- 60th Anniversary Committee Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 14th

- Confessions – 4B (9:15 a.m.)
- Middle School Night (7:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 15th

- School Mass – Our Lady of Sorrows (8:30 a.m.)
- Priests' Barbecue (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Newsletter Links:

- [Student Directory OPT-OUT Form](#)
- [Room Liaison Volunteer Form](#)
- [Uniform Closet Request Form](#)