

The Sentinel

August 29, 2018

Principal's Message

After weeks of preparation and planning with the building rather dormant, it was delightful to hear the joyful laughter and sounds of children as they returned for the new year on Monday. Once again, thank you for choosing All Saints for your family. We are so happy that you are part of our community and look forward to a year full of faith formation and learning for our students.

Each year at All Saints, we identify a theme that serves as a touchstone for our community, one that unites our efforts and provides daily inspiration for our students, faculty and staff. Our theme for 2018-2019 will be:

The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Taken from the writings of St. Paul to the Galatians, this scriptural quote is a reminder of the “good fruit” that we are called to bear through our daily efforts to live in accord with the Holy Spirit. It is a reminder that we, as followers of Christ, are called to be different – noticeably different – in our interactions and in all that we do. Throughout the year ahead, we will be encouraging our students to embrace these fruits as part of their daily lives, beginning with a continued commitment to “Spreading Kindness like Confetti.”

It has been a great start to the new year, capped off by our Annual Welcome Back Barbecue on Friday evening. I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Fleisig for once again coordinating this event. I also want to thank the many volunteers, both parents and students, who assisted with the set-up, serving and clean-up. At the end of the evening, we donated all of the remaining food to the Manassas Police Department, in appreciation for all that they do for our community and for their continued partnership with our school.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Eileen Heiny has accepted the position of first grade assistant in Mrs. Nichols' classroom. Mrs. Heiny earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and Management from Siena College and previously worked as an analyst for the United States Marine Corps. With specific training in the Orton-

Gillingham method, she will be a wonderful addition to our team as we implement new literacy strategies this year.

Virtues in Practice – Year 3

Year of Charity (Theme: Community)

Virtue for the Month of September: Charity

Definition: Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Saints of the Month: St. Gertrude (PK-2), St. Vincent de Paul (Grades 3-5), Ven. Laura Vicuna (Grades 6-8)

School Messenger Emergency Notification System

The Diocese of Arlington uses the *School Messenger* notification service to send important information to families through phone calls, emails, and text messages. In the event of an emergency, All Saints Catholic School will activate the *School Messenger* system. As the system will only be used for this purpose, parents can anticipate that any communications received via this program are critical and deserve particular attention.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the system, All Saints will conduct a test on Thursday, September 6th. 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. To opt out of all text messages from *SchoolMessenger*, go to <http://www.schoolmessenger.com/txtmsg/> or reply STOP to the opt-in message you receive.

The Diocese and the school do not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by the user. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Parent ~ Student Handbooks

The 2018-2019 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically clicking the following link:

[Parent Handbooks](#)

Please take some time to review the policies and procedures of our school and discuss them with your children. Each family is asked to sign and return the acknowledgment form by Wednesday, September 5th. Those families without access to the website are invited to contact the office to request a hard copy of the handbook.

Here is a quick summary of notable changes in this year's edition:

Perfect Attendance – In an effort to prevent the unnecessary spread of illness by students who may wish to attend school with unreported symptoms in order to remain eligible to obtain the Perfect Attendance Award, this recognition will no longer take place.

Honor Roll - The criteria for First Honors for students in Advanced Math will be a 90% or higher in math and a 93% or higher in all other academic subjects. The criteria for Second Honors for students in Advanced Math will be an 82% or higher in math and an 85% or higher in all other academic subjects.

Dress Down Day Guidelines - Leggings will be permitted for girls on dress down days if worn underneath of a dress or skirt that is no shorter than two inches above the knee.

Policies regarding the responsible use of technology are included within the handbook. For this reason, a signed handbook acknowledgement form verifies that students in grades K-8 and their parents have reviewed and understand these policies. (Note: A separate responsible use of technology form for the Chromebook program is required for students in grades 6-8. Additional copies may requested from Mrs. Carroll, our technology teacher.) As students are not permitted to use any school computers until these acknowledgment forms are received, student and parents are asked to submit signed copies as soon as possible.

New Parent Coffee

All new parents are invited to enjoy “coffee with the principal” on Tuesday, September 11th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. Following a presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion about our school community and its many programs. Babysitting services will be offered in an adjacent meeting room. Plan to attend and meet other new families who have recently joined our community!

Parents in their second year at All Saints are cordially invited to attend this event as well!

Student In-Service ~ Sexual Harassment, Our Policy & Response (Grades 6-8)

In accordance with diocesan policy, students in grades six through eight will participate in a brief classroom presentation within the next three weeks on the topic of the

prevention of sexual harassment. This year, in consideration of the sensitivity of the topic, the training will be offered in a single-sex environment with Mr. Conroy addressing the boys while Mrs. Horgan will present to the girls. Each of the grade-level lessons will be approximately fifteen minutes in length and include an overview of the diocesan policy as well as an explanation as to how students should respond if they encounter any behaviors of this nature. Should you have any questions about this policy or presentation, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

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.

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 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.

Volunteers Needed

The Cafeteria/Lunchroom is in need of volunteers to assist with food service and supervision. All cafeteria volunteers must be VIRTUS compliant and those who assist in the kitchen must also complete a brief training on health department standards provided by Mrs. Wendy Matner. For new volunteers, we will be holding a "cafeteria volunteer orientation" each day for the next week beginning at 10:50am. Sign up for an orientation session on Help

Counter. <https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140e9a4d205>. If you are interested in volunteering on a weekly basis, please contact Carol Rice ckrice@verizon.net.

Kindness Themed T-Shirts

Thank you to Mrs. Slater and the Ambassadors for introducing the "spreading kindness like confetti" theme to All Saints. If you weren't able to purchase your kindness themed t-shirt(s) at Orientation or the Back to School BBQ, there's still time to order. Simply fill out the order form at the end of this message and return it to school. And be on the lookout for opportunities to wear your t-shirt throughout the year!

PTO Board Volunteers

Are you looking for a way to get involved at All Saints? Have a great idea to share? Please consider volunteering your time and talents to our PTO! We have some key positions open and would welcome your help. It's not only a great way to get to know other parents, but our volunteers are essential to us supporting our great school. For more information, please contact Kathryn Harvill (Misskat922@yahoo.com).

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 30th

- Pre-Kindergarten “Meet & Greet” Sessions

Friday, August 31st

- Opening of the School Year Liturgy – Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 3rd

- Holiday – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 4th

- First Day of Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- Band Demonstration Day

Wednesday, September 5th

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- Deadline: *Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgment Forms*
- Back-to-School Night for Grades 1-5 & PTO Meeting (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, September 7th

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- *SchoolMessenger* System Test (10:30 a.m.)
- Lock-Down Drill

Friday, September 7th

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Newsletter Links:

- [Parent Handbooks](#)