

# The Sentinel

September 5, 2018

## **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 maintaining a safe environment for our students. As outlined in the online 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 10<sup>th</sup>. The entire curriculum can be accessed through the diocesan website: [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://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.

## **Picture Day - Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

In an effort to reduce scheduling conflicts with Scantron testing, this year our picture day will occur on October 15<sup>th</sup>. In response to feedback provided by parents several years ago, we will continue to offer only one picture day per year with a scheduled retake day.

This year all students are asked to wear their school uniform for picture day on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **2018-2019 Family Directory**

The annual All Saints Family Directory is a valuable communication tool for parents in our community. It contains an alphabetical listing of students as well as basic contact information for parents/guardians.

The information for the Family Directory is pulled directly from PowerSchool, our student information system. If you have not notified the office of any changes in your contact information that may have taken place during the past year, please provide this information via email to Mrs. Kruppa, our school receptionist. ([ikruppa@allsaintsva.org](mailto:ikruppa@allsaintsva.org))

This year, families who wish to be included in the Family Directory are asked to complete an **Opt-In Form** and submit it to the front office by **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**. (A copy of this form is attached as a link at the bottom of today's newsletter.)

**If a family does not submit this form, their contact information will not be published in the Family Directory.**

### **PTO Bylaws – Proposed Revisions**

The PTO Board has proposed changes to the bylaws to more accurately reflect how the PTO has operated since the last revisions were approved in 2009. A copy of the current bylaws with highlighted revisions are included in a link at the bottom of today's letter. All parents are cordially invited to review them in advance of tonight's Back to School Night where they will be put toward a vote. Should you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact our PTO President, Mrs. Kathy Harvill at [misskat922@yahoo.com](mailto:misskat922@yahoo.com).

### **Middle School Back to School Night (September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.)**

Back to School Night for parents of students in grades 6-8 will take place on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. Parents are asked to report directly to their son or daughter's homeroom classroom for the opening session.

### **Important Reminders**

#### **SchoolMessenger Emergency Notification System Test – Tomorrow (10:30 a.m.)**

In order to ensure the effectiveness of our *SchoolMessenger* notification system, All Saints will conduct a test tomorrow, Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

#### **New Parent Coffee**

All new parents are invited to enjoy "coffee with the principal" on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 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!*

### **Criminal Background Checks for Volunteers and 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](http://www.virtus.org).

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.

### **Important update regarding All Saints' Virtus Program**

Please note that when it is time to renew your VIRTUS certification, you will receive an email directly from the Arlington Diocese about accessing the online VIRTUS refresher course. The Diocese is planning to send emails later this fall to individuals who need to update their VIRTUS certification. You will not need to take action unless you receive notification from the Diocese that your certification is in need of renewal. If your email address has changed, please contact Mrs. Janet Smith, All Saints' VIRTUS Coordinator, at [jsmith@allsaintsva.org](mailto:jsmith@allsaintsva.org).

### **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](mailto:ckrice@verizon.net).

## **Upcoming Events**

*Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>*

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

*Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>*

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
- Deadline: Media Release Forms (Through PowerSchool)

*Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>*

- Scantron Testing Begins (Through September 28<sup>th</sup>)
- Formation in Christian Chastity Lessons Begin
- Confessions – Grades 3A & 3B

*Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>*

- New Parent Coffee (PAC/9:00 a.m.)

- Confessions – 4A
- Band Parents Meeting (Music Room/Returning Parents – 6:45 p.m./New Parents – 7:30 p.m.)
- PTO Board Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

*Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>*

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

*Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>*

- School Mass – Exaltation of the Cross (8:30 a.m.)
- Annual Priests' Barbecue (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
- Deadline: Family Directory Opt-In Forms

**Newsletter Links**

- [2018-19 FAMILY DIRECTORY OPT-IN](#)
- [PTO Bylaws 2018-REVISIONS](#)
- [Middle School Night 2018](#)
- [2018 Kindness T-shirt Order Form](#) (Deadline to Order - Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>)
- [Girl Scouts Letter 2018-19](#)