

# The Sentinel

August 28, 2019

## Principal's Message

What a wonderful start to the year the past couple of days have been! It has been delightful witnessing the joy of the children as they entered the building, so full of excitement and anticipation on opening day.

With the many new faces, both students and staff alike, there is a palpable sense that this is more than simply a new year. In fact, we might recognize it as a "moment". It is a time when we reflect on the goodness and dedication of those who have served our community so faithfully while at the same time welcoming the gifts and talents of those who are now in our midst. While the details remain yet unwritten, we know that our school will always be a place where our students are truly formed in their faith, fully engaged in the learning process, and gently challenged to become the best versions of whom God has called them to be.

On behalf of the faculty & staff, thank you for choosing All Saints for your family. We look forward to partnering closely with you as we work together to accomplish these goals.

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Despite what began as overcast conditions, the turn-out for our Annual Welcome Back Barbecue on Friday evening was terrific. Once again, we thank Mr. and Mrs. Fleisig for coordinating the event. We also extend a word of appreciation to the many volunteers who helped with the set-up, serving and clean-up. Again this year we were pleased to donate all of the remaining food to the Manassas City Police Department in gratitude for their service to our community.

And speaking of partnerships, I want to also thank Mrs. Rice (CK Enterprises) and Mr. Slaiby (Black Hat Transportation) for their sponsorship and funding of the snow cone truck. This was a great addition to the event and one enjoyed by both the young and the young at heart!

Additionally, I want to thank Mrs. O'Neill for all of her efforts in organizing and hosting the Uniform Closet for us. What a wonderful service for our school families!

It has been a great opening of the year and the learning is now underway for our students. I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the weeks ahead regarding some of our exciting plans for the new year.

*With God All Things Are Possible!*

### **Virtues in Practice – Year 1**

Year of Faith (Theme: Service)

Virtue for the Month of September: Faith

Definition: Believing in God and all He has revealed.

Saints of the Month: St. Martha (PK-2), St. Jerome (Grades 3-5), St. Augustine (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 Friday, 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.

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 2019-2020 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

### **[Parent-Student Handbook 2019-2020](#)**

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 4th. Those families without access to the website are invited to contact the office to request a hard copy of the handbook.

### **New Parent Coffee**

All new parents are invited to enjoy “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 10<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!*

### **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. Again 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.

### **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 submitting the background check application.

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.

The online application for the diocesan background check can be found at the following link:

[https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP\\_application](https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP_application)

To register for VIRTUS training which is hosted at parishes and schools throughout our diocese, please follow the link below. Note: There will be a VIRTUS session offered at All Saints on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Father Kelley Hall.

[www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

### **Volunteers Needed**

The Cafeteria/Lunchroom is in need of volunteers to assist with serving milk, food, ice cream and smiles. We are in need of volunteers who can make a regular once a week commitment but welcome bimonthly or once a month as well. The cafeteria serves each day from 11am to 1pm, there are multiple time slots on each day. All cafeteria volunteers must be Virtus certified and all NEW cafeteria volunteers must complete a brief five minute health department training. All available slots and health department training sessions are listed on Help Counter:

<https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140e9a4d205>

If you are interested but would like more specific information, please contact Carol Rice [ckrice@verizon.net](mailto:ckrice@verizon.net) 703-380-5990 Thank you for considering serving the school in this very unique and fulfilling role.

### **Volunteers Needed for the Helping Hands Project on September 19th**

We are in need of volunteers to help our teachers. Parents don't need to be VIRTUS compliant in order to help and young children are welcome. Opportunities can be found by using the HelpCounter

link: <https://www.helpcounterweb.com/ci/signup/140ea4771ed>. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Zahorchak, [TZahorchak@outlook.com](mailto:TZahorchak@outlook.com).

### **Box Tops for Education Program – Changes**

The Box Tops for Education Program has made some changes and is now primarily using a mobile app to collect proof of purchase of participating products, rather than the clipped box tops. Anyone (parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc.) can download the app to their mobile device and select All Saints School. Then, when you buy participating products, you upload photos of your receipts and the program will instantly recognize participating products and register the school's earnings. Receipts must be uploaded within 14 days of purchase.

If you see any products that still have the traditional pink box top to be clipped, please

continue to send those in to the school. We will still be able to turn the clipped box tops as long as the expiration date on the box top has not passed.

## Upcoming Events

*Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>*

- Spirit Wear Day
- Pre-Kindergarten “Meet & Greet” Sessions

*Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>*

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

*Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>*

- Holiday – Labor Day

*Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>*

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

*Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>*

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- Deadline: Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgment Forms
- Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

*Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>*

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- Back-to-School Night for Grades 1-5 & PTO Meeting (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

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

- Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal
- School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
- Lock-Down Drill (10:00 a.m.)
- *SchoolMessenger* System Test (10:30 a.m.)

### Newsletter Links

- [Parent-Student Handbook 2019-2020](#)
- [Help Counter](#)

- [Online Application for Diocesan Background Check Application](#)
- [VIRTUS](#) – use this link to sign up for VIRTUS training sessions