

The Sentinel Express ~ June 3, 2020

Principal's Message

On behalf of our Pastor, Fr. Lee Roos, our clergy, faculty, and staff, I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our 8th grade students who will soon graduate from All Saints Catholic School. We recognize how hard they have worked through the years and applaud their perseverance during the transition to eLearning.

Although our plans have been significantly impacted due to the pandemic and school closure, we remain committed to making this a very special moment for our 8th grade students. The following is a summary of events and activities that will occur over the course of the next several weeks.

Graduation Day (Friday, June 5)

- **Virtual Pass It On Ceremony**

During this virtual prayer service, a representative of the Graduating Class of 2020 will pass the mantle of leadership to his sister, a representative of the current 7th grade class, symbolized through the handing on of 8th Grade Medals. A link to the pre-recorded prayer service will be forwarded to the school community at 9:30 a.m.

- **Virtual 8th Grade Walk of Honor**

Since the graduates are unable to participate in this tradition, Mrs. Honkus and Mrs. DeBruyne will walk in their honor. A link to the pre-recorded event that will include a recognition of each 8th grade student will be forwarded to the school community at 11:00 a.m.

- **Final Day Closeout ~ Drop-Off & Pick-Up of Materials**

All 8th grade students are invited to drop-off and pick-up materials from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Families are asked to enter the property via the rear parking lot and to follow the traffic pattern used for morning arrival. All parents and students are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times. Members of the faculty and staff will be present and will deliver to each vehicle any personal items from the classroom and/or lockers. Students are asked to place all of their books and school items in a bag, keeping separate any library books that they need to return.

Graduation Mass (Thursday, June 25)

Since our parish is now permitted to offer limited public Masses, we are pleased to announce that a Graduation Mass will take place in the church at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25.

Due to the need for social distancing measures and related precautions, the event will be open only to graduates and their immediate family members. The ceremony will be modified to ensure the health and safety of those gathered and in accordance with the guidance provided by our diocese and implemented by our parish. Due to the continued requirement for social distancing, we will not be hosting a reception following the event.

However, there are a couple of special surprises that the faculty and staff have been preparing for our graduates. We hope that these efforts and the events we are planning will convey to our students how very proud we are of each of them.

Congratulations Class of 2020!

Today's newsletter includes a copy of the schedule for the opening of the new year as well as a list of holidays and noon dismissals. This information is subject to change in accordance with the directives and guidance provided by the State of Virginia and the diocese regarding the process for returning to school in the fall. Nevertheless, I wish to share this preliminary information with you so that you can plan accordingly as you look ahead to the 2020-2021 school year.

The upcoming academic year will also be distinct for All Saints as we once again begin the Design for Excellence (DFE) re-accreditation process which all diocesan schools complete every six years. In addition to providing the faculty, staff and members of the community with opportunities to reflect on all aspects of our mission, the review process will yield important feedback for us to consider in the design of our next five-year plan.

In order to provide the faculty with the time necessary to complete the self-study review, five additional noon dismissals have been incorporated in the school calendar for 2020-2021 and are included in the list below. I look forward to sharing many more details about the re-accreditation process early in the new school year and will keep you apprised of any important updates between now and then.

With God all Things Are Possible!

Faculty/Staff Update

This week we share with you the news that Mrs. Sandy Weitendorf, Director of the Cafeteria Program, has decided to resign from her position at the close of this year in consideration of the fact that her mother will be moving to Virginia to live with her family. An employee of many years who has previously worked as a Pre-Kindergarten and 1st grade assistant, Mrs. Weitendorf provided wonderful leadership and oversight of our cafeteria program over the course of this past year. We thank her for her dedication and for all that she did to inspire her team in support of our food service program.

Virtual Talent Show – Tonight at 7:00 PM!

Please join us this evening as we present our first-ever Virtual Talent Show that will showcase the gifts of students in grades 5-8. A special email link will be sent to all school families this evening. Thank you, Mrs. Bill and Mr. Tessier, for coordinating this effort for our community.

Important Dates for the Upcoming Year

Note: These events and dates are tentative and subject to change as related to directives provided by the State of Virginia and our diocese regarding the process for return to school in the fall.

Orientation Day - Monday, August 24

- 14th Annual Back-to School Barbecue hosted by the PTO – Monday, August 24 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)

First Day of School (K-8)/Noon Dismissal – Wednesday, August 26

First Day of Pre-Kindergarten – Tuesday, September 8

School Calendar (2020-2021)

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August 26	First Day of School (Noon Dismissal)
September 7	Holiday – Labor Day
September 11	Noon NDismissal (DFE Self-Study)
October 2	Noon Dismissal (Diocesan Teacher Work Day)
October 9	Noon Dismissal (DFE Self-Study)
October 12	Holiday - Columbus Day
October 30	Diocesan Professional Development Day (No School)
November 6	Noon Dismissal (DFE Self-Study)
November 12	Noon Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
November 13	Noon Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
November 24	Noon Dismissal for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 25-27	Holiday – Thanksgiving
December 4	Noon Dismissal (DFE Self-Study)
December 21	Holiday - Christmas
January 4	Classes Resume
January 8	Noon Dismissal (DFE Self-Study)
January 18	Holiday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 5	Noon Dismissal (Catholic Schools Week Luncheon)
February 15	Holiday - Presidents' Day
March 12	Noon Dismissal (Teacher Work Day – Report Card Prep)
March 19	Diocesan Professional Development Day (No School)
April 1	Noon Dismissal (Holy Thursday)
April 2	Holiday – Good Friday
April 5	Holiday - Easter Week
April 23	Holiday - Parish Festival (Tentative)
April 30	Noon Dismissal (Presentation of DFE Visiting Team Report)
May 7	Noon Dismissal (Band Trip & Professional Development)
May 31	Holiday - Memorial Day
June 16	Final Day of School for Grades 1-7 (Tentative)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Uniform Update – White Polo Shirts Grandfathered (2020-2021)

In an effort to reduce costs for parents, the white polo shirts will be grandfathered for a second year. As such, students are permitted to wear the white shirts as part of the summer uniform through the 2020-2021 school year.

End of Year Calendar

Wednesday, June 3

- Spiritual/Social/Emotional Learning Day
- Virtual Middle School House and Buddy Class Activities

Thursday, June 4

- Spiritual/Social/Emotional Learning Day
- Virtual “Stepping Up” Day

Friday, June 5

- Eagle Day
- Final Day for 8th Grade
- Virtual Pass It On Ceremony (9:30 a.m.)
- Virtual Walk of Honor (11:00 a.m.)
- 8th Grade Drop-Off & Pick-Up of Materials (1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Monday, June 8

- Professional Development Day

Tuesday, June 9

- Professional Development Day

Wednesday, June 10

- Professional Development Day
- Virtual Kindergarten Luau (11:00 a.m.)
- FACTS Tuition Payment in Full Deadline

Thursday, June 11

- Eagle Day
- Final Day for Kindergarten
- Virtual Class Celebration (11:00 a.m.)
- Kindergarten Families - Drop-Off & Pick-Up of Materials (1:00-3:00 p.m./Rear Parking Lot)

Friday, June 12

- Final Day for Grades 1-7

The Office of Catholic Schools has selected All Saints to serve as a pilot school next year for the implementation of Schoology, the largest learning management system for K-12 education in our country. Participation in this program will enhance our capacity to provide high quality instruction and assess learning in both the traditional classroom setting as well as that of eLearning.

Schoology is a highly engaging platform for students, teachers, and administrators that integrates all aspects of the teaching and learning process. With a user-friendly design, the software application is a robust tool that provides many opportunities for collaboration and community-building.

A learning management system that has been in existence for ten years, Schoology is now owned by PowerSchool which allows for easy synchronization of data. Schoology also integrates seamlessly with our productivity tools, specifically Google and Microsoft Office, as well as more than 200 educational applications and content providers, including Khan Academy, Kahoot, Youtube, and Quizlet.

With teachers having the ability to transition classroom methodologies to an online environment, Schoology will allow us to be very nimble as we plan for a variety of scenarios for the 2020-2021 academic year.

More information about all that Schoology has to offer can be found at [Introduction to Schoology](#).

School Supplies (2020-2021)

There are two ways to purchase school supplies for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Shop on your own
You can do your shopping on your own using our [2020-2021 School Supply List](#) as your guide. Simply click on the grade level tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet to view and print your child's supply list.
- Purchase online through EPI
Families can choose to purchase supplies online by July 7, 2020 through the EPI Online School Supply Packs Program. Your items will be available in the classroom when you arrive for orientation. [EPI Online School Supply Packs Program](#)

All Saints Code: ALL088

Through July 7, 2020 – Packs are available at a discount and free bulk shipping.

July 8-12, 2020 – Families can purchase supply packs but at the regular cost and shipping will be charged.

If you have any questions about school supplies, please contact Mrs. Horgan at shorgan@allsaintsva.org