

# The Sentinel Express ~ June 10, 2020

## *Principal's Message*

Over the course of the past two weeks, we have observed how communities across our country have responded to the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd. For myself, the circumstances have inspired not simply personal reflection but also questions. What can I do to help ensure a just and fair society in which all individuals are treated with care and dignity? And even more importantly, how can I as a school principal ensure that our students become more deeply Catholic in their worldview and committed to living in accord with the message of the Gospel?

A good starting point for responding to these questions can be found in the teachings of our Church. Last week our Superintendent, Dr. Vorbach, shared with school leaders the following call and challenge, citing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' recent work *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism*.

The *call* is for a “genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society.” The bishops note, “Conversion is a long road to travel for the individual. Moving our nation to a full realization of the promise of liberty, equality, and justice for all is even more challenging. However, in Christ we can find the strength and the grace necessary to make that journey. In this regard, each of us should adopt the words of Pope Francis as our own: let no one ‘think that this invitation is not meant for him or her.’” (p. 7)

The *challenge* pertains to an authentic reflection regarding current practices related to equity, differentiation of learning, student engagement, assessment and social-emotional well-being so that we might consider whether inequities and systemic barriers exist for students in our school. The completion of such an assessment will enable us to pinpoint strategies that might be adopted to address any areas for improvement.

With this in mind, next year I will expand the work of our Multicultural Committee. This is an initiative begun earlier this year to create greater understanding and respect for the diverse cultures within our community. Without question, the year ahead will provide rich opportunities to engage students, faculty and staff in thoughtful dialogue on

this topic.

Throughout my reflections in recent days, I have been drawn time and again to our theme from last year:

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

In this moment, I am reminded that our mission is in fact the very formation of our students – heart, mind and soul. As our students go forth and give steady witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, by God’s grace, we will have accomplished a noble purpose that ultimately will help to transform our world.

As we close out an extraordinary year, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude once again for the stellar commitment of our faculty and staff who navigated the transition to eLearning and kept our students on track. I thank all of our school parents for continuing to place their trust in our school and for partnering more closely than ever with us in the formation of their children. I congratulate our students, who though they may not have fully understood the changes taking place around them, adapted to the circumstances and demonstrated a growth mindset as they embraced new ways of learning.

On behalf of our pastor, Fr. Lee Roos, the clergy, faculty and staff, I wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer season. Although our community will be officially on summer break after this week, know that the Task Force will continue with their planning for the new year. Throughout the summer I will provide periodic updates and forward details to you regarding the 2020-2021 academic year as they become available.

Thank you for choosing All Saints for your family. Wishing you many summer blessings!

*With God all Things Are Possible!*

***Drop-Off & Pick Up Procedures – “One for the Books!”***

A letter outlining the procedures for the exchange of materials to close out the 2019-2020 school year can be found at the link below. Times for drop off are listed by family

last name. Families are asked to enter the property via the rear parking lot and to follow the traffic pattern used for morning arrival. Members of the faculty and staff will be present and will deliver to each vehicle any personal items from the classroom and/or lockers. Families are asked to place all books and school items in a bag for each individual student, keeping separate any library books, uniforms, Chromebooks, or Junior Achievement materials that need to be returned.

**Update: Please place all materials in the trunk of your vehicle. Once you arrive at the school, please open your trunk and a faculty or staff member will place your items in the trunk and pick up items to be returned to the school.**

Students, parents, faculty & staff are invited to dress as favorite book characters for this drive-through event as we mark the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year which has been “one for the books”!

#### [Materials Exchange Informational Letter](#)

After reviewing, should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Horgan at [shorgan@allsaintsva.org](mailto:shorgan@allsaintsva.org).

#### ***Report Cards***

End of the year report cards will be distributed along with student items during the drop-off and pick-up process on Thursday and Friday.

Note: In the event that teachers were unable to sufficiently assess a particular subject area or standard, that section has been left blank on the report. This is the case for “handwriting” for all students in grades 3-8 as well as in the area of “oral language” for the majority of students in grades K-2.

#### ***Summer Learning Program 2020***

The Optional Summer Learning Program is now available and can be found on our website at the link below. All assignments and activities are posted by grade level and available in digital format for ease of access.

#### [Optional Summer Learning - Program Information](#)

In an effort to more effectively target the learning levels of each student, the reading assignments are differentiated by level with corresponding follow up activities. Math assignments are designed for students rising into the next grade level.

After reviewing, should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Horgan at [shorgan@allsaintsva.org](mailto:shorgan@allsaintsva.org).

### ***Accelerated Reader - Summer Update***

The *Accelerated Reader* program will not be accessible June 15-19 due to a required software upgrade by the Renaissance Learning Company. The good news is that after the technology modifications are complete, students will still be able to remotely access the site throughout the summer and take *Accelerated Reader* Quizzes. The old link will be functional and will redirect you to the upgraded site. Also, there may be a few new visual features but the program will operate the same using your current login/password credentials. If you have any issues, please contact Mrs. Coyle. Happy Summer Reading!

### ***Tuition Assistance Awards - Update***

The diocese is continuing to review applications for tuition assistance and to determine allocations from the St. Beatrice Fund. For this reason, we anticipate that decisions regarding financial awards will not be confirmed and communicated to families for a couple more weeks.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### ***Graduation Mass (Thursday, June 25)***

A Graduation Mass for the Class of 2020 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.

## ***End of Year Calendar***

*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

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## ***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
- 14<sup>th</sup> 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

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## ***School Calendar (2020-2021)***

Note: 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.

August 26	First Day of School (Noon Dismissal)
September 7	Holiday – Labor Day
September 11	Noon Dismissal (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)

### ***School Supplies (2020-2021)***

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

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

· [EPI Online School Supply Packs Program – flyer](#)

If you have any questions about school supplies, please contact Mrs. Horgan at [shorgan@allsaintsva.org](mailto:shorgan@allsaintsva.org)