

The Sentinel - September 9, 2020

Principal's Message

During the 2020-2021 academic year we will once again complete the *Design for Excellence* (DFE) re-accreditation process, the first step of an on-going six-year cycle. In addition to providing the faculty, staff and members of the community with opportunities to reflect on all aspects of our mission as a Catholic school, it will also yield important feedback for us to consider in the design of our next five-year plan.

I am pleased to share with you that Mrs. Horgan, Assistant Principal, will serve as the Chairperson of the Self-Study process. She is currently forming a Steering Committee comprised of faculty and staff that will guide our community through the self-evaluation process and the writing of the corresponding reports.

Completing this evaluation during a pandemic will undoubtedly offer its own set of challenges. However, I have every confidence that the creativity, determination and zeal of our faculty and staff will ensure our success in completing this important initiative.

In the months ahead I look forward to sharing with you some of the important details related to the DFE process and welcome your participation as we plan for the future of our school.

Our first DFE meeting will take place on Friday as we review and revise our Mission Statement. I ask for your prayers that all of our discussions and decisions may be guided by the Holy Spirit as we undertake this first step in the process.

All Things Work for Good for Those Who Love God!

COVID-19 Health Mitigation Strategies & Updates (Frequently Asked Questions)

Is it possible to schedule lunch for all students at the same time? Having children on the same schedule in the virtual learning environment would make things much easier at home.

This is something that we explored in the hopes of streamlining the schedule for families. However, due to the complexity of the schedule, particularly in regards to the middle school program and special subject classes, it is not feasible for the entire school to share the same lunch period.

Are students in the same grade level/class permitted to play together during recess?

In an effort to further prevent the mixing of student groups, for now students will remain in their "pods" during recess, playing only with students in their actual classroom.

Can students take their masks off when outside for recess or instruction?

Yes, students are permitted to remove their masks when outside, provided that they maintain at least six feet of separation from peers. If they will be interacting more closely during recess or an outdoor class, they will be asked to continue wearing their mask.

Next week we will increase the amount of in-person instruction provided by some of the special subject teachers. Many of them will now be visiting classrooms to deliver lessons which will also afford the homeroom teachers predictable planning periods in their schedules.

Thank you for your continued support of our COVID-19 health mitigation strategies. The students have adapted very quickly to the new environment and are demonstrating a high level of care and respect for one another.

Back-to-School Night & PTO Meeting

Parents of students in grades 1-5, please join us for our first VIRTUAL Back to School Night, Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM! We are excited to see families and begin our evening with a brief presentation and the first General Assembly PTO Meeting of the year.

Following the meeting, parents are invited to join their child(ren)'s homeroom teacher for classroom presentations. There will be two sessions held per homeroom; 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM.

Parents may choose from either of the two session that each teacher will host.

www.zoom.us

Topic: Back to School Night
Time: Sep 10, 2020 07:00 PM

Meeting ID: 503 138 9866
Passcode: 989748

An email that will include links to the classroom Zoom sessions will be sent to parents tomorrow. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Horgan at shorgan@allsaintsva.org with any questions.

Band Program Update

The Band Parents' Evening Registration meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 6:45 p.m. has been canceled.

Parents are asked to send a copy of the online band registration and initial check to the school office in an envelope marked "Band/Mr. Barry Ward".

[Garwood Whaley Music Registration](#)

Parents can rent their instrument online and request that it be delivered directly to their home.

[Music & Arts Online Rental Event All Saints](#)

Room Liaison Program – Seeking Volunteers!

All Saints PTO invites you to become a Room Liaison this year. This is a fantastic way to be involved in your child's education. The Room Liaison program will be very different this year, but our mission is the same... to help support our fantastic teachers. Room Liaisons will:

- Coordinate with the classroom teacher
- Organize and communicate classroom needs and events with parents.
- Recruit and coordinate parent volunteers for classroom support
- Collect money and organize teacher gifts
- Keep an up-to-date list of contact information for all parents.

As they say it takes a village, and I hope you'll join us by completing the [Room Liaison form](#) and either emailing it to Sarah.Roccograndi@gmail.com or returning it to your child's teacher. If you have any questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact Sarah Roccograndi via email or phone 703.489.0598.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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 10. 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 2020-2021 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

[Parent-Student Handbook](#)

- 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 Friday, September 11.

[Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form](#)

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. 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.

Formation in Christian Chastity Program

The safety of your children is always a top priority at All Saints. 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 in the weeks ahead beginning on Monday, September 14. The entire curriculum can be accessed through

the diocesan website at the following link:

[Formation in Christian Chastity](#)

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.

New Parent Coffee

All new parents are invited to enjoy a virtual "Coffee with the Principal" on Tuesday, September 15 beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Following a brief presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion about our school community and plans for the new year.

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

Look for a Zoom invite later this week.

Cafeteria Program – Account Balances

Many of our school families currently have a positive balance on their lunch accounts which can be accessed online. We are pleased to provide a refund to all families but also recognize that in many cases the balances are quite small. With this in mind, we ask that you confirm your balance online and determine whether you wish to request a refund or donate the balance to the general operating account of the school.

If you prefer to receive a refund, please send an email to Mrs. Diana Neri at vneri@allsaintsva.org. Should you have any questions about your balance or this process, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 10

- Scantron Testing – Math (White Cohort)
- School Messenger Test (10:30 a.m.)
- Back-to-School Night for Grades 1-5 & PTO Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 11

- eLearning Day
- Parent-Student Handbook Forms Due
- Room Liaison Forms Due
- Middle School Chromebook Fees Due

Monday, September 14

- Scantron Testing – Reading (Blue Cohort)
- Formation in Christian Chastity Program Begins

Tuesday, September 15

- Scantron Testing – Reading (White Cohort)
- New Parent Coffee (Zoom/9:00 a.m.)
- Band Parents Registration Meeting (Canceled – Parents are asked to forward completed registration forms and checks to the school office.)

Wednesday, September 16

- Scantron Testing – Language Arts (Blue Cohort)
- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, September 17

- Scantron Testing – Language Arts (White Cohort)
- Spirit Wear Day (In-Person and Virtual Learners)
- Spirit Event: Foster’s Grill (11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.) [Fosters Grill Dining for Dollars](#)
- Middle School Night (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 18

- eLearning Day
- Uniform Closet Pick-Up Day (Front Office)