

## The Sentinel — November 11, 2020

### *Principal's Message*

This week I wish to provide an update regarding the continued work of the Task Force. One of the questions that we have recently discussed is that of whether there is a plan to increase the amount of in-person instruction in the near future. On Friday we considered this option, taking into account both the current health data as well as the timing for a potential change. Given the fact that the number of COVID cases are rising in our region and that we are now entering flu/cold season, as well as a time of increased travel and social gatherings related to the holidays, we believe that it remains in the best interest of our school community to continue with our current instructional schedule rather than implement a change at this time. We will continue to monitor circumstances early in the new calendar year and provide updates to you regarding any potential future changes.

The second major discussion topic among the Task Force relates to our preparedness to transition to a 100% virtual model should that become necessary at any point in the year. We remain hopeful that this will not be the case, but want to ensure that our students, faculty and parents are well positioned for such a change. In the event that we need to migrate the entire school to online learning, it is our plan to continue to offer synchronous learning for students. Our ability to do so will be dependent upon each student having access to a device and each family having sufficient bandwidth to meet the needs of both students and parents. In that the school has provided Chromebooks for students in grades 3-8, our question is primarily focused on the needs of families with children in grades K-2. With this in mind, we will be sending a short survey to parents tomorrow so that we can gain a better understanding of any challenges that might exist. In advance, we thank you for your participation in this process which will help us to more effectively prepare a contingency plan.

Yesterday I was delighted to have an opportunity to visit with a number of parents at the Virtual Coffee with the Principal. I received a lot of helpful feedback regarding our current instructional models as well as many thoughtful questions. As a follow up, I want to provide a quick update regarding what appears at times to be a discrepancy between the grades posted in PowerSchool and Schoology. This does, in fact, occur when teachers have input grades in Schoology but not yet “published” and synched them with PowerSchool. For this reason, we encourage parents to track grades via Schoology. This is the platform in which you will find the most up-to-date information regarding your child’s academic performance. Current grades can most easily be found by clicking on the “grade report” tab within Schoology.

Much of the discussion during the Coffee focused on the results of the recent parent survey and the initial action plans created by the faculty. I look forward to sharing a summary report with you next week once we have had an opportunity to finalize our plan.

Finally, I wish to share with you a staffing update. Mrs. Lori Odell, our first grade assistant who has been on leave since the start of the school year, has decided to resign from her position. We thank her for her years of dedicated service as a volunteer, substitute teacher and instructional assistant and wish her every continued success and blessing. Mrs. Mia McIntyre, who has been working in the role since August, has graciously accepted the offer to continue her employment as a first grade assistant.

*All Things Work for Good for Those Who Love God!*

## **FACTS Tuition Assistance Applications 2021-2022**

The online application for tuition assistance through FACTS Grant & Aid for the upcoming school year is now available. For more information about the diocesan tuition assistance program and the application process, please see the links below.

[Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program](#)

[Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program - Spanish \(Programa Diocesano de Asistencia para Colegiatura\)](#)

High Schools (early verification)- **January 18, 2021**

- 2019 tax returns and W-2s are required for early verification
- If submitted after January 18, 2021, 2020 W-2s and tax returns will be required.

Elementary Schools- **March 17, 2021**

- 2020 W-2s and tax returns are required for verification

Should you have any questions about the application process or tuition assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Nancy Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at 703-393-1490 or [nweaver@allsaintsva.org](mailto:nweaver@allsaintsva.org).

### ***IMPORTANT REMINDERS***

#### **Bishop's Holiday & Extension of Thanksgiving Vacation**

All Saints Catholic School will be closed for the "Bishop's Holiday" on Monday, November 23. Additionally, school will be closed on Tuesday, November 24 which was originally scheduled as a half day.

To confirm, school will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving so that our faculty, staff and families may enjoy an extended holiday.

#### **PowerSchool Access – Report Cards & Re-Enrollment**

Although our school is now using Schoology as the platform for communicating information related to student learning, it remains important that all parents have access to their child's PowerSchool account. This is particularly important at this time as we will be using this system in support of two initiatives in the near future, i.e. distribution of first trimester report cards and the completion of the re-enrollment (re-registration) process for 2021-2022.

**If you do not currently have log-in credentials for PowerSchool or cannot access the system for any reason, please contact Mrs. Pettyjohn, Technology Coordinator. ([tpettyjohn@allsaintsva.org](mailto:tpettyjohn@allsaintsva.org)).**

**Mrs. Pettyjohn is also available by appointment for Zoom meetings on Thursday and Friday of this week to provide assistance to parents in accessing PowerSchool and/or Schoology.**

### **Family Directory – Opt In Form**

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

Only those families providing permission through the School Directory Opt-In Form will be included in the 2020-2021 Family Directory. Please complete the following to be included in this year's directory.

#### [2020-21 Directory Opt-In Form](#)

Families who wish to be included are asked to submit the opt-in form by **Friday, November 13.**

### **Pilgrim Virgin Statue Program**

School families are once again invited to renew their devotion to Jesus through Mary by participating in the Pilgrim Virgin Statue Program. Each week one of the statues of Our Lady will travel to the home of one school family for a weeklong visit. (Note: As a health precaution, only one statue will be in rotation each week which will allow time for the statues and materials to be quarantined between visits.)

For more information about the program or to sign up to host one of the statues, please see the following link.

#### [Pilgrim Virtue Statue Program Sign Ups](#)

While the statue of the Blessed Mother is in the home, families are encouraged to pray together either part of or the entire five-decade Rosary for the intentions of our school as well as for their private intentions. New this year, we are also inviting families throughout our school community to participate in a virtual Rosary that will take place via Zoom. Look for more details in the near future.

Should you have any questions, please contact the rotation coordinator, Mrs. Maricel Pascua, at [gmpascua@outlook.com](mailto:gmpascua@outlook.com).

### **Diocesan Prospective Teacher Information Meeting (November 18 @ 1:00 p.m.)**

Are you interested in teaching for the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Arlington? There are 44 schools within the Diocese offering instructional programs for all ages from pre-school through high school. Perhaps your certification has expired, or perhaps you are thinking of changing careers or returning to teaching after a period of absence. Do you have questions about qualifications to teach? Would you like to learn more about the mission of teaching in a Catholic School in a nurturing and caring, Christ-centered environment? Plan to attend the Information Program for Prospective Teachers on Wednesday, November 18 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Father Kelley Hall.

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday, November 12

- **Noon Dismissal**
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (Zoom)

Friday, November 13

- Parent-Teacher Conferences (Zoom)

- Deadline: Family Directory Opt-In Form

Sunday, November 15

- Discover Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday, November 18

- Diocesan Prospective Teachers Meeting (FKH/1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Thursday, November 19

- School Mass (White Cohort/K2/1B - 9:30 a.m.)
- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Monday, November 23

- **Holiday – Bishop’s Holiday**

Tuesday, November 24

- **Holiday – Thanksgiving**
- End of Trimester I

Wednesday, November 25

- Holiday – Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26

- Holiday – Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27

- Holiday – Thanksgiving

Monday, November 30

- Classes Resume

Tuesday, December 1

- Re-Enrollment for 2021-2022 Begins
- PTO Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, December 3

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Placement Test

Friday, December 4

- Used Uniform Pick-Up
- Trimester I Report Cards Available in PowerSchool (3:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 6

- We Care Week to Support Catholic Charities

Monday, December 7

- Virtual Book Fair Begins

Wednesday, December 9

- Picture Day Make-Ups
- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, December 10

- Picture Day Make-Ups