

# The Sentinel ~ February 24, 2021

## ***Principal's Message***

Over the course of the past month, I have been in discussion with the Task Force regarding the potential for increasing the level of in-person learning in our school. With the recent and sustained decrease in the positivity rate and our awareness that members of the faculty and staff will be completing their vaccinations next week, we are optimistic that we can begin to take steps now that will positively impact student learning.

As a starting point, this week I will be contacting parents of students supported through our Resource Program to extend to them the option of having their son/daughter attend in-person learning four days per week beginning on March 8. We are confident that this change will result in learning gains for students who meet this criteria and benefit from academic support.

Increased in-person instruction for all students in grades 3-8 will require that we submit an "Intent to Vary" form to the Virginia Council for Private Education, indicating our decision to reduce physical distancing in the classroom from 6 feet to 3 feet. If we were to implement this change, we would be able to combine cohorts and increase the amount of in-person learning to four days per week for these students. It is important that I emphasize that, should we decide to pursue this option, all other health mitigation strategies, i.e. wearing of masks, washing of hands, not mixing of student groups, etc. would remain in place. With lesser physical distancing, these strategies would be critically important for reducing the potential for any transmission within our building.

I would very much welcome your input on this important question. As such, tomorrow I will be sending a survey to all parents regarding their level of support for increasing in-person learning and the associated requirement that we apply for the variance. The survey will also include a question regarding the timing for implementing a potential change.

At this time, a number of our students are enrolled in the 100% virtual option. Please know that we remain committed to this option and that it will continue to exist through

the close of this academic year. A decision regarding the feasibility of the virtual model for next year is still pending and dependent upon the level of interest from within the community.

In advance, thank you for your participation in tomorrow's survey which will help us to better understand the needs and hopes of our parents and students.

*This week I also wish to provide an update regarding faculty changes for the 2021-2022 academic year.*

Miss Galanides (Art Teacher) has decided to resign from her position at the close of the year due to her relocation. We thank her for her two years of service and for all that she did to inspire creativity in our students as she introduced them to the world of art.

Additionally, Mrs. Cummings (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher) has decided to retire at the end of the year. For the past twenty years, Mrs. Cummings has been a wonderful presence in the second grade classroom, providing her students with a strong academic foundation and beautifully preparing them to receive their Sacraments. We are immensely grateful for her steadfast dedication through the years and for the devotion she has shown to her students and the mission of our school.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that we completed the expansion of our IT infrastructure with the addition of a second Internet connection last week. This second line will not only increase our upload/download speeds but also allow for redundancy in the event that we experience a difficulty in connectivity with one of our providers. I wish to specifically thank our pastor, Fr. Lee Roos, for his advocacy and strong commitment to making this happen.

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

***Diocesan Teacher Job Fair – March 13 (Zoom/9:00 – Noon)***

Each spring the Diocese of Arlington hosts a *Teacher Job Fair* for those interested in learning more about the ministry of Catholic education. This year the event will take place via Zoom on Saturday, March 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more information, including instructions regarding the registration process, please see the link below.

## [Diocesan Teacher Job Fair](#)

### ***Kindergarten Screening Schedule – Revised***

The Kindergarten Screenings originally scheduled to occur on Monday, April 26 and Monday, May 3 have been postponed to Friday, April 30 and Friday, May 7 to coincide with eLearning days. For this reason, the kindergarten classes will be in session for in-person learning on April 26 & May 3.

### ***Read Across America – Crazy Hat Day!***

All Saints will celebrate the power of reading on March 2 as students around the world take a moment to open a book and let their imagination soar! So grab your crazy reading hat and get ready to take off with your favorite book!

## ***IMPORTANT REMINDERS***

### ***Faculty/Staff Vaccination Update & Schedule Changes***

**Tuesday, March 2 (Early Dismissal)** - School will dismiss at **2:00 p.m.** in order that members of our faculty and staff can attend their appointments that afternoon. Extended Day will be open beginning at 2:00 p.m. However, due to the existing restrictions, we will only be able to accommodate those students who are already regular attendants.

**Wednesday, March 3 (eLearning/K-8)** – Anticipating that some of our team may experience symptoms that might preclude their ability to work, **all K-8 students will participate in asynchronous online learning at home.** The teachers will post assignments in Schoology that the students will be asked to complete independently. Please note that there will be no live Zoom sessions that day.

On Thursday, March 4, we plan to revert to our regular schedule, including in-person learning. We will have a number of substitute teachers on stand-by in the event that any needs arise that day.

*Thank you for your continued understanding as we modify our schedule in support of the health and wellness of our faculty & staff.*

***Open House – March 11 @ 9:00 a.m.***

All Saints Catholic School will host an *Open House* for prospective parents on Thursday, March 11 via Zoom beginning at 9:00 a.m. All parishioners and members of the community interested in learning more about our school are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please contact Mrs. Nancy Weaver, Administrative Assistant, at (703) 393-1490 or [nweaver@allsaintsva.org](mailto:nweaver@allsaintsva.org).

**In-Person & Virtual Learning Transitions – Policy Reminder**

*In the event that you wish to transfer your child from in-person to online learning or vice versa, please notify Mrs. Horgan via email so that she can update our enrollment roster accordingly and notify the corresponding faculty members. Please note that such transfers do require advance administrative approval and do not exist as informal options that students or parents may select on particular days.*

*Note: In the event that your child is not feeling well and exhibiting any symptoms, virtual learning remains an available option for the day. In such cases, parents are asked to simply notify Mrs. Snowden accordingly.*

***Spirit Wear Store – Now Open!***

Our thanks to the PTO and Miss Morga for organizing a new All Saints Spirit Wear Store through SquadLocker. The store will remain open throughout the year for your convenience. Get the latest All Saints styles including short and long sleeve tees, sweatshirts, hoodies, masks, and more!

**All Saints Spirit Wear Store**

***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 - English

[Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program - Spanish](#)

Deadline for Elementary School Tuition Assistance Programs is **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).

### ***Upcoming Events***

Thursday, February 25

- School Mass – White Cohort/K2/1B (9:30 a.m.)
- Spelling Bee – Grades 4-8 (Zoom/1:30 p.m.)

Monday, March 1

- Lenten Confessions – Blue Cohort/Grades 3-8 (9:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, March 2

- Read Across America – Crazy Hat Day
- **Early Dismissal (2:00 p.m.)**
- PTO Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87932726762?pwd=YWpSWENuWHJkdVhuZk9jU3U0cGhLUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 3272 6762

Passcode: 797707

Wednesday, March 3

- **No In-Person Instruction – Asynchronous Online Learning for All Students K-8**

Thursday, March 4

- Lenten Confessions – White Cohort/Grades 3-8 (9:30 a.m.)

Wednesday, March 10

- PowerSchool Parent Portal Closes – Report Card Prep (3:00 p.m.)

Thursday, March 11

- Open House (Zoom/9:00 a.m.)
- Enrollment Management Team Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, March 12

- End of Second Trimester

Saturday, March 13

- Diocesan Teacher Job Fair (Zoom/9:00 a.m. – Noon)

Tuesday, March 16

- Spirit Wear Day

Wednesday, March 17

- Deadline: FACTS Tuition Assistance Applications for Elementary Schools

Friday, March 19

- Diocesan Professional Development Day for Teachers
- Used Uniform Pick-Up
- PowerSchool Parent Portal Re-opens – Report Cards Available for Review (3:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 23

- PTO Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 24

- Lions' Club Screening

Thursday, March 25

- Lions' Club Screening