

## The Sentinel — August 25, 2021

### Principal's Message

After weeks of planning and preparation, it was wonderful to open the doors on Monday morning to welcome our students to another year of learning. It is always a privilege to witness the joy and wonder on the faces of the children as they begin anew and walk with great anticipation to their classrooms on the first day of school. On behalf of the faculty & staff, thank you for choosing All Saints for your family! We look forward to partnering closely with you in the year ahead and supporting your efforts as the first educators of your children.

At the beginning of each academic year, we announce a theme that further unites us as a faith community. I am pleased to share with you the theme that we have selected for the 2021-2022 school year.

*Lord, I thank you, for your merciful love and your faithfulness. (Psalm 138:1-2)*

This scriptural reference, one that combines the first and second verses of Psalm 138, was inspired by a prayer card recently presented to Fr. Lee, our pastor, by a Poor Clare nun. The verse can serve as a daily reminder for us to give thanks to God as we remember his merciful love and steadfast faithfulness, most especially during the past eighteen months of the pandemic. We rejoice in the fact that we are sustained by God's grace and surrounded by his loving care. I pray that this theme will be a source of inspiration for you and your families throughout this academic year.

Despite a forecast of rain earlier in the day, on Friday we enjoyed a beautiful evening and stunning sunset during the **Welcome Back Barbecue**. It was wonderful to see so many school families – new and returning – gathered together in celebration of our school community. I wish to thank Mrs. Rachel Weigler, who coordinated the event, the caterer (Elegance to Simplicity), the facilities team, and the many volunteers who assisted with the set-up, serving, and clean-up, including members of the Cub and Boy Scouts. I also want to thank Mr. Jim Sheeran and Mr. Andy Weigler who personally delivered the leftover food to our local police and fire departments. This event is a shining example of the generosity and support provided by the PTO to our school community.

Thank you to those parents who participated in the recent election for our new **PTO President**. With one individual having submitted the name of a write-in candidate, all remaining ballots were cast in favor of Mr. Charles Kapur. We congratulate Mr. Kapur on his election and we thank him for his generous service as he begins his second, non-consecutive term as PTO President.

Over the course of the summer we received the final donations in support of the *2021 Race for Education*. I am pleased and proud to announce that together we raised a total of \$33,841.20, five percent of which we forwarded to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I am grateful for the leadership of Mrs. Laura Burroughs and Mrs. Kelly Ballard who served as the co-chairs of the event and did a marvelous job of coordinating all of the details.

As we begin this year and prepare to relaunch many of our signature events, we are reinstating the requirement that families earn **25 Stewardship Shares** over the course of the year. This is the program by which parents are encouraged to donate their time and talent in support of our school. While there will be many opportunities to earn Shares again this year, the most important thing to remember is that you can earn Shares for any activity completed in support of our school. For an overview of the program, please see the following link.

[Family Stewardship Program](#)

*We look forward to returning to our pre-pandemic level of parent engagement and participation. In accordance with our Reopening Plan, we are limiting the number of visitors and volunteers in the building for the first four weeks of the school year. However, we are hopeful that shortly thereafter we will be able to welcome parents back into the classrooms and library on a regular basis.*

It has been a great opening of the year and the learning is now underway for our students. I look forward to sharing more exciting updates with you in the weeks ahead.

*Lord, I thank you, for your merciful love and your faithfulness.*

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**Virtues in Practice – Year III**

Year of Charity (Theme: Community)

Virtue for the Month of September: Charity

Definition: Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Saints of the Month: St. Gertrude (PK-2), St. Vincent de Paul (Grades 3-5), Ven. Laura Vicuna (Grades 6-8)

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**Employment Opportunity**

All Saints Catholic School is seeking additional part-time employees for the afternoon session of the Extended Day Program. For more information or to request an application, please contact the school office. (703-368-4400)

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**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 Friday, September 3. 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.

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### **Parent- Student Handbook (2021-2022 Edition)**

The 2021-2022 Parent-Student Handbooks can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

#### **[Link to Parent-Student Handbooks](#)**

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 Wednesday, September 1. Those families without access to the website are invited to contact the office to request a hard copy of the handbook.

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### **Band Program 2021-2022**

One of the great legacies of our school is that of the All Saints Band, an organization that began in 1977 and remains under the direction of the founding conductor, Mr. Barry Ward. For more information about this award-winning assemble and opportunities for your child to participate, please see the links below.

[All Saints Band](#)

[All Saints Band Calendar](#)

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### **New Parent Coffee**

All new parents are invited to enjoy “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. Following a presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion about our school community and its many programs. Babysitting services will be offered in an adjacent meeting room. Plan to attend and meet other new families who have recently joined our community!

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

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### **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. Again this year, in consideration of the sensitivity of the topic, the training will be offered in a single-sex environment with Mr. Conroy addressing the boys while Mrs. Horgan will present to the girls. 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.

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### **Background Checks – Policies for School Parent Volunteers**

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, all volunteers in the school are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training within 45 days of submitting the background check application.

In accordance with diocesan policy, full compliance for an adult parent volunteer is not required for open events. (An open event is one that is open to the public, infrequent and publicized, such as Field Day, concerts and special events/assemblies.) However, full compliance is required for adult parent volunteers who wish to participate in closed events. (A closed event is one that is not entirely open to the general public such as classroom activities, parties, field trips, etc.) For this reason, all parents who wish to attend field trips or volunteer in support of classroom activities are required to complete the background check process and attend VIRTUS training.

The online application for the diocesan background check can be found at the following link:

[https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP\\_application](https://secure4.arlingtondiocese.org/OPCYP_application)

To register for VIRTUS training which is hosted at parishes and schools throughout our diocese, please follow the link below.

[www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org)

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Thursday, August 26**

Pre-Kindergarten Orientation (8:00-11:00 a.m. & 12:00-2:00 p.m.)

### **Friday, August 27**

Opening of the School Year Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)

### **Monday, August 30**

First Day of Pre-Kindergarten (Noon Dismissal for First Week)

### **Tuesday, August 31**

Band Demonstration (4th Grade) & First Meeting with Students

### **Wednesday, September 1**

Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms

### **Friday, September 3**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

SchoolMessenger Test (10:30 a.m.)

### **Monday, September 6**

Holiday (Labor Day)

### **Tuesday, September 7**

Band Parent Meeting & Registration (Music Room/6:45 p.m.)

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

### **Wednesday, September 8**

Faculty Meeting (3:30-5:00 p.m.)

### **Thursday, September 9**

Back-to-School Night for Grades 1-5 & PTO Meeting (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, September 10**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Noon Dismissal (DFE Meeting)

**Monday, September 13**

Scantron Testing Begins

Confessions – Grade 8

**Tuesday, September 14**

New Parent Coffee (PAC Atrium/9:00 a.m.)

First Day of Band Lessons

**Wednesday, September 15**

Spirit Wear Day

Confessions – Grade

Enrollment Management Team Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

**Thursday, September 16**

Middle School Night (7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, September 17**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)