



# All Saints Catholic School

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

## The Sentinel Newsletter

September 22, 2021

### Principal's Message

This week I am pleased to provide an update regarding staffing in our school.

Mrs. Melanie Gregory began her employment yesterday as the instructional assistant in the K2 classroom. Mrs. Gregory earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from George Mason University and worked for a number of years at Reston Hospital Center. A product of Catholic education, she has a great appreciation for the mission of our school. Additionally, as a long-time school parent and volunteer at All Saints, she has a comprehensive understanding of our program and has already established many wonderful relationships with faculty, staff, and parents alike. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Gregory to our kindergarten team. I know that her calm and caring manner, as well as her faith-filled perspective, will be a wonderful asset to our program.

We are also pleased to welcome Mrs. Rachel Weigler to our Extended Day Program in which she will be working as an assistant during the afternoon hours. Having served in a leadership role in the PTO and currently as an on-call substitute teacher in our school, Mrs. Weigler also has a familiarity with many aspects of our program and is already a recognized member of our community. Through the years she has generously donated her time in coordinating numerous PTO hospitality events, including the recent Back-to-School Barbecue. Mrs. Weigler is also a product of Catholic education, having graduated from St. Paul VI High School, after which she earned a Bachelor's Degree in English and Early Education from George Mason University. We are so pleased to have her join our Extended Day staff.

I also wish to share with you an important update regarding the deferred acceptance program at Seton School, an independent Catholic school in the Diocese of Arlington enrolling students in grades 7-12. For a number of years, Seton has extended to the students of All Saints the option of deferred acceptance. Through this arrangement, students at All Saints who applied for admission to Seton for their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade years have previously had the option of deferring their acceptance until 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Effective this year, Seton School has made the decision to discontinue the deferred admissions option for all applicants. Starting this fall, students may only apply for admission for the following academic year and may not apply 1-2 years in advance.**

Note: The application season for Seton School began on September 1 and will end on January 8, 2022.

All Saints continues to serve as a strong “feeder” school to Seton and we are pleased to maintain a collaborative partnership with the school in support of Catholic education in the Manassas community.

Should you have any questions about this procedural change or the Seton application process in general, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Julie Mantooth in the Admissions Office at Seton School for more information.

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

### **NCEA Family Newsletter – Trusting God in All Things**

As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Arlington, All Saints is a member of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), the largest, private professional education association in the world. NCEA works with Catholic educators to support ongoing faith formation and the teaching mission of the Catholic Church.

Each month NCEA provides numerous resources and articles to Catholic schools, including a Family Newsletter. A link to the September edition entitled *Trusting God in All Things* follows below. We hope that this message and those to follow in the months ahead are a source of inspiration and encouragement for you and your family.

[NCEA - September Family Newsletter](#)

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

This Thursday 9/23, the PTO is hosting a Helping Hands Events in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) from 8:00 am-3 pm. The teachers have many projects for us to do that will help them in the classrooms. These include leveling reading books, tearing out workbook pages and collating them, die-cutting letters, creating Pre-K student binders, organizing Robotics club parts, organizing, stamping, covering books and much more. Volunteers do not need to be VIRTUS certified and will earn two shares per hour they volunteer. Thank you to the parents who have already signed up. Additional volunteers are welcome. Please sign up using [Help Counter](#) and bring your own scissors, black sharpie, and favorite snack. Volunteers should check in at the front office before arriving at the PAC. We will provide coffee and a fun atmosphere. Thank you in advance for helping with these projects!

## **Important Reminders**

### ***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 13. 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.

### **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)

## ***Diocesan Pilgrimage (October 30)***

Bishop Burbidge invites you to join him to mark this “Year of St. Joseph” at the Diocesan Marian Pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, October 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for this year’s pilgrimage is “St. Joseph, Guardian of the Body of Christ.” All are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event! For complete details and a schedule for the event, please see the following link.

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/2021/marian-pilgrimage](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2021/marian-pilgrimage)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Thursday, September 23**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

PTO Helping Hands (PAC/9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

### **Friday, September 24**

Noon Dismissal (Professional Development Day)

### **Monday, September 27**

Confessions – Grade 4 (9:15 a.m.)

Lions’ Club Screening – Grades 3 & 7

### **Wednesday, September 29**

School Mass – Feast of the Archangels (8:30 a.m.)

Confessions – Grade 3 (9:15 a.m.)

### **Thursday, September 30**

Faculty Meeting (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

### **Tuesday, October 5**

St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit (10:00 a.m.)

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

**Thursday, October 7**

School Mass – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary (8:30 a.m.)  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to The Edge – Tentative

**Friday, October 8**

Trimester I – Interim Reports  
Noon Dismissal (DFE Meeting)

**Saturday, October 9**

VIRTUS Training (FKH/9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

**Monday, October 11**

Holiday – Columbus Day

**Thursday, October 14**

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

**Friday, October 15**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

**Saturday, October 16**

PTO Family Bingo Night (PAC/6:00 – 9:00 p.m.)

**Tuesday, October 19**

PTO General Assembly Meeting – **To Be Rescheduled**

**Friday, October 22**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)  
Coffee with the Principal (Zoom/9:30 a.m.)

**Monday, October 25**

Picture Day

**Thursday, October 28**

School Mass – Feast of Saints Simon and Jude  
Penny Bazaar (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.)  
Middle School Glow Party (PAC/7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

**Friday, October 29**

Diocesan Professional Development Day (No Classes)

**Saturday, October 30**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception