

## The Sentinel - September 1, 2021

### Principal's Message

During the 2021-2022 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. Although originally scheduled to have occurred last year, we were extended the opportunity to delay the process until now due to the pandemic.

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

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 All Saints Catholic School.

Our first DFE meeting will take place on Friday, September 10, following the noon dismissal, at which time the faculty and staff will 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 important first step in the process.

This week we will be providing Chromebooks to all middle school students who have submitted their One-to-One Chromebook Handbook Policy Forms. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will once again have access to devices throughout the school day and students in grades 7-8 will have the opportunity to take their Chromebooks home.

*While we remain committed to in-person learning and are hopeful that we will be able to sustain this effort without interruption over the course of the year, we are taking steps now as part of our contingency planning so that we are able to provide online learning for our students if it becomes necessary at any point.*

In support of this planning process, tomorrow we will be sending a copy of the *Zoom Authorization Form* to parents of all students via email. Additionally, we ask that parents of students in grades 3-5 complete and return a signed copy of the *Acceptable Use Policy* that will also be included in the message. With this paperwork on file for each of our students, we will be ready to deploy additional devices and to provide instruction via Zoom if this should ever become necessary this school year.

Should you have any questions regarding our planning process or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to let me know.

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

### **Back-to-School Night & PTO Meeting**

Parents of students in grades 1-5 are invited to join us for Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. This will once again be a virtual event hosted via Zoom, a link for which follows below.

Join Zoom Meeting

[Back-to-School Night - Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 876 0263 4691

Passcode: 564240

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87602634691# US (Washington DC)

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.

An email that will include links to the classroom Zoom sessions will be sent to parents next week. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Horgan at [shorgan@allsaintsva.org](mailto:shorgan@allsaintsva.org) with any questions.

### **Uniform Reminders**

INSERT MESSAGE FROM STEFANIE

### **PTO Room Liaisons – Volunteer Opportunity!**

We are looking for volunteers for the Room Liaison program for this year. Room Liaisons are critical in helping teachers communicate with their classroom parents and are instrumental in planning and assisting with classroom activities throughout the year. It is a wonderful volunteer leadership opportunity that earns Stewardship Shares. If you are interested, please complete the form at the link below. If you have any questions, please email

[AllSaintsPTO@allsaintsva.org](mailto:AllSaintsPTO@allsaintsva.org).

INSERT LINK TO ROOM LIAISON FORM

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

#### **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)

### **Employment Opportunities**

All Saints Catholic School is seeking additional employees for the following positions.

- Extended Day (Part-Time Assistants for the Afternoon Program)
- Instructional Assistant – Kindergarten (Full-Time)

For more information or to request an application, please contact the school office. (703-368-4400)

### **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.

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

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

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

### **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!*

### **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.

**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)

**Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, September 1	<b>Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms</b>
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 7 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.)
Monday, September 20	Confessions – Grade 6 (9:15 a.m.)
Tuesday, September 21	Room Liaisons' Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)
Wednesday, September 22	Confessions – Grade 5 (9:15 a.m.)
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.)