



All Saints Catholic School

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Sentinel Newsletter

August 24, 2022

Principal's Message

Welcome to "Opening Day" at All Saints! It was a great joy for us to welcome the students this morning as we officially launched the 2022-2023 school year.

I am so grateful for the efforts of the faculty and staff who have worked so diligently over the course of the past several weeks, preparing for this moment. During this time of a very well-publicized teacher shortage across our nation, we are incredibly blessed to have such a dedicated team of individuals who are deeply committed to the mission of Catholic education.

At the beginning of each academic year, we announce a theme that further unites us as a faith community and that provides a daily focus for all of our efforts. I am pleased to share with you the theme for the 2022-2023 school year.

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

These words of the Blessed Virgin Mary, taken from the Gospel of Luke, are aligned with the second year of preparation for the diocesan celebration of the 50th Anniversary Jubilee. It is Mary who is the Model Disciple who shows us how to receive the Word and to bear the Word to the world. As we enter into the second year of preparation later this fall, it is a time for us to rejoice in the vitality of our diocese as well as the vibrancy of our school community. I pray that this theme will be a source of inspiration for you and your families throughout this academic year.

More information about the preparation for the Diocesan Golden Jubilee can be found at the following link: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/rejoice/>

It was great to see so many gathered once again and enjoying food and fellowship during our Welcome Back Barbecue on Friday evening. I believe it was a strong indicator of what lies ahead for our school during the 2022-2023 school year, i.e. a time of re-connecting and re-starting programs that have been such an important part of our school culture through the years.

I want to thank Mrs. Rachel Weigler (Event Coordinator), our PTO President (Mr. Charles Kapur), our caterer (Elegance to Simplicity), our facilities team, and the many volunteers who assisted with the set-up, serving, and clean-up efforts. I also wish to acknowledge and thank the numerous parents who signed up during the event and earlier in the day at Orientation to volunteer this year. We are delighted to see such strong interest and look forward to increasing levels of engagement and the sharing of new ideas as the PTO continues to plan and host events over the course of the year.

During these opening days of the year, our primary focus is on procedures. The teachers are investing time in re-teaching and modeling for students the expectations and routines that are fundamental to daily life in our school. With this framework in place, the students will be set up for success and ready for a year of exciting learning opportunities. I look forward to sharing many more updates with you in the weeks ahead!

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Virtues in Practice – Year I

Year of Faith (Theme: Service)

Virtue for the Month of September: Faith

Definition: Believing in God and all He has revealed.

Saints of the Month: St. Martha (PK-2), St. Jerome (Grades 3-5), St. Augustine (Grades 6-8)

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 *School Messenger*, simply text the word “subscribe” to 68453. To opt out of all text messages from *School Messenger*, 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 (2022-2023 Edition)

The 2022-2023 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

[ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)
[PRESCHOOL PARENT 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, August 31.

New Parent Coffee

All new parents, including those who joined our school during the past two years of the pandemic, are invited to enjoy “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 13 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. Plan to attend and meet other new families who have recently joined our community!

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 Miss Mallon 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.

Important Reminders

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:

BACKGROUND CHECK INSTRUCTIONS

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

VIRTUS REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 25

Full Day of School (Grades 1-8) & Noon Dismissal (Kindergarten)
Pre-Kindergarten Orientation (8:00-11:00 a.m. & 12:00-2:00 p.m.)
Opening of the School Year Prayer Service & Assembly (8:30 a.m.)

Friday, August 26

Full Day of School (Grades 1-8) & Noon Dismissal (Kindergarten)
Opening of the School Year Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)
Middle School Houses Assembly (9:30 a.m.)
Fire Drill – First Drill of the Year - Announced (10:30 a.m.)

Monday, August 29

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

Tuesday, August 30

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

Wednesday, August 31

Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms

Thursday, September 1

Lockdown Drill – First Drill of the Year – Announced (10:00 a.m.)

Friday, September 2

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
School Messenger Test Message (10:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 5

Holiday (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 6

Opening of Cafeteria Hot Lunch Program
Band Parent Meeting & Registration (Music Room/6:45 p.m.)
PTO Executive Committee Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 7

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

Thursday, September 8

School Mass – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)

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

Monday, September 12

Standardized Testing (NWEA MAP) Begins

Confessions – Grade 8 (9:15 a.m.)

SCA Installation Ceremony - Postponed

Tuesday, September 13

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

First Day of Band Lessons

Wednesday, September 14

Spirit Wear Day

Confessions – Grade 7 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 15

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

8th Grade Parent Meeting (8:30 p.m.)

Friday, September 16

School Mass – Memorial of Saints Cornelius & Cyprian (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 19

Confessions – Grade 6 (9:15 a.m.)

Title I Classes Begin

Tuesday, September 20

Room Liaisons Meeting (Meeting Room 2/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 21

School Mass – Feast of St. Matthew (8:30 a.m.)

Confessions – Grade 5 (9:15 a.m.)

Thursday, September 22

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

Friday, September 23

Faculty & Staff Retreat Day (No Classes or Extended Day)