



# All Saints Catholic School

*My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

## The Sentinel Newsletter

August 31, 2022

### Principal's Message

This week we are delighted to welcome the students of the Pre-Kindergarten program who officially began their year on Monday. It is wonderful to witness the care of our staff, the safety patrols, and proud older siblings who each day gently guide our “littlest learners” into their classrooms.

In last week’s letter I shared with you that the teachers are focusing on re-teaching and modeling for students the expectations and routines that are such an important part of day-to-day life at All Saints. As circumstances continue to normalize within the school following the two-year period of the pandemic, this is the moment for us to thoughtfully “raise the bar” for our students.

Related to this idea, during the Opening of the School Year Assembly last week, I challenged the students to focus on daily work completion, encouraging them to finish each classwork and homework assignment to the best of their ability. In doing so, not only will they maximize their learning but they will also be forming good work habits and a strong work ethic that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

In support of this school-wide initiative, I encourage you to discuss with your children the importance of completing all of their work each day and putting forth their best effort. Without question, during the pandemic we were all called upon to demonstrate a high degree of leniency due to the heightened levels of stress and our concern for the emotional well-being of our students. With that challenge greatly reduced, now is the time for us to collectively resolve to instill in our students a strong and steadfast commitment to completing their work to the best of their ability. In addition to having this conversation with your children, I also encourage you to identify a quiet work place at home and to prioritize completion of homework as part of your after school schedule. Working together, we can ensure that our students develop a growth mindset and experience a very successful year of learning.

On another topic, in the August Newsletter I shared with you our commitment to consistently implementing our safety/security protocols and to revising our procedures in accordance with best

practice. As a follow up to this and to keep you apprised of our efforts, I wish to provide an important update regarding school security.

Effective this year, we are revising our “lockdown” procedures in accordance with new diocesan-wide protocols related to our Active Shooter Response. The most significant change in protocol is that teachers and staff have been trained in how best to implement a variety of responses to a perceived threat within our school community. They have each been charged with making independent decisions based upon their situational awareness in an effort to more effectively safeguard our students in the event of an incident. In the weeks ahead, we will be providing age-appropriate guidance to our students so that they are aware of the importance of always following the directions of their teachers when responding to a drill or incident.

Our first lockdown drill (Active Shooter Response Drill), will take place at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, September 1. As in prior years, the drill will be announced to the students in advance and we will share with them that the lockdown drill is yet another way that we practice keeping ourselves safe while at All Saints.

Next week students in grades 3-7 will begin their first round of standardized testing through NWEA-MAP, an assessment that our school will complete by Friday, September 30. As an adaptive online assessment, the MAP test pinpoints each student’s learning level in reading, language arts, and math. As students complete the second and third rounds of testing over the course of the year, the teachers will be able to closely track their individual levels of progress and customize instruction based upon the needs of the classroom of learners. I look forward to sharing with you a letter from Dr. Vorbach, Superintendent of Schools, regarding this new testing program tomorrow.

The teachers will be posting the dates and times of their classroom testing sessions. In support of your child/ren’s success on their assigned days of MAP testing, please ensure that they report to school on time. Additionally, they will be better able to achieve their peak performance during the test if they are well rested and have enjoyed a healthy and nutritious breakfast.

Should you have any questions about the MAP testing program or any of this week’s topics, please do not hesitate to let me know.

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## **Important Reminders**

### **SchoolMessenger Emergency Notification System**

The Diocese of Arlington uses the *SchoolMessenger* 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 *SchoolMessenger* 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 2. 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 (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.

### **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](#)**

## **St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School**

Visit the link below to learn about the some important dates at St. John Paul The Great.

### ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT

#### **Upcoming Events**

##### **Thursday, September 1**

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

Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal

##### **Friday, September 2**

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

*SchoolMessenger* Test Message (10:30 a.m.)

Pre-Kindergarten – Noon Dismissal

##### **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.)

8<sup>th</sup> 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)**

**Saturday, September 24**

Alumni Reunion (10:30 a.m.)

**Monday, September 26**

Confessions – Grade 4 (9:15 a.m.)

**Wednesday, September 28**

Confessions – Grade 3 (9:15 a.m.)

Faculty Meeting (3:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, September 29**

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

Gift of Human Sexuality Program – Middle School Parent Meeting (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

**Friday, September 30**

Diocesan Professional Development Day (No Classes or Extended Day)