



All Saints Catholic School

Behold I make all things new.

*United and nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist,
our culturally diverse Catholic school inspires learning
within a nurturing and dynamic environment
of academic excellence and Gospel values.*

Carta de agosto a los padres en español

August 3, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 academic year!

As we prepare for the official opening of the school year, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families, as well as those who are returning for another year. We are delighted that you have chosen All Saints for your family and we look forward to partnering closely with you in the year ahead.

Welcome New Faculty & Staff!

Mrs. Sarah Boddie (1st Grade Teacher) – Mrs. Boddie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Psychology and a Master of Elementary Education from George Mason University. She previously worked for seven years as a third grade teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools where she developed particular expertise in the teaching of reading. With a commitment to establishing a classroom community in which all of her students feel heard, valued, and safe, while being recognized as individual learners, she will be a wonderful addition to our primary team.

Mrs. Kathleen Burnett (2nd Grade Teacher) – Mrs. Burnett earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. From 2014-2017, Mrs. Burnett taught second grade in our program. Since that time she has worked as a Hands on Science Preschool Teacher at Linton Hall School in Bristow. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Burnett back to All Saints where she will be returning to the same grade level and classroom, a position in which she excelled and provided wonderful sacramental preparation for our second grade students.

Ms. Marian Joy Farinholt (Kindergarten Teacher) – Ms. Farinholt earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a Psychology Minor from Old Dominion University. In addition to gaining experience through her role as a lead teacher of preschool and pre-kindergarten students at Children of America Educational Childcare, she also worked for several summers as a camp instructor at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Winchester. With a creative approach that incorporates hands-on learning, Ms. Farinholt will foster an engaging and joyful environment for her students.

Mrs. Joannette Fernandes (Pre-Kindergarten Instructional Assistant) – Mrs. Fernandes earned an Associate of Arts from KJ. Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce in Mumbai, India. After more than two decades of experience working as a senior logistics coordinator, Mrs. Fernandes looks forward to the start of her second career in a Catholic school setting where she will be able to share her faith and support the growth of our youngest learners.

Mrs. Kathryn Hatch (Middle School Regular Math Teacher/8th Grade Homeroom Teacher) – Mrs. Hatch earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry as well as Secondary Education from the University of South Dakota, a Master of Science in Instruction and Curriculum Development from Walden University, and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Western Governors University. She has significant experience teaching middle school math and science at Catholic schools in Wisconsin and Colorado. After serving as assistant principal at Our Lady of Loreto Catholic School in Colorado for three years, she was appointed principal for the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Hatch to our middle school team where she will be able to share the expertise and experience she has gained through her years in Catholic education.

Ms. Ruth Lewarne (5th Grade Teacher) – After graduating from Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington, Ms. Lewarne earned a Bachelor of Arts in English (American and British Literature) from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Previously she has worked as a counselor and teacher at St. John’s Summer Program in Maryland. With a love of literature as well as the Catholic faith, Ms. Lewarne will be a great addition to our intermediate team.

Mrs. Lindsey Long (Kindergarten Teacher) – Mrs. Long earned a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with Concentrations in Special Education and English from Radford University. Over the course of the past ten years she has gained experience as a kindergarten teacher at Nativity Catholic School in Burke and more recently as a preschool teacher at St. Mark in Vienna and Linton Hall School. With a goal of creating a nurturing and welcoming classroom environment for her students, Mrs. Long will provide a warm and supportive space for our young learners.

Mrs. Vianney Perez (Spanish Teacher, Grades 1-2) – Mrs. Perez earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education from George Mason University. After teaching several years in Manassas Park school system, she joined our faculty in 2017, teaching 6th grade religion and Spanish for grades 1-2. We are pleased that Mrs. Perez will be returning this year to continue

teaching Spanish in the primary grades. Our young students will once again be inspired by her high level of enthusiasm and creativity in the classroom.

Mr. John Saffian (Technology Teacher & Specialist) - Mr. Saffian earned a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Humanities from Thomas More College of Liberal Arts in New Hampshire, Certification from the Connecticut School of Broadcasting, and a Master of Arts in Physical Education from Queens College, New York. In addition to his more than ten years of experience teaching P.E. and coaching in a variety of school settings, Mr. Saffian has also worked as a producer responsible for live, syndicated radio broadcasts across multiple platforms. His combination of educational and technical experience will make him a great asset to our technology program.

Mrs. Carolyn Scott (Music Teacher) – Mrs. Scott earned a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theater from The Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C. With experience teaching in public and Catholic schools, as well as offering private voice and piano lessons, Mrs. Scott has a strong foundation in music education. Additionally, as a former student of All Saints, she has an understanding of the mission and culture of our school. It is a great joy for us to welcome Mrs. Scott back to All Saints as a member of our faculty.

Several of our returning faculty and staff members will be assuming new roles in the upcoming year. Mrs. Helen Sgro, who previously taught 2nd grade will be transitioning to 4th grade and Mrs. Hannah Brink, who taught 5th grade last year will be our new resource teacher for students in grades 4-8. Additionally, one of the goals from our Design for Excellence 5 Year Plan is to hire instructional assistants for the second grade program. In support of this initiative, I'm pleased to announce that Mrs. Angela Ward and Mrs. Joanne Brown, will be transitioning into these new positions from their prior roles of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten assistants.

At this time, I am continuing to seek candidates for the middle school literature position, as well as instructional assistants for both kindergarten classes and one first grade classroom. If you are interested in applying or learning more about these employment opportunities or know of a friend or colleague who may wish to apply, please contact me at dconroy@allsaintsva.org.

Safety & Security Updates

The health and safety of the students, faculty, and staff at All Saints has been and continues to be of the highest priority. As a school community, we remain committed to consistently implementing safety protocols and to further enhancing our procedures as informed by best practice.

I am pleased to share that the parish and school have implemented the following security upgrades over the course of the summer.

- **Video Camera System**

Although our school purchased and installed a camera system approximately ten years ago, the newly upgraded system provides much greater capability for our monitoring of

the campus. As part of this project, we replaced all of the original cameras in the school facility and installed additional interior and exterior cameras.

- **Electronic Access Controls**

The electronic access controls at the front entrance and in the areas adjoining the office lobby have been replaced. Additionally, we are currently installing additional electronic access controls to two exterior doors used by students and staff when accessing the playground and when returning to the school building from outdoor activities.

As in previous years, it will continue to be our practice that all visitors and guests enter the school by way of the main entrance. After an initial screening process conducted by audio/video intercom, parents and visitors who are approved will be invited into the school lobby. Once in the lobby, visitors and guests will be able to communicate with members of the office staff and only granted entrance into the school upon approval from staff.

- **Interior Gym Doors**

A new interior door system is scheduled to be installed this month at the front of the gym which will allow us to better control access to that large gathering space.

These upgrades, as well as the addition of another alarm system in the building, will help us to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff each day.

I wish to thank our pastor, Fr. Lee Roos, and the members of the Parish Safety/Security Committee, for the time and effort that they have invested in these projects which benefit not only the school community but the many programs and ministries that use the school and religious education facility. I also want to thank the parish community for their continued generous support which has enabled us to complete these projects.

Throughout the coming school year, I will periodically provide updates regarding our safety and security plan. In the meantime, should you have any questions or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. Most importantly, should you ever have a concern related to school safety/security, please contact me at dconroy@allsaintsva.org or 703-368-4400.

Crimsonbridge Foundation Grant

We are pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, All Saints has received funding through the Crimsonbridge Foundation in support of our efforts to partner with a Hispanic/Latino Liaison to strengthen our communication and outreach to the communities of All Saints and St. Gabriel Mission. Over the course of the past two years, this grant has enabled us to provide translation of all school newsletters and email messages to the parent community. As we look to the year ahead, we will be expanding these efforts through the creation of a Spanish Open House video and the translation of additional content on our website.

Important Reminders

- **Orientation Day for Students in Grades K-8**
Monday, August 21 from 8:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Each student will be invited to visit the homeroom classroom accompanied by his/her parents. This will provide each child the opportunity to meet the teacher and to experience the classroom space in advance of the first day of school. **Look for an email invitation in the days ahead to sign-up for a specific block of time so that we can provide a personalized orientation experience for you and your family.**

Parents who ordered supplies through the school-organized program may pick them up on Orientation Day in the classrooms. All students are asked to come to school prepared with supplies on the first day of classes. On Orientation Day, parents / visitors are invited to park in either the front or rear parking lots.

- **First Day of School for Grades K-8**
Wednesday, August 23

8:00 AM - Morning Bell

8:04 AM - Classes Begin

Since you will already have had the opportunity on Orientation Day to meet the teachers and visit classrooms, parents are asked to drop off their children in the carpool line by 7:58 a.m. Students will enter the building via the breezeway connecting the new facility to the original wing and report directly to their homerooms. The breezeway doors will open at 7:40 a.m. at which time the cars in the front of the carpool line will begin dropping off students at the direction of supervising staff. Any child dropped off before 7:40 a.m. must be escorted by a parent or guardian to the Extended Day Program in Father Kelley Hall.

Dismissal will occur at noon on Wednesday, August 23 for students in grades Kindergarten through eight. Dismissal for grades 1-8 will be at 3:00 p.m. for the remainder of the week. However, the Kindergarten program will dismiss at noon for the first three days of school, August 23-25.

- **Dismissal Procedures**

Parents will once again be assigned parking areas for afternoon dismissal based upon where their last name occurs in the alphabet. We will continue to use the dismissal process that we implemented three years ago and will provide additional information in advance of the first day of school.

Parking assignments for the new school year will be posted on our school website in the coming weeks.

Parents whose children will be walking to and from school or riding a bicycle are asked to provide written authorization to the office.

- **Physical & Immunization Requirements**

Completion of the Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form is required for all Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 7th Grade, and Transfer students. The Health Form must be completed and on file in our school office prior to the start of the new school year. All other grades may submit the Health Form upon completion of their annual physicals during the school year.

Immunizations required by the Virginia Department of Health can be found on Supplemental Guidance for School Required Vaccines.

Vaccines Required Prior to 7th Grade:

- Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY) Vaccine
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (Tdap)
- Parent's or guardian's may elect for their child not to receive Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine. A discussion with your child's pediatrician is suggested.

Note: In addition to these immunizations, parents of 7th grade students are asked to submit an updated Health Entrance Form prior to the start of the year.

Please email Mrs. Nowakowski, our school nurse, with any questions or concerns at knowakoski@allsaintsva.org.

Kindergarten Vaccine Required Prior to School Entry:

- Hepatitis A

Please be aware that providing documentation of immunization is a necessary condition for enrollment at All Saints. Those students who have not received proper immunization will not be permitted to attend school.

Should you have any questions about immunization requirements, please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Nowakowski at 703-368-4400.

- **Background Checks – Policies for 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://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/background-checks/>

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

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/virtus/>

Note: When visiting the school to volunteer, all parents will be screened on their first visit to ensure that all VIRTUS requirements have been fulfilled and remain current. Please note that this applies to prior year volunteers, including those who visited the school during the spring months of the past academic year.

- **Information for Kindergarten Families**

Parents who have a Kindergartner starting at All Saints this year are invited to Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. The kindergarten team will present an overview of the program and will be available to answer questions. Kindergarten students are invited to visit the classroom on Monday, August 21, Orientation Day.

- **Information for Pre-Kindergarten Families**

All Pre-Kindergarten parents and students are invited to visit the classrooms during Pre-Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, August 24 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. An email with instructions for signing-up for a specific time slot will be sent to Pre-K parents this week.

The first day for the Pre-Kindergarten will be Monday, August 28 with dismissal at noon for the first week.

Pre-Kindergarten parents are reminded that, beginning this year, students in the program will wear a uniform each day. While similar to that worn by students in grades K-8, the Pre-K uniform has been designed to help our youngest learners look distinct while still being easily recognized as students of All Saints Catholic School. A link to Flynn O'Hara, our uniform vendor, follows below.

<https://flynnohara.com/>

- **Back to School Night Information_**

Back to School Night (Parents of Grades 1-5) & PTO Meeting

Thursday, September 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center

Following an opening presentation and introduction of the PTO Executive Committee, teachers in grades one through five will present an overview of their programs in their classrooms.

Middle School Back to School Night (Parents of Grades 6-8)

Thursday, September 14 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school classrooms

These sessions will provide parents with important information about our many programs and plans for the 2023-2024 school year. For this reason, at least one parent from each family is required to attend Back to School Night.

- **Welcome Back Barbecue!**

All school families are cordially invited to attend the **18th Annual Welcome Back Barbecue** hosted by the PTO. This popular event provides a wonderful opportunity for families to visit with friends old and new as we begin another year together. Once again this event is free of charge, courtesy of the PTO.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 25 and will take place on the parking lot and grassy area located behind the school. Parents are invited to park in the front lot and to either walk around the school or pass through the breezeway entrances when arriving. Families are asked to bring lawn chairs and a cooler full of favorite drinks. (Non-alcoholic beverages only.)

Although there is no need to RSVP, should you have any questions or wish to volunteer to assist with the event, please contact Mrs. Rachel Weigler at rfalls1@yahoo.com. Volunteers are still needed to assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Plan to join us for an evening of barbecue and fellowship!

In the weeks preceding the opening of school, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 703-368-4400.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year and, again, a very warm welcome to our new faculty, staff, and families!

Sincerely in Christ,

David E. Conroy, Jr.
Principal