



All Saints Catholic School

Behold I make all things new.

The Sentinel Newsletter

August 23, 2023

Principal's Message

Welcome to "Opening Day" at All Saints! It was wonderful to see the smiles and looks of anticipation on the faces of our students this morning as we officially launched the 2023-2024 school year.

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 2023-2024 school year.

Behold I make all things new

These words from the Book of Revelation are aligned with the third year of preparation for the diocesan celebration of the 50th Anniversary Jubilee. As we prepare for this historic milestone that will occur in 2024, this theme will serve as an encouragement and invitation for us to renew and strengthen our faith for the future. Additionally, linking our school-wide theme to that of the preparations for the Jubilee provides our students with the reminder that we are proudly part of a larger community, the Diocese of Arlington. I pray that this theme will be a source of inspiration for you and your families throughout the upcoming academic year.

More information about the preparation for the Diocesan Golden Jubilee can be found at the link below.

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/rejoice/>

Last week our faculty and staff participated in the following professional development activities, all of which are linked to some of our goals and priorities for the year.

As you aware, the safety and well-being of the students entrusted to our care is our highest priority. On Wednesday afternoon, the faculty and staff received intensive active shooter training. Through a

partnership with Manassas City Police Department and Manassas City Fire & Rescue, our staff completed a civilian module of *Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training* (ALLERT). This hands-on, scenario based program provided our staff with additional knowledge and skills to respond to security related incidents.

On Thursday, the faculty participated in a workshop on the topic of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Directly linked to the goals of our five-year plan, implementation of the PLC model will foster higher levels of teacher collaboration as we focus on key questions related to student learning. Over the course of this year, most of our professional development sessions will focus on this topic, providing our teachers with additional training as well as the time to enter into deeper discussions about learning across grade levels and subject areas.

Finally, on Friday, the faculty participated in a full day workshop on the topic of *Conscious Classroom Management*, an approach that is designed to “help teachers learn new ways to support, engage, and motivate all of their students with dignity and kindness, thereby keeping students in the classroom engaged, contributing, and learning”. Having been introduced to numerous strategies that can be used to create a safe and structured learning environment, our teachers are newly inspired to set our students up for success from day one.

Today and in the days ahead, our primary focus is on the teaching of procedures. Using the tools and strategies of *Conscious Classroom Management*, the teachers are investing time in teaching, modeling, and reinforcing the expectations and routines that are fundamental to daily life in our school. With this framework in place, the teachers and students will be able to focus on the exciting learning opportunities that will occur each day over the course of the year.

As always, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff. Having witnessed their enthusiasm, team work, and collaboration last week, I know that great things are in store for your children this year.

I look forward to sharing many more updates with you in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, wishing you blessings as we start anew!

Behold I make all things new

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Welcome Back Barbecue (Friday @ 5:30 p.m.)

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 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 (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. The event this year will also include a 50's theme, so please feel free to dress accordingly!

Virtues in Practice – Year II

Each month of the school year, our students learn about a particular virtue and are encouraged to incorporate it in their lives. Using the example of saints who serve as exemplars of each virtue, the teachers integrate the monthly theme in the life of their classrooms.

Again this year, All Saints will use the *Virtues in Practice* program developed by the Nashville Dominicans. To learn more about the program and to access the Parent Guide, please follow the link below.

Virtues in Practice

During the 2023-2024 school year, All Saints will complete the Year of Hope (Theme: Study).

Virtue for the Month of September: Hope

Definition: Trusting in God's loving plan

Saints of the Month: St. Joseph (PK-2), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Grades 3-5), Blessed Louis & Zelig Martin (Grades 6-8)

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 1. 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. Please check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Parent- Student Handbook (2023-2024 Edition)

The 2023-2024 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

[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 30.

Message from Mr. Ward (Band Director)

Hello, my name is Barry Ward, and I am the band director at your school. Band at All Saints starts in 4th grade and goes through the 8th grade. The beginner band is mostly made up of first year students, whereas the award-winning advanced band takes students mostly from 5th - 8th grade that have a little more experience. The link below explains most everything about starting an instrument for the first time. It includes a number of sections to help you at home, and Mr. Ward will be meeting with students in early September to show and tell about each instrument.

The sections included in the link are:

1. A message from Mr. Barry Ward
2. Selecting an instrument
3. Videos from involved parents and students
4. A link to **Music and Arts (Rental) Stores**.

Generally, your first instrument will likely be rented, or you can purchase an instrument, but the safest route seems to be renting for the first year. In order to get started, use the introductory 2-month rental deal with a purchase of the lesson book, **Essential Elements for Band, Book 1** (for your instrument) - Hal Leonard, publisher. A music stand for home use is always a really good idea as well. Many of these items can be found on the Music and Arts (online) instrument rental site that is attached to this link.

Take a look at the videos that are also included, and ascertain if you and your student are only mildly interested in the program and playing in our school band. Playing an instrument certainly can add a lot to a student's day and certainly serves as an interesting elective. The All Saints Band Program has a long rich history of teaching students to play and perform. All lessons are at school and during school hours where students are placed in similar group lessons. A band is formed for end-of-the-year performances at school or for other venues. Here is our link to joining the **BAND!**

<https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/group/index.php?id=7523>

Thank you for reading this important information, and I hope to see and meet you and your student this coming year at All Saints Catholic School.

New Parent Coffee (September 12)

All new parents, including those who joined our school last year, are invited to attend “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 12 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center (PAC). Following a presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion about our school 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:

<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/>

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 24

Full Day of School (Grades 1-8) & Noon Dismissal for 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 25

Full Day of School (Grades 1-8) & Noon Dismissal for Kindergarten
Opening of the School Year Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)
Middle School Houses Assembly (9:15 a.m.)
Fire Drill – First Drill of the Year/Announced (10:30 a.m.)
PTO Sponsored Back-to-School Barbecue (5:30 p.m.)

Monday, August 28

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

Wednesday, August 30

Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms

Thursday, August 31

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

Friday, September 1

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

Monday, September 4

Holiday (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 5

Band Demonstration of Instruments
PTO Executive Committee Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

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

Friday, September 8

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

Monday, September 11

Standardized Testing (NWEA MAP) Begins

Confessions – Grade 8 (9:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 12

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

Band Parent Meeting & Registration (Music Room/6:45 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 13

Spirit Wear Day

Confessions – Grade 7 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 14

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

Friday, September 15

School Mass – Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows (8:30 a.m.)

Saturday, September 16

Alumni Reunion (PAC/10:00 a.m.)

Monday, September 18

Confessions – Grade 6 (9:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 19

Band Lessons Begin

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

Wednesday, September 20

Confessions – Grade 5 (9:15 a.m.)

Thursday, September 21

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

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

Friday, September 22

Noon Dismissal

Professional Development Day for Faculty (Professional Learning Communities)