



All Saints Catholic School

Behold I make all things new.

Mission Statement

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.

The Sentinel Newsletter

November 15, 2023

Principal's Message

This week I am pleased to share with you an update regarding the *Design for Excellence* Five Year Plan for our school and the goals that we have identified for 2023-2024. The Five Year Plan is a compilation of the goals from the self-study process and reaccreditation visit that occurred during the 2021-2022 school year.

The following is a list of goals for Year 2 (2023-2024).

1. Provide students the opportunity to participate in an annual spiritual retreat, whether school-wide or in smaller grade level groupings, to allow for age-appropriate experiences.
2. Prioritize the hiring of a second school counselor and specialists in the areas of English Language Learners (ELL) and special education, as the budget allows, in an effort to respond to the increasingly diverse needs of students.
3. Provide training on the topic of Professional Learning Communities and time for teacher collaboration with the goal of developing, implementing, and continuously improving the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction to result in high levels of student achievement.
4. Design and implement a professional development plan that includes ongoing technology training for teachers.
5. Develop a plan to increase student enrollment to 540 in the next five years.

One of our goals for the prior year was that of aligning our textbook review process with the curriculum review cycle of the diocese. Related to this and in consideration of the fact that the diocese is currently reviewing the math curriculum, we have decided to postpone our review of math programs until the 2024-2025 school year. Instead, this year we will be focusing on a review of reading textbooks and

programs since the diocese recently published revised curriculum standards for this subject area. As we initiate this process, our efforts will be guided by the Science of Reading so that our decisions are informed by best-practice and the most recent research.

In the months ahead, I will provide periodic updates as we move these goals forward. In the meantime, should you have any questions about our Five Year Plan, please do not hesitate to let me know.

This week I also wish to provide an important staffing update. Ms. Reardon, Director of Extended Day, has decided to postpone her previously announced retirement until the close of the 2023-2024 school year. We are grateful for her continued leadership of the program and for all that she and her staff do to provide students with a supportive, faith-filled environment each day.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Thanksgiving Luncheon on Monday. As in prior years, we ask all parents and visitors to sign-in at the front entrance and to await the guidance of the office staff who will invite parents to meet their child in the classroom just prior to the designated lunch time. Thank you for your support of this event and for your generous contributions in support of the St. Lucy Project.

Wishing you and your family continued blessings!

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Evening with St. Nicholas Prayer Service - December 5th (7:00 p.m.)

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 5 and plan to join us for an *Evening with Saint Nicholas*. The event will begin with an Advent Prayer Service in the church at 7:00 p.m. The "Procession of Shoes" will be led by Saint Nicholas himself. Then join us in the Parish Activities Center for cookies and cocoa where Saint Nicholas and Mother Seton will be available for photos. (Please bring your own camera).

We ask that you bring a donation of a pair of new shoes in honor of Saint Nicholas. All donations will go to House of Mercy. (Donation guidelines: **NEW plain colors of tennis shoes- white, blue, black, tan, or brown. No character tennis shoes.**)

Should you have any questions about this event, please contact Mrs. Sarah Roccograndi at sarah.roccograndi@gmail.com.

Zoom Authorization Form

Over the course of the past several years, our school community has successfully demonstrated the capacity to pivot when necessary, in order to provide instruction in new and innovative ways for our students, specifically through online learning. It is important that we maintain a process as well as procedures that will allow us to transition to online learning if necessary, such as in the event of multi-day closures due to inclement weather.

In support of this planning process, tomorrow we will send a digital copy of the *Zoom Authorization Form* to parents of all students. With this form on file, we will be ready to provide instruction via Zoom should this ever become necessary during the school year.

VIRTUS Training Session - December 16

The diocese will host an in-person VIRTUS training session in English at All Saints on Saturday, December 16. The session will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. For more information about the program and to register to attend, please see the link below.

https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=18408

Important Reminders

- **NJHS Thanksgiving Fresh Food Drive**

The All Saints Catholic School Thanksgiving Food Drive will be held during our Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, beginning at 9:30 am. Through a partnership with the Bethany Food Pantry, members of the National Junior Honor Society will once again be collecting food to provide families in need with a Thanksgiving meal.

In an effort to evenly distribute our collection, we are asking for grade-level donations as follows. We are also asking that any family who would like to donate a turkey, turkey breast, or whole chicken, include that with their grade level donation during the Food Drive.

Through the generosity of our school community in providing the items below, many families will enjoy a beautiful meal on Thanksgiving Day!

Pre-Kindergarten – 3 boxes of Stove-Top stuffing mix

Kindergarten – 2 (2-pound) bags of carrots
Grade 1 – 2 (3-pound) bags of onions
Grade 2 – 2 (3-pound) bags of apples
Grade 3 – 2 (3-pound) bags of rice (no instant, please)
Grade 4 – 2 Dessert “Kits” (cake/frosting or pie crust/filling)
Grade 5 – 2 (48-ounce) bottles of oil (no spray oil, please)
Grade 6 – 2 (5-pound) bags of sugar
Grade 7 – 2 (5-pound) bags of flour or Maseca
Grade 8 – 2 (5-pound) bags of white potatoes
Faculty/Staff – 2 boxes of oatmeal

- **New Student Applications & Continuous Enrollment for 2024-2025**

Applications for new students for academic year 2024-2025 are now available online.

All current families who wish to enroll a *new student* in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eight for the upcoming year may access the application at the link below.

[Application 2024-2025 Link](#)

In January, we will provide a copy of the *Continuous Enrollment Contract* to parents of students completing their first year of enrollment at All Saints. Through completion of this form, parents may continuously enroll their child/ren through 8th grade from All Saints or, if necessary, until such time that they complete the withdrawal process. With submission of this contract, there is no need for future completion of an annual re-registration form.

The Continuous Enrollment Fee, formerly known as the Re-Registration Fee, will automatically be billed through FACTS accounts on March 1, 2024. The completion of the contract and payment of the fee will confirm enrollment for your child/ren for the upcoming school year.

- **Open House (November 30th @ 9:00 a.m.)**

All Saints will host an Open House for prospective parents on Thursday, November 30, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center. All parishioners and members of the community interested in learning more about our school are cordially invited to attend. Please share our story with friends, neighbors, and colleagues and encourage them to join us for this in-person event. For more information, please contact Mrs. Mary Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant, at 703-368-4400.

- **Thanksgiving Luncheon - Volunteers needed**

Help is needed with set-up and decorations, clean -up, food preparation, and serving food for the

Thanksgiving Luncheon. Volunteer shifts are designed in such a way that you will be able to sit and enjoy your meal with your child (ren).

Please consider helping for at least one shift throughout the day. If you are available to assist, please sign-up on Connect1. Please remember that in order to volunteer, you must be VIRTUS compliant. Should you have any questions about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Mrs. Sharon Storey at sharonstorey83@gmail.com.

[Connect 1 Link](#)

- **Tuition Assistance Program (2024-2025)**

Important information regarding Diocesan Tuition Assistance for the upcoming academic year is now available. For details about the program, please see the flyer found at the link below.

[2024-2025 Tuition Assistance Program](#)

Details about the program can also be found on the diocesan website.

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/tuition-assistance/>

The key financial aid dates for 2024-2025 are as follows:

October 31, 2023	FACTS financial aid application closes for 2023-2024
November 1, 2023	FACTS financial aid application opens for 2024-2025
January 5, 2024	Financial aid application due date for diocesan high schools
March 13, 2024	Financial aid application due date for diocesan K-8 schools

- **All Saints Spirit Wear**

All Saints Spirit Wear is now available! Through November 15th, you can take advantage of a special discount on all purchases. There is no better day than today, All Saints Day, to begin your purchase. You can grab your new spirit wear apparel from All Saints' SquadLocker using the discount code: ALLSAINTSSPIRIT15.

[Order Your Squadlocker Spirit Wear](#)

- **Harris Teeter Together in Education Program**

Did you know All Saints participates in Harris Teeter's Together in Education program? Simply register your Harris Teeter store loyalty card (VIC card) online, and our school will receive a donation from Harris Teeter based on a percentage of your purchases of Harris Teeter brand items. There is no extra cost to you.

Click [here](#) to link your VIC card (or use the Harris Teeter app). Our school code is 6623. If you have any questions or need assistance linking your card, please contact our program coordinator, Laura Burroughs, at Laura.Burroughs@gmail.com.

- **Science Fair**

We are excited to announce that the All Saints Catholic School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 8th, 2024 for the 7th grade students! We are looking for judges and would like to invite anyone who is interested in being involved. On behalf of Mrs. Starrs, we greatly appreciate any and all help! If you are interested, please fill out the form at this [link](#). For any questions, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Tran (mtran@allsaintsva.org).

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 16

Adoration & Benediction (2:15 p.m.)

Enrollment Management Team Meeting (PLC/7:00 p.m.) – **Postponed to November 30**

Friday, November 17

School Mass – Memorial of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, November 20

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Tuesday, November 21

Thanksgiving Prayer Service (9:30 a.m.)

End of Trimester I

Noon Dismissal

PowerSchool Parent Portal Closes

Wednesday, November 22

Thanksgiving Holiday Begins

Monday, November 27

Diocesan Teacher Workday (No Classes or Extended Day)

Tuesday, November 28

Classes Resume

Wednesday, November 29

Penance Service – Grades 3-5 (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, November 30

8th Grade High School Placement Test

Open House for Prospective Parents (9:00 a.m.)

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

Friday, December 1

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Picture Day Make-Ups

Monday, December 4

Advent Prayer Service – Grades PK-8 (8:30 a.m.)

Advent Penance Service – Grades 6-8 (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 5

Seniors Luncheon (Hosted by Grade 5)

Trimester I Report Cards sent home

PowerSchool Parent Portal Reopens

Evening with St. Nicholas Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 6

PTO Executive Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, December 7

Faculty Meeting (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Friday, December 8

School Mass – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, December 11

Gift of Human Sexuality Presentation for Middle School Parents (Zoom/7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 12

School Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (10:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 16

VIRTUS Training Session (PAC/9:00 a.m.)