



All Saints Catholic School

Filled with God's joy and peace, abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 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!

Ms. Leydy Alejandro (2nd Grade Instructional Assistant) – For the past three years, Ms. Alejandro has worked in local preschools where she most recently served as a lead teacher for the youngest children. With her previous experience, genuine love of children, and commitment to building classroom relationships, Ms. Alejandro will be a wonderful addition to our second grade team.

Ms. Ayla Bazin (1st Grade Instructional Assistant) – Ms. Bazin is a former student of All Saints who attended St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary and Special Education. Ms. Bazin completed her student teaching with a second grade class and looks forward to returning to All Saints to begin her educational career as an instructional assistant. With an enthusiastic approach and high level of care for others, Ms. Bazin will be an asset to the first grade classroom.

Ms. Amelia Coleman (5th Grade Teacher) – Ms. Coleman earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Christendom College where she completed a classical liberal arts curriculum. With a great devotion to the Catholic faith and a passion for learning, she looks forward to becoming a member of our faculty and sharing her love of writing. Her excellent communication skills and caring manner will help to create a learning environment that is supportive and encouraging for students.

Ms. Abigail Polansky (4th Grade Teacher) – Ms. Polansky earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Neuroscience from George Mason University. For the past year, she worked as a Seton Teaching Fellow at a charter school in New York City where she taught first grade as well as an after school kindergarten

catechism class. During her collegiate years, she assumed a leadership role in the Women's Ministry of Catholic Campus Ministry. With a passion for the faith and a joyful approach to life and learning, Ms. Polansky will be a terrific role model for her students.

Mrs. Mary Beth Schaal (Middle School Literature Teacher) – Mrs. Schaal earned a Bachelor of Science in Government with a minor in history from Longwood University and completed her educational coursework through the University of Virginia. Mrs. Schaal has eleven years of classroom experience in Manassas City Public Schools where she taught middle school social studies, reading, language arts, and math. Additionally, she served as an advisor for the National Junior Honor Society and coach of multiple sports. Having previously taught CCD at another parish and having served as a volunteer for local Catholic outreaches, Mrs. Schaal is deeply committed to her faith and looks forward to supporting the mission of All Saints.

Mrs. Laurie Short (Middle School Math – Long Term Substitute Teacher) – Mrs. Short earned both a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Architecture from The Catholic University of America. Since that time, she gained experience working at an architectural firm and in the business world, prior to serving as a substitute teacher at All Saints. Through this role and also having been a school parent at All Saints for many years, Mrs. Short has developed a comprehensive understanding of our school mission and culture. She looks forward to beginning the school year as a long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Stowell who will be on leave for approximately the first six weeks of the school year following the birth of her first child this summer.

I am also pleased to share with you a couple of staffing updates in our Extended Day Program. After working more than a decade in the program, Mrs. Alejandra Reyes has accepted the invitation to serve as the new Director. With her knowledge of the procedures and routines and the strong relationships that she has built with the students and parents through the years, she will guide the program through a seamless transition as we begin the new year. We also welcome back Mrs. Maile Schunk as a regular employee in Extended Day. Mrs. Schunk served as a substitute in the program last year and, as such, has already developed a familiarity with our program and the students.

Summer Projects & Updates

New Reading Program

Over the course of the past school year, the faculty & administration participated in a review of reading programs in the hope of implementing a new series for our students for the 2024-2025 school year. I am pleased to announce that the committee has selected McGraw Hill as our vendor and will adopt the following programs beginning in August: *Open Court* (Grades K-2), *Wonders* (Grades 3-5), & *Study*

Sync (Grades 6-8). With a strong phonics component, the series is grounded in the Science of Reading, a recent body of research that has identified the fundamental building blocks for literacy. Although each of the three programs is distinct and aligned with the learning needs of students at specific grade levels, they will provide a continuum from K-8 with a fully integrated reading and language arts program. Each series includes a reading text for each student as well as abundant teaching resources, providing a clear scope and sequence for classroom implementation.

During the early days of the summer break, six of our teachers participated in Orton-Gillingham Training, a highly structured approach to literacy that breaks reading and spelling down into smaller skills involving letters and sounds and then builds on this foundation over time.

This combination of new resources and methodology will result in an even more engaging and effective reading program for our students in the year ahead.

Safety & Security Updates

As part of our on-going commitment to safety and security, we have installed additional electronic access controls at the entrance to the gym and the Father Kelly Wing and several other locations within the school. These controls, similar to those already located at the main entrance, will enable the parish and school to provide visitors limited access to specific “zones”, particularly during events taking place in the evenings and on weekends.

Facility Updates

During the summer months, the parish also completed several facilities projects in advance of the new school year. The stalls and partitions in the first and second floor restrooms of the new wing have been completely replaced. Additionally, new exterior doors are being installed in Father Kelly Hall and Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 and the HVAC system in FKH has also been replaced.

I wish to thank our pastor, Fr. Lee Roos, the Parish Facilities Committee, and the Parish Finance Council for the time and effort that they have invested in these projects. Each of these facility and safety enhancements benefit the school community as well as the many programs and ministries that use the building. I also want to thank the parish community for their continued generous support without which these upgrades would not have been possible.

Pre-Kindergarten & Extended Day Update

As we begin the new school year, All Saints is applying for religiously exempt status for both of our currently licensed programs, i.e. Pre-Kindergarten and Extended Day. This effort is in response to a diocesan-wide initiative that began during the summer.

For this reason, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, All Saints will operate in accordance with the standards for religiously exempt child day centers. Although this will result in a change in classification for our program, the standard of care that is a hallmark of our school will remain the same.

PTO Update

As you may recall, last year our school adopted *Connect1*, an online software program by which parents were able to sign-up in support of activities and to track their Stewardship Shares. During this past school year, we learned that *Connect1* would no longer be offering this software solution and that we would need to identify another system for our parents and volunteers. In the weeks ahead, look for an important update from the PTO with an official announcement regarding this new software program.

Important Reminders

Orientation Day for Students in Grades K-8 (Monday, August 19 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 next week 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 in the classrooms on Orientation Day. 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 21)

8:00 Morning Bell

8:04 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 21 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 21-23.

Dismissal Procedures

Parents will once again be assigned parking areas for afternoon dismissal based upon where their last name occurs in the alphabet.

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

Required Health Forms

Completion of the Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form is required for all Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 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. 7th grade students are required to have an updated immunizations record submitted to the school clinic prior to the start of the school year.

Completion of the Confidential Health History Form is required at the beginning of each school year for returning students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade, and is completed by the parents. Please annotate any changes in your child's health history, including updates in allergies, even if they do not have anaphylactic reactions.

A School Physical is only required for the first day of school in grades Pre-K and Kindergarten, but is requested after your other child/ren has had their annual health physical so that we can maintain up to date records for your child's health and safety.

Immunization Requirements

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)
- Parents or guardians may elect for their child not to receive Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine. A discussion with your child's pediatrician is suggested.

Kindergarten Vaccine Required Prior to School Entry

- Hepatitis A

All health and medication forms you might need, including those for physicals as well as medications to be kept at school, can be found at the following link: <https://allsaintsvaschool.org>

Please contact Mrs. Nowakowski, our school nurse, with any questions or concerns at knowakowski@allsaintsva.

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 at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

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 in order 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 Wednesday, August 14 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 19, 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 22 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 next week.

The first day for the Pre-Kindergarten will be Monday, August 26 with dismissal at noon for the first week.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night (Parents of Grades 1-5) & PTO Meeting – Thursday, September 5 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 12 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center.

These sessions will provide parents with important information about our many programs and plans for the 2024-2025 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 **19th 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 23 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!

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