



Escuela Católica de Todos los Santos

Llenos de la alegría y la paz de Dios, abunden en esperanza por el poder del Espíritu Santo.

The Sentinel Newsletter

August 21, 2024

Principal's Message

Welcome to the official start of the new school year – Opening Day! It was a great joy to see our new and returning students this morning as we began another exciting year of learning and faith formation.

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 2024-2025 school year.

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

This theme, taken directly from Scripture (Romans 15:13), aligns with the *ordinary* Jubilee Year which is celebrated by the Universal Church every 25 years. The Jubilee of 2025 was announced by Pope John Paul II at the end of the Great Jubilee of 2000 and the Vatican has chosen "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme.

As we strive to live and share our theme each school day, we will have many opportunities to remind our students that *joy and peace* come from God and that we are *filled* by an action of God. With this knowledge, we can confidently *abound in hope* because of the *power of the Holy Spirit* in our lives.

As we begin this year, let us think of ways that we can grow in the Theological Virtue of Hope. And let us together be an example of this virtue for our students, that they may be further inspired by the Holy Spirit and one-day advance to transform the world.

Last week our faculty and staff participated in professional development activities, all of which are linked to our goals and priorities for the year. I am pleased to share a brief overview so that

you are aware of our efforts as we strive to provide the best learning environment possible for our students.

On Thursday, all reading teachers received an overview and introduction to the McGraw-Hill program that we have adopted for implementation beginning this year. I remain grateful to Miss Mallon and the members of the faculty committee who reviewed reading programs last year and determined that this series will best meet the learning needs of our students.

This week the teachers will introduce students to this program and the accompanying resources that will support our reading and language arts curriculum. As previously announced, students will be using the following series published by McGraw-Hill: *Open Court* (Grades K-2), *Wonders* (Grades 3-6), *Study Sync* (Grades 6-8).

On Friday, teachers of students in Grades 3-8 spent time reviewing data from the NWEA Map Test that we administered to students in the spring in an effort to identify preliminary curriculum goals for the year. At the close of September, after students have completed the first round of Map Testing for this year, teachers will then be able to customize their curriculum pacing based on the results in an effort to help all students reach their “growth targets” for the year. I look forward to sharing periodic updates as we work through this process in the months ahead.

Finally, on Friday afternoon all teachers participated in Professional Learning Community (PLC) discussions. Having received in-depth training on this model last year, one that promotes robust collaboration about student learning, the teachers are now implementing specific strategies for the year ahead. For example, with increased opportunities for meetings and collaboration, i.e. three shared planning periods per week, teachers will be able to more regularly discuss curriculum planning and assessment. Teachers will be creating “common assessments” at each grade level so that students in both classes will complete the same assessments, i.e. quizzes and tests. We believe that these strategies, aligned with the practice of PLCs, will result in higher levels of collaboration and subsequently, even higher learning outcomes for our students.

During these opening days of the school year, the faculty will be investing time in teaching, modeling, and reinforcing the expectations and routines that are fundamental to daily life in our school, the result of which will be a predictable environment in which students feel challenged and supported each day. 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.

I am grateful for the continued hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff and the remarkable teamwork that they continue to demonstrate. We are excited about the year ahead and I look forward to sharing more updates in the coming weeks related to our efforts to make this our best year yet at All Saints!

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know. Wishing you blessings as we start anew!

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



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

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 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!

Virtues in Practice – Year III

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 2024-2025 school year, All Saints will complete the Year of Charity (Theme: Community).

Virtue for the Month of September: Charity

Definition: Loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Saints of the Month: St. Gertrude (PK-2), St. Vincent de Paul (Grades 3-5), Blessed Laura Vicuna (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, August 30. 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 (2024-2025 Edition)

The 2024-2025 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

[Elementary School Parent/Student Handbook](#)
[Pre-K 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 Friday, August 30.

New Parent Coffee (September 10)

All new parents, including those who joined our school last year, are invited to attend “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 10 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 after their application has been approved.

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/>

VIRTUS trainings are held throughout the year at parishes and schools throughout the diocese and are free of charge to all participants. An email is generated to register for the training once an individual has completed the online criminal background check application and it has been approved by Mrs. Cristina Jimenez, our parish and school's liaison. Individuals are required by Diocesan policy to complete this adult safe environment training within 45 days after their application has been approved.

Should you have any questions about the process, please contact Mrs. Jimenez for more information at virtus@allsaintsva.org.

All Saints Band Program, 2024

Message from Mr. Barry 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 with no experience, whereas the award-winning advanced band takes students mostly from 5th - 8th grade that have played at least 1 year.

Playing an instrument certainly can add a lot to a student's day, and certainly an interesting elective throughout a school career. 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 and where students are placed in like-instrument group lesson each Tuesday. A band for beginners and advanced is formed by the end of the year for performances at school or other venues. A band registration meeting for everyone from 4th - 8th grade will take place on **Tuesday, September 10th, at 6:45 P.M. in the music room.**

Thank you for reading this important information and thank you for considering the All Saints Band, and I hope to see and meet you and your student this coming year.

Sincerely,
Barry Ward, Band Director

All Saints Band Dates and Concerts, 2024 - 2025

Start of Band

Tuesday, September 3rd - **Demonstrations** for 4th and 5th Grades

Tuesday, September 10th - **Band Parent Registration Meeting** at 6:45 P.M.

Tuesday, September 17th - **First Day** of Band Lessons

Concerts and other

Tuesday, December 17th - **Virtual Solo Concert**, - 4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. (home)

(possible) Tuesday, February 25th - Band Concert at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Friday, May 9th - Band Trip / Performance (Hershey, Busch or Kings D.

Tuesday, May 13th - Final Band Concert at 2:00 and 7:00 P.M.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 22

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 23

Full Day of School (Grades 1-8) & Noon Dismissal for Kindergarten
Opening of the School Year Mass – Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 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 26

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

Wednesday, August 28

Lockdown Drill (10:00 a.m.)

Thursday, August 29

Dress Down Day

Friday, August 30

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)
SchoolMessenger Test Message (10:30 a.m.)
Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms

Monday, September 2

Holiday (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 3

Band Demonstration of Instruments (Grades 4-5)

Wednesday, September 4

Faculty Meeting (3:30-5:00 p.m.)
PTO Executive Committee Meeting (PAC Atrium/7:00 p.m.)

Thursday, September 5

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

Friday, September 6

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 9

Standardized Testing (NWEA MAP) Begins

Confessions – Grade 8 (9:15 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 10

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

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

Wednesday, September 11

Spirit Wear Day

Confessions – Grade 7 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

School Mass – Memorial of St. John Chrysostom (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 16

Confessions – Grade 6 (9:15 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 17

Band Lessons Begin

Wednesday, September 18

Confessions – Grade 5 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 19

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

8th Grade Parent Meeting (PAC/7:00 p.m.)

Friday, September 20

School Mass – Memorial of Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions
(8:30 a.m.)