



All Saints Catholic School

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

The Sentinel Newsletter

August 28, 2024

Principal's Message

With very pleasant weather and a crowd that numbered in the hundreds, the 19th Annual Welcome Back Barbecue was a tremendous success on Friday evening. I wish to thank Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Caggiano, Mrs. Weigler, and all of our PTO volunteers who coordinated the planning as well as the set-up and clean up for the event. With the support of our Facilities Team and numerous volunteers, the event ran smoothly from start to finish.

We were pleased to partner again this year with *Elegance to Simplicity Catering* and delighted to welcome *Capitol Snow Ice Truck*, owned by the Spicer Family, to our event. And the detective theme added a little extra fun as students interacted with faculty and staff to collect clues to solve the "Case of the Missing Tie". A number of students have stopped me this week to ask whether I ever found my tie. I'm happy to report – case closed!

This week we have been pleased to welcome Mrs. Kim Nguyen as the newest member of our Cafeteria Staff. Mrs. Nguyen has previous experience working in the kitchen at St. Paul VI Catholic High School. Working in a part-time role, specifically in support of the lunch service line, Mrs. Nguyen will help us to accomplish our goal of expediting the serving process so that we can provide students with a little more time to enjoy their lunch this year.

As announced last week, we have officially launched the Book Vending Machine Program at All Saints. On Friday morning, the first day that students celebrating birthdays were able to select a free book, it was a great joy for me to witness the smiles as students walked through the hallway proudly holding their new books. Thank you to all of the supporters of our Annual Fund who have helped to make this possible. Through their generosity, we will be able to promote literacy and ensure that each child receives a new book on their birthday or half birthday for those born during the summer months.

In closing, I wish to also extend a word of thanks to all parents who have been participating in our afternoon dismissal. There is a “settling in” process that occurs at the start of each new year and I appreciate your patience as we work to re-establish our routines. I specifically want to thank the parents who park in the front lot nearest the Parish Activities Center. Yesterday we modified the parking plan in one section in an effort to improve the traffic flow and thus far, it seems to be working. Look for a more formal announcement of this revised plan for that section within the next week. In the meantime, should you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Wishing you continued blessings in this new school year!

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New Parent Coffee (September 24) - RESCHEDULED

All new parents, including those who joined our school last year, are invited to attend “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 24 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Activities Center (PAC). Please note that this event has been postponed from the original date of September 10.

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!

Volunteer as a Room Liaison

Classroom liaisons assist their child's classroom teacher by helping organize and communicate special classroom events and coordinating volunteers. If you are interested in potentially serving in this capacity, please complete the Room Liaison Interest Form by September 6, 2024.

Room Liaison Interest Form

Lunch Menu

Cafeteria Menu - September

Trail Life USA / American Heritage Girls

Looking for a Christ Centered, Family Oriented Scouting Troop for your son and/or daughter? All Saints has a Trail Life USA and American Heritage Girls Troop for boys and girls ages 5-18 years old. Both scouting organizations not only focus on outdoor adventures, but also character development, building courageous young men and women to honor God, leadership with integrity, and service to others.

If interested, please join us at our **Open House Event on Wednesday, September 25 from 6:30-8:00 PM** at the Knights of Columbus Hall behind All Saints Catholic School. For more information, please contact our Trail Life Troop 1188 at TL@allsaintsva.org and American Heritage Girls Troop 1188 at AHG@allsaintsva.org.

Important Reminders

- **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.

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.

- **Virtues in Practice – Year III**

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)

- **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 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)

Schola Interviews/Auditions (3:30-5:00 p.m.)

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

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

Lockdown Drill

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.)

Monday, September 23

Confessions – Grade 4 (9:15 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday, September 25

Confessions – Grade 3 (9:15 a.m.)

Thursday, September 26

SCA Installation Ceremony for Newly Elected Officers and Representatives (1:30 p.m.)

Friday, September 27

School Mass – Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul (8:30 a.m.)

6th Grade Field Trip – The Edge (Team-Building Exercise)