



All Saints Catholic School

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

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

August 21, 2025

Principal's Message:

Welcome to the official start of the new school year! It was wonderful to open the doors this morning and to witness the students returning for another year of learning. Their joyful faces were a reminder of the excitement and hope that surround the start of another academic year.

As we begin each 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 our theme for the 2025-2026 school year.

Shining our light, building a community of saints.

This theme is taken from Matthew 5:16, "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." We hope that it serves as a daily reminder to students, faculty, staff, and parents of our call to share the message of the Gospel through our words and actions. It presents an opportunity for us to invite and encourage the students to be ever more thoughtful in their interactions, so that through kindness and encouragement of one another, we will continue to grow as a community of faith. Indeed, there is no greater call and no greater mission than to lift up one another as we strive to grow in holiness. Our very name proclaims our mission, that all may be saints!

Last week I shared with the faculty and staff my hopes for this new year. Recognizing the number of new faculty, staff, and students in our school, I believe it is essential that we create a "culture of belonging". In this day and age when so many young people in our society are struggling with feelings of isolation and loneliness, it is more important than ever for us to foster an environment in which every student in our school believes that they are seen, known, valued, and supported each day. The research is consistent – students who feel that they belong are students who learn. Although I believe this is already a strength of our school, we will be leaning further into this idea with even greater intentionality this year.

Secondly, we will continue to foster a “culture of excellence” in all things. As previously announced, this year we are re-adopting the Sadlier Math program and implementing some innovative co-teaching models in 5th grade and the middle school. In addition to this, we will be using the data from our standardized testing program, i.e. NWEA Map, in an even more targeted manner to set goals for our students. I look forward to sharing updates related to these efforts in the month ahead.

Meanwhile, in the area of literacy, we are now starting the second year of implementation of the McGraw-Hill Reading Program. Although the series is still new for us, we have seen some gains and teachers have already shared best practices in an effort to accelerate the learning this year. In both math and reading, our number one goal is for all students to demonstrate “high growth” over the course of this academic year.

Last week our entire faculty and staff participated in two days of professional development that included a review of our mission, the vision for the year, ACTIV shooter training provided by Manassas City Police and Fire/Rescue, team-building activities, and de-escalation strategies. As the second day of training wrapped up and groups of teachers and staff worked diligently to solve a “team building challenge”, anyone who happened to walk into the Parish Activities Center at that moment would never have guessed that there were so many new faculty/staff members. Instead, I think they would have noted the strong team cohesion and purpose-driven action displayed by the entire group. I am so proud of our faculty and staff for their dedication, for the ways that they are supporting one another, and for their commitment to creating the best learning environment possible for our students.

Indeed, our team is ready and excited to launch this new year. We are delighted that you have chosen All Saints and look forward to partnering with you in the formation of your children each step of the way.

Wishing you blessings as we start anew!

Shining our light, building a community of saints.



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

All school families are cordially invited to attend the **20th 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 I

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 2025-2026 school year, All Saints will complete the Year of Faith (Theme: Service).

Virtue for the Month of September: Faith

Definition: Believing in God and all He has revealed

Saints of the Month: St. Martha (PK-2), St. Jerome (Grades 3-5), St. Augustine (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 29. 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 (2025-2026 Edition) (Grade K-8)

The 2025-2026 Parent-Student Handbook can be accessed electronically via our website and may be found at the following link:

[Handbook 2025-2026
Acknowledgment Form](#)

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 29.

New Parent Coffee (September 9)

All new parents, including those who joined our school last year, are invited to attend “Coffee with the Principal” on Tuesday, September 9 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 Ms. 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. Diana Neri, our parish and school 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. Neri for more information at virtus@allsaintsva.org.

Upcoming Events

Friday, 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 Mass – Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (8:30 a.m.)
Blessing of the School & Classrooms (9:30 a.m.)
Fire Drill – First Drill of the Year/Announced (1:30 p.m.)
PTO Sponsored Back-to-School Barbecue (5:30 p.m.)

Monday, August 25

Opening of the School Year Assembly (8:30 a.m.)
First Day of Pre-Kindergarten (Noon Dismissal for First Week)

Tuesday, August 26

Pre-Kindergarten Noon Dismissal

Wednesday, August 27

Pre-Kindergarten Noon Dismissal

Thursday, August 28

Lockdown Drill (9:00 a.m.)
Pre-Kindergarten Noon Dismissal

Friday, August 29

School Mass – Memorial: Passion of St. John the Baptist (8:30 a.m.)
SchoolMessenger Test Message (10:30 a.m.)
Pre-Kindergarten Noon Dismissal

Due Date: Parent-Student Handbook Forms

Monday, September 1

Holiday (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 2

Band Demonstration of Instruments (Grades 4-5)

Wednesday, September 3

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

Thursday, September 4

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

Friday, September 5

School Mass (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 8

Standardized Testing (NWEA MAP) Begins

Confessions – Grade 8 (9:15 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 9

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

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

Wednesday, September 10

Spirit Wear Day

Confessions – Grade 7 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 11

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

Friday, September 12

School Mass – Most Holy Name of Mary (8:30 a.m.)

Monday, September 15

Confessions – Grade 6 (9:15 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 16

Band Lessons Begin

Wednesday, September 17

Confessions – Grade 5 (9:15 a.m.)

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

Thursday, September 18

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

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

Friday, September 19

School Mass – St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr (8:30 a.m.)