

From the Principal's Desk

May 14, 2020

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Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds / Igniting Hearts
2019 / 2020

"What you do for the least among you, you do for Jesus"

Moving Quickly Through the Month of May

We are certainly moving quickly through the month of May! Personally, I had been hopeful that our area would move into Phase I of reopening this week, but will patiently wait another two weeks. I think the turn of the weather to warmer temperatures will assist with being patient.

As we move to the end of the academic year, I hear often from neighbors, in the news media, etc. that this has been a "trying" time - and I think folks are correct, but for Holy Spirit I prefer to think of the "trying" in a positive way. Teachers have been "trying" new methods of providing instruction; students have been "trying" (very successfully) to adapt to learning online; parents and guardians have been "trying" to identify new and novel ways to keep children engaged in the learning. All the way around, everyone should give themselves a huge pat on the back as we continue moving forward.

The pacing of the days through the month of May also brings questions about what the academic term 2020/2021 will look like. I wish at this point that I had all of the answers for everyone, but that is not possible at this time. What I can tell you is that Holy Spirit School will be here and will be ready for whatever the new year looks like.

We have been and will continue to receive direction from the Governor of

the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as from the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Arlington (who works closely with the Virginia Council for Private Education). We will certainly be looking and studying what the surrounding Counties are doing, but will be making decisions and preparing plans that are best suited to our unique community.

I put together weeks ago a committee of faculty members whose task is to brainstorm and discuss ideas as to how we will not just approach the academic teaching but how we may have to change/adapt many of the basic procedures for the school from arrival and dismissal to recess and lunch to Mass attendance to general movement in the hallways, etc. Additionally, I have and will continue to engage stakeholders in our school community as we put together our plans in order to receive feedback. Please note that there has been no specific guidance at this time as to numbers of students in a classroom at a given time and the impact that may have on scheduling.

Of paramount concern to me and the faculty is the delivery of instruction. Having been thrown into a situation/reality that we were not best positioned for, I have to applaud the efforts of the teachers, students, and families for, as the saying goes, making lemonade out of lemons. I am hugely cognizant that not everything has gone smoothly for all families and that the learning curve for some faculty members in terms of effectively using technology was greater than for others.

With that being said, as we prepare for next year, we are looking at multiple scenarios which include both school beginning in the physical building in August and school beginning online. We are also thinking in terms of scenarios that involve students being in and out of the building for various periods of time especially through the Fall and into the Winter. With the possibility of that happening, we are keenly aware of the need for there to be more seamless transitions between school and home.

To that end, Mrs. Evans and I have met with Father O'Donohue, the Parish Business Manager, and the school's IT vendor, Manus Dei to discuss the acquisition of additional devices (iPads and Chromebooks) such that we will have a device available for each student to take home for use during periods of distance learning thus making it possible (while working within the framework and policies outlined by the Diocese) to provide increased synchronous or "live" teaching with the caveat that having a student on a device live with a teacher for 4/5 hours a day will not happen.

Just making a device available to a student though does not rectify all of the challenges of distance learning. The faculty committee has been and will be spending time on identifying effective professional development for the teachers to provide not just practical tools but also information on how we change our mindset and some of our current pedagogy as we look to truly move to a blended learning approach that effectively incorporates the developmentally appropriate use of technology for students while maintaining effective traditional methods of teaching and learning. We are also cognizant that the training needs to extend to parents/guardians such that you are armed with the knowledge necessary to help guide your children during times of distance learning. In this vein, we are also discussing the platform(s) that may be used for delivery of instruction, i.e. PowerLearning, Google Classroom, etc.

As you intuitively know, this is all taking time and is being done as quickly as we can prudently move while also taking care of all of the daily learning and important events that are scheduled to take place between now and the end of this academic year.

Ultimately, there is a significant financial investment in order to "make" all of this work. Father O'Donohue and I are acutely aware of the financial sacrifices that families make in order to have their children attend Holy Spirit School. To that end, due to the continued dedication that families have had to making timely tuition payments, we have been able to keep all eligible school employees "employed" and paid during this period of time. With the continued support of the parish all of the ongoing bills of the school (utilities, cleaning company, etc.) are paid on time and the expenses associated with additional teaching resources and online platforms that have been necessary during these past couple of months have been met; for example, the subscription and licensing for the Zoom for Education platform was an approximate \$4000.00 expense and as we look to sending devices home with students there are costs outside of the acquisition that pertain to management and security.

We are constantly looking at and running the financial numbers for the school. We do not foresee a change to the publicized tuition rates although we have spoken about a nominal increase in the technology fee in order to help cover a portion of the cost of what will be needed. A decision about that will be made and articulated to families prior to start of the new school year.

I know that this has been long and yet, in no way is answering all of the questions that everyone has. If nothing else, please know that as not just an educational institution, but as a partner in the faith formation of your children, we are looking forward to what really can be an exciting and adventurous new path. I cannot diminish my gratitude for your support of Holy Spirit and the trust that you have put in us.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the weeks to come as we wrap up the year and move into the days of returning materials. (It will be kind of like daily morning car line!)

We will receive final guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools as to whether report cards will be electronic or mailed home and will relay that to you. It is important that students continue to complete assignments and turn them in to their teachers. Progress of learning is the benchmark that has been reiterated to the principals during our regular meetings with OCS.

Thank you for all you are doing and for your continued support of Holy Spirit School.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Our Virtual Field Day continues through
Friday, May 15th!

Please remember to submit your pictures
and scorecard to Ms. Gregas.

Who will win - Spirit or Flames?



What? *Optional* Field Day activities for our kids.
Join the fun if it works for your family!



Where? In your own home or yard, of course!



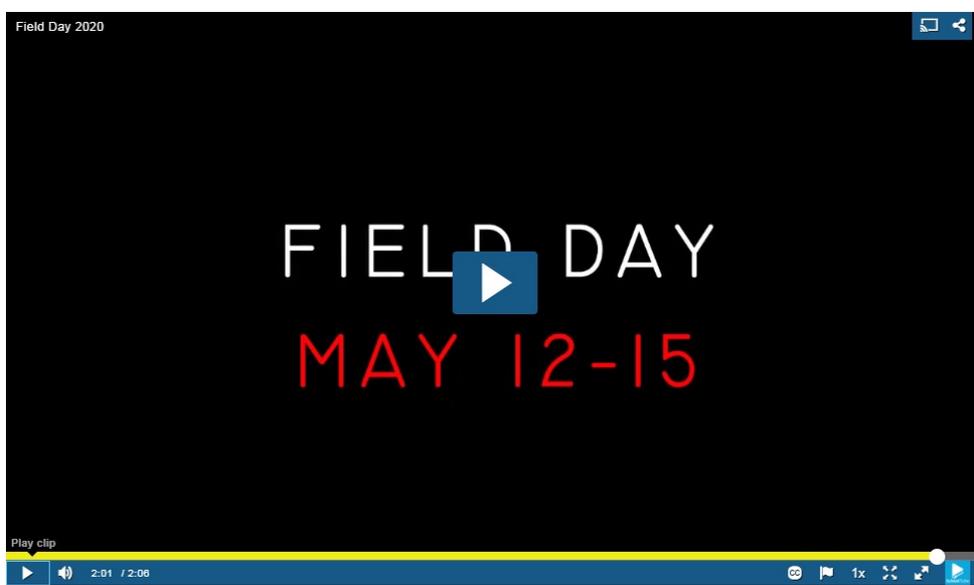
When? It's flexible -
Runs Tuesday, May 12 to Friday May 15



How? On May 12th, visit your child's
PE/Health page on PowerSchool Learning for
details and to learn how to participate. .



Questions? Email Coach G at
jgregas@holyspiritflames.org



[Field Day Preview!](#)

**The Virtual 5K begins tomorrow -
Friday, May 15th!**

**Join us on Facebook Live as Father
O'Donohue "begins" our race with a
prayer and then watch as he sets off on
his run!**

**T-shirt pick-up for registered runners will be out in
front of the school using a drive-up method on
Friday, May 15th from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon and
again from 4:00 - 6:00 pm**

Holy Spirit *VIRTUAL* 5K Spirit Run!

May 15-30, 2020

What you do for the **LEAST**



among you, You do for **JESUS.**



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

You choose when & where you
want to run or walk the 5K!

www.holyspiritflames.org



Holy Spirit Virtual Art Show 2020



When: Monday May 18th-Friday May 22nd
Where to view: Visit your child's Power
learning page for Art and social media.



Epic! At home access - Free until June 30, 2020.

Go to <https://www.getepic.com/> to learn how to access Epic! For free.

After June 30th, families can continue having access to Epic! At home for \$7.99 a month.

Epic! Is an award-winning subscription service, which gives millions of families and classrooms instant, unlimited access to thousands of books, videos, and quizzes from leading publishers to help kids everywhere read, learn, and grow.

Students at Holy Spirit School have access to Epic during school hours through the school library's PowerLearning page or through their teacher's Epic account.

It's right around the corner!

*Lunch
on the
Lawn*



May 27, 2020

We hope you "join" us for lunch as we continue this annual tradition even though we are apart.

Find a sunny spot at your home, spread out your blanket, and enjoy lunch together as a family.

Send us your pictures so we can celebrate together!



Holy Spirit School's Annual Talent VIRTUAL Showcase



When: May 22, 2020

Where: Your Living Room
Time: 6 pm

The PTO is proud to present the First Ever Virtual Talent Showcase !! We will be broadcasting the show through ZOOM. Bring the meal of your choice and make it a Dinner Theatre

This year will include Surprise Judges!!

Here is how it will work:

A Signup Genius will be going live Friday April 24th. Everyone who attended the Live Signups will be already added to the signup. There will be spaces for new acts. These are open to students, families,

On May 1st the Signup Genius will close

Each performer will receive a Dropbox link from Joe Terpenning to upload the video of their performance. The upload deadline is May 11th. Prior to show day, an email will be sent with the Zoom login information for the show day and time.

This will be a first ever in the history of Holy Spirit and we need everyone's help to make this interactive experience a great one. This is YOUR CHANCE to show off your talent and cinematography skills!!

Any questions, or if you need technical assistance with videos, please email Joe Terpenning (jterpenning@infinitech.org)



[Click here to access the Sign-Up Genius to be included in the evening's acts!](#)

Calendar Dates of Note

Friday, April 25 - Screenagers - 6:30 pm
Friday, May 1 - INTERIMS
Friday, May 1 - Screenagers - Next Chapters - 6:30 pm
Wednesday, May 6 - Teacher Appreciation Day - more to come from the PTO
Monday, May 11 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Tuesday, May 12 - Friday, May 15 - Virtual Field Day
Wednesday, May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Service
Saturday, May 16 - Virtual 5K Spirit Race
Monday, May 18 - Friday, May 22 - Virtual Art Show
Friday, May 22 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Friday, May 22 - Virtual Talent Show
Monday, May 25 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS/TEACHERS
Wednesday, May 27 - "Lunch on the Lawn"
Friday, May 29 - LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS TO TURN IN ACADEMIC WORK
Friday, May 29 - Parent Portal Closes
Tuesday, June 2 - 8th GRADE CAR CELEBRATION - 1:00 PM - all are invited! (8th graders ONLY will return books)
Wednesday, June 3 - 6th & 7th grade book return - 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, June 3 - 8TH GRADE GRADUATION
Thursday, June 4 - 3rd-5th grade book return 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Friday, June 5 - PK - 2nd grade book return 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Monday, June 8 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Prayer Assembly
Tuesday, June 9 - Teacher workday
Wednesday, June 10 - Teacher workday

This is a working copy, please note there may be additions as we move along.

[Printable Copy of Calendar Dates of Note](#)



UNIFORM SHOPPING WITH FLYNN O'HARA

SUMMER 2020



COMMITTED TO QUALITY SINCE 1972

FlynnO'Hara Uniforms was founded in 1972, with 15 customers and a mission to provide the highest quality garments coupled with exceptional customer service to schools and students across the United States. We've remained family-owned-and-operated since our start, a mentality that impacts every facet of how we run our business. 46 years later, although we've grown from 15 schools to over 1500, our mission remains the same.

GETTING STARTED

To view your school's uniform requirements or place an order, visit us online at www.flynnohara.com. Enter your state and the name of your school to get started! Our website is also the best place to find the FlynnO'Hara store that supports your school, to learn about our School Year Product Guarantee, to find information on returns & exchanges, and so much more.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

STAY CONNECTED

Information, especially now, is constantly changing. Stay up-to-date on the latest back-to-school uniform information by opting into our emails, or following us on social! This is where we'll be communicating COVID-19-related safety updates, sharing at-home resources, announcing discounts, etc. We promise we won't overwhelm your inbox! We're just sending the important stuff, focused on making back-to-school shopping as safe and easy as possible this year.

OPT INTO OUR EMAILS

Follow Us:



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Give us a call at (800) 441-4122 or email us:
atyourservice@flynnohara.com

FLYNNOHARA.COM

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UNIFORMS