

From the Principal's Desk

September 19, 2019

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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"

Just a few upcoming events...

We have much going on over the next several weeks here at school, please be sure to be checking the school calendar.

Tomorrow we will participate in the annual national Pinwheels for Peace event. Each child in the school has made a pinwheel which depicts their thoughts in either words or pictures of what peace looks like to them. We will display all of the pinwheels in the front hallway - please be sure to stop in to take a look.

A reminder that Monday, September 23rd is a 12 noon dismissal day at the conclusion of our visit with Bishop Burbidge. For those who use the upper lot during dismissal, please be in the lot by 12:05 pm as that is when the chains will go up. Vanpool will be dismissed about 12:08 pm and the lower lot car line will be dismissed at 12:15 pm. Any student not picked up by 12:25/12:30 will be sent to Extended Day as the faculty and staff have a planned luncheon with Bishop. Certainly everyone is invited to celebrate the 9:00 am Mass with us. **All students should be in their dress school uniform regardless of whether they usually have P.E. on Mondays.**

Please note that there will be a funeral and reception taking place during our dismissal time on Monday. We will do our best to get everyone into the lower lot and out in a timely manner. Thank you, in advance, for your patience and understanding.

Fall Yearbook pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 24th. Order forms

went home previously with your children. Again, **all students should be in their dress uniform regardless of whether they usually have P.E. on Tuesdays.**

Wednesday evening, September 25th will be the information session for parents of middle school students regarding the Human Growth and Sexuality class presented here at Holy Spirit. Please see the block below for information and the opt-in form.

Friday, September 27th is an early dismissal (11:30 am) day for teacher professional development. Extended Day will be open.

Sunday, September 29th is the Diocesan Mass for Disabilities hosted here at Holy Spirit Church. The Mass time is 10:30 am and it would be wonderful to see as many of our school families as possible present to support our students who will be participating.

For those needing to attend a Virtus seminar as part of your Child Protection Compliancy, a seminar will be held here at Holy Spirit on Wednesday, October 2nd beginning at 6:00 pm. Be sure to register by visiting www.virtus.org and creating an account.

The school auction is right around the corner on November 2nd. If you haven't yet purchased your tickets, please visit the school website and click on the *Back to the 80s Auction* tab. This is sure to be a wonderful event and I cannot thank enough all of the volunteers who are pulling this together led by Mrs. Kendall Holbrook and Ms. Mary Pat Bonner.

Thank you for all you do to support your children and our school!

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Important Middle School Information

Annually, students in grades 6-8 are provided the opportunity to participate in a Diocesan recognized program on Human Growth and Sexuality. The program is a total of three one-hour presentations which are done by grade level and in single sex environments. The program is presented by persons outside of the Holy Spirit School teaching faculty.

The program is an opt-in program requiring parents to sign and return a consent form prior to the first day of the program.

A parent information session with the presenters, Mr. Kevin Bohli (Youth Director for the Diocese) and Ms. Carmen Briceno, will be held on Wednesday evening, September 25th at 7:00 pm in the school library.

I encourage parents to attend as the curriculum is presented and an opportunity for

questions is provided.

If you would like your child to participate you must sign and return the attached permission form by October 1st at the latest.

Middle School Human Growth Opt-in Form 2019



2019 Book Fair October 11th - October 18th

The Book Fair is an opportunity to purchase books and other educational items for you and your children. It will be open in the school library Friday, October 11th from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Sunday, October 13th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. If you can't make it to the actual Book Fair,

SHOP ONLINE ALL YEAR LONG

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/holyspiritflames>

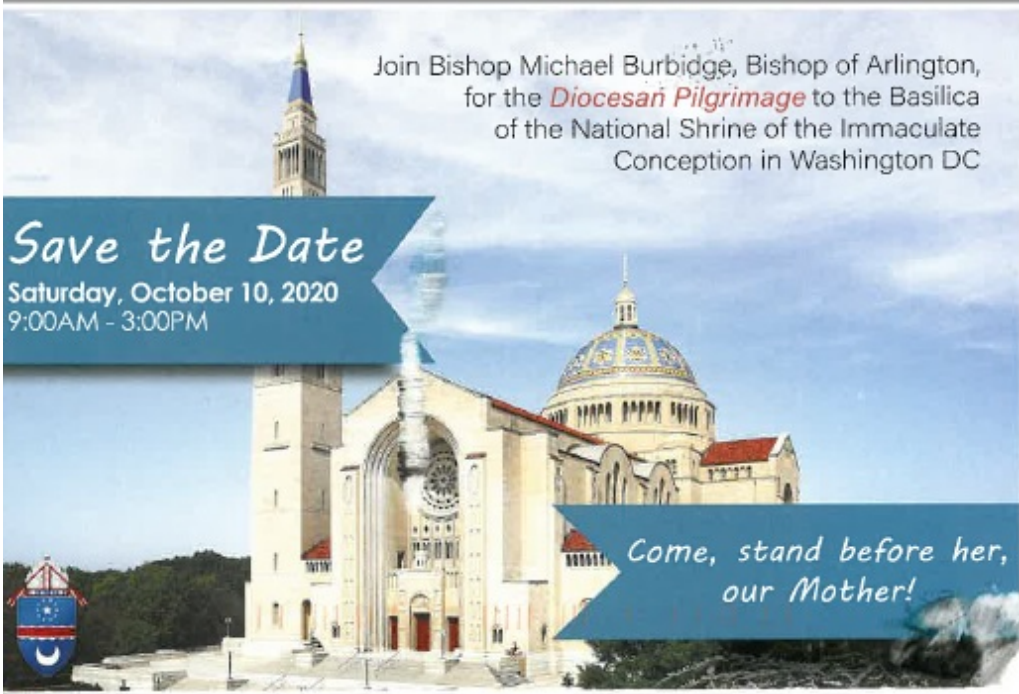
The Book Fair is a great time to shop early for Christmas and to encourage your children to read! 25% of each purchase comes back to the school library. Parents are welcome to shop anytime the Book Fair is open.

Classes will visit for a thirty-minute session during the week. Students may bring money or make a "wish list" during their visit. Individual students may return to the Book Fair to make additional purchases with the permission of the teacher.

Also, teachers will have selected books that they can use in their classroom and will have placed them in a "wish basket" located in the library. These will be available for purchase through Thursday if you would like to give your child's teacher a gift for the classroom.

Book Fair Volunteers are still needed. Setup will be Thursday, October 10th after morning drop off from 8:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. 1 to 2 hour or more periods of time for volunteering are available during the week and for break down Friday, October 18th at 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. If you can help, sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4ca4aa2aa31-holy1>






Join Bishop Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington,
for the *Diocesan Pilgrimage* to the Basilica
of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception in Washington DC

Save the Date

Saturday, October 10, 2020
9:00AM - 3:00PM



*Come, stand before her,
our Mother!*

The Catholic Church Supports School Choice Public Policy – And So Should You



Catholic social teaching is clear on the shared responsibility of parents' rights over the education of their children and government aid to support that parental right – the very essence of school choice public policies.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "Parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own personal convictions. This right is fundamental," and "public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and ensuring concrete conditions for its exercise." (CCC #2229)

The 1965 Vatican II Declaration on Christian Education, "*Gravissimum Educationis*," rededicated the Church to the rights of parents and children in education. Among these enumerated rights include parents roles as their children's first educators and therefore their right to

choose an education for their children that fits their conscience – with assistance from the state:

"Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the public power, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children." (GE 20)

Furthermore, Vatican II reinforced the duty of the state to not impose a public monopoly on schooling, but allow for schools to adopt diverse education models and pedagogical approaches, as long as they have

some measure of accountability. The guiding doctrine of *subsidiarity* is very similar to American *federalism*, as it asserts that the smallest, least centralized authority should handle all public concerns.

"[The state] must always keep in mind the principle of subsidiarity so that there is no kind of school monopoly, for this is opposed to the native rights of the human person, to the development and spread of culture, to the peaceful association of citizens and to the pluralism that exists today in ever so many societies." (GE 21)

America is such a pluralistic society, with public schools, non-religious and religious private schools, online education, blended learning, and even customizable education models. But parents are still fighting for their right to choose an education option for their children with the tax dollars they pay into the state public education system for their children's use.

School choice, also called education choice or most accurate, parental choice in education, refers to public policies that allow families to choose the best learning option for their children regardless of race, income, background or zip code. Policies that promote education choice most often have at least one of four distinct funding and delivery mechanisms: vouchers, tax credit scholarships, individual tax credit deductions, or education savings accounts.

- **Vouchers:** a portion of the state funding allocated for the child's public education is given to the family to use as a voucher for private education options.
- **Tax Credit Scholarships:** individuals and/or corporations give donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGO) nonprofits in return for state tax credits. The SGOs then give families scholarships to attend private education options.
- **Individual Tax Credit Deductions:** families receive income tax relief for their approved education expenses, which can include private school tuition, textbooks, tutors, supplies, etc.
- **Education Savings Accounts (ESA):** families



receive a portion of their child's state education funding into a government authorized "savings" account that they can use toward a variety of approved education expenses, including private school tuition, online learning, tutoring, AP classes, textbooks, etc. Some ESAs even allow for combination courses with public and private schools and unused-funds-rollover for college tuition.

Today over 500,000 students across America in 29 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico are enjoying state supported school choice. Catholic Education Partners' data show that about 40 percent of all students on school choice programs choose to attend Catholic schools with their portion of state education funding.

In partnership with the NCEA and USCCB, Catholic Education Partners is dedicated to serving the Catholic community by advancing policies - like school choice - that empower families and children to enjoy the benefits of a Catholic education. But we need the Catholic community across the country to respond by supporting their home state policies that reinforce the mission of the Catholic Church in education; making sure the Church is fulfilling the Vatican II declaration to reclaim the right of families to "enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools."

Contributed by Brittany Vessely, executive director, Catholic Education Partners

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The Knights of Columbus are generously donating the proceeds from this breakfast to our school.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

*Hosted
by the*



Sunday

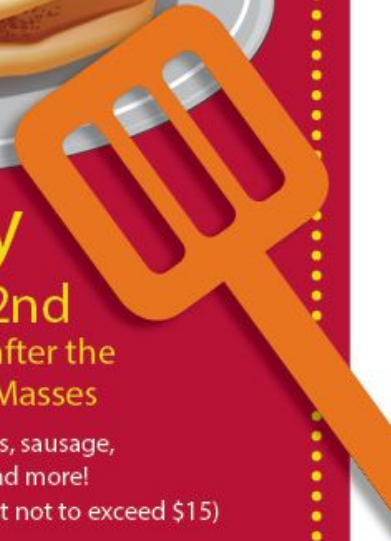
September 22nd

In the school cafeteria after the
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 am Masses

Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage,
fruit, orange juice, coffee, and more!

Adults \$5 & Children \$3 (family total cost not to exceed \$15)

**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church



Register

to

VOTE

Here!

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS

assisting with

**Virginia Voter Registration
& Absentee Ballots**

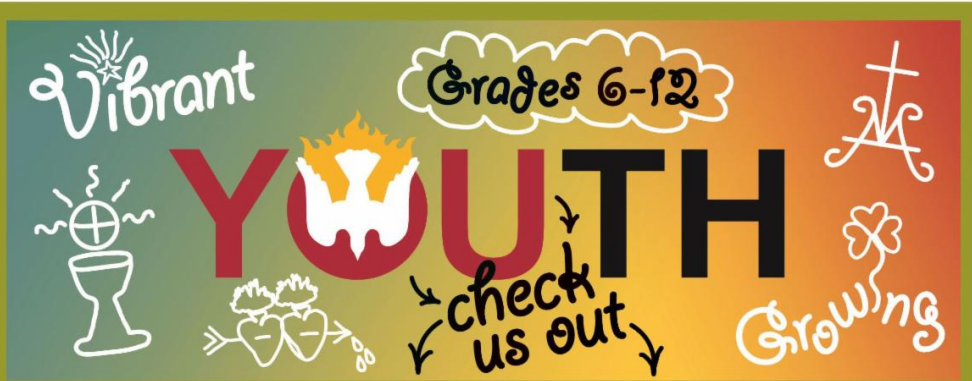
Before & After
Weekend Masses

September 14-15 | September 21-22
September 28-29 | October 5-6



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®**





Middle School Kick Off!
Sept 20 7:30-9:30pm
Grades 6-8

All middle schoolers are invited to join us for our Kick Off meeting in the Holy Spirit school building! We will have a crazy fun game, pizza and a chance to meet new friends!

**Come and wear clothes
you can run in!**

High School Kick Off!
Sept 22 7-9pm
Grades 9-12

All High Schoolers are invited to join us for our Kick Off Meeting! We will have Chipotle, a crazy game and a chance to meet other high schoolers from your area!

**Come join us and be prepared to do
some running around!**

Register Online at www.holyspiritchurch.us/youth

WHAT
SHE
SAW
CHANGED
EVERYTHING



UNPLANNED

UNPLANNED.COM • #UNPLANNED •    @UNPLANNED

COME AND SEE WHAT SHE SAW.



Showing at Holy Spirit Parish in the Gym

OCTOBER 5, 2019

Start Time: 7:00 PM

www.holyspiritchurch.us/movienight



Join Us for Our Parish



All are invited!

and Screen
ON THE GREEN

On the grass between the church and school. In school gym if raining.

See parish website to sign up for side dishes.
www.HolySpiritChurch/pigroast

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Dinner 6:45 & Movie 7:15 pm

HOLY
SPIRIT
Catholic Church

Holy Spirit NVJCYO

Information and registration:
HolySpiritChurch.us/Youth

**Winter
Sports**

Basketball

Cheerleading

**Grades
3-8**

"Sports contribute to the love of life, teaches sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human person."

-St. John Paul II



**Teams Forming
Register Today!**



Coaches Needed!

Interested in coaching?

Contact CYO@holyspirtchurch.us



BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Prospective families! Please join us for a presentation at 1pm in Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton High School followed by tours around the school.

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2019
1-4 PM**

**BISHOP IRETON
HIGH SCHOOL
201 CAMBRIDGE RD.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**

To RSVP or for more information,
visit bishopireton.org/openhouse.



PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL will be hosting our annual OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH FROM 1 TO 4PM at the Fairfax Campus.

Group presentations will take place at 1:15 and 2:15 in Father Heet Auditorium. This is a perfect opportunity for 6th, 7th and 8th graders and their families to explore the benefits of a Catholic high school education. Visit www.paulvi.net or ehanley@pvipanther.net for additional information about PVI.

Current 8th graders are encouraged to set up a PANTHER FOR A DAY experience by emailing gfarello@pvipanther.net.

Middle School students and their families are invited to Middle School Night Under the Lights at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. Join us at 6:00PM on Friday, October 4th for pizza, tee shirts, games and tons of prizes. All are invited to join the VI Man cheering on our Panther varsity football team. Free to all and no reservations are needed.

Email: ehanley@pvipanther.net with questions.



Open House at Bishop O'Connell - October 13, 1:00-4:00. Presentation begins at 1:00. You and your family are invited to see a presentation, meet our faculty and coaches, and tour through our building.

Youth Football Day at Bishop O'Connell - September 21, at 1:30 pm. Students K-8 who register in advance will receive free admission to the game and an O'Connell water bottle.



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "September 19, 2019 "(or [CLICK HERE](#)). For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

School Flyers:

1. Book Fair flyer
2. NCEA Parent Newsletter
3. Middle School Human Growth & Sexuality Opt-in Form

Parish Flyers:

1. CYO Winter Sports Sign-ups
2. Parish Pancake Breakfast flyer
3. Voter Registration flyer
6. Youth Ministry Kick-off flyer
7. Parish Pig Roast flyer
8. Unplanned flyer

Community Flyers:

1. Bishop Ireton Open House
