



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Inspiring Minds | Igniting Hearts

Mrs. Maureen Ashby,
Principal

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Dear Parents,

What a couple of weeks it has been! I for one am finished with snow and even more so with cold weather. We have, at this point, used seven full snow days (and several 2-hour delays) which impacts our finish date in June. Please note the following changes to the school calendar:

Thursday, April 2nd (Holy Thursday) will now be a full day of school; no afternoon extended day.

Friday, May 8th will now be a full day of school.

Friday, May 22nd will now be a full day of school; no afternoon extended day.

8th grade exams are moved to the week of June 1st.

The 8th grade class trip is moved to Monday, June 8th.

8th grade graduation is moved to June 10th.

6th & 7th grade exams are moved to the week of June 8th.

Kindergarten completion ceremony is moved to Friday, June 12th.

The last day for preschool is Friday, June 12th.

The last day for grades 1-8 is Tuesday, June 16th and this is a full day of school; no afternoon extended day.

Hopefully each family with students in grades 3-8 has been able to sign-in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you encounter any problems, please contact Mrs. Laclède. This is a wonderful tool for students and parents to help keep track of assignments and grades. The teachers will be keeping their gradebooks up to date but please keep in mind that tests and projects take longer to grade.

Congratulations to the 7th & 8th graders who finally had the opportunity to compete in our local science fair. I give a huge amount of credit to each of these students who spent much time and effort completing their independent project and for the wonderful job that each did in defending their work to the fair judges.

The chess club winter session began on Monday, February 23rd. If the sign-up for this club slipped your mind, the flyer will all of the information is available on the website under the February 27 Family Folder.

The Spring Talent Show and Basket Raffle is quickly approaching. I hope that every family will consider attending and supporting this fun event on March 21st. Please look for important information under the Family Folder on the website.



A blue ribbon school of excellence that enjoys state of the art facilities and a beautiful private campus located on 15 acres within easy access of the National Capital Beltway. Providing an education of eternal significance in Northern Virginia for half a century.

As you make appointments in the coming months, please keep in mind that the week of April 20th will be Terra Nova standardized testing for grades 3-7. The 5th and 8th graders will complete the ACRE standardized test as well. The Office of Catholic Schools has made the decision to no longer require standardized testing for the students in the second grade. The decision is based on studies and information which questions the validity of standardized tests being administered to such a young age group. Additionally, it is felt that the current math and language arts programs have comprehensive assessment pieces embedded into them which give teachers sufficient information for instructional alignment.

Congratulations to those students in the 8th grade class who applied and were accepted to the four Diocesan high schools. Holy Spirit students posted a 100% acceptance rate to the Diocesan schools. I am very proud of their accomplishment and congratulate as well the families and teachers for this wonderful achievement.

Please note that registrations for new families are well underway. If you have not either completed your registration or advised the school of your intent to not return, we would ask that you do so as soon as possible so that we may fill all open slots.

Please be sure to regularly check the Family Folder tab on the website as we post flyers and announcements with activities/news from outside groups that may be of interest to your family. Additionally, we post all flyers that come home as hard copies in your folder.

Blessings always,

Maureen Ashby
Principal