

From the Principal's Desk

January 16, 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"

An Update on Our Self-Study

I thought I would take a moment to update our families on the self-study process through which the school faculty is progressing this academic year. Overall, we are on track and making strides toward completing the formal document that is presented to the Design for Excellence Self Study Visiting Team. In addition, and the most time consuming part, is collecting all of the "evidence" to prove what we say we've done over the past five years and to show that we meet the expectations of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

There are four domains that encompass all facets of the running of the school which are studied. These are Mission and Catholic Identity; Governance and Leadership; Academic Excellence; and Operational Vitality. As you might imagine everything from teacher credentials, to finances, to curriculum, to ancillary programs, to facilities, and everything in between are studied and reviewed.

The Visiting Team will be present on campus from March 31st to April 3rd. At that time, the members of the team will review the provided documentation, visit classrooms, and speak with various stakeholders in the school community. We are still waiting to be told who the members of that team will be but the make-up of any given team includes eight members and will have representation from both within and outside of the Diocese.

At the end of their visit, the Visiting Team will provide Father O'Donohue and me a document which validates and expands on the findings we ourselves made over the

year. They will provide enhancements to the goals we are setting for ourselves and offer their recommendation on the question of renewing the accreditation of the school. All of the goals and recommendations will assist us in completing a strategic plan for the next five years.

I am thankful to the faculty and staff for the hours and hours and hours that they are putting into this process. I would ask that you continue to pray for us and that the fruits of our labors be prosperous!

A few reminders....

If you would like to purchase a yearbook, please take a look at the flyer that is attached below as the deadline for ordering is fast approaching.

Registration materials for the 2020/2021 academic year went home last week and are due back by January 22nd. Timely return of those materials is much appreciated as we have already begun accepting new students.

Families seeking tuition assistance for the upcoming academic year, note that you must complete a FACTS application in order to be considered for aide. The deadline for filing an application is March 18, 2020 for families with only elementary-age students. An overview of the tuition assistance programs for the Diocese is included in the Family Folder Flyers section below.

Monday, January 20th is a no school day in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

Friday, January 24th is the annual March for Life. This is a full day of school but I highly encourage you to participate as families in order to be a voice for the unborn. For students missing school to attend the March, this is considered an excused absence. If you will be attending as a family, please be sure to let your child's homeroom teacher know as well as sending an email to: attendance@holyspiritflames.org. The Holy Spirit Parish will have buses going to the March; the sign-up to reserve spots is available via the church website.

Interims for the second trimester will go home on Friday, January 31st.

Catholic Schools Week will round out the month of January for us. Below is the schedule of events for us, as well as information regarding our service project for the week - Pennies for Parties. Please take a look and help us celebrate all that is great about Catholic education and Holy Spirit School.

We will have an Open House for prospective families on Sunday, January 26th from 1 - 2:30 pm. If you know of families who may be interested in our school, please let them know!

Information regarding Grandparents Day on February 14th is below, as well.

And, right around the corner will be the annual 5K Spirit Run to benefit the Resource Department! The race will be held at Lake Accotink on May 16th. Preparations have begun including the t-shirt design contest. Please see the information below and encourage your students to participate!

Have a terrific long weekend.

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 26th!

Help us celebrate all the great things about
Holy Spirit!



Schedule of Events 2020

Sunday, January 26

- 9:00 Parish Mass
 - Please join us in celebrating Mass with the Holy Spirit parish community. Students are encouraged to show their school pride by wearing their uniform.
- Open House for prospective families from 1:00 – 2:30pm in the school.

Monday, January 27

- “Parent Appreciation Day”
- Look for your parent “thank you” in the morning carpool line.
- Prayer Service – 8:30am

Tuesday, January 28

- “Service Day”
- Students will put together “birthday parties in a box” which will be donated to a local shelter/food pantry (please see attached information on our “Pennies for Parties” small change drive)

Wednesday, January 29

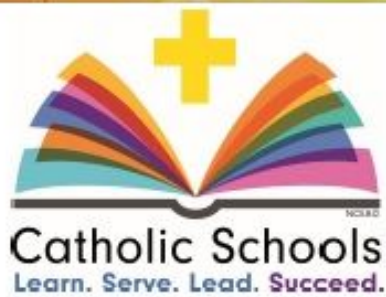
- “Faculty and Staff Appreciation” Day
- PTO luncheon for the faculty/staff
- This is a great opportunity for your student(s) to write a note of appreciation to their teacher(s).

Thursday, January 30

- “Student Appreciation” Day
- Dress-down day (follow school policy for dress-down days)
- All school movie/popcorn in the afternoon

Friday, January 31

- “Clergy Appreciation Day”
- 9:00am School Mass
- Students will honor not only the work that Father O’Donohue, Father Peter, Father Carroll, Deacon LaDuca, Deacon Grodek and Deacon D’Souza do within the school and parish community, but also the efforts of those involved with the parish Religious Education office and youth ministry.



**"Pennies for Parties"
(Birthday in a Box)**

Help make birthdays happier for children in the community.

Each homeroom will decorate two large cake boxes – one for a girl and one for a boy – to help community families provide a special day for their children. Inside each box will be everything needed for a birthday party: cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, candles, plates, cups, napkins, and party favors.

Our students will make a special birthday banner for each box, as well as other birthday drawings.

The boxes will be donated to the House of Mercy and will be distributed to those who may not have the means to provide a party for their children.

What are we asking of Holy Spirit students?

In order to purchase all of the fun birthday supplies, donations of loose change and small bills will be collected in each homeroom from January 13 – January 22. Small bins will be placed in each homeroom for donations.

We hope to collect enough to provide forty (40) birthday boxes.

"Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children." - Unknown



February 14th
is

GRANDPARENT'S DAY at Holy Spirit School!

9:00 AM Mass followed by classroom visits

Students come to school at the normal time. Grandparents join them for 9:00 AM Mass. Grandparents meet grandchildren in the school between 8:30 and 8:45AM for the walk to church. After Mass, Grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren in the classrooms for refreshments and some enjoyable activities.

Students without Grandparents available are encouraged to 'adopt' a grandparent for the morning. This could be a friend or neighbor. Please send us a note if such an arrangement is being made



**Time for sign-ups for Winter Chess and
Coding Clubs!**

Holy Spirit Winter Chess and Coding Clubs



Chess Club is taught by experienced Silver Knights instructors using a curriculum developed by National Masters. Each weekly session is a mix of learning and play. Playing chess is a great way to develop a child's critical thinking skills, sportsmanship, and patience — all while having fun!

Chess Club Details:

- ◆ All grades and skill levels welcome.
- ◆ Dates: Club meets every Monday that school is in session starting on 1/27 and ending on 5/18.
- ◆ Time: 3:20-4:20 PM
- ◆ Club located at Holy Spirit
- ◆ All equipment provided.
- ◆ Club will not meet on 2/3, 2/17, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11.
- ◆ A make-up day, if necessary, will be on 6/1.
- ◆ Tuition: \$180 for 12 weeks.



Digital Animation: Art and Adventure In this unit, kids will create their own art, animations and adventures by using all of the Scratch 3 digital tools to make fractured fairy tales, choose-your-own adventure stories, and quiz games. Use the Silver Knights Curriculum to learn how to code and then take it to the next level with art and animated add-ons, avatars and end credits. What's your story?

Coding Club Details:

- ◆ Grades 2 & up — only 18 spots available!
- ◆ Dates: Club meets every Thursday that school is in session starting on 1/16 and ending on 3/5.
- ◆ Time: 3:20-4:20 PM
- ◆ Club located at Holy Spirit
- ◆ All computers and equipment provided.
- ◆ A make-up day, if necessary, will be on 3/12.
- ◆ Tuition: \$180 for 8 weeks.

TO REGISTER, VISIT: www.skenrichment.com

To request scholarships or financial aid, please visit our website.

Questions? Email: Info@skenrichment.com or call: 703.574.2070



All proceeds will go to support efforts to protect the unborn.

Saturday, January 18th

Holy Spirit School Cafeteria

Doors Open 6 PM | Games Begin 7 PM

Admission

- (Includes Book of 3 Cards)
All proceeds will go to support efforts to protect the unborn.
- Players 12 Years and Older: \$5
 - Players Under 12 Years: \$3
 - Extra Cards \$1
 - Free for children under 5 years who are not playing.

Snacks Sold

- Pizza • Hot Dogs
- Nachos • Soft Drinks

Prizes

- Cash Bingo Prizes
 - Additional prizes for other games
- All children will receive a prize.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church

For information, contact knights@holyspirtchurch.us.

Event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Holy Spirit Council. Don't miss it!

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Council Free Throw Competition



Sunday, January 19th

7:30 PM

School Gym

A free competition for boys and girls, ages 9-14! Each contestant competes by shooting free throws. Winners in each category receive a plaque and are advanced to District competition! All contestants receive a certificate.

For more information,

knights@holyspurchurch.us

**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church

47th Annual

March for Life

Friday, January 24th



Join us for Breakfast from 6:00 - 10:30 AM
in the School Cafeteria,
followed by a special Mass at 10:15 AM,
then travel with us to the March.

Busses will leave Holy Spirit at 11:00 AM and return around 4:30 PM.

Our Lady
of Guadalupe,
pray for us!



**HOLY
SPIRIT**
Catholic Church

To reserve a bus seat, go to www.holyspirtchurch.us/marchforlife
Sign up is first come, first serve. Breakfast is \$5/person.

THAT MAN IS YOU!

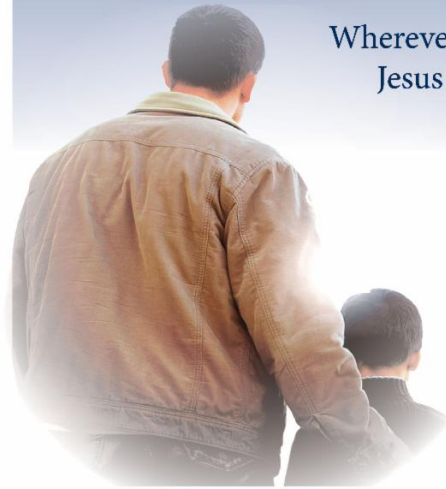
BECOME A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Saturday Mornings
Spring Session: February 1st-May 2nd
7:00 - 8:30 AM
In the *Quinn Room*, School Building

For more information, contact
Deacon Nick LaDuca at denladuca@holyspirtchurch.us
www.holyspirtchurch.us

Wherever you are in your spiritual life,
Jesus Christ wants to encounter
you right there...

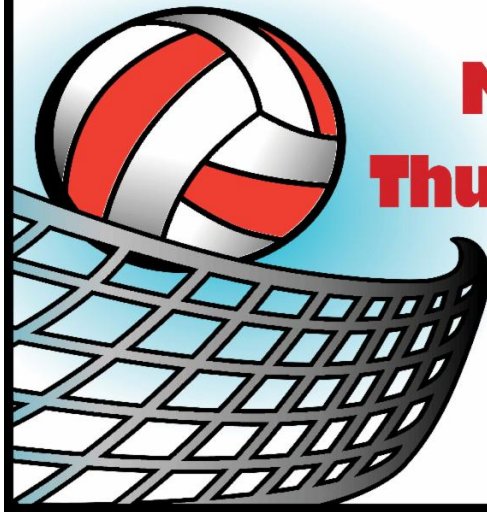
and take you further.



www.thatmanisyou.org

HOLY
SPIRIT
Catholic Church

Adult Volleyball Nights



Monday 8-9:30pm

Thursday 9-10:30pm

School Gym

Invite your friends!



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled "January 16, 2020 "(or [CLICK HERE](#)). For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

School Flyers:

1. Yearbook Ordering flyer
2. Winter Chess and Coding Club sign-ups flyer
3. Catholic Schools Week schedule of activities - flyer
4. Pennies for Parties - Catholic Schools Week - flyer
5. Grandparent's Day - flyer
6. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Overview
7. 7th & 8th Grade Dance at St. Ambrose - flyer
8. 7th & 8th Grade Dance Emergency Form

Parish Flyers:

1. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition flyer
2. March for Life flyer

3. BINGO flyer
4. That Man is You! flyer

Community Flyers:

