

From the Principal's Desk

January 9, 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"

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone enjoyed the two week break from the school routine - I know in our house, we definitely felt as though it was time much needed and well appreciated.

As we have experienced already this week, January is a time for inclement weather. Please remember that we follow FCPS for inclement weather closings. As was shown on Wednesday morning, it is prudent to double check the status of school closures even when announcements are made the night prior.

Additionally, please be sure that your student is coming to school with appropriate winter outerwear; we try as much as possible to have students outside, especially for lunch recess. As long as it is above freezing temperatures (and accounting for wind chill factors), we go outside.

January also brings with it the registration period for the upcoming academic year. Please look to receive registration information from your child (youngest or only) this afternoon. The packet includes a letter explaining the tuition increase, a page showing the tuition for the 2020/2021 academic year, and a Registration Form. Registration materials are due back by January 22nd.

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.

Please note that we have begun accepting applications for new students already, so being timely with the return of your information is important. For current families who will have siblings joining us as new students next year, complete the school application and contact Mrs. Laclede for her to review. This is particularly important for incoming prekindergarten and kindergarten students so that a spot is saved.

A reminder that Monday, January 13th is an early release day so that the faculty may continue work on the DFE self-study process. Extended Day will be open. All students attending Extended Day must have a lunch.

The winter session of Scantron testing begins next week, January 13th. The next Spirit Gear Day is Wednesday, January 15th.

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

Friday, March 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. Again this year, we will be taking our 8th grade students to the Life is Very Good Rally at George Mason University and then downtown to the March. This is a wonderful opportunity for our newly Confirmed students to evangelize our Faith.

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 information regarding our service project for the week - Pennies for Parties. Please look for information regarding the rest of our celebration activities next week.

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.

Enjoy the warm weather this weekend!

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

**Catholic Schools Week begins
Sunday, January 26th!**



**"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.

Look for our full list of Catholic Schools Week activities in the coming weeks.

"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.
- ◆ All equipment provided.
- ◆ Dates: Club meets every Monday that school is in session starting on 1/27 and ending on 5/18.
- ◆ Club will not meet on 2/3, 2/17, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11.
- ◆ Time: 3:20-4:20 PM
- ◆ A make-up day, if necessary, will be on 6/1.
- ◆ Club located at Holy Spirit
- ◆ 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!
- ◆ All computers and equipment provided.
- ◆ Dates: Club meets every Thursday that school is in session starting on 1/16 and ending on 3/5.
- ◆ A make-up day, if necessary, will be on 3/12.
- ◆ Time: 3:20-4:20 PM
- ◆ Tuition: \$180 for 8 weeks.
- ◆ Club located at Holy Spirit

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



Saturday, January 11th

6:45 AM - 11:45 AM

**INOVA Blood Donor Services
Holy Spirit School**

Make your lifesaving appointment today!

Contact:

• Dick Cecka (703) 978-8435
or giveblood@holyspiritchurch.us

• Chris Cecka (703) 250-2122
or cmcecka@yahoo.com

Photo ID required. Allow one hour for donor visit.
Double up! Donate on ALYX.



All High School teens are invited to join us for our annual

Epiphany Party!

Jan 12, 2020 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Guys bring something Savory - Girls bring something Sweet

Bring a friend too! Why not share the FUN!!!

- Christmas Photo Booth,
- Tacky Sweater Contest,
- Gingerbread House Contest,
- LOTS of Food, Prizes,
- Messy Christmas Games,
- Competitive Christmas Games!



YOUTH
MINISTRY

www.holyspirtchurch.us/epiphanyparty

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@holyspirtchurch.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.



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!



Family Folder Flyers

The following flyers can be found on the website in the folder labeled

"January 9, 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. Pennies for Parties - Catholic Schools Week - flyer
4. Grandparent's Day - flyer
5. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Overview

Parish Flyers:

1. Blood Drive flyer
2. Epiphany Party flyer
3. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition flyer
4. March for Life flyer
5. BINGO flyer

Community Flyers:
