



August 3, 2023



**Holy Spirit School**  
***Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts***  
**2023/2024**  
**"Faithfulness"**

## Here We Go!

Wow! Where have the weeks of Summer gone?

It is hard to believe in just the blink of an eye we will gather back together and begin the 2023/2024 academic year. I pray you are enjoying the time away from school and that you and your children are ready to embrace the new school year and all the excitement that it holds. We welcome back our returning Holy Spirit families and all those who are new to our community – we look forward to getting to know everyone.

The faculty has chosen the theme of "Faithfulness" as we continue to highlight the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to continuing to provide opportunities for the students both in and out of the classrooms to live the Catholic Faith and to grow in their service to others.

We have a couple of new teaching assignments for the year. Mrs. Cheryl Lencz is taking on the challenge of new curriculum by moving into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Mrs. Kalyani Rathod is taking her skills to a different floor of the building and joining the Middle School Department as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher and math instructor. Mrs. Jenny Mouton is launching her teacher career as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. And Ms. Caroline Cahill will be concentrating on using her degree in Special Education by being a part of the Resource Department.

We also have new faculty and staff members with us this year. In the primary grades the

following folks are joining us: Mrs. Mary Wilkinson as a prekindergarten aide; Mrs. Sherry Paulson in Kindergarten along with her new aide Mrs. Elizabeth Ortiz; Mrs. Shannon Long in 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Ms. Claire Sague in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Ms. Christina d'Alelio in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; and Mrs. Dannielle Billeaud in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Jean Black returns to Holy Spirit in the Middle School as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher with teaching responsibilities in Language Arts and Religion. Mrs. Aneliz Sipe joins us as the School Counselor.

If, by chance, your student has not completed his/her summer work, now would be great time to be sure students are on track to have everything finished as most everything is due either the first day or first week of school.

If you have a rising kindergartener or are a new family to the school, all required medical forms must be returned as soon as possible. School law prohibits school attendance without the required documentation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Forrer, School Nurse at [sforrer@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:sforrer@holyspiritflames.org).

If you are interested in either Morning Care or Extended Day, the registration document is available on the website, you may send that in now and you will be billed the registration fee via FACTS.

Paperwork needed for the start of the school year will be available for pickup during the August 23rd Meet Your Teacher events. I know it is a quick turn-around, but please return all forms on Thursday, August 24th.

On August 17th at 6:00 pm the NEW family social sponsored by the PTO will be held on the lawn out in front of the school. We invite all new families (parents and children) to join us.

That night, the PTO is also sponsoring the food truck, Jay's Eats; see the PTO section of the newsletter for details.

On August 23rd there will be an opportunity to meet the teachers, find out homeroom assignments and take a peek at the classrooms. Arrival times are split up to give students a bit more time to really see their teacher. Families with last names from A-M are invited to come by the school between 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Families with last names from N-Z are invited between 1:00-2:00 pm. We look forward to seeing all of you then and ask that you please not come to school for an extra early sneak peek as the teachers and administrators will be very busy with meetings and classroom set-up.

For **Grades 1-8** Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> is an 11:30 am dismissal; Friday is a full day. No School lunches will be provided on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

School begins at 8:00 am. Please make every effort to begin the good habit of arriving on time. Drop off begins at 7:40 am; I will see you in the parking lot! Teachers will meet the students outside and escort them to their classrooms. Parents are asked to say their goodbyes as they drop their children off in the carline. (If you want to park and watch from the upper lot after you drop off your children you are welcome to.) Please refer to the handbook that will be posted on the school website for complete directions on arrival and pickup procedures. During the first week of school the vanpool slots for last year will be used with the EXCEPTION of kindergarteners who are now first graders. These students will be dismissed with the regular carpool unless they are in a group vanpool that used a non-kindergarten slot. Applications for vanpool slots will be sent home in the beginning of the year packet.

A **kindergarten parent meeting** (no students) is scheduled for Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Kindergartners' first day will be Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 – 11:30 am (with no afternoon Extended Day for them this first day).

The **prekindergarten parent meeting** (no students) is at 9:30 am on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The prekindergarten orientation for the students and parents is on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Students with last names beginning A through L are asked to come from 9:00 – 9:45 am and students with last names beginning with M through Z are asked to come from 10:00 – 10:45 am. Classes begin for prekindergarten on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>; this is a full day for all PreK students except for those who are registered as half-day students.

**Morning Care** will be open at 7:00 am on the first day of school. Morning care is located in the cafeteria. Families should park in the rear of the building and access the cafeteria via the back doors. Grade levels may begin using Morning Care on the following dates:

Grades 1-8 – may begin using Morning Care on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Kindergarten – may begin using Morning Care on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>  
PreKindergarten – may begin using Morning Care on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

**Afternoon Extended Care** for all grades will begin in the cafeteria. Grade levels may begin using Afternoon Extended Care on the following dates:

Grades 1-8 – may begin using Extended Day on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Kindergarten – may begin using Extended Day on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>  
PreKindergarten – may begin using Extended Day on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon Extended Day is closed completely on Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> due to the early dismissal prior to the Labor Day weekend.

There is NO school for students on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) and Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (Teacher Professional Development).

Information regarding the calendar, supplies and reading lists can all be found on the webpage [www.holyspiritflames.org](http://www.holyspiritflames.org).

I am looking forward to the start of the new school year. Thank you for allowing us to be a partner in the education of your children.

Printable Copy of the Beginning of the Year  
Information



**Substitute Teachers Needed**

**Are you interested in being on the Substitute Teacher list?  
Contact Mrs. Evans for information and paperwork**

[nevans@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:nevans@holyspiritflames.org)

**Thank you!**

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## **Headphone/Earbuds**

All Holy Spirit students will need a personal set of headphones/earbuds throughout the year for use in the computer lab and with the Chromebooks and iPads.

For health purposes we are requesting that all students provide their own headphones/earbuds.

Parents may choose the device based on comfort for your child. Please though do not purchase overly expensive equipment. Earphones/earbuds should be brought the first day of school in a clear plastic Ziploc bag with the student's name clearly written on the bag.

\*Note that the better choice for the younger students is headphones as the earbuds do not tend to fit correctly and fall out.

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For those seeking to make use of Morning Care and/or Extended Day, you may access the information regarding rates and the registration sheet below.

[\*\*Extended Day Rates for  
2023/2024\*\*](#)

[\*\*Extended Day Registration Form  
2023/2024\*\*](#)

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School Nurse: Mrs. Sheilia Forrer

Contact: [sforrer@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:sforrer@holyspiritflames.org)

\*A reminder that all medical forms and immunizations updates are due by August 1, 2023

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Thank you to everyone who attended the info session on the Dyslexic Edge After-School Program!

If you were unable to attend but you are still interested in the program, please email the Executive Director, Krista Gauthier, at [krista@sdsquared.org](mailto:krista@sdsquared.org) to set up a time to learn more. You can also visit <https://www.sdsquared.org/> to learn more.





IXL, as a company, has updated the identifying letters and numbers for the various math skills. As your child completes the Summer homework, look to the title of the skill to find it in the grade level that your child just completed (NOT the grade he/she is going into this coming academic year).

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Holy Spirit School

Summer 2023

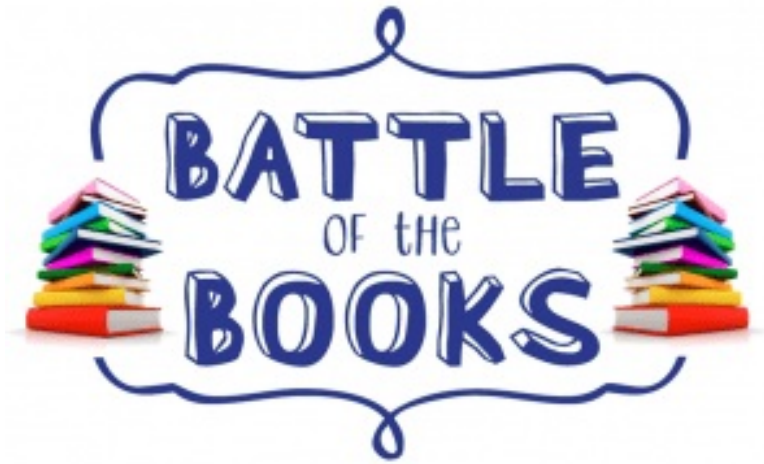
Reading List

Reading is fundamental to learning. It increases your vocabulary, enriches your mind, and stretches your imagination. Recognizing these factors, Holy Spirit School requires all students entering grades K-8 to complete a summer reading program. In addition to these required texts, we have included a list of optional selections and recommended read-aloud books, which we also encourage you to read. The books are available in paperback at local bookstores, libraries, and on-line. This brochure is also located on the School's website at [www.holyspiritflames.org](http://www.holyspiritflames.org) under the "Happening at Holy Spirit" section on the front page of the website.

Summer Reading List 2023

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Click here for the complete supply list



An Invitation to All Rising 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th Graders  
To Read with the Battle of the Books Club 2023-2024

When: TBD  
Where: TBD

All rising 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th graders are welcome to become members of Holy Spirit's Battle of the Books Club and attend meetings during the school year. You will need to submit signed permission form and have read the scheduled book. (You will receive the permission form in August when you return to school.)

To help you prepare for becoming a team member, we have included the reading list for the Battle. We will read twelve (12) books over the course of the year. Take good notes and be ready to ask questions. We hope you like these books as much as we do!

\*\*This is not a substitute for the required Summer reading for each class.

Battle of the Books 23/24 Book List!



**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
2023-2024 SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDERING INFORMATION

**Although the school "sale" has ended, you can still order through EPI!  
Go to the same website and use the same school code or search for our  
school by zip code!**

**[www.EducationalProducts.com/ShopPacks](http://www.EducationalProducts.com/ShopPacks)**

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-Maureen Ashby

**Principal**

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Holy Spirit School PTO



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Connect 1 is the mobile app that the PTO/school uses to track required family volunteer hours and to advertise volunteer opportunities. Each person who intends to volunteer on behalf of a household must be registered.

Please remember that you must be fully compliant with the Child Protection policies of the Diocese in order to perform recess duty and to volunteer in activities where students are present.

***Upcoming Events:***

***Next PTO Meeting: August 15th, 6:30 pm.*** This meeting can be found at the following link (more information to follow):

[https://holyspiritflames.zoom.us/j/87077053723?](https://holyspiritflames.zoom.us/j/87077053723?pwd=SkJiMEdsWHcvKzdVZC9qN09GdlgrZz09)

[pwd=SkJiMEdsWHcvKzdVZC9qN09GdlgrZz09](https://holyspiritflames.zoom.us/j/87077053723?pwd=SkJiMEdsWHcvKzdVZC9qN09GdlgrZz09)

Meeting ID: 821 0184 5095      Passcode: 896019

***Connect1:***

If you need more assistance with Connect 1 you can either contact Tom Fields at [PTOPSSC@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOPSSC@holyspiritflames.org) or visit <https://app.connect1.io/volunteers/gmgujg6pp>

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# Save the Date

**What: New Family Social**

**When: Thursday, August 17th at 6:00**

**Where: On the Holy Spirit front lawn**

**Details:**

**Please come to Holy Spirit on August 17th to meet other new members of the Holy Spirit community and to hear from our school administration. Bring a picnic blanket/chairs and plan to eat dinner. We will have a food truck on site, Jay Eats, available for picnic or takeout orders, and/or feel free to pack a dinner from home. Food Truck ordering details and pre-order link to follow!**

**Post dinner popsicles will be provided!**

**Any questions can be directed to  
[ptonewfamilycoordinator@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:ptonewfamilycoordinator@holyspiritflames.org)  
(Anne Marie Chartrand and Katie Corwin)**

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# **ATTENTION New Families!**

## **Holy Spirit Used Uniform Sales x4**



Come and support the PTO as you score some gently used Holy Spirit items for the 2023/2024 school year!



Be on the LOOKOUT for FOUR Upcoming Sale Dates!

We will piggyback the New Family Social on August 17 from 5:00-7:30, the Meet your Teacher Event from 10:30-2:30, and the Volunteer Fair in September TBD.

There will also be two sales held during mid-fall and early spring to aide in preparation for upcoming seasonal uniform switches.

Where: Holy Spirit School – Quinn Room

Cost: \$5 per item (\$1 for socks/tights)

How to Pay: Cash or Check (made out to the Holy Spirit PTO)

**ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE HELP STOCK the SALES ON AN ON-GOING BASIS!!!  
DONATE ANY USED UNIFORMS, SCHOOL SHOES, OR SPIRIT WEAR THAT ARE NO  
LONGER NEEDED TO THE OFFICE.**

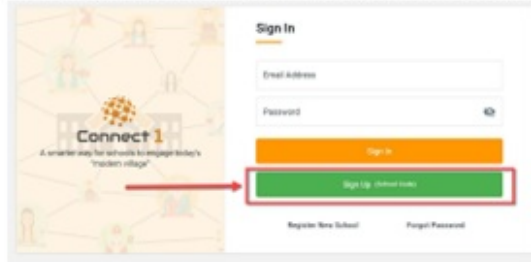
**Support these PTO Fundraisers While Getting a Great Deal!**

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# Registering for Connect 1 at Holy Spirit School

How to sign up for an account on Connect1:

1. On your computer, go to <https://app.connect1.io>
2. Click the green bar that says "Sign up (School Code)".



3. Enter your email address. Enter our school code, which is L41VP6.  
*(Are you both a teacher and a parent at the school? You'll need to set up two accounts. One using your "holyspiritflames.org" email account for your role as a teacher, and your personal one for your role as a parent!)*
4. This will open a new page where you enter your name, role and password. For Role, select "Parent/Community Member". *(Unless you are a teacher creating your account with your "holyspiritflames.org" account. In that case, please select "Faculty/School Employee".)* Click Submit when you are done.
5. A new page opens. A Confirmation Code will be sent to your email. Copy that confirmation code and paste it into this page. Click Confirm.
6. This brings you back to the Sign In page. Enter your email address and newly created password to open the app.

Click here for a printable copy of the instructions

## PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - [PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org)

Vice President - **Vacant** - [PTOVp@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVp@holyspiritflames.org)

Treasurer - **Vacant** - [PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org)

Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - [PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org)

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt - [PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org)

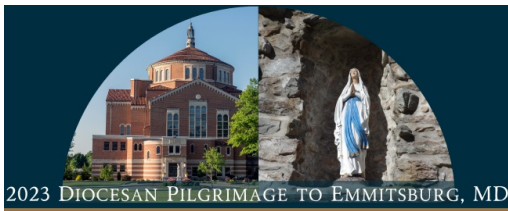
Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - [PTOVpDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOVpDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org)

Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - [PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org](mailto:PTOHomeroomCoordinator@holyspiritflames.org)

## Volunteering

Please remember that you must be fully compliant with the Child Protection policies of the Diocese in order to perform recess duty and to volunteer for activities where students are present.

# Parish Happenings!




2023 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO EMMITSBURG, MD

Join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes  
**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

<b>NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON</b> 9 a.m. Presentation on Mother Seton and veneration of her relics 9:45 a.m. Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge 10:30 a.m. Visit Mother Seton museum and gift shop	12 p.m. Outdoor picnic lunch at the Seton Shrine or Mount Saint Mary's Seminary (Limited restaurant options available, visitors encouraged to pack bag lunch. Note: transportation between locations not provided.)
	<b>NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES</b> 1:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and recitation of the Holy Rosary 3:30 p.m. Depart

For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pilgrimage-emmitsburg/>  
or scan the QR code



**50**  
YEARS OF SERVICE

Mass for  
**MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES**  
*"My soul rejoices in the Lord."*

**Friday, August 25, 2023 | Mass at 7:00PM**  
6:15PM - Prelude & Marian Procession

**Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge**  
Bishop of Arlington, Main Celebrant & Homilist

After Mass: Reception featuring cultural food and performances to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome!

**Nativity Catholic Church**  
6400 Nativity Ln., Burke, VA 22015

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/mcm-mass2023](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/mcm-mass2023) · (703) 841-3881 · [mcm@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:mcm@arlingtondiocese.org)

# Community Happenings!



## FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "August 3, 2023" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family  
Folder

### School Flyers:

1. Beginning of the Year Letter
2. School Supply List for 2023/2024
3. Summer Reading List
4. Battle of the Books 23/24 Reading List
5. Connect 1 Registration Instructions
6. Extended Day Rates for 2023/2024
7. Extended Day Registration Form for 2023/2024

### Parish Flyers:

1. Diocesan Pilgrimage to Emmitsburg
2. Mass for Multicultural Communities

### Community Flyers:

