

From the Principal's Desk



January 25, 2024



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

Catholic Schools Week!



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday. I hope that you will continue to remind your children what a wonderful gift their Catholic education is in their lives both now and in the future.

The annual Book Fair benefiting our school library begins on Sunday, February 4th. See the flyer below.

Our annual Grandparents Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, February 9th. Information is on the flyer below. Please take a moment to RSVP if your children will have guests with them. It is important for planning purposes for food that we know how many people will be in attendance.

Remember that Monday, February 12th is a no school day. This is the reward for meeting the Boosterthon fundraising goal.

The season of Lent begins on February 14th. We will go to Mass on Ash Wednesday at 10:15am.

The next PTO Spirit Gear day is Thursday, February 15th.

Friday, February 16th is a no school day for students. It is a professional development day for the faculty.

Monday, February 19th is a no school day for the President's Day holiday.

The parent portal will close on March 1st and the 2nd trimester ends on March 7th.



Did you create your own Holy Moment this week? Did YOU try your best at an activity that YOU do not like? The examples we set for our children have long-lasting effects. We should teach them now that we do not have to be "good" at everything, but instead have a growth mindset where maybe we are not "good" YET at something in particular. It can change so much in terms of the pressure that children feel to outperform and to excel in all areas. Our children should not expect us to be perfect; show yours that you are still learning too.



Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday!



Schedule of Events 2024

Sunday, January 28

- Beginning of Catholic Schools Week.
- Wear your uniform to Sunday Mass to show your school pride.

Monday, January 29

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

Tuesday, January 30

- **"Student Appreciation" Day**
- Dress-down day (follow school policy for dress-down days)
- Spelling Bee finals in the Quinn rm.
 - 9:15 6,7,8
 - 10:15 3&4
 - 11:15 1&2
- Students will have movie/popcorn in the afternoon in the gym at 1:15

Wednesday, January 31

- **"Faculty and Staff Appreciation" Day**
- **8:30 – 9:15 Ned Mindset Mission Assembly** (for students)
- PTO lunch for the faculty.
- This is a great opportunity for your student(s) to write a note of appreciation to their teacher(s).

Thursday, February 1

- **"Service Day"**
- Students will create cards for Letters of Love
- Each prayer partner pair will create a card and a friendship bracelet to send to children with cancer.
- Parent volunteers needed look for the signup in Connect1.

Friday, February 2

- "Clergy Appreciation Day"
 - 9:00am School Mass
 - Students will honor not only the work that Father O'Donohue, Father Willard, Fr. Agure, 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 and youth ministry.
-

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

Be true to your
SHELF

Visit our Book Fair in
the school library!!

**BEST.
DAY.
EVER.**

Sunday, February 4th - Friday, February 9th

Hours:

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (Evening Hours)

Friday (Grandparents Day) 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

25% of all proceeds go to the school library



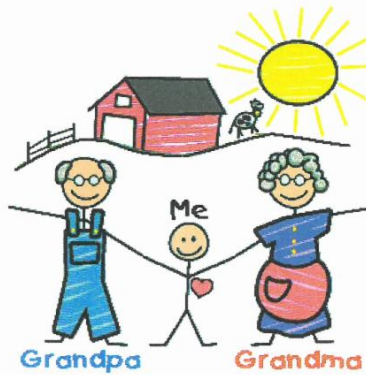
Click below to sign-up in Connect1 and see class schedules

Payments accepted: Cash, check, credit card, and E-Wallet (click below to set-up an E-Wallet. Unused eWallet funds will convert to an eGift card balance within 24 hours. Families can use the eGift card to shop online in The Scholastic Store. Or the remaining balance can fund a new eWallet for a future Fair.)

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/holyspiritschool11>

RSVPs Needed by January 31st!!

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



February 9th
is
GRANDPARENTS DAY at Holy Spirit School!

9:00 AM Mass (in the church) followed by a reception

RSVP needed by January 31, 2024 - use the link below

Grandparents and their grandchildren should arrive together in time for the 9:00 am Mass and go directly to the church.

Any student who will not have a guest that day should arrive at school at regular time and those students will attend Mass with their homeroom.

After Mass all grandparents and their grandchildren are invited to attend a reception in the gymnasium where we will have a breakfast "treat" and a planned activity.

Grandparents and grandchildren will also have the opportunity to attend the Book Fair in the library, if that is something they would like to do.

[RSVP for Grandparents Day](#)



It is time to get up off that couch and get ready for the 5K Spirit Run benefitting our Resource Department!!

2024 5K Spirit Run

Can you help us?

For many years, Holy Spirit Catholic School has been supporting all types of learners through our Resource Program and Expanded Services at Holy Spirit School. We currently support over 50 students who have mild to moderate disabilities and who need resource assistance in the areas of ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and other special needs. We continually adapt to help meet the individual needs of our students so they can achieve social and academic success in inclusive classrooms. Our Resource Team includes four resource teachers, a full-time reading specialist, a full and part-time paraprofessional, and a full-time counselor!

To make inclusive Catholic education accessible, the additional costs required for licensed special education professionals, continuous professional development for our staff, and classroom materials are covered primarily by grants and fundraisers. We host a 5K Spirit Run each year to raise funds, build community, and raise awareness.

The 2024 5K Spirit Run will be held in the Holy Spirit Parish neighborhood on May 18, 2024. We are writing to ask for your support and sponsorship for our 5K. Monetary donations will help cover the cost of the race, allowing the profits from race registration to directly support Holy Spirit's Resource Program, enabling children with special needs to receive a Catholic education. Please see the reverse of this letter for sponsorship levels and other ways you can help us make inclusive education possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Gibbons, Race Director
sgibbons@holyspiritflames.org

Race Sponsorship Information

Holy Spirit School's **5K T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!**



Designs must include:

“Holy Spirit School 5k Spirit Run
2024”

Theme: **Faithfulness**

Only **2** colors (including black)

Your **name** and grade on the **back**
of your design

Must be on 8.5 x 11 paper



**Be creative and
have fun!**

**Must be submitted to the office or to Mrs. Gibbons
by Febuary 14th**



Board Game Club is coming to Holy Spirit!

Attention 3rd & 4th grade students,
Come play fun board games with friends and
Miss Cahill and Mrs. Marino!

When: February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27
Time: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 14

The club will meet every Wednesdays from February 21 to March 27. Students may bring a favorite board game or use the available club board games. Parents, please send in a healthy snack for your child to eat.

Please note: Room 14 is a Nut Free zone.

We will only be able to accept 20 students into this club. Since there are limited spots, we ask that you let us know if your child no longer wishes to participate so we may offer the spot to a child on the waiting list. To sign up please go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COC48A5AC2DAOF58-44160070-board>

If you have any questions please contact us by email (ccahill@holyspiritflames.org or orgjmarino@holyspiritflames.org)

Board Game Club Sign-Up



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith. January 2024
Holy Spirit School

Thoughtful Moments

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
Born at Troyes, France in 1620, St. Marguerite desired early on to become a missionary. A friend introduced her to the mayor of Ville Marie (now Montreal, Canada) and, at his invitation, St. Marguerite traveled to Canada to teach the children of the colony. She was later joined by several women - all consecrated to God and devoted to teaching and Works of Mercy. In 1676, she gained approval for her order, the Congregation of Notre-Dame de Montreal.



Fishers of Men

Some of the first apostles were fishermen working in the Sea of Galilee. The fish there were known for their quality and commanded a high price. Next time you eat fresh fish, remember Peter and Simon, James and John, the hard-working fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Shape children's hearts with virtues

A key element of Catholic parenting is to shape the hearts of our children, not just manage their behavior. One way to shape a child's heart is to offer opportunities to grow in virtue.
Modesty: "Modesty protects the intimate center of a person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden" (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2521). Modesty awakens in youngsters a respect for the human person. Teach them to dress, speak, and take in entertainment that is wholesome, uplifting, and respectful of themselves and others.
Faithfulness: When children see that their parents are faithful to one another, for example, they intuit that

faithfulness or fidelity means to act in a way that honors a commitment. Children may not always hear what we say, but they are influenced by what they see us do.
Meekness/Meekness is not timidity. It fuels self-control. St. Thomas Aquinas cautioned against expressing physical anger because it makes anger out-sized. Guide and model how to use meekness to manage anger. Meekness will help prevent evil from ruining actions.
Charity: "If I...have not love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). Charity is giving love without an expectation of receiving in return. Teach children to put others' needs first. They will find that as they grow in charity, they will be happier and more joy-filled.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

As a Sacrament, Baptism conveys grace and the "washing away" of sin and the "rebirth" of the baptized as a child of God. It starts us on the surest path to salvation: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will

Why do Catholics have infants baptized?

be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Catholic parents, desiring the best for their children, baptize them as infants, believing it will give them the best chance of true joy in this life and eternal life in the next.



-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Upcoming PTO Events

Friday, February 2nd

Holy Spirit Sponsored Movie Night 6:30pm in the gym
See flier below for additional information.

Sunday, February 4th – Friday, February 9th

Scholastic Book Fair – 25% of all sales go toward the school library
See Volunteer Opportunities to help out.

Tuesday, February 13th

Talent Show Auditions 3:15pm – 5:00pm Quinn Room
See Volunteer Opportunities to help out and flier for performance audition sign up.

Tuesday, February 20th

PTO Meeting 6:30 – 7:30pm via [Zoom](#)
Meeting ID: 895 9844 5225 Passcode: 268985
See Volunteer Opportunities below for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities (1 point/30 mins volunteered)

[Spring Fundraiser - Show Trainee and Dinner Trainee](#) (20 PSSC points each) Virtus Certification is NOT required

The Spring Fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, April 13th** in the gym and we are in need of volunteers to support the planning process to make it a success! The 2024 Show Trainee and Dinner Trainee will support the planning and preparation for the big event and will ideally be the Show Chairman and Dinner Chairman in 2025. These positions will have a superstar showing you the ropes with 16 years of experience running the show on his own! Our very own Joe Terpenning will be retiring this will be his final year with us. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn the ropes before his departure. See the flier below for additional details.

Questions? Contact Joe Terpenning Jterpenning@infinitetech.org

[Scholastic Book Fair](#)

The annual Scholastic book fair will run from **Saturday, February 4th – Friday, February 9th** in the school

library and volunteers are needed throughout the week beginning February 1st for setup, assisting students during the event and breakdown. See [Connect1](#) to signup.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Coney econey@holyspiritflames.org

Talent Show Audition Volunteers

Volunteers are needed on **Tuesday, February 13th from 3pm-5pm** to help out with Talent Show auditions. Students will preview their acts in front of coordinators to review timing, stage needs, and appropriateness. Volunteers are needed for crowd control, registration, and content review. See [Connect1](#) to signup.

Questions? Contact Joe Terpenning jterpenning@infinitetech.org

February PTO Meeting

Join us via [Zoom](#) on **February 20th at 6:30pm** and hear from your PTO president, Mrs. Ploschke, your principal, Mrs. Ashby, and various committees about what is going on at Holy Spirit School this year. Have an idea to share? Want to provide feedback on something? This is a great opportunity for all families to share your thoughts, stay up to date and connect with other parents and the PTO board. Connect1 sign up will be posted soon. For meeting details and to earn PSSC points for attending, please be sure to sign up.

Questions? Contact Kristyn Poreba PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Talent Show & Dance Event Night Volunteers

There are many job opportunities for anyone who would like to contribute supplies or help out on the day of the show. Check out [Connect1](#) for all opportunities available.

Questions? Contact Joe Terpenning jterpenning@infinitetech.org

Recess Duty

Volunteers are still needed for the remainder of the school year for recess duty. Families who have completed their required commitment of one day are eligible for four PSSC points for each additional day served. See [Connect1](#) to view available slots and other details.

Questions? Contact Amy Mannion PTORecessduty@holyspiritflames.org

Reminders

In order to volunteer with any youth in the Arlington Diocese, you must be [Child Protection Compliant](#).

It is time to pull out those dancing shoes, warm up those instruments, dust off your best jokes and get ready to WOW! our community with your talent!

HOLY SPIRIT TALENT SHOWCASE & DANCE



SIGNUP DAY



Want to Perform in the Show?
Come Sign Up!!

When: February 13, 2024

Where: Holy Spirit Quinn Room

Time: 3:15 – 5:00pm

Auditions/registrations are open to all students who want to perform in the show on April 13, 2024.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

SINGERS, ACTORS, JUGGLERS, MAGICIANS, MUSICIANS, COMEDIANS, MARTIAL ARTISTS,
DANCERS, CLOWNS

*** ANY TYPE OF PERFORMANCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO ***

PERFORMER PARTICIPATION SIGNUP



Student's Name: _____

Performing with (if in a group) _____

Talent/Act: _____

Everyone who signs up to perform will perform. Please keep your act to 4 minutes. If you cannot make it on February 13 but want to perform, email Joe Terpenning (jterpenning@infinitech.org) to discuss.

NOTES FOR AUDITION MONITORS:

TIME LENGTH: _____

SONG NAME: _____

STAGE NEEDS: _____

For Singers: Using a karaoke version of song or regular version: _____



HOLY SPIRIT TALENT SHOW & DANCE



WE NEED LEADERS!!

This year the Talent Show will be transitioning to a new leadership format. In preparation for next year's show, we would like to recruit and train a few key roles this year.

Show Chairman: This leader would coordinate and run the show. This includes hosting the Sign Up Day to recruit acts, prepare the lineup the night of the show, and coordinate the DJ and the stage crew volunteers. This position does not have to be an Emcee, but can. The position is fun-filled with the preparations of the show and the final performance.

Dinner Chairman: This leader would coordinate the caterers and oversee Dinner/Dessert setup, work with Holy Spirit facilities on room setup, oversee decorating, and oversee check in when the doors open.

Both of these leadership roles are exciting and fun. More importantly, they are essential elements to make this annual tradition and school favorite successful. If interested, please contact Joe Terpenning (jterpenning@infinetech.org) with questions and training.

HOLY SPIRIT TALENT SHOW & DANCE



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

SIGNUP AND HELP MAKE THIS EVENT AWESOME!!

WE NEED HELP WITH THE SIGNUP EVENT ON FEBRUARY 13TH AFTER SCHOOL AND WE NEED HELP THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW ON APRIL 13TH. WE NEED SERVERS, CHECK-IN HELP, DECORATORS, CAKES, DRINKS, STAGE HELP & AUDITION HELP!

PTO Board 2023 - 2024

President - Christine Ploschke - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org

Vice President - Rob Wu - PTOVp@holyspiritflames.org

Treasurer - Karin Floyd - PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org

Secretary - Kristyn Poreba - PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Volunteer Coordinator - Lauren Schmidt - PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org

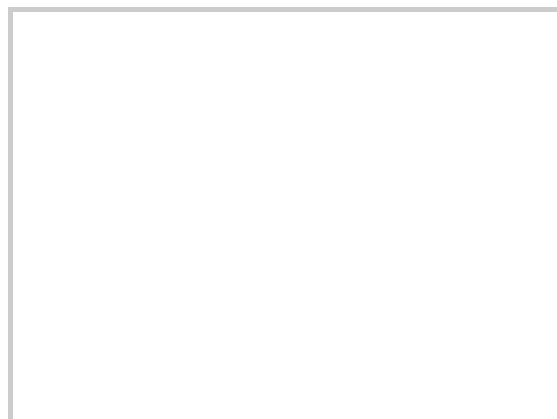
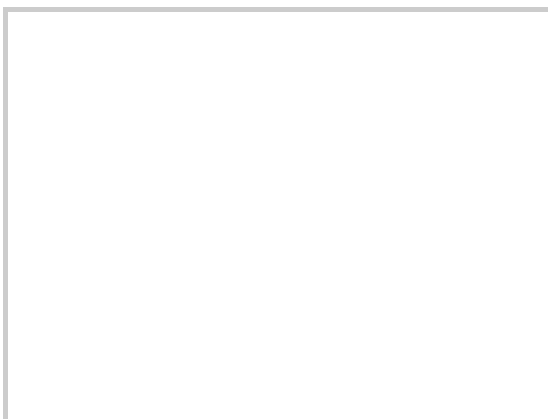
Fundraising Coordinator - Toni O'Neill - PTOVpDevelopment@holyspiritflames.org

Homeroom Parent Coordinator - Valerie Overstreet - 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!



**Quo Vadis
Father-Son
Seminary
Visit**



Quo Vadis events are for young men in high school interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocation.

What's college seminary like? See for yourself!
Meet the seminarians and their formators
See where they live, pray, eat and study
Tour their campus at Catholic University

**Saturday
January 27
8:45am-2:15pm**

Fathers are welcome but not required.
Cost is \$15 per person.

For more information and to register, visit
ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis
Deadline to register is January 18.
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations 703.841.2514 /
vocations@arlingtondiocese.org

A CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

We know what happens when two or more are gathered in the Lord's name, so what happens with 80,000? Join your Catholic brothers and sisters at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. This historic 5-day gathering of missionary disciples will be a new Pentecost, a powerful awakening and personal conversion to invite others to know Christ. Your life - and our Church - will never be the same.

Tour Inclusions

- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights' accommodations in Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily
- Farewell Lunch

Tour Does Not Include

- Airfare or motorcoach transportation
- Optional transportation offers will be extended at a later date
- Meals and beverages not specifically identified
- Items not specifically mentioned above

3 Step Registration Process

1. Scan the QR Code on the cover of the flyer or click [HERE](#) to access our online registration site.
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress' website.



Adult Pricing

\$949
Triple/Quad

\$1,149
Double

\$1,649
Single

Family Pricing

-\$200
off prices above for children ages 3-18

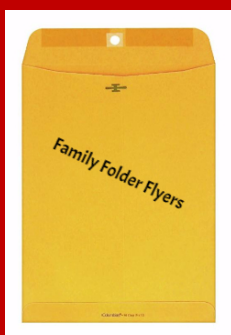
FREE
for lap children (0-2) when rooming with two paying adults in double occupancy

Payment Schedule:
\$250 per person deposit due upon registration
\$500 per person due December 31, 2023
Remaining balance due April 17, 2024

All payments are non-refundable. By registering for this tour, you understand and agree to CTS Terms and Conditions and accept our CTS Liability Release. All cancellations must be received in writing.
Travel Insurance: Cancel for any reason (CFAR) travel protection is highly recommended
See travel insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=47930&g=C1321

CORPORATE TRAVEL 866.468.1420 | NEC@CTS-CENTRAL.NET 

Community Happenings!



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "January 25, 2024" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Diocesan Tuition Assistance Programs Overview
2. Catholic Schools Weeks Schedule
3. Book Fair flyer
4. Grandparents Day flyer
5. Board Game Club flyer
6. Partners in Faith (January) newsletter

5K Spirit Run

1. Sponsorship Information
2. T-Shirt Design Contest flyer

PTO Flyers:

1. PTO Talentshow Sign Up
2. PTO Talentshow Volunteer flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Eucharistic Conference 2024
2. Seminary Visit

Community Flyers:

Holy Spirit School | 8802 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003

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