

September 16, 2021



Holy Spirit School
Inspiring Minds/Igniting Hearts
2021/2022
"In work there is dignity"

COVID Notifications

I wanted to take some space (and it is a lot of space) in this week's newsletter to write about the elephant in the room - positive COVID cases.

This year we are certainly ahead of where we were at this point last year in terms of students who have tested positive for COVID and clearly that is concerning to me not just as the principal, but also as a parent. Certainly no one here wants children to be sick for any reason, but we are also realistic that there is only so much that we can do here at school and we rely heavily on families being cognizant of what they are doing and where they are going outside of school.

So, where to begin...

First, I want to tackle notifications of positive cases. As the whole COVID experience continues to evolve, we regularly receive new information, guidance, and recommendations and we look for efficient ways to provide information without overwhelming and without creating a situation where notifications are disregarded because it is just one more email. Knowing that we want to be transparent about what is happening in the school community, we have decided that we will include a "dashboard" each week as a part of this newsletter that will contain the number of new positive cases during the week as defined by the student or faculty/staff member having been on campus during their infectious period. We will also include the level of community transmission for our region (Fairfax) as provided by the Virginia Department of Health. The dashboard will look like what is just below. This will be found on a weekly basis just above the reminder to complete a daily health observation/assessment of your child which is located

towards the bottom of the email. This will take the place of a whole community notification via Constant Contact for each individual case.

The weekly dashboard information will not take the place of specific emails to parents/guardians when their child's particular class is directly impacted. So, for instance, if there is a positive case in your child's class, you will still receive a direct email from administration providing you with that information. Or if your child or child's class has received instruction or support from a faculty/staff member who has tested positive then you will receive a direct email informing you of that.

COVID-19 Dashboard Information

Virginia Department of Health - Level of Community Transmission: **High**
Updated weekly on Mondays using data through previous Saturday.
Last updated 9/13/2021

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/community-transmission/>

Holy Spirit School - Total new COVID positive cases while on campus during the infectious period (student and/or faculty/staff): **4**
Time period: September 10 - September 16, 2021

Second, quarantining and isolating requirements. Please know that the Office of Catholic Schools expects that we will follow the guidelines of the Fairfax County Health Department with regard to students who must either isolate following a positive COVID test (generally 10 days) and students who must quarantine following a designation as a close or community contact to a COVID case (at a minimum 14 days although can be longer based on individual case circumstances).

Third, with regard to the mitigation strategies that are in place in the school. These were outlined during the Summer, but I am providing them to you again so that you have a sense of what the school day looks like.

Classrooms are set up to accommodate the three-foot distance that is required of students when they are indoors and of course they are required to wear a mask in classrooms and hallways (this is a similar spacing that the Diocesan schools were allowed to use last year). Teachers have the ability to be six feet from students and are required to wear a mask at all times when students are present. When out at recess students are grouped by grade level and assigned particular play spaces on given days. Students are provided with a variety of play options. In the cafeteria we are fortunate to have been able to double the space by using not just the cafeteria but the two adjoining meeting rooms. This allows us to spread the students out and we only seat six students to each of the large cafeteria tables. We designate their seating by marking the benches with tape or limiting the number of chairs at a particular table.

Classrooms are equipped with cleaning materials allowing for the wiping down of desks and chairs over the course of the day. The school is cleaned each evening and we still contract with the cleaning company to provide eMisting of the building several days a week. Classrooms all have air purification filters that run throughout the school day and we encourage teachers to open windows and hallway doors to provide for air flow.

I have been asked at what point we would pull back and possibly return to some of the additional measures used last year, specifically the "podding" of classes. I speak regularly with the admin team and the school nurse to look at information and to evaluate our situation. I want nothing more than to keep the children in school and safe, as well as to provide them with as "normal" a daily school life as possible. So, this circles all the way back to our reliance on families.

In many ways, the set up of current procedures are stacked against schools. It is not the birthday parties that are being shut down; it is not the outside of school sports teams that are being shut down; it is not the concert venues and other large-scale events being shut down

right now - it is classrooms in schools that face the greatest possibility of being shut down by having students being required to quarantine and miss weeks of in-person learning. It is this situation that we are hoping to avoid.

I thank you for thinking of the bigger picture and for monitoring your child's daily health. If I could make one last plug, it would be, if you have a situation in your home where a family member is going to be tested for COVID, please consider keeping your children home until the test results are received. We have seen COVID transmitting across families and when students are here at school while families are awaiting test results and then there is a positive result, it has the potential for impacting many other families.

And you thought you were done!

Next Friday, September 24th is an early dismissal day with teacher professional development in the afternoon.

One of the areas of attention that we are expected to focus on due to world and national events is with regard to what is commonly referred to as an active shooter situation. Over the years our planned response has been changed and refined. Much like other areas, as information, knowledge and best practices change, we must change as well.

We have engaged with a consultant named Dennis Giuliani (his bio information is below) to provide to the faculty and staff a federally endorsed program called the ALICE Safety Training Program. The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. The teachers will spend several hours with Mr. Giuliani learning and practicing.

Over a short period of time following, Mr. Giuliani will also engage with students through their teachers to, age-appropriately, empower them with knowledge.

Practicing active shooter drills is a part of the series of emergency drills that we must go through each year. Please know that when the lockdown drills take place I will send parents a notification following so that if your child comes home with comments or questions, you know that the drills have happened.

Thank you for all you do in support of our school!

-Maureen Ashby

Principal

Holy Spirit School PTO



Hello, Holy Spirit Families!

We hope that everyone has been enjoying the beautiful weather. Hopefully everyone had an opportunity to make it to the Parish Picnic and got a chance to send some of our friendly church and school representatives to the icy bottoms of the dunk tank!

Just a few reminders:

- There are still some Homeroom Parent positions open. This position plays an important role in the communications between the parents and teachers. If you are interested in being a Homeroom Parent, please contact the Homeroom Parent Coordinator, Valerie Overstreet - PTOhomeroomcoordinator@holyspiritflames.org.
- If you happen to see an event that you would be interested in participating in as a committee member, please send inquires to the PTO Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Sonnen - PTOVpmembership@holyspiritflames.org to be connected with the appropriate Committee Chairperson.

Important upcoming dates to remember:

- September 20 – Boosterthon business sponsorship deadline for t-shirts
- September 21 – 6:30 pm, Monthly PTO Meeting
- September 26 – Receptions After Sunday Masses: Holy Spirit School is hosting a catered breakfast with coffee and donuts after Sunday Masses. September 26 is the Bishop's Mass for Disability Awareness, and Priesthood Sunday. Host/Hostesses are needed to help direct people after Mass and welcome them for breakfast which will be catered. There will be tents/tables already set up outdoors. If you are interested in supporting this great event, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849ada722a2f94-receptions> and sign up. If you have any additional questions, please contact the PTO Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Sonnen - ptovpmembership@holyspiritflames.org
- October 18-22 – Boosterthon. The PTO will be ordering "Fun Run" T-Shirts and are looking for local businesses to advertise. This is short fused as our order is due September 22nd. If you have a business that you would like to advertise or if you have some time to help call local businesses, please contact at Shelley.Schaad@gmail.com.
- October 29 – Truck or Treat!

Critical Volunteer Vacancies:

One of the things that makes the children's school year successful is the support from our wonderful parents! Please review these vacancies (highlighted YELLOW) and if you see anything that you may like to volunteer for please contact the PTO Vice President at the e-mail address above. Click the button below to access the list.

PTO Committee or Position
Vacancies

PTO Board 2021/2022

President - Tom Fields - PTOPresident@holyspiritflames.org
Vice President - Heather Howard - PTOVp@holyspiritflames.org
Treasurer - Eileen Feely - PTOTreasurer@holyspiritflames.org
Secretary - Lee Conroy - PTOSecretary@holyspiritflames.org

Volunteer Coordinator - Mary Sonnen - PTOVPMembership@holyspiritflames.org
Fundraising Coordinator - Carolyn Rutherford - PTOVPFundraising@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 in activities where students are present.

YEARBOOK PICTURE DAY!!!!



PICTURE DAY IS
EL DÍA DE LA FOTO ES
Monday, September 20, 2021

Order today on mylifetouch.com
using your Picture Day ID: **EVTWHMBGM**
Encarga hoy en mylifetouch.com usando
tu ID del Día de la Foto:

Lifetouch

All students will have their picture taken on Monday, September 20th for the yearbook. All students should wear their regular uniform (no P.E. uniforms) to school that day.

Thank you!

[Yearbook Picture Order
Form](#)

BOOSTER **THON**

Our Boosterthon event will take place this year from October 18 - October 26th. The culminating event will be the Fun Run for the students.

Right now we are looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of t-shirts for all of the students. There is a quick turn around needed for this. Please take a look at the information provided and let us know if you can assist.

[Community Partner Letter from PTO Boosterthon
Chairperson](#)

[Fun Run T-shirt Business Sponsorship
Form](#)



Board Game Club is coming to Holy Spirit!

**Attention 1st & 2nd grade students,
Come play fun board games with friends and
Mrs. Marino & Mrs. Walker!**

When: October 6, October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, November 10 & November 17

Time: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Room 14

The club will meet on Wednesdays from October 6, until November 17. Students may bring a favorite board game or use the available club board games. Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat after school.

Please note: Room 14 is a Nut Free zone.

We will only be able to accept 15 students into this club. To sign up please go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4AAFAC2CAAF49-holy>

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

Meet our ALICE trainer

Dennis Giuliani

School Facility Services

Dennis Giuliani has over twenty years of experience in school facilities. He was an integral part of growing a small single campus school with 13 acres into a two-campus school with more than 50 acres. Student population grew from 500 students to nearly 1,100 students. He was involved in building management, risk management, budgeting, planning, transportation, landscape management, and all areas involving logistics, including traffic and carpool.

In 2010, Dennis and his school security officer implemented the ALICE Safety Training Program to respond to potential intruders in the school building. The program provides faculty, staff and students with tools to prepare for an intruder in the building. Today, more than 5,500 K-12 school districts and almost 19 million individuals use this training. Dennis has taught ALICE Safety Training to preschool, elementary, middle and high school students as well as faculty and staff for the last ten years. He was recertified on February 17, 2021.



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Think about a Daily Health Observation before sending your child to school

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever (100.0F) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child has experienced any of these symptoms in the last 24 hours, please keep your child home, contact your physician, and let us know (attendance@holyspiritflames.org).

If someone in your household has tested positive for or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, keep your child home and let us know (attendance@holyspiritflames.org)

If your child has received a COVID-19 vaccine and you would like to share that information with the school nurse, it may prove helpful if and when there is a need to contact trace in your child's class.

Parish Happenings!

Marian Homes, Inc.

Document Shredding Event

A Knights of Columbus Charity
Maintaining group homes for intellectually disabled individuals



Sept 25th
10 AM - 1 PM
Upper Parking Lot

Bring your old documents, cancelled checks, paper, manila envelopes, etc.
NO newspapers, magazines, card board, 3-ring binders, hard drives, discs, etc.
(Donations accepted)

For more information, contact:
Knights@holyspiritchurch.us

 HOLY Spirit CATHOLIC CHURCH

 HOLY Spirit CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus



SOCCER
CHALLENGE

Saturday, Sept. 25

9:00AM - 2:00PM
Field behind Holy Spirit School

Free event for boys & girls ages 9-14

Individuals kick soccer penalty kicks (12 yards) with scores for shot location in goal. 3 warm-up kicks, 25 kicks for record.

Contact Mike Poumade at, knights@holyspiritchurch.us
www.holyspiritchurch.us/soccerchallenge

 BECOME A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

Saturday Mornings

Fall Session: Sept 18 - Dec 18
7:00AM - 8:30AM
Quinn Room, School Building

Each week, TMIY invites all men for coffee and a light breakfast before discussion on topics impacting Catholic men today.

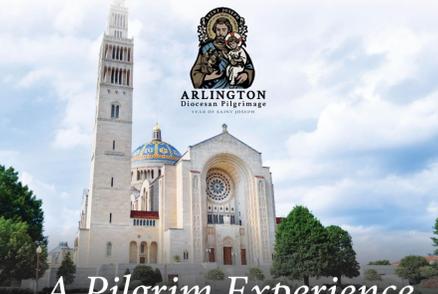
No required attendance, no homework, no volunteering, no pressure to share. Just men being men.

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

For info, contact Sean Roberts at,
tmiy@holyspiritchurch.us  www.thatmanisyou.org

SAINT JOSEPH: GUARDIAN OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

 ARLINGTON
Diocesan Pilgrimage



A Pilgrim Experience

for the Whole Family

BISHOP MICHAEL E. BURBIDGE
INVITES YOU TO THE
DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON PILGRIMAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate
Conception in Washington, D.C.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:
www.arlingtondiocese.org/2021/marian-pilgrimage

 THE BASILICA 

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

All proceeds go to the school 



Sunday Sept 19th

In the school cafeteria after the
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM Masses

Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit,
orange juice, coffee, and more!

Adults \$6, Children \$3
Families \$20

 HOLY Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

 HOLY Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Join Us for Our Parish

Pig Roast

All are invited!

and Screen *Disney Pixar's*
ON THE GREEN "Coco"

On the grass between the church and school

Saturday, October 16th

Dinner 6:45 & Movie 7:15 pm

Bring a side dish to Share!
www.HolySpiritChurch/pigroast

 HOLY Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPT. 26, 2021

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY



Signup to intentionally pray for
our Priests this year

SIGNUP TODAY!

Let's fill our Priests' year
with our prayers!

www.holyspiritchurch.us/priesthoodsunday

 HOLY Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Blessing of the Animals



October 4th

6-7pm on the Grounds
between Church & School

Bring your furry friends,
great and small, for a
special blessing!

All are
Welcome! Pets,
Livestock,
Reptiles, etc.

For details, visit
www.holyspiritchurch.us

Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 7am - Saturday 9am

"The purpose of the Holy Hour is to encourage deep personal encounter with Christ. The holy and glorious God is constantly inviting us to come to him, to hold converse with Him, to ask for such things as we need and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with Him."

-Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Drop in collection basket or Return to Parish Center

Adorer Name: **Email:**

Specific Hour:

Frequency: Weekly..... Bi-Weekly..... Monthly.....

Substitute Name **Email:**

Timeframe: 6am-12pm..... 12pm-6pm.....

6pm-12am..... 12am-6am.....

For more info, adoration@holyspiritchurch.us



Community Happenings!

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

Each week in September, the campaign will focus on a different aspect of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management will be providing weekly one-page newsletters for September.

Week 3 September 12-18: Prepare for Disasters Financial Preparedness Tips

"Ready Fairfax" - Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



FAMILY FOLDER

The following flyers may be found in the folder labeled "September 16, 2021" on the website. For your convenience, some flyers are repeated.

Family Folder

School Flyers:

1. Yearbook Picture Day Order Form
2. Middle School The Gift of Human Sexuality OPT-IN Form
3. Board Game Club flyer

Parish Flyers:

1. Document Shredding Event flyer
2. Pilgrimage with Bishop Burbidge flyer
3. That Man is You flyer
4. Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge flyer
5. Pancake Breakfast flyer
6. Blessing of the Animals flyer
7. Pig Roast flyer
8. Priesthood Sunday flyer
9. Eucharistic Adoration flyer

Community Flyers:

1. "Ready Fairfax" Emergency Preparedness Newsletter - Week 3