

St. Patrick's School  
Tuesday Notes  
September 5, 2023

Emergency Packs & Drills

Each year we ask parents to send in a "crisis pack" for your child. This is mandated by the Archdiocese of Washington in case our children ever need to "shelter in place". We will store these packs in our classrooms. We recommend two bottles of water and a couple of snack pack size snacks that have a long shelf life (pretzels, cheese and crackers, goldfish etc.). Please put these items in a gallon size Ziploc bag and label your child's name on the outside. It is not necessary to send in stuffed animals, toys, or blankets.

We will practice emergency drills with pre-kindergarten-grade 8 students Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. I recommend that you talk with your children over the next few days about emergency drills (fire, earthquake, bad weather, and an unsafe person in the building) and reiterate to them that the drills we must do Friday are best to keep our St. Patrick's Family safe and always prepared.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

There are two classroom sessions scheduled for kindergarten- grade 8 and one session for PK.

If you have a child in our PK, please attend the 6:30-7:00 p.m. session in the PK classroom.

If you have a Junior High student, you can visit his/her classroom for the first session 6:30-7:00 p.m. then returns after the general information session and visit with Mrs. Cockrell (advanced reading), Mrs. Fecko (science and math), Mrs. Scango (advanced math) and Senora Pappa (Spanish) who will be available in the science lab throughout the evening.

All sessions will be held in your child's homeroom and will be 25 minutes.

There will be a general information session from 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. I hope all are able to attend. This night is incredibly helpful to you and the teachers as we work together to support the children. Parents only, please.

Teachers will e-mail back to School Night Information to parents on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Teachers of special classes (art, music, P.E., library, & technology) will be available in the school library from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Please stop in if time allows and introduce yourself.

Calendar Change

The ADW Professional Development Day scheduled for Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> has been changed and now moved up a week to Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sorry for the confusion but finding a venue in Montgomery County to host all of us has been challenging for the ADW.

No School: Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

School in Session: Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Appointments/Late Arrivals to School

In an ideal world, doctors' appointments should be made during the lunch/recess hour, after school hours, or as early in the morning as possible in an effort to minimize students in and out of the classrooms and to maximize their learning time.

Note our holidays and early dismissals as another ideal time to schedule appointments.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch began today!

Yah Lunch will now host the Chick-Fil-A orders.  
Your Menu is here! Check out your [Lunch Calendar](#).

#### School Masses

Our welcome back Mass will be celebrated tomorrow, Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:10 a.m. All are welcome to be with us!

Following Mass tomorrow, our Wednesday masses are postponed until further notice.

#### M.A.P Testing

Fall baseline testing will be held Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> (math) and 27<sup>th</sup> (reading) for students in grades 2-8. It would be incredibly helpful to have your children here for the whole testing hour (9:00-10:15 a.m.). If possible, please try to reschedule appointments.

The third and final testing session (language arts) is TBD pending attendance at weekly Mass.

#### Picture Day

Individual student pictures will be taken on:

Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> for children in grades 3-8.

Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> for children in grades PK-2.

Students may be out of uniform on these days but should be dressed nicely.

Class pictures will be held on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> for all grades. Students should wear their uniforms (even if it is a birthday-IOU out of uniform). **Boys should wear long khaki pants and girls should wear their jumpers/kilts (not skorts).**

#### Birthday Out of Uniform & Snacks

Students are allowed to be out of uniform on their birthdays, but because we attend Mass on Wednesday, we ask that the out of uniform day be celebrated the day before or after.

Birthday boys and girls can resume bringing birthday treats to celebrate their special day, but these items must be prewrapped and nut free.

#### High School Information Meeting

Parents with students in grades 6-8 who are interested in learning about the high school process and acceptance into area Catholic high schools are welcome to join me for an information session on Thursday, September 21st at 8:30 a.m. This session will walk you through the application process and help answer any questions you may have as you prepare your son/daughter for high school. Currently the meeting location is TBD, likely the school cafeteria.

#### Draft of School Directories

The draft of the school directory will be available at back-to-school night, please check your information and initial that it is correct before we distribute the final copies to our families.

#### HSA Dues and Forms

Please make sure you submit your HSA dues, handbook acknowledgment forms, medicals forms, and early release forms. School directories will go home in the next few weeks to families who have all paperwork submitted.

#### Annual Fund & Golf/Pickleball Tournament Registration

The St. Patrick's School annual Golf Tournament, the Badger Open, will take place on Monday, September 25th at Manor Country Club. This year we are adding a Pickleball Tournament to our

traditional 9-hole and 18-hole options. This event fills up fast so sign-up ASAP! For event information and to purchase your tickets, please click on the following link: <https://onecau.se/spsgolf>

The Badger Open will recognize contributions to the Annual Fund. Gifts of \$250 or more will receive a family sign that will be posted on Kane Lane and then transferred to Manor for the event. THANK YOU to all the families who have already supported this year's Annual Fund campaign. If you have not yet contributed, please visit the campaign's website (<https://onecau.se/spsbadgers>) to make your gift today.

For those who don't want to play but want to participate in the Badger Open, we need volunteers throughout the day to make this a successful event. If you would like to volunteer, please email Maria Harr ([mjharr@hotmail.com](mailto:mjharr@hotmail.com)).

To assist with childcare needs the afternoon of September 25th, Miss Short and Mrs. Mitchell have kindly agreed to waive the aftercare fee for anyone who is playing or volunteering. If you would like to enroll your child/children in aftercare that day, please email Mrs. Mitchell directly ([nora.mitchell@stpatrickadw.org](mailto:nora.mitchell@stpatrickadw.org)).

#### J.H. Math Study Hall

For our junior high students who need a little extra math support, Mr. Coe is back and offering his free math study hall again this year. He will begin working with students on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

#### Parent Information Session

The Importance of Effort – Everything you need to know about growth mindset and the value of supporting effort in your home.

Join us for this important presentation by Amy Kines, Lead Trainer & President of Ready Aim Teach on the impact of effort, and how to help our children realize that effort plays a role in their success. We'll explore the difference between growth mindset and a fixed mindset, and specific words to use to reinforce growth mindset.

Date: Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Location: School cafeteria.

Time: The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. but "doors open" at 6:30 p.m. Parents are invited to visit with each other and enjoy our friendships and community before the presentation.

#### September Service Project

We will support the Koller Family's annual toy drive. Mrs. Koller, our kindergarten teacher, and her husband have three children, Jordan, AJ, and Hunter. AJ was born in 2004 with Alagille Syndrome, a multi-organ disorder. He had multiple heart surgeries and procedures over the course of his life. In between hospital stays, doctors' appointments and therapy, the Koller Family spent a lot of time together trying to live as normal of a life as possible. Through all these fun times, AJ's liver and heart disease progressed and he passed away at the age of ten on September 14, 2014. As a family, the Kollers wanted to do something positive on the anniversary of his passing to celebrate the joy he brought into so many lives.

We invite all from the St. Patrick's community to show our love and support and honor AJ's life by participating in the annual toy drive. Toys will be donated to Johns Hopkins Children's Center to the Child Life Department.

#### J.H. Quiz Bowl- After School Club

This year we are excited about a new after school activity for our Middle School Students. Mrs. McKelvey, parent to two students in our junior high, will be sponsoring a Quizbowl team after school on Tuesdays for interested students. Quizbowl is a collaborative academic competition program like It's Academic. Please see the attached flyer for more information about an interest meeting for students on September 12th.

#### BLAZE: a Ministry of Walking with Purpose

*"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena*

Have you ever felt like you needed somewhere to turn in the middle of a rough day? Have you ever thought that the world's ideas of beauty might not be what really matters most? Do you sometimes wonder if you really matter personally to God? If you answered yes, then come check out BLAZE! BLAZE is a ministry for tween/teen girls created by Walking with Purpose, "to speak truth into the hearts of girls who are bombarded by lies about their true worth and beauty". St. Patrick's is starting a 10-week after-school club this fall based on BLAZE, open to all girls in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. We'll gather to look at truths found in the Bible and lived by the Saints, while reflecting how these lessons of life and love matter for us now. This will be a safe, confidential space, where girls can be their authentic selves and celebrate God's love for them (while enjoying some fun games, videos, and music along the way!)

**Location:** Parish Center

**Time:** Mondays after school till 4:15pm

#### **10 Sessions:**

September 25

October 2, 9, 16, and 23 (no school Oct. 30)

November 6, 13, and 27 (not meeting Nov. 20, the week of Thanksgiving)

December 4 and 11

**Register by Tuesday, September 12!** (We need time to order all the fun materials!)

Please fill out this [online registration form](#). We are asking for families to contribute \$25 to help cover the cost of supplies. Please send a check payable to St. Patrick School, with BLAZE in the memo line.

**Questions?** Contact the BLAZE Coordinators, Elizabeth Hoffmann and Gina Swanda, at:

[BLAZEstpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:BLAZEstpatrick@gmail.com). Also feel free to text or call Elizabeth at (630) 605-7773.

#### Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study

*Do you need to refuel and refresh? Would you like to make authentic connections with other women?* Please consider joining the Walking with Purpose women's Bible study. This year we will offer Discovering Our Dignity – a 22-week Bible study that explores the lives of women from the Old and New Testaments. Starting on September 27 we will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 10:15-11:45am (childcare provided.) Over the past 5 years we have formed a beautiful community of women - including many school moms – and we would love for you to join us! Please see the attached flyer with more information about how to register or email us at: [stpatrickwwp@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickwwp@gmail.com).

#### Child Protection Policy from Archdiocese of Washington

All school volunteers must get fingerprinted in addition to completing a Virtus class. Families who are new to an ADW school or have been with us but never completed Virtus training must complete ALL the following steps.

From our website a helpful page with needed documents <https://stpatrickadw.org/parent-resources/volunteer/adw-child-protection-program/>

1. Create a Virtus account at [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org) Click on “First Time Registrant” and proceed to register for a class. Classes are being held by Zoom and are approximately 3 hours in length. Two upcoming opportunities are Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>, both held at 9:00 a.m.
2. Complete the volunteer application
3. Get fingerprinted: A form specific to the Archdiocese of Washington can be found on our website

#### Let’s Get Social!

Have you liked us on social media yet? Lots of photos and reminders will be posted on both Facebook and Instagram throughout the school year!

Facebook- St. Patrick’s Catholic School, Rockville, MD

Instagram- stpatrickscatholicsschool

#### Photos

We would love to have you share your photos throughout the year with us! We will include them on social media as well as our yearbook. Please be sensitive and aware of other children’s feelings if you send pictures of events that take place outside of school. Let’s start with your First Day of School Pictures! Upload them to our shared picture drive using the link below. Folders have been created for events and for each grade. Thank you!

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16GiJBsmbvDNR7T1\\_xC4GjvZ5hQcYchkI?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16GiJBsmbvDNR7T1_xC4GjvZ5hQcYchkI?usp=share_link)

#### Catholic Schools Night at Audi Field-DC United vs Red Bull

Come out to Audi Field on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> in your school spirit wear and cheer on our very own DC United with other families in our ADW Catholic Schools! You can purchase tickets at <https://fevogm.com/event/CatholicsschoolsDCU>

#### The Upcoming Weeks:

Thursday, September 7th	Back to School Night 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Friday, September 8th	Summer Work Reward Day Emergency Drills
Thursday, September 21 <sup>st</sup>	High School Information Meeting 8:15 a.m.
Monday, September 26th	Golf Tournament at Manor Country Club
Thursday, September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Back Coffee for Parents of students in PK-Grade 2
Friday, September 29th	Noon Dismissal PK-Grade 8; aftercare available until 6:00 p.m.