

July 15, 2020



Dear St. John Families,

Next week marks the half-way mark of our summer break. Our office staff and teachers continue to work diligently to make sure our building, technology, and academic materials are ready so we can welcome our students to a new school year. Our St. John task force has met and is working in committees to prepare our school in anticipation of the Department of Catholic Schools' reopening framework that is scheduled to be in place by July 24. A special thank you to our teachers and parent representatives, Mrs. Hecht and Mrs. Lancaster, for working behind the scenes to ensure a safe and productive school environment. At the end of the update is the letter that I sent via email in early July by Dr. Hargens and Jim Sellinger about the work currently being done by the Archdiocese in regard to our Catholic schools.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Suzanne Thomas who will be taking on the role as part-time assistant principal. Her support will be greatly appreciated as she expands her duties to work with our primary teachers and students. I feel very blessed to have such an experienced teacher and faith-filled person assist in leading our school.

Don't forget to post your summer fun activities with our eagle graphic to our Facebook page (bit.ly/SummerEagles). We love to see what everyone is doing!

Many blessings,
Mrs. Blake

Used Uniform Sale

Our annual used uniform sale will take place on **Sunday, July 19 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm** in the school building. **The doors will open at 8:00 am.** This is a wonderful opportunity to get great bargains on uniforms for all grades.

In order to provide a safe environment for this event, we ask that all participants wear face masks in the building, adhere to social distancing, and follow the flow of traffic.



Beans and Bread- July 28

The school will be collecting lunches on **Tuesday, July 28 from 8:00 am-10:00 am** for Beans and Bread. There will be a table by the front entrance of the school for easy drop-off. You can find more information at <http://bit.ly/BeansBreadInstruct>. Thank you for your help.

Enrollment Checklist Items- Requested by 7/31

Please sign into each of your child(ren)'s SchoolAdmin account to confirm that all mandatory

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enrollment checklist items (e.g. health form, emergency contact form, media release, etc.) have been completed. Students with incomplete checklists are considered not fully enrolled so parents will not have access to all PowerSchool information. If you need assistance, contact the office.

<http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>. Please contact Mary Beth Bressler at stand@stjohnschoollgv.org if you have any questions.

Summer Reading and Math

Students entering Grades 1-8 have assignments due the first week of school. You can find the requirements on the summer page on our website (bit.ly/SUMMERinfo). If you need a password to access any of our online programs, contact Mrs. Blake at cblake@stjohnschoollgv.org.

School Supplies

School supply lists are posted on the website (bit.ly/SUMMERinfo). Once again you may use **schooltoolbox.com** to order online everything you need and have it delivered right to your door.

School Calendar Dates for 2020-2021

First Day-8/31/20 (Full Day)

Labor Day-9/7 School Closed

Professional Day-10/16/20 School Closed

Thanksgiving- 11/25/20-11/27/20 School Closed

Christmas- 12/21/20- 1/3/21 School Closed

MLK Day- 1/18/21

Presidents' Day-2/15/21

Easter-4/1/21 Noon Dismissal

4/2/21- 4/11/21 School Closed

Grandparents Day-4/23/21 Noon Dismissal

Memorial Day-5/31/21

Graduation- 6/7/21

Last Day- 6/10/21- Dismissal after Mass

***Additional Noon Dismissals- 10/30/20;
2/5/21; 6/9/21**

Volunteering and VIRTUS

Now is the time to complete your requirements so you are ready to volunteer and participate in activities for the new school year. If you want to volunteer and/or **attend field trips, Spring Fling, and Olympic Day**, you must be current with the VIRTUS screening and training. Complete or update your certification easily online at

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ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS **PLANNING AHEAD TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Dear Catholic School Families,

We pray that your summer is off to a wonderful start! We hope that you and your family are able to take time to relax and unwind, especially after a challenging school year.

When the decision was made to close schools statewide on March 12th, Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore quickly and seamlessly transitioned to continuous learning. Remote instruction was implemented for all students across the Archdiocese, beginning on March 16th. Students did not miss a day of instruction and continued to remain academically engaged and challenged throughout the balance of the school year. This was accomplished due to the commitment and planning performed by our dedicated educators and administrators.

As we look ahead to the 2020-21 school year, a Planning Ahead Task Force for Catholic Schools has been established. The goal is to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure the safe return of our faculty and staff on August 24th and students on August 31st, with contingency plans should a virus surge occur requiring a period of distance learning.

The task force is comprised of five sub-committees:

- **Social Distancing, Facilities, and Operations**
- **Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Student Support Services**
- **Classroom Technology**
- **COVID - 19 Response Protocols**
- **Strategic Communications and Emerging Opportunities**

The sub-committees include healthcare professionals, counselors, educators, school leaders, parents, and experts in various applicable fields. These committees will offer guidance to complement recommendations from the CDC and state / local officials. Their work is aimed to ensure that Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools are fully prepared to start the new school year on August 31st.

The reopening framework is scheduled to be in place by July 24, 2020. This timeline may shift as state and local government policy and guidance evolve. We are committed to keeping our school families informed as we develop the reopening plan and we will provide a bi-weekly update on the work of this important task force throughout the summer. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to a Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Have a blessed summer!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Donna Hargens
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

James Sellinger
Chancellor of Education



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PLANNING AHEAD TASK FORCE UPDATE

The objectives of the Planning Ahead Task Force committees are outlined below. Updates will be provided on the work of each committee throughout the summer in the form of bi-weekly update communications.

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

The Classroom Technology Committee is focused on creating flexible delivery of instruction in order to consistently provide a high quality educational experience regardless of the learning mode (in-person, remote, or hybrid).

TASKS:

- Create a professional development plan to enable educators to optimize technology (devices, tools, applications) to deliver a consistent student experience via a hybrid or remote environment.
- Develop plans and cost estimates to upgrade technology infrastructure to ensure that teachers can simultaneously present in-person and remote classroom lessons if needed.

CURRICULUM, PEDAGOGY, AND STUDENT SUPPORT

The Curriculum, Pedagogy and Student Support Committee will establish an academic and student support framework for potential transitions to and from hybrid and remote learning for the 2020-2021 academic year.

TASKS:

- Devise plans for all scenarios and make appropriate adjustments to the AOB curriculum, including instructional strategies and professional development. Other areas to be addressed are the AOB approach to social emotional learning, special education, and other essential academic and student support programs.
- Provide guidance to principals as they develop school-specific plans and strategies to ensure Catholic identity and faith formation remain central to the student experience.

SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS

The Social Distancing, Operations and Facilities Committee reviews federal, state, and local guidelines to create standards and protocol for AOB schools. Collaboratively, this team will develop clear guidelines to address the various aspects of students returning to campus in the fall.

TASKS:

- Take appropriate measures to safeguard the health of all school communities, consistent with guidance from local and state public health officials.
- Develop models, plans and actions needed for conducting various school functions (i.e. Pick-up/Drop-off, Lunch, Recess, Before/After Care).
- Develop protocols for social distancing and the sanitization of facilities.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PLANNING AHEAD TASK FORCE UPDATE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 Response Committee will establish proper conditions for a safe return of students, faculty, and staff to in-person instruction for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This includes preventative measures and techniques at all school facilities as part of daily operations to limit the potential spread of COVID-19. They will also establish procedures and protocols for school personnel in the event that a member of the school community exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for infection.

TASKS:

- Develop written guidance for students and all community members to follow as they return to campuses.
- Determine and communicate necessary pre-conditions for personal health in returning to campus.
- Secure appropriate PPE for use on campus.
- Develop plans and identify resources to quarantine a student or staff member exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Develop protocols for responding to possible community spread within a school.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The Strategic Communications and Emerging Opportunities Committee will provide timely updates on the work of the Planning Ahead effort while identifying opportunities for AOB schools to pursue as the COVID-19 pandemic paves the way for adjustments to the education landscape.

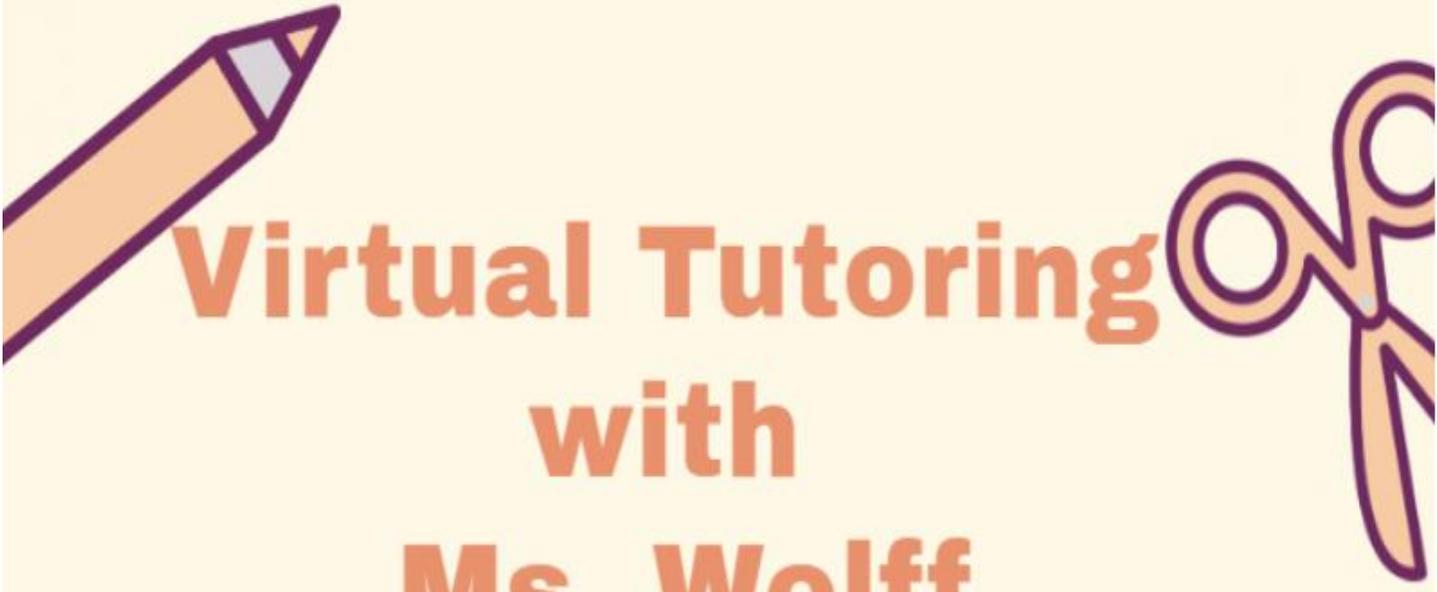
TASKS:

- Develop Planning Ahead Task Force communications plan.
- Ensure consistency in school communications.
- Provide updates on the work of each task force committee.
- Recommend and prioritize opportunities for the Department of Catholic Schools to consider.
- Develop recruitment and retention strategies for AOB schools.
- Explore virtual recruitment opportunities.

PLANNING AHEAD TASK FORCE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FEEDBACK

The Department of Catholic Schools would like to hear from you! Your input will provide valuable feedback, as we work to develop a comprehensive reopening plan. Please click on the link below to share your thoughts and/or concerns with the committees of the Planning Ahead Task Force.

https://survey.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3r4CKRYeBlrGVqx

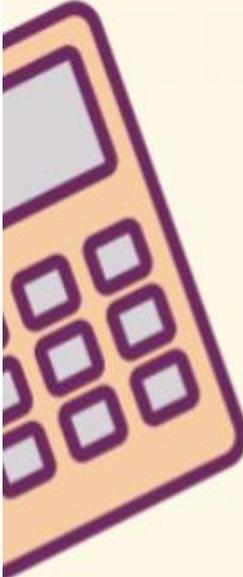


Virtual Tutoring with Ms. Wolff

Continue learning even when the school year ends!

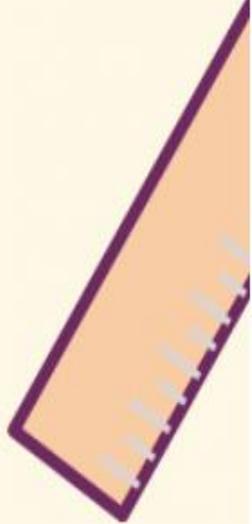
Days: Monday-Thursday

Time: 9:00-1:00



How Long: 1/2 Hour or 1 Hour Sessions

What: 1 subject (ELA or Math)
2 subjects (Both)



Who: small groups 2 or more students
or
sessions with a parent signed in

Contact Ms. Wolff for pricing and availability.
awolff@stjohnschoolgv.org



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