

# ST. AGNES SCHOOL FROM A TO Z

*This is an unofficial list to help answer questions that new families frequently ask. Any word that appears in **bold** within a paragraph is cross-referenced and defined separately.*

**All Saints' Day:** Every year the school celebrates All Saints' Day with Mass or a prayer service. Traditionally, the First Grade children dress up as saints.

**Announcements:** School announcements, including morning prayers and the Pledge of Allegiance, begin each morning at 8:00 a.m. Children should be in their classrooms by 8:00 a.m., ready to start the day. Parents must walk tardy children into school and sign them in on the computer located in the office before the child may proceed to the classroom. If a student is not properly signed in they will be marked absent for the day. Latecomers must stand quietly in the hallway during announcements.

**Attendance line:** Call the attendance line (x333) to notify the school when a child will be absent. Please leave a message prior to 8:00 am. If the school does not receive a message, you will receive a phone call inquiring about your child's absence.

**Auction:** This is the school's primary fundraiser and is run by the PTO. The Auction – which includes dinner, entertainment, and both a silent auction and a live auction – raises funds for PTO-sponsored activities throughout the year. The PTO has also used auction proceeds to invest in special projects for the school, including the playground, technology and continuing education for teachers. Plans are well underway and additional information will be sent home throughout the school year. This is a great **volunteer opportunity** and a fun way to make new friends. The goal is 100% participation from school families and each class.

**Backpacks:** Each child should have a backpack large enough and sturdy enough for a lunch box, a **folder** and heavy books in the upper grades. Wheeled backpacks are NOT permitted.

**Backpack Mail:** Each child will be given a special **folder** with the St. Agnes School logo on the front. That **folder** is a parent's essential communication device, in which all "backpack mail" is delivered. All kinds of announcements are sent home via backpack mail, including important messages from teachers, the principal, the PTO and other parents. Please check the folder each day, and make sure to return it in the backpack each morning. Parents may send messages to school in the **folder**, as well as missives to other parents through the folder, via "backpack mail." The commonly accepted means of sending notes to other parents is to address them as follows: "To Mr./Mrs. Smith, through the kindness of Jane Smith in Mrs. Brown's class." **Birthday Party Invitations** may **not** be sent through backpack mail.

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**Back-to-School Night:** This is a must-attend event for parents! Back-to-School Night is held in the school gym and includes a welcome from our pastor, principal and the PTO. Representatives from many of the PTO **volunteer opportunities** will also be there to share information prior to the formal presentations. Most importantly, all parents then visit their children's classrooms and hear the teachers discuss the daily schedule, curriculum, homework and classroom policies.

**Birthdays:** If the teacher gives advance permission, Students may celebrate their birthdays by dressing out of uniform on their birthdays or half-birthdays. They may also bring in a non-food item to share with classmates on this special day. If a student's birthday falls on a Mass day, he or she may choose another day to dress out of uniform. Students are not permitted to bring food items to share due to allergy risks.

**Birthday Book Club:** Students may donate a book to add to the library's collection with his/her name and birthday inscribed in the book. The donor can be the first person to check it out from the library. Please contact the school library (x106) for more information.

**Birthday Party Invitations:** It is school policy that birthday party invitations or other personal party invitations should not be distributed in school (via **backpack mail** or hand-delivered). There is too much potential for hurt feelings. Please send all invitations through the U.S. mail or via email.

**Blue Ribbon School:** St. Agnes School has been selected by the Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School. This prestigious award recognizes schools that have achieved and attained high levels of performance, placing in the top 10% on state or national assessments.

**Box Tops for Education:** Coordinated by the PTO, the "Box Tops For Education" program raises money for school projects. Various grocery products (including fruit roll-ups, soup, tissues, "Gogurt", pancakes, etc.) include small square logos that may be cut out and collected for the school. Throughout the school year, notices go home via **backpack mail** and **email** reminding parents of the program and deadlines for submitting Box Tops to the school.

**Bullying:** St. Agnes School has a strong policy against bullying. Please refer to the **Handbook** for a detailed discussion of the behaviors and consequences covered by the school policy. Please report any bullying behavior immediately to the teacher.

**Cars, Carpools, Drop-Off and Pick-Up Systems:** They work! The system is efficient, and designed for the children's maximum safety.

**Morning:** The gate is open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. One continuously moving line of cars enters the back parking lot in front of the school (opposite side from Randolph Street). Cars must be inside the gate before children get out. Adults direct carpool and safety patrols assist with opening doors and walking the

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Kindergarten and Pre-K students to teachers waiting on the sidewalk. (Parents may walk their younger students into school for the first week, but after that, they are to be dropped off in carpool.) Please prepare children in advance to leave the car quickly, with all of their things (including **backpacks**) in hand; however, **please keep children in their seat belts until safety patrols open the car door**. If arriving after carpool is over (*i.e.*, the gate is closed), park in the parking lot, walk child(ren) into school, and sign them in on the computer located in the school office.

**Afternoon:** The gate opens at approximately 3:00 p.m. The parking lot fills with lines of cars (like a car ferry) that line up first at the back of the lot, then in successive rows toward the sidewalk. All children must stay behind the curb until the release bell, and parents should stay near their cars, motors turned off, until the release bell. Parents of Pre-K, Kindergarteners and First Graders may retrieve children from the curb once the gate is closed and the release bell has rung. Parents of older children are asked to stay near their cars and have the children come to them. The carpool lines will not be permitted to begin exiting the parking lot until everyone – parents and children – are in cars and the car doors are closed. This entire process takes only about 20-25 minutes. Any student that is not picked-up in carpool will be sent directly to Extended Day.

**Inclement Weather:** If the weather is severe, children will remain inside or under the porch roof and be released by grade to the cars.

**Pre-K:** Morning drop-off is the same as the rest of school. Afternoon pick-up is handled differently and information is sent home in a hand-out at the beginning of the year.

**Catholic Schools Week:** All Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Arlington celebrate Catholic Schools Week with a series of events and activities. The week focuses on commitment to Catholic education. There are special workshops and entertainment throughout the week, along with other activities that focus on the unique spirit of St. Agnes School. During Catholic Schools Week, parents volunteer as workshop leaders, coordinators and helpers. The week also includes **Special Persons Day**, which is described further below. Announcements, details and **volunteer opportunities** are sent home via **email** and **backpack mail** a few weeks prior to Catholic Schools Week.

**Christmas Prayer:** All students in grades Pre-K through Eighth grade participate in this special evening to celebrate the season. Typically, students are to wear their Sunday best. Additional details will be provided in advance of the program.

**Coffees:** To kick off the school year, all parents are invited for coffee in the gym on the first day of school following drop-off. Individual coffees for grades Pre-K through Kindergarten are held in the library in October; please check the **school calendar** for specific dates. This is a good opportunity to meet the principal, ask questions, and say hello to new and old friends.

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**Communications:** Most communications from the school and PTO are sent via **email** or posted on the **school website**. Parents are encouraged to correspond with the school staff, teachers, PTO and other parents via email and regularly check the **school website**. The school directory includes contact information, including email addresses, for families, faculty and staff. The PTO also has a separate **PTO Email** system. Please update both the school and the PTO with any email changes. In addition, school staff and teachers will utilize **Edmodo**, an educational website, and **PowerSchool**, a School Management System, throughout the school year.

**Early Release Days:** Occasionally the school day will end with an 11:30 a.m. dismissal. Early Release Days include days for **parent-teacher conferences**, teacher in-service days, and the start of seasonal vacations (*i.e.*, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter). All students, including Pre-K, will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Early Release Days. **Extended Day** remains open and provides lunch on Early Release Days.

**Edmodo:** School staff and teachers will utilize this educational website throughout the school year. Edmodo will be used to communicate information about upcoming/ongoing assignments and other class-related topics. Parents and students can access the information on Edmodo via a website or a mobile app for iOS or Android.

**Email:** Most communications from the school and PTO are sent via email. Parents are encouraged to correspond with the school staff, teachers, PTO and other parents via email. The school directory includes email addresses for families, faculty and staff. The PTO also has a separate **PTO Email** system. Please update both the school and the PTO with any changes to email changes.

**Enrichment Program:** The Enrichment Program – sponsored by the PTO and organized by parent volunteers – includes programs both during and after school. Academic enrichment assemblies may feature a guest speaker, performer, teacher or other professional. After-school programs may include foreign languages, chess club, drama and art classes, public speaking, Math Club, and other academic interests. Suggestions for additional worthwhile programs are always welcome. Parent initiative and volunteerism are essential to our Enrichment Program. The programs may change from year to year and new programs may be added. Some programs may require additional fees. Information about these programs, including registration and possible fees, is sent home throughout the year via **email** and **backpack mail**.

**Extended Day (Morning and Afternoon):** This is a great service for Pre-K through Eighth grades. Please note that Pre-K students are not eligible for the morning Extended Day program. It is safe and secure, available before and after school hours, and offered at a reasonable price. Extended Day is held in the school gym and is run by teachers and other trained, qualified adults. Morning Extended Day is from 7:00 a.m. until the school day begins; Afternoon Extended Day is from dismissal until 6 p.m. Extended Day is also available on **early release days** (11:30 a.m.) for an extra charge and lunch is provided on **early release days**. The children enjoy spending time with all ages of students doing homework, playing supervised games (including computer),

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playing on the playground, doing arts and crafts and watching movies. Snack is also served in the afternoon.

**Registration forms:** The school will send registration forms at the beginning of the year. Every family is required to register for Extended Day to allow for the possibility that a child may unexpectedly need to go to extended day.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** The Adoration Chapel, located near the church office in the Parish Hall, is open 24 hours a day, every day, for individuals to visit Our Lord and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. This Parish ministry needs to have someone committed to cover each hour of the week. The Spiritual Enrichment Committee coordinates a group of school parent volunteers to cover the hour from midnight to 1:00 a.m. Wednesday night / Thursday morning. Volunteers rotate the responsibility of covering this hour. With the number of parents currently participating, each person is responsible for visiting the chapel during this hour 2-3 times a year. Two individuals are assigned each week so that everyone has a companion/partner.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Many extracurricular activities are available for all grades throughout the school year. For the upper grades, there is Student Council, Yearbook and Band. The upper grades and most of the lower grades are welcome to participate in Junior Great Books, "Mad Science" and other programs offered by the **Enrichment Program**. Other extracurricular activities include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and CYO sports. Suggestions for additional worthwhile programs are always welcome. Parent initiative and volunteerism are essential to our extracurricular activities.

**Family Support:** Each class has a parent who is responsible for arranging assistance for a family in need, such as meals or rides. In the past, needs have included the birth of a child, the illness of a student or other family member, and the sudden or unexpected military deployment of a parent.

**Field Trips:** Teachers will send advance notice of any field trips, along with a permission form for both parent and student to sign. Teachers will indicate whether parent chaperones are needed for the trip and the teachers are responsible for arranging the appropriate number of volunteers. There may be a limit on the number of volunteers if the class is taking a bus or tickets are required for the event. Parents of students are sometimes asked to drive for field trips and must submit a copy of their auto insurance in order to drive. Chaperones must have completed the **VIRTUS Training**.

**Folder:** Each child will be given a special backpack folder, with the St. Agnes School logo on the front. That folder is your essential communication device, in which all **backpack mail** is delivered. Please cover the folder with clear contact paper, as it quickly becomes dog-eared if left unprotected. Messages come home in it from the teachers, as do general announcements from the school and PTO. Please check the folder each day and return it each morning. Parents may send messages to school in the folder, as well as missives to other parents through the folder, via **backpack mail**.

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The youngest child in each family gets a folder with a blue dot and that folder will receive all general announcements for the entire school year. Experience has shown that announcements are most likely to be delivered to parents if they go home with the youngest child.

**Grocery Store Club Cards:** Register Safeway, Harris Teeter, Target and Giant grocery cards to designate St. Agnes School to receive a percentage of what is spent at those stores. Get grandparents, relatives, and friends to participate as well.

**Handbook:** The St. Agnes School Handbook is the school's official document that explains the school's philosophy, rules and regulations, accreditation and much more. All parents are expected to review it and to sign an acknowledgment form that they have done so. The Handbook is posted on the school website.

**Holy Days of Obligation:** For Holy Days of Obligation that fall during the week, the school celebrates Mass with the Parish at 9:00 a.m. Students are required to wear the dress uniform on these days. Families are invited to join the school for this Mass and, of course, all other Masses the school attends.

**Hours:** Carpool begins at 7:30 a.m. School begins at 8:00 a.m. Dismissal for Pre-K is 12:15 p.m. Dismissal for Kindergarten through Eighth grade is 3:15 p.m. except for 2:15 p.m. on Fridays. Dismissal on **early release days** is 11:30 a.m. for all students, including Pre-K. Morning **Extended Day** is from 7:00 a.m. until the beginning of school. Afternoon **Extended Day** is from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. (unless otherwise announced).

**Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing:** The school follows Arlington County School District closures during inclement weather. Closures are announced on major radio and television stations as well as various Arlington County automated email and text alerts. **Emails and** automated telephone calls are initiated to provide additional detail if a St. Agnes School closure differs from the policy of the Arlington County schools. St. Agnes School has a robust program in place to handle closure of the school in the event of an emergency. This program is described in detail in the **Handbook** and should be read by parents.

**Label:** Please label all your child's belongings, including **uniform**, jacket, hats, gloves, lunchbox, **folder**, **backpack** and any other item that your child brings to school. If anything gets lost, please check the **Lost and Found Box** located in the gym.

**Library Books:** Be sure to return school library books when children are finished reading them. Each teacher will have a box in the classroom for the books, which will be returned on their library day (held once a week). This helps avoid frantic searching for the books on library day. Children may not check out new books until old books are returned.

**Lion & Lamb Club:** The Lion & Lamb Club is a special program for younger children in

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the St. Agnes Parish. The lion is the school mascot, and the lamb is a symbol of St. Agnes' patron saint. Parents and children are invited to attend special events at the school throughout the year, playdates and other activities. Younger siblings are always invited.

**Lost and Found Box:** This is the first place to look when clothing or school supplies are missing. The Lost and Found Box is located in the gym (entering from Randolph Street, it is near the Extended Day Office at the back of the gym). Please remember to **label** all children's belongings.

**Lunch:** Children are asked to bring in lunch each day (except on **early release days**, and days where they have been signed up for lunch via the **Smart Lunches** service). For **Smart Lunches**, Parents order and pay online and the lunches are delivered to the school. You can register and check out the menu at: <http://www.smartlunches.com>. The school nurse is not able to provide lunches at any time. Please send lunch in a lunch box or bag and include a freezer pack/ice bag to keep food items cold or fresh. Parents usually pack sandwiches, yogurt, fruit juice boxes, fruit or carrot sticks, healthy snacks or dessert. Canned soft drinks are not allowed. Not sure about what to pack for your child? Talk to teachers or **Room Parents** for more ideas. For field trips, the children usually bring in brown bag lunches with their names on the bags. (Teachers will advise on this prior to the field trip.)

**Lunchroom:** Lunch is held in the school gym with two or three grades per lunch period. A teacher and parent volunteers supervise each lunch period and assist in distributing **Smart Lunches** and milk, opening cartons, putting straws in juice boxes, etc. **Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer in the lunchroom.** Information regarding this **volunteer opportunity** will be distributed at the beginning of the year via Signup Genius. Sign up for a few times a year or a few times a month as schedules permit.

**Mass:** School Masses are scheduled according to the liturgical year. Please check the **school calendar** for the Mass day each week. Pre-K attends Mass on special feast days. On Mass days, students must wear the dress uniform. If a child's **birthday** falls on a Mass day, the child must wear the dress uniform and dress out of uniform on another day. Families are invited to join the students for Mass. Parents may sit with Pre-K children but older students sit with their classes and **Prayer Partners**.

**Medications:** All medications, including pain relievers, must be administered by the school nurse. All over-the-counter and prescription medications must be kept in their original container and labeled with the child's name. A signed, up-to-date parental permission form must be on file before medication is administered. All prescription medication permission forms must be signed by the parent and the doctor. Medication permission forms can be downloaded from the school nurse's website on **Edline**. The **Handbook** provides a full listing of restricted items and medications, including over-the-counter medications.

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**Milk Tickets:** Milk tickets are required to purchase milk at lunchtime. Milk tickets cost 25 cents per ticket; the cost of one week of milk for one child drinking one milk a day is \$1.25. Both regular and chocolate milk are available at lunchtime for all grades. Include milk ticket(s) in lunch boxes each day (include extra tickets if children are likely to drink more than one container of milk). Writing your child's name on the ticket can also help the teachers and volunteers with milk distribution. Please purchase tickets in large quantities, either for a semester or the entire year, by returning the specially marked envelope at the beginning of the school year to the School Office. The cost for a semester is approximately \$20.00 per child. Please make checks payable to St. Agnes School. Milk service begins the second week of school; please provide a drink for the first few days.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** These are scheduled in November following the first quarter **report cards**. Parents may ask to schedule a conference at any time to address concerns.

**PowerSchool:** Teachers and school staff will utilize PowerSchool, a School Management System, throughout the school year. PowerSchool will be used for posting and viewing grades online. After teachers post graded assignments and tests on PowerSchool, parents and students can log into PowerSchool Parent and Student Portals using the internet or a mobile app for iOS or Android to view the grades. Also visible on the portal are attendance records, teacher comments, and grade history. Parents may use the portal to set their email notification preferences to indicate what information will be received and how often.

**Prayer Chain:** Sponsored by the Spiritual Enrichment Committee, the prayer chain is open to anyone in the St. Agnes School community. The Prayer Chain coordinator communicates the concerns of the community to the prayer chain via **email**.

**Prayer Partners:** Prayer Partners are older children who sit with the younger children during Mass to help them participate appropriately.

**PTO Emails:** The PTO has its own email system which is used extensively for communicating regarding PTO and other school events. Please note that the PTO emails are separate than **emails** from the school. Make sure you are receiving both emails. If you are not receiving emails from the PTO or change your email address, please email: [pto@saintagnes.org](mailto:pto@saintagnes.org)

**PTO General Meetings:** These meetings are scheduled three to four times during the school year and provide a good opportunity for communication among the parents, teachers, principal and pastor. Reminders are sent from the PTO Secretary via **email** and noted on the **school calendar**.

**Random Acts of Kindness:** An in-school program that recognizes the many random, wonderful and generous acts of kindness that St. Agnes' students perform on a daily basis. A drawing is held on a monthly basis during the school year for students who are

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seen doing a good deed. Sample prizes include a dress-down day or no homework night for the student's entire class.

**Reading Buddies:** Students in the upper grades are paired with younger children as "reading buddies." For example, a fourth grade student might be paired to read to a first grade student.

**Report Cards:** Report cards go out twice a year for Kindergarten, four times a year (each quarter) for First through Eighth grades.

**Resource Program:** The resource room is staffed by two full-time teachers and one part-time teacher for remedial and enrichment opportunities.

**Room Parents:** Every class will have at least one room parent. Anyone who volunteers as Room Parent will be utilized. The room parent helps the teacher with communication to the parents, helps organize class parties and gifts and, traditionally, works with the teacher and students to create an item for the **Auction**. Room parents also help with **family support** to new parents and to ensure that those families that are experiencing difficulties, such as a parent's illness, have meals, rides, and whatever else they might need. Room parents are also a great source of information for any questions regarding the school.

**School Calendar:** The school publishes a monthly calendar that contains school events, PTO events, early release days, Mass days, and listings for the multitude of events happening at the school. The school calendar can be found on the school website and is a must-read! Be sure to check back because it updated frequently.

**School Supply List:** Each teacher has a list of supplies for the entire year that students must have at the beginning of the year. The PTO offers a School Supply program at the end of the prior school year through which parents may order supplies for the next school year and all supplies are delivered to the classrooms for the first day of school. Parents may otherwise purchase the required supplies and send them in the first day of school. Please buy exact brands and numbers of items requested. Also, while the teachers try to anticipate all the supply needs of the students and have those brought in at the beginning of the year, occasionally, additional items are needed as projects and activities are planned during the course of the year. As a result, parents may be asked to send in other items or money for the teachers to purchase items.

**School Website:** The address for the **school website** is:  
<http://www.saintagnes.org/school/>.

**Sleep:** Our school nurse notes that children have definite sleep requirements. She recommends the following hours of sleep each night: 11-13 hours for pre-school children; 10-12 hours for elementary children; 9-11 hours for pre-teens; and 8.5-10 hours for teenagers.

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**Snacks:** **No snacks containing Peanuts or Tree Nuts will be allowed.** All students (including Pre-K) must bring a (relatively healthy) food item and one drink, such as a water bottle or a juice box on a daily basis. The school nurse is not able to provide snacks at any time. Please do not send any treats or snacks for sharing to the classroom at any time.

**Social Events:** There are lots of social events at St. Agnes which provide parents, students and families with wonderful opportunities to make new friends and keep in touch with the old ones. Some of these events include the Auction, Golf Tournament, Halloween Party, Father/Daughter Dance, Movie Night and Parent Back-to-School Parties. Don't miss out! Watch the **school calendar** for dates!

**Special Persons Day:** During **Catholic Schools Week**, each student invites a special person (e.g., parent, grandparent, family friend, aunt or uncle, etc.) to have lunch with them, enjoy recess and play Bingo. The special person typically brings lunch for themselves and the student from a local fast food restaurant. Lunch is in the gym and Bingo is in the Parish Hall or the classrooms. Each grade is assigned a specific day for Special Persons Day. Specific days will be announced prior to **Catholic Schools Week**. Please let your child's teacher and/or **Room Parent** know if your child will not have someone present and arrangements can be made so that no student is left out of the fun.

**Specials:** Students have special academic subjects scheduled throughout the week, including library, computer, P.E., music and art.

**Sports:** CYO-sponsored sports include track and field in the fall and spring, cross country in the fall, tennis in the fall, and basketball in the winter. Announcements for sports sponsored by the CYO, Arlington County or other community organizations are sent via **email** and/or **backpack mail** and noted in the **Thursday Newsletter**.

**Student Council:** The St. Agnes Student Council is an elected body of students from Sixth through Eighth grades. While learning about leadership and the responsibilities of citizenship, the council members strive to promote school spirit and organize service projects. Council commissioners are elected each spring and homeroom representatives are elected each fall.

**Thursday Newsletter:** The weekly source of information for happenings at the school sent via **email** and/or posted on the **school website**. Information regarding upcoming school, PTO and community events is included. Be sure to read it all!

**Tuition:** Tuition may be paid in full prior to the start of school or on a monthly basis using the FACTS Tuition Program ([www.factsmgt.com](http://www.factsmgt.com)). Payments and questions about tuition should be directed to the Parish Office.

**Tutors:** Tutors may be available either in the classroom when a teacher determines that a child needs extra assistance or after school if parents wish to make separate

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arrangements for individual tutoring. Please speak with your child's teacher or Dr. Terri Eichner, the Resource Teacher, for additional information.

**Uniforms:** Detailed information about the uniform requirements is in the **Handbook**. The following is an alphabetical list generated from questions that are commonly asked by new families.

**Holy Days and Class or All-School Mass Days:** Children must wear dress uniforms. The **Handbook** contains detailed information as to what constitutes the dress uniform.

**Names:** Put children's names in indelible ink, on the inside (preferably at the collar or on the back, in the case of ties) of any item of clothing that (s)he is likely to remove during the day, including sweaters, sweatshirts, P.E. clothes, hats, coats, jackets, and even neckties. Check classrooms or the **lost and found box** (in the gym against the left wall as you walk in from Randolph Street) for lost items.

**Physical Education Days:** All grades should wear their P.E. uniforms all day on the given P.E. day. Should an All-School **Mass** fall on a P.E. day, students (except Kindergarteners) should wear dress uniforms and change into P.E. uniforms after Mass. Kindergartners will wear their P.E. uniform to Mass.

**Pre-K:** Uniforms are not worn. Children should wear clothing that is comfortable and can be worn during play at recess; *i.e.*, safe shoes and nothing too dressy. The children go to P.E. one day a week and should wear sneakers on that day.

**Seasons:** There is a summer uniform (worn from the beginning of the school year until November 1 and from April 1 to the end of the school year) and a winter uniform (worn from November – March). A full list of all the acceptable items and information about when to wear them is included in the **folder** and **Handbook**. Specific dates for summer uniform and winter uniform will be announced. Exceptions to the uniform calendar may be made for unseasonably warm or cold days, in which case notice will go home in **email** and/or **backpack mail**.

**Used Uniforms:** Gently worn and reusable uniforms are collected throughout the school year and the PTO holds sales 2 to 3 times a year.

**Where to purchase uniforms:** All uniform items must be purchased from Flynn & O'Hara located at 9650 Main Street in Fairfax, in the Fair City Mall. (Phone: 703-503-5966) From Arlington, go West on US Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.), past the Beltway, to Fairfax City. Turn left on Pickett Road. Flynn & O'Hara is located inside Fair City Mall, which is on the right side of Pickett and across the street from the ever popular Chuck E. Cheese's. July is a great time to visit the shop, as it is generally not crowded. Uniforms are also available online at

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[www.flynnohara.com](http://www.flynnohara.com). Again, all uniform items are required to be supplied by Flynn & O'Hara, unless otherwise specified by the school.

**Virtues Program:** St. Agnes School is proud of its Virtues Program, in which students focus on a different virtue every month. The program seeks to cultivate each particular virtue through practice as well as study. The students' practical experiences include collecting baby items for St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, coats for the poor in winter and putting together food baskets for needy families around the holidays.

**VIRTUS Training:** It is the policy of the Diocese of Arlington that all volunteers and employees who have substantial contact with children comply with the Diocesan Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People. This policy requires the completion of an application, a background check, and the completion of the VIRTUS seminar - Protecting God's Children. Only those in compliance with the Diocesan Policy will be permitted to volunteer at St. Agnes School. More information about this requirement will be available at **Back-to-School Night** or you may contact the Parish Office.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** The time and talents of our school community are essential in supporting the programs we offer. There are many volunteer opportunities available and all parents are strongly encouraged to sign up for at least one activity during the year. The school relies on the active support of parents and this is a great way to meet other parents and teachers! The PTO sends out a volunteer sign-up form in August which should be returned the first week of school. Additionally, the PTO sends emails and flyers via **backpack mail** during the school year as volunteer opportunities arise.

**[www.saintagnes.org/school](http://www.saintagnes.org/school)**: The school's website with loads of information about the school.

*Still more questions? Please do not hesitate to ask any question of the faculty, staff, PTO Officers, the Welcome Committee, Room Parents or any other St. Agnes School family. Thanks and have a great year!*