



The Howler

News from Pope Francis Global Academy

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

[PFGA WEBSITE](#) - Please visit the school website often for the latest news

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **Friday, September 24 - NO SCHOOL for a teacher Professional Development Day**
 - Saturday, September 25 - 8th Grade Car Wash Fundraiser 9 am - 12 pm
 - Wednesday, September 29 - Virtual Back to School Night
 - Thursday, October 7 - High School Day at PFGA, grades 6-8
 - Wednesday, November 3 - Picture Day
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SCHOOL NEWS

8TH GRADE CAR WASH FUNDRAISER - THIS SATURDAY!

Help the 8th grade fund their graduation celebrations and activities by coming out for a car, van or SUV wash on Saturday, September 25! They'll be open in the lot across from the school at Irving and Moody from 9 am - 12 pm.

[DETAILS HERE](#)

LOU MALNATI'S FROZEN PIZZA COUPON FUNDRAISER DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED!

Orders, along with payment, for our fall Lou Malnati's Frozen Pizza Coupon fundraiser will now be due on Wednesday, September 29! Remember, you can sell them to friends and family or you can buy them to GIVE as gifts to friends and family! Lots of options here!

The classroom that sells the most coupons (averaged per student) will earn a pizza lunch!

[FLYER IS HERE](#)

VIRTUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT IS NEXT WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday, September 29 is our Virtual Back to School Night! We will once again host Zoom meetings with the teachers. Teachers will be providing links to their individual Zooms which will start at 5:30 pm. They will each present one session. A video recording of their presentation will then be sent to all the parents in each respective class.

UNIFORM REMINDERS

With cooler weather upon us (perhaps, not for good) please be sure to send your students with a sweater or jacket for when they go outside for recess. PLEASE label outerwear as often kids take them off and they get misplaced. Official school sweaters with the logo, half-zip grey fleece with the logo, or maroon full-zip fleece with the logo may be worn throughout the school day inside or outside. Any other jackets, pullovers, sweatshirts or sweaters must be removed when inside the school.

As well, October 1 is the date when we require students to start wearing uniform pants as opposed to shorts. Black chino style pants are the only acceptable regular uniform pants. Grey school gym pants are the only acceptable gym uniform pants.

Finally, generic white polos or oxford shirts are ok under a jumper, however, all shirts worn with the skort or pants must have the school logo on front. We have many extra shirts in the uniform exchange closet. Please contact Mrs. Molenda if you need anything specific. jmolenda@pfgacademy.org. Thank you.

ONLINE VIRTUS TRAINING AVAILABLE NOW!

ANY adult family member, who hopes to volunteer with our students either at school or during a school sanctioned event must take special Virtus training and then complete several forms and steps to become compliant each year with the Archdiocese Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

VIRTUS training is a one-time seminar which is required. Normally, this is a 3 hour session at a school or parish anywhere in the Archdiocese. However, right now, due to COVID, there is AN ONLINE OPTION FOR TRAINING AVAILABLE! It is shorter (1.5 - 2 hours vs. 3 hours plus drive time) and easier to deal with logistically! Take advantage of this while it lasts!

STEP #1 – go [HERE](#) and then click the green bar which says **FIRST TIME REGISTRANT**. Complete the forms, choose "online" training then complete the subsequent steps, including approving an online background check.

STEP #2 – Go [HERE](#) and find the "to volunteer" line on the chart, then complete every step which is linked from there, including approving and applying for a background check.

Once you have completed everything, send all the forms to Mrs. Tina Menendez in the school office. Nothing goes in the mail to the state.

SIGN UP NOW FOR ONLINE VIRTUS TRAINING NOW! You will be glad you averted driving to Lake Bluff or Tinley Park to do it in person!

VIRTUS TRAINING ALREADY COMPLETED? YOU'RE NOT QUITE DONE!

Thank you for your support of Pope Francis Global Academy through volunteer service. Though you only need to take the initial VIRTUS class one time, you DO need to stay up-to-date on your Virtus account and training in order to continue volunteering for our school each year, and to keep your account "active."

Each month you are sent a VIRTUS Monthly Training Bulletin. Normally, it's simply a one page newsletter to read and answer one question. Occasionally, there is an additional training module they will ask everyone to do.

The quickest and easiest way to stay up-to-date and keep an active account is to click through the link in that monthly email right away when you receive it, and complete everything immediately before you forget! It will normally take no more than 5 minutes.

The link takes you to the VIRTUS page, where you will sign in. Under the HOME tab you will see:

- Monthly bulletins - complete these every month to remain in good standing
- Current Training - complete any new training that may have been posted here
- Background Checks - this will tell you if you need a new background check...complete this if it is not current
- Required Documents - this will tell you if you required updated documents...complete these if not current

Please submit training certificates and required documents to the school office right away once you're done. There is no need to send them anywhere else.

There is nothing to turn in after you complete the monthly bulletins.

When you log into VIRTUS, if you find that your account has been inactivated, please contact Tina Menendez at tmenendez@pfgacademy.org to have it reactivated.

WIN BIG IN OUR QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE!

Our Queen of Hearts raffle pot is up over \$55,500! You could win half of that!

Buy your tickets NOW at [Trattoria Porretta's](#) anytime their dining room or pick up window are open! The raffle takes place EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT at [Trattoria Porretta](#) at 3656 North Central.

5 GALLON BUCKETS NEEDED!

A message from Ms. Bieshke, our new music teacher: "Hello everyone I am Megan Bieschke the new music teacher, and I am so glad I get to teach all of your children. The school year started off great! I'm looking into some fun music ideas for future lessons. I'm looking for 30 Five Gallon Buckets to do a really fun Bucket Drumming unit. All of the students are eager and would love the opportunity to try this unit out. If you happen to have any five gallon buckets ([LIKE THESE](#)), we would gladly take them off your hands!"

CLUBS AND SPORTS

NEW MULTI-MEDIA CLUB FORMING FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

If your 6th, 7th or 8th grader is interested in graphic design, photography, writing, or digital art, please talk with them about joining the newly forming MULTI-MEDIA Club! The club will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 2-3:15 pm in one of the classrooms. They will learn about digital and traditional media and communications, and they will also be responsible for putting out a monthly student newsletter, a couple of school videos, and the all-important yearbook!

[DETAILS ARE HERE](#)

ANIME CLUB

Mrs. Kells is starting a new Anime Club for junior high students. They will meet on **MONDAYS from 3-4 pm** in Mrs. Kells room to discuss books and videos, and to practice creating and drawing characters, scripts, storyboards and graphic novels. Basic drawing materials are the only thing required. The cost is \$25 per student and the 6 week session will go from October 4 through November 15. A sign up sheet will go home with those students expressing interest to Mrs. Kells next week.

RUNNING CLUB

If your student has been doing cross country, or just likes to run, and they want to keep it going throughout the fall, Mrs. Thyen is sponsoring a **RUNNING CLUB** which will take place on **THURSDAYS from 3-4:15**. We will learn about stretching, warming up and cooling down, and we will run to and around Merrimac Park in decent weather. When the weather is wet or icy, we will run laps in the gym and learn about different running drills for speed and agility. We will begin on October 6 and the 6 week session will go through November 17. Cost is \$25 per student. Parents who have VIRTUS training and are up-to-date on all compliance may join us! Limit of 20 students from 4th through 8th grade.

[SIGN UP IS HERE](#)

COME OUT TO CHEER ON THE WOLVES!

- Friday September 24 at 4 pm- PFGA Cross Country Meet CHAMPIONSHIP at Resurrection College Prep
 - Sunday, September 26 at 4:30 - PFGA Varsity vs St Paul of the Cross Blue at Ni-Ridge Park
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOOL AMBASSADORS FOR PORTAGE PARK FARMERS MARKET

If you have a few hours on Sunday morning, October 3, please consider helping Mrs. Thyen out at the PFGA tent at the Portage Park Farmers Market. Sign up here: [Sunday, October 3](#)

RECESS MONITORS

The school is in need of several parents each day to monitor outdoor recess between 11:30 and 12:30. This is an easy and fun way to earn your hours if you have a flexible schedule! This volunteer position DOES require you to be in compliance with all VIRTUS and Protecting God's Children annual requirements. See the Virtus training section above for information.

Contact Tina Menendez at tmenendez@pfgacademy.org to volunteer.

QUEEN OF HEARTS HELPERS

We are in need of someone to help sell tickets at Trattoria Porretta on Thursday nights from about 6 - 8 pm. For more information on this one, please contact Mrs. Thyen at jthyen@pfgacademy.org or contact John Panvino directly at jnp1429@sbcglobal.net.

PARENT CLUB NEWS

JOIN PARENTS CLUB AND EARN 2 VOLUNTEER HOURS!

This year, when you join as a dues paying member of the Parents Club by September 30, you will earn two Volunteer Hours. What does joining mean? Send in the form found at the link below to the office with the \$20 annual dues. With your payment you will also receive a cool PFGA wine tumbler and complimentary drinks/apps at our meetings. (Typically the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm) [PARENTS' CLUB MEMBERSHIP](#) - Join Today!

PARENTS' CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 30

The 1st Parents' Club Meeting of the school year will be Thursday, September 30 in Room 100 at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be Father Mike the new pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. Questions? email parentsclub@pfgacademy.org

PARENT RESOURCES

PARENTING IN A WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

Wondering how much is a reasonable amount of screen time for your kids? Commonsense Media has some thoughts on that: [HOW MUCH SCREEN TIME IS SAFE?](#)

Please send all submissions to the Howler by Tuesdays at 12:00PM to info@pfgacademy.org

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