



# Star Connection

STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Welcoming all families including military and those of all faiths*

Winter 2021-22

## Welcoming Extra Classes Means Extra Teachers!

The 2021-2022 academic year is off to a fantastic start as we welcomed over 70 new students to our school. With our enrollment at 251, we currently have two Kindergarten classes, two first grade classes and two second grade classes.

With the increased enrollment, and with a few teachers either moving or stepping back to raise children or assist elderly family members, we would like to welcome several new teachers.

**Mr. Mark Jones** is teaching 4th grade. He is a native of Virginia Beach and earned his Master's Degree from ODU in Educational Leadership and holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He



*Mr. Mark Jones*

worked in VBCPS for 32 years, teaching grades 2nd -4th, as well as serving as an Elementary Assistant Principal for 6 years. He and his family are parishioners at Star of the Sea and he was excited to join our faculty. Mark's wife, Grace, works for Star of the Sea parish office.

We welcomed **Mrs. Lisett Madsen** as an additional 2nd grade teacher. She obtained a Bachelor's from ODU and a Master's in Education from National University in California. She is former military and a military spouse and a mother of two high school students. She has two beloved dogs, a black Lab and yellow Rhodesian Ridgeback-Lab. Mrs. Madsen is



*Mrs. Lisett Madsen*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Fall Mile Run

Our fall mile run was back on the boardwalk! It was held on a beautiful day on Wednesday, October 13. Our top boys included a tie for first by 8th graders Roch Didio and Logan Fender (6:31), 2nd place 8th grader Dillon Libasci (6:39), tie for 3rd place by 7th grader Niko Cochran and 6th grader Holden Nguyen (6:41). For the girls, our top runner was 4th grader

Aniston Lapitan (7:01), 2nd place 8th grader Sara Ankley (7:11) and 3rd place 6th grader Salem Alves (7:17).



*1st Grade Starting Line*

the 8th graders helped their school mates complete their fall mile run and cheered them on.

Our parents and grandparents enjoyed the day. Our principal was proud of how well

## Weekly Mass

Weekly school masses resumed at the beginning of the year with all Kindergartners through 8th grade attending in person. Students serve as altar servers, lectors and cantors and parents are again welcomed to attend whenever they can.

When Fr. Steve is unavailable, students gather and say a Rosary together led by 8th grade students. In December, 5 students were baptized during school mass!



*Fr. Steve blesses religion books at first school mass in September*

## Welcoming New Teachers (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

an avid lover of nature and its wonders. This love has brought her memorable experiences such as hiking two volcanic mountains, Mt. Fuji and Mt. Vesuvius, as well as hiking one of the Alaskan Glaciers. She loves spending time with her family, swimming, hiking, doing crafts, and relaxing.

Our Middle School welcomed **Mr. Patrick Aiello**, who is teaching Social Studies and Religion. Mr. Aiello is originally from Massapequa, New York. He graduated from Molloy College in Rockville



Mr. Patrick Aiello

Centre, NY with a bachelor's in history and a master's degree in Secondary Education. He has teaching certifications in Social Studies and Special Education. Mr. Aiello has an accomplished career as a lacrosse player and has been coaching the game for the past seventeen years. Mr. Aiello is an avid surfer and has a black Labrador named Ellie Mae.

**Dr. Niklas Putnam** is our new Middle School Science Teacher. Dr. Putnam was raised in Reno, Nevada where he graduated from Bishop Manogue Catholic High School. He served in the US Army Corps of Engineers for 23 years. After retirement, he began teaching at Tidewater Community College at the Virginia Beach campus in the Geoscience Department. "As the new science instructor at Star of the Sea, I look forward to learning and inspiring our young adults to excel in their academic endeavors."



Dr. Niklas Putnam

We welcomed **Ms. Baylea Freeman** as our new School Counselor employed through Catholic Charities. She is currently earning my M.A. in

Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Regent University. In 2019, she received a B.S. in Psychology from Welch College in Nashville, TN. She has worked as a Counseling Intern at the Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia since May 2021. She completed her



Ms. Baylea Freeman

Psychology Practicum at an after-school program, the Shalom Zone, in Gallatin, Tennessee. During her time at the Shalom Zone, her heart for helping students blossomed. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with us this school year.

Mrs. Cary Ressler who will be taking over for Mrs. Zahzouhi beginning in January as a first grade teacher. She is originally from Richmond, moved to Virginia Beach six years ago and lives with her husband Ty and two Maine Coon cats Luke and Hank. As she's shared, "Teaching is my absolute passion! On the weekends you can find me on two wheels. I love riding my bicycle on the boardwalk, and I also love riding the back roads of Pungo, and Chesapeake on my husband's motorcycle! I travel to Richmond most weekends to see my sweet 3 year old niece, and the rest of my immediate family. I am thrilled to be a part of the best school in Virginia Beach!" She will work closely in collaboration with Mrs. Diana Socha to ensure continuity and consistency. We are excited for Mrs. Ressler to join our SOS family and we wish Mrs. Zahzouhi exciting adventures in Bahrain!



Ms. Cary Ressler

*Star of the Sea Catholic School is rooted in the rich traditions of our Catholic faith to provide a Christ-centered learning environment where students are dedicated to spiritual growth, academic distinction, and social responsibility. #CDRCatholicSchools #DiscovertheDifference*

## A Message from the Principal & Pastor

Dear Parents, Friends & Families of Star of the Sea Catholic School,

As we work through the second year of this pandemic, we continue to reflect on our faith, family and school community like never before. We are so proud of being a part of an amazing Catholic Diocese where we continue to excel academically. The value of Catholic education has been highlighted and we continue to grow in faith as well as with enrollment. The pandemic has certainly affected us all. However, with challenge comes opportunity, and we continue to welcome wonderful new families to our school community. In fact, we have grown in enrollment to now have two kindergarten classrooms, two first grade classrooms, and two second grade classes! Open enrollment for current families will begin in January and opens to new families January 19, 2022.

As we say farewell to 2021, we look forward to hosting another Raise Craze where we highlight acts of kindness, celebrate Catholic Schools Week, and hold our annual events to include the Spring Mile Run at the boardwalk, our annual auction, and Sandcastle Day! As Pope Francis stated, "Prayer leads us forward in hope," and our amazing faculty and staff have new goals and initiatives for next school year.

We thank you for your unwavering support and wish you a prosperous and blessed 2022!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,



Carey L. Averill, Ed.D  
Principal



Fr. Steve DeLeon  
Pastor



## Alumni Spotlight: Morgan Family

One of the most wonderful things about being a part of Star of the Sea is watching the continued relationship long after students graduate. This year, we highlight and thank the Morgan family for all they have done and continue to do for our school.

Nancy Morgan began the annual 5K and Mile Fun Run. In its 11th year, and two years past her youngest (Ava, class of 2020) graduating, Nancy still works hard to bring sponsors and make the event a success.



Nancy Morgan with her three Alumni children, Anna (2010), Ava (2020) and Curtis (2013)

This year, Nancy's son, Curtis (class of 2013) volunteered to coach our 8th grade boys' basketball team. From the very first Open Gym, he gained the respect and admiration of the team as he worked to get them conditioned for their last year competing together.

Curtis is one of many alumni still involved in the school. Former student, Hannah Adams coaches a junior boys' team. Alumnus Tommy Smith (1984) is assistant coaching the 8th grade boys team. Beth Ufkes, spouse of alumnus Gordie, is coaching a youth boys team with alumna and current parent, Teresa Saulnier (1993). Alumni parent Bill McGloon is coaching a junior boys team. Our school is grateful for all our alumni and their families.



**See what is happening at Star of the Sea Catholic School!**

For information or to arrange a tour, call us at (757) 428-8400.

Visit our website at [www.sosschool.org](http://www.sosschool.org)





## News Around Campus

### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA)

HSA was able to kick off the 2021-2022 school year by welcoming parents on the first day of school with a Parent Coffee Hour. It was a wonderful opportunity for new and established parents to mingle as they enjoyed breakfast bites and coffee donated by the Klein and Costigan families.

Our most anticipated event, the annual Back to School Picnic, was a HUGE success as parents relaxed on the lawn, students played with friends



*Charlie Belleville, Gordon Ufkes & Tony Comento*

and siblings, and all listened to the DJ while enjoying incredible pork barbecue and all the fixings! The 8th graders were able to raise money for their spring trip through their cake walk and bake sale, and Genevieve Williams won the

“Best of the VIBE” raffle. A community outreach representative with Mathnasium was also present with a table filled with math games and prizes for students. We are so grateful to Beth and Gordon Ufkes for donating the meat and to Gordon Ufkes, Charlie Belleville, and Tony Comento for staying up all night to smoke and prepare the barbecue. We are also so thankful for the countless caregivers and volunteers who donated sides and drinks, as well as their time to serve food and supervise our children. The Back to School Picnic was a wonderful event because of YOU, \$3,928 was raised to benefit SOS!

Our next event was the second annual Trunk or Treat, which had a tremendous turnout of ghouls and goblins! Thirty five cars participated by decorating their trunks and passing out candy, and a



*Trunk or Treat*

firetruck with its crew from Station 11 was also able to join in the fun. The 8th graders had another successful bake sale while pizza after pizza was sold by volunteers Mara Bland and Brigid Kahng.

Thank you to Tricia Smigel for organizing this fun night and to our volunteers and participating families for making it great!



*8th Grade Bake Sale*

Our last event of the calendar year is another SOS favorite, The Santa Secret Shop! Students look forward to shopping for loved ones in secret before Christmas break every year. Thank you to Carmel Alves for organizing this festive event and to her many volunteers for assisting our children with their Christmas shopping and manning the checkout. Thanks to our generous shoppers, The Santa Secret Shop raised \$3,340.52 for our school!

Finally, the HSA was able to hold three fall fundraisers. The Cheesecake Factory Bakery and Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough fundraiser was organized by Kristin Markle and raised \$1,788.80, the SOS Spirit Wear fundraiser was organized by Liz Cook and raised \$988.50, and the Fall Clothing Drive was organized by Jackie Ankley and raised \$500. Thank you Kristin, Liz, and Jackie for spearheading these fundraisers and to our incredible SOS families for purchasing and donating items to support our school!

It has been a financially successful first half of the year, but what we are most proud of is our commitment to bringing back our beloved events that nurture our community through fellowship, which is what makes our school so special. Thank you to all for attending our events and for participating in our fundraisers. HSA is so grateful for your continued support! We are looking forward to more Star fun in 2022!

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**DEVELOPMENT** Our annual golf tournament was extra meaningful this year as it was held in memory of Harry Fentress who passed away in January of this year. He was married to former principal, Susan Fentress. Mrs. Fentress and two members of her golf team have played in every Star of the Sea golf tournament since its inception.

We had a great turnout for our annual golf tournament. Fr. Steve joined us along with 22 foursomes for a great outing. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed our time together in fellowship. The tournament raised just under \$12,000 for our school after costs.



*Former Principal Susan Fentress & Family Members*

After holding a virtual race in 2020, we were thrilled to hold our 11th annual 5K and Mile Fun Run in person on the boardwalk in November. It was a windy day, but we had over 200 participants! Thank you to the volunteers, especially Scott Levine, Jay Kotchka and Nancy Morgan for their help in putting on the event.



*Maria Stevener with Dr. Averill*

The top male and female finisher were both current school parents. Marc Bouquin (20:01) handed his prize to the top youth finisher, Zach Waterman whose brother attends Star of the Sea school. Top female finisher, Maria Stevener's time was 22:25. The event raised \$7,300 after expenses.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our annual appeal. We raised money through our mailing and also through #iGiveCatholic on Giving

Tuesday. At this writing we are going to surpass our goal of raising \$25,000. Thank you!

Our Spirit Nights have offered a great way for families to share fellowship, food and to raise some money for our school! We brought in \$370 from Mahi's, \$440 from New Realm, \$200 from Outback Steakhouse and \$331 from Chicho's.

Our annual auction will be virtual again this year. However, we are kicking off the event with an in-person mixer at Crawford Hall on Friday, February 25. We look forward to sharing some heavy appetizers and drinks while teasing our amazing live packages at the party. Then, beginning May 7, you can bid on our silent items for a week! Bidding will close just before our live auction packages are fought over through our auction platform May 14. Our theme is "Casino Night". Mark your calendar so you don't miss it!

**ATHLETICS** The return of our Athletics program has been strong!! We added a middle school swim team to the list of sports we offer our students and are optimistic we will be able to add a middle school soccer team next fall. We offered a cross country club in the fall coached by Carmel Alves in anticipation of cross country returning to the area next year.



*Star of the Sea Swim Team*

Our Smile Mile run club coached by Kim Strong has approximately 50 students participating and is our largest ever! The runners are working hard to build up the mileage they need to participate in Operation Final Mile in March!

Basketball has started strong this year and everyone is excited to be back in the Gym. Our Grommets program was coached by Dave Sorenson and practiced every Saturday in October and November. These athletes are our future basketball STARS! The Tidewater Catholic Basketball season kicked off with our annual Tip-Off night that saw the 8<sup>th</sup> graders defeat the

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coaches! We have 7 basketball teams participating this year (1 youth boys team, 2 youth girls teams, 2 junior boys teams, and 2 senior boys teams) along with an amazing cheer team! Three of our teams participated in the Buckley Showcase at Catholic High School in exhibition games. League games began on December 4<sup>th</sup> and the season will culminate with the tournament in March. I'm excited to watch these teams in action!

As we look into the Spring, we'll be offering golf, field hockey and track & field programs. Our golf team finished strong last year and looks to be one of the top teams in the area.

I hope to see you in our gym on Saturdays!

Scott Levine  
Athletic Director

## Science Olympiad



As part of our STREAM initiative (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Mathematics), our school held a Science Olympiad right before Christmas break. Students from Kindergarten through 8th grade performed a variety of tasks encompassing many parts of STREAM. Teams were formed and competitions were had. Most importantly, the students learned through hands-on activities with a variety of manipulatives, and they had a ton of fun in the process!



## Remembering Coach John Kelly

Our Star Community was deeply saddened at the sudden passing of former parent and basketball coach John Kelly in August of this year. John had meaningful impacts as both a high school English teacher, basketball coach, and life guard.

He coached his daughter Caroline's basketball team at Star of the Sea beginning in 2012. He took a team that had only won one game the previous year to the championship. His second championship team is pictured here. His other daughter, Catherine, is coaching a youth boys team this season. We will remember Coach Kelly's impact on and off the court.



Coach John Kelly (upper left) with Coach Tim Glaser (upper right) and their 2014-2015 Junior Girls TCBL Champion Team



### **Angels Circle** (Gifts \$2,500 - \$4,999)

John Buckley  
Brian Large

### **Super Star Circle** (Gifts \$2,500 - \$4,999) The Ryan Club

### **Gold Star Circle** (Gifts \$1,000—\$2,499)

Patrick & Sandra Gomez  
Teddy & Susannah Uroskie  
Linda Kelley Walker

### **Silver Star Circle** (Gifts of \$500 to \$999)

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Allen  
Tony & Irene Boone  
Phil Cockrill  
Chris & Elizabeth Cook  
Cecil & Theresa Garber  
Rob & Debbie Giroux  
Tim & Genie Glaser  
Rebecca McGuigan  
Tim & Susan Murphy  
Fred & Jackie Napolitano  
Michael & Meghan Pfeiffer

### **Bronze Star Circle** (Gifts of \$250 to \$499)

Jeff & Jackie Ankley  
Rita Brown  
Matthew & Rebecca Chaney  
Billy & Melissa Foglia  
Patricia King  
Jim & Clare Kitz  
Mr. & Mrs. James Mulligan  
Klar Vorhees Holmes Orthodontist  
Megan Scheidt  
Gordon & Beth Ufkes

### **Stars Circle** (Gifts \$100—\$249)

Nancy Lea Atkins  
Kelly & Monica Baragar  
Elizabeth Bartholomew *in honor of Liz Cook's birthday*  
Joseph & Ashley Bergamino  
Paul & Lee Bergen

Bryan & Holly Campbell  
Regina Choplinsky  
John T Coffey  
Rev & Mrs. John Cole *in memory of John Grawl & Harry Fentress*  
David & Angela Conte  
Nancy Costigan  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve D'Agostino  
Adam & Kelly Davis  
Lorraine DeGiorgi  
Suzanne Duckworth *in memory of Lt.Col. J Rodney Duckworth*  
Harry & Susan Fentress  
Robert & Mara Foley  
Johanna M Gross  
Alfonso & May Guerrero  
Barbara Hudak  
Gretchen Hudome  
Mark & Lynn Ittner  
Ruth Jennette  
Arthur & Jennie Jones  
Jerry Kotchka  
Marc & Nancy Lambert  
Francis & Fredilyn Lansangan  
Bob & Olive Lincoln  
James & Angie Martin  
Seamus & Kathy McCarthy  
Braxton & Alison McKee  
Alexander Moffett  
Tom & Denise Padrick  
Samantha Peyton  
Frederick & Kathy Prickett  
Nick & Jeanine Ritz  
Tom & Theresa Saulnier  
Tom & Diana Socha  
George Switzer  
Bill & Lyn Ungvarsky  
Teddy & Susannah Uroskie  
Lynne Virgili  
Carrie Woolridge  
Claudia Young

### **Friends Circle** (Gifts to \$99)

Jane & Matthew Adsit  
Anonymous  
Shane Sutton & Monica Arauz  
James & Shannon Augustine  
Raymond & Pauline Bach  
Jared & Mara Bland  
Sister Mary Ann Bolger  
David E Cullen  
Glenn Dannenfelser  
June Donnelly  
Katherine Dowling  
Sean Dowling  
Karoline Duffy  
Sister Eileen Dugan

The Thomas Family  
Williams Family  
Frances Franklin  
Amberjean Gallagher  
Jane U Hamilton  
Gretchen Hudome  
Michelle Hugill  
Patricia K. Hyatt  
James & Laura Jansen  
Berk & Molly Jolly  
Robin Keith  
Tricia Leone  
Argenis Cruz & Patricia Leone  
Vince & Michelle Libasci  
Tony & Cathie Lincoln  
Patrick & Jade Lindauer  
Mark & Roxanne Lottinville  
Karen MacLeod  
Vince & Michele Magnini  
David & Kristin Markle  
Patricia McGlinchy  
Jeff McGuire  
Ben & Donna Odanga  
Terri Oswald  
John & Marianne Padrick  
Lisa Ramsey  
Christopher & Maria Reich  
Amy Reineberg  
Joanne Selig  
Karen Spiegelhalter  
Kenneth & Deborah Stillwell  
Michael & Teresa Tamburello  
Kendra Taylor  
Stevan & Evgeniya Troutman  
Joan W Uhlar  
Daniel & Lowery VanBuskirk  
Michael & Jen Waterman  
Mildred Wells *in memory of Gary Lulfs*  
Harold & Cathryn Whisman  
Sallie Williams  
Samantha Wood  
Emily Yopez  
Ed & Norma Zunich



8th Grade Class

# Star of the Sea Catholic School



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Dr. Carey Averill, Principal



*Fr. Steve plays soccer with  
Junior Kindergartners*



*Devin L (8) at the  
Buckley Showcase*

**Please follow us on social media to  
increase our presence.**

