

Notes from the office ...

- After completing our Fall NWEA MAP testing, we are proud to announce that we once again tested in the **top 25% of the nation!**
- Welcome to our new school counselor, Mrs. Tabitha Durdle! Parents and teachers can use this link to request her services for our students. [Referral for School Counseling Services](#)
- On Wednesday, 9/11/24 we have our first, 2nd Wednesday, early out for teacher professional development. We are excited to be able to offer this time to our teachers to collaborate and build upon their already awesome knowledge as educators. Students will be dismissed at 2 PM. No aftercare will be available.
- We hope your students are enjoying our new lunch options from School Eatery. If you need to cancel an order or have any questions or concerns about your account please reach out to School Eater and they will work with you.
support@schooleatery.com
- As the weather continues to keep us on our toes, remember our online approved uniform store is open year round. [Approved Uniform Store](#)
- We appreciate the continued dedication of all of our volunteers. Please log into your [CMG Connect](#) account to make sure your required trainings are up to date and see the 9/4/24 email from Mrs. Biagini with the attached forms that need signed annually. The forms can also be found in this week's messenger.



Mrs. Schlack has eaten lunch in her room everyday to keep our injured student company.



Jude (1st) has been making desk buddies for all his teachers!



Coach Gorsage goes out of her way to make sure her Cross Country team is always praying and rooting each other on, even being sure to mention students who participate in other sports. Hello Sportsmanship!



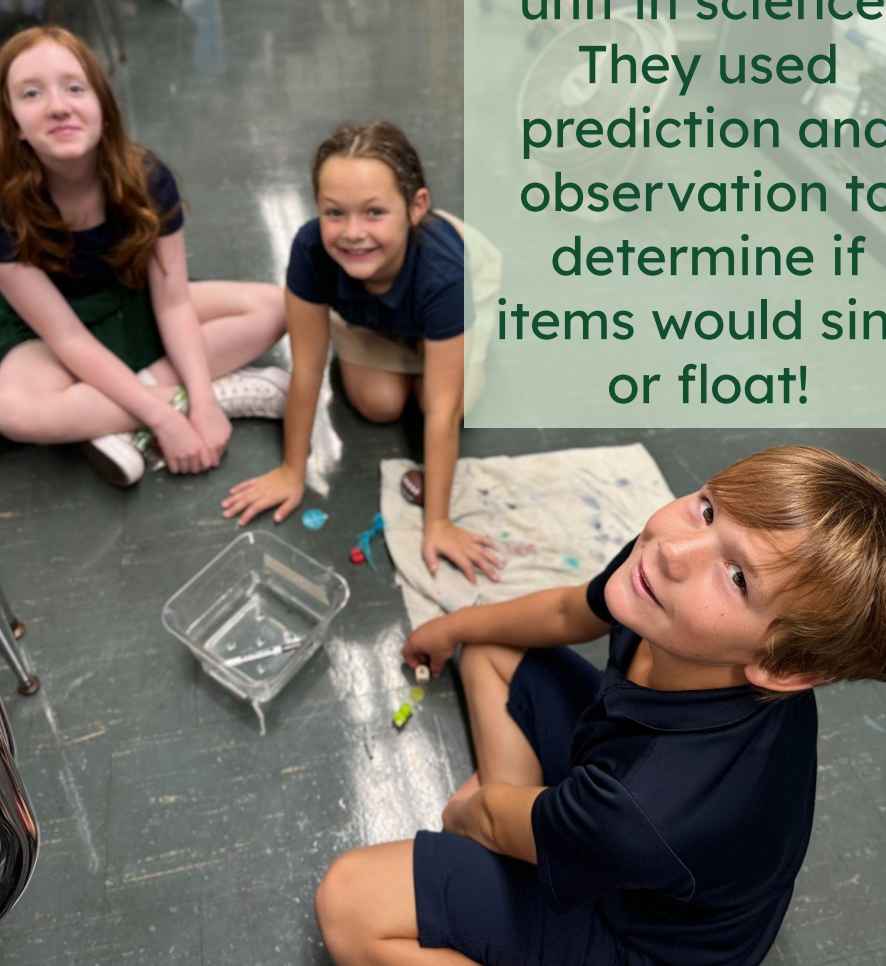
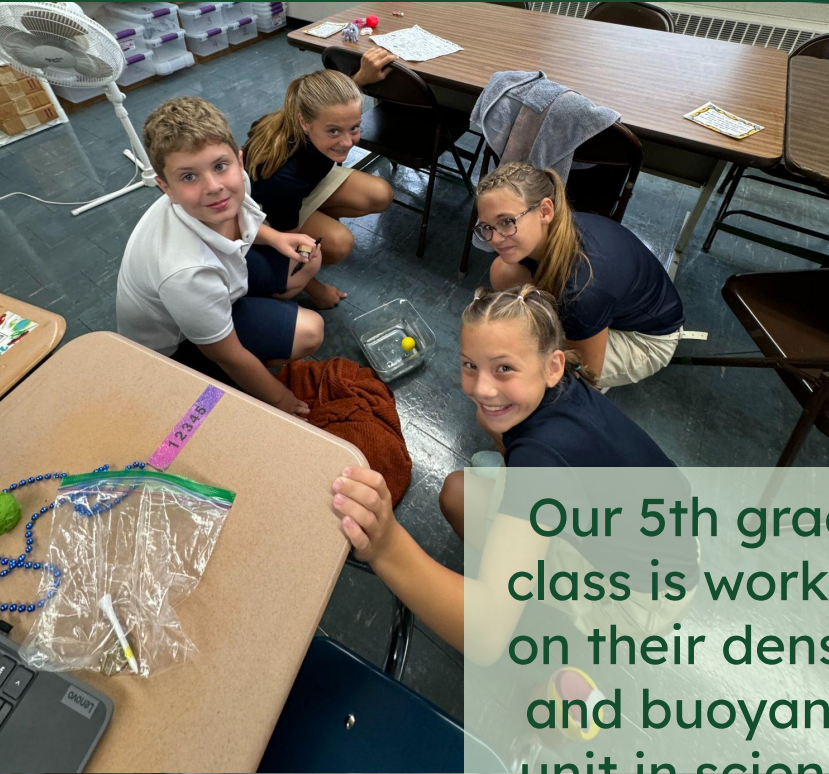
Our choir students consistently come before school to practice. Hooray for Junior high students choosing to get up early to practice singing in church!

In PE this week, the kids were playing a vigorous game of island. **Genevieve** (3rd) was the only one left trying to tap in. She remained safe until time ran out. As she joined the kids on the island, her brother, **Henry** (4th), smiles and gave her a few pats of encouragement on the shoulder.



These acts of kindness, dedication, and service to each other, big or small go a long way when spreading God's love!

Sink or Float?



Our 5th grade class is working on their density and buoyancy unit in science. They used prediction and observation to determine if items would sink or float!

Algebra Challenge!



Check out our 7th Grade Algebra students doing challenging vertical group work at the boards. Some of them prefer to still sit in desks, while others pace and yet others end up on the floor!



Our 8th grade Spanish students researched and wrote articles *en español* for the classroom bulletin board!



VIRTUE OF THE WEEK



WATCH THIS!



**Faith is like a bright ray of
sunlight. It enables us to
see God in all things as
well as all things in God.**

- St. Francis de Sales



FAMILY RESOLUTION:

Attend Holy Mass on
Sunday (or Saturday
night) and wear your
"Sunday Best!"

NEXT VIRTUE IS...

A LIFE OF FAITH
& OBEDIENCE

ONE WAY

How to Practice OBEDIENCE

1. Listen Carefully
2. Ask Questions
3. Follow Instructions
4. Pray for Help

VIRTUE=STRENGTH.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DISOBEY?

Feeling Guilty: We feel bad when we don't listen and follow the rules.

Danger: Disobeying rules can put us in harm's way.

Losing Trust: People may not trust us if we don't follow instructions.

Examples:

- **Adam and Eve:** Disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit and faced consequences.
- **Jonah:** Tried to run away from God's command and ended up in the belly of a whale.

We are so
proud of you

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The St. Patrick Golf Team had the biggest representation in Sectionals since the team's inception in 2016. Their average scores saw double-digit improvements this season, and they were able to secure some wins against other regional Catholic schools in both mixed match play and stroke play.

Congrats to Griffin, Gabe, Mason & Jaxson on a job well done!



THANK YOU
COACHES!

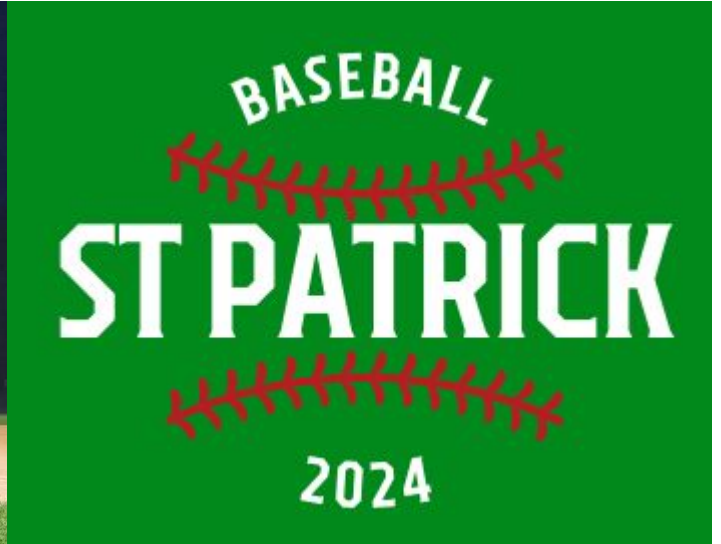




NICE WORK



**Ashlyn C placed
18th and Lilia B was
25th at the IESA
Girls' Golf
Sectional.**



**Come and check out the Irish in action on September 7th at 10AM
or September 12th at 4:30PM at Washington Park Field #5**



SAVE THE DATE: YOUR #1 SEED IRISH FIRST REGIONAL GAME
SEPTEMBER 14th AT 10AM
915 Weidman Rd, Metamora

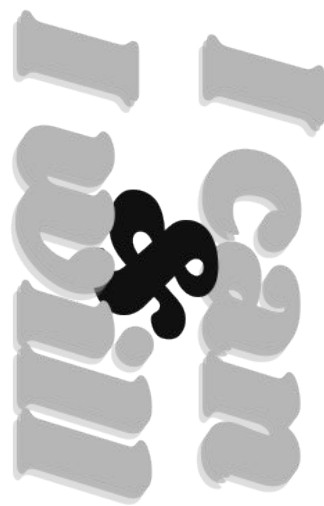


LAKE RUNS



AWARD WINNERS







2 PM Release

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPEMNT

2ND WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH | NO AFTERCARE

9/11/24

10/9/24

11/13/24

12/11/24

1/8/25

2/12/25

3/12/25

4/9/25

5/14/25

Upcoming Dates

9/6/24	Softball vs Washburn @ Home 4:30 PM
9/7/24	Baseball vs Limestone Walters @ Home 10 AM
9/9/24	Softball @ Eureka 4:15 PM
9/10/24	Softball @ Georgetown 4:30 PM
9/10/24	Cross Country @ Metamora, Black Partridge Park 4:15 PM
9/11/24	2PM Release (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE
9/11/24	Baseball @ Bartonville Monroe 4:30 PM
9/11/24	7th Grade Parent Confirmation Meeting in Church 6:30 PM
9/12/24	Cross Country City Meet @ Wenger Shelter 4 PM
9/12/24	Baseball vs Roanoke Benson @ Home 4:30 PM
9/13/24	Baseball @ Morton Union (Westwood Park) 4:15 PM
9/14/24	Softball Regional Semi-final @ Metamora High School 10 AM
9/16/24	Baseball vs Georgetown @ Home 4:30 PM
9/17/24	Cross Country Blessed Sacrament Meet @ Kennel Lake 4 PM
9/17/24	Baseball vs South Pekin @ Home 4:30 PM
9/17/24	Softball Regional Championship @ Metamora High School 5 PM
9/18/24	Baseball vs Low Point Washburn @ Home 4:30 PM
9/20/24	7th Grade Confirmation Students Commitment Signing @ 8:15 AM Mass

The mission of St. Patrick School is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.



Illinois Flag Commission

New State Flag Design Contest

Beginning Tuesday Sept. 3, the Illinois Flag Commission will start accepting public for a new state flag design.

**Want to
Make
History?**



The Illinois Flag Commission is seeking input in re-designing the state's 55-year-old flag!

For guidelines or to submit your design, please visit:

<https://www.ilsos.gov/special/IFC/home.html>

Or submit by mail to:

The Illinois Flag Commission
Howlett Building Room 476
501 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62756

The commission will be accepting design ideas until **Oct. 18**

The commission will select 10 designs based on how they reflect the identity of Illinois and will host an online public survey for the public to vote on their favorites or to keep the current flag. Voting will begin Jan. 1 and last six weeks.

Contact Mrs. Hatton mhatton@stpatswashington.org for more info.

Join Our **PANTHERETTE DANCE CLINIC**

Learn a routine & perform it at a football game!

**K-4th
grade**

Clinic: Oct. 5th 3:30-5:30pm

Performance: Oct. 11th

\$35



What to expect:

- T-shirt provided for performance
- Snack & goody bag given @ clinic
- Preview performance
- 2 complimentary football tickets



Sign up here!

Email: ljmetz@wacohi.net

Clinic Location: Washington Community High School

Register online by Sept. 26

Registration: <https://wacohi.revtrak.net/pantherettes-dance-clinic/#/list>

Join Our **PANTHERETTE DANCE CLINIC**

Learn a routine & perform it at a football game!

**5-8th
grade**

**Clinic: Oct. 5th 3:30-5:30pm
Performance: Oct. 11th**

\$35



Sign up here!

What to expect:

- T-shirt provided for performance
- Snack & goody bag given @ clinic
- Preview performance
- 2 complimentary football tickets

Email: ljmetz@wacohi.net

Clinic Location: Washington Community High School Register online by Sept. 26

Registration: <https://wacohi.revtrak.net/pantherettes-dance-clinic/#/list>



The Pantherette dancers will be hosting a clinic at Washington High School. We would like to invite you to learn a routine with the Pantherettes and to be a part of a dance performance at a fall football game!

The Clinic:

When: Saturday, October 5th
Arrive Between 12:45-1:00 pm, clinic from 1:00-3:30 pm
Where: Washington High School
What to wear: An outfit that allows easy mobility

The Performance:

When: Friday, October 11th - Arrive Between 5:45-6:00 pm
(The performance will be held at the football game, and will take place between the Freshmen Football Game and the Varsity Football Game—approximately sometime between 6:30 and 7:15 pm.)
Where to drop off: Washington High School multi-purpose room
(The clinic dancers will walk over to the field with the Pantherettes.)
Where to pick up: Torry Gym
(Young dancers will not be permitted to leave unless there is a parent present to pick them up.)
What to Wear: An outfit that allows easy mobility & your Dance Clinic T-shirt

The Price: \$35 (This price includes 2 hours of dance instruction, a T-shirt designed by the Pantherettes, a snack, a goody bag, & 2 football game tickets)

Additional Information:

- A snack will be provided mid-session, but dancers may want to bring water bottles labeled with their names. Also if clinic dancers have a food allergy, please be sure to include that information in your sign-up.
- If parents would like to see a sample of what the dancers will perform, you may come to the Torry Gym at Washington High School at **3:05 pm**; doors will not open until **3:00 pm**. After all performances, at approximately **3:30 pm**, parents can pick up dancers by age group. After picking up their child, they should head to the MPR for their goody bag with football tickets.
- Clinic T-shirts can be picked up upon arrival at the performance.
- If you are unable to make the performance, clinic T-shirts can be picked up from the front office of the high school beginning **Monday, October 14th**.

Registration Options:

- **Online** - You may also access the link by going to www.wacohi.net, choosing "web store" on the left hand side, "activities", "Pantherette Clinic" *Online registration ends September 26th.*
- **Drop Off Registration** - Fill out the attached form, write a check to **Washington Pantherettes** and drop off at the front office of the high school in an envelope, labeled Lauren Metz or Pantherettes. *Drop-off forms must be received by September 26, 2024.*
- **Mail-in Registration** - Fill out the attached form, write a check to **Washington Pantherettes**, and mail to:
Washington High School Pantherettes
C/O Lauren Metz
115 Bondurant Street
Washington, IL 61571 *Mail-in forms must be received by September 26th.*
- **Walk-in Registration**- Arrive at the high school by 12:45 pm where forms will be available to fill out. You may write the check there. *Walk-in Registrants are not guaranteed a shirt or goody bag.*

Please do not turn registration forms into your elementary school office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Coach Lauren Metz at ljmetz@wacohi.net or ask a Pantherette dancer!

Pantherette "Paper" Clinic Registration Form

Please legibly print all information!

Information:

Student's Name: _____ (first and last name)

Grade: _____

School currently attending: _____

T-shirt size (please circle one):

child small child medium child large child extra large

adult small adult medium adult large adult extra large

In the space provided, please list any important information about this student (medical/allergies/etc...) that you think we should know for the clinic or the performance:

Emergency Information:

Guardian's Name: _____
(first and last name)

Primary Contact #: _____ Secondary Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

(Should you wish to attend the clinic again, we will use this email address to notify you of next year's information. Additionally, if there is a weather concern on the performance night, we will send out an email.)

Guardian Permission

I give my permission to allow my child to participate in the Pantherette Dance Clinic and performance. I understand that the Pantherettes and their parents will do their very best to watch my child and provide a rewarding experience, but the Pantherettes are not liable for any injury that should occur.

Guardian name (print) _____

Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

September 2024

St. Patrick School

Cassi Smith, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Peter Claver

Born into a farming family in Spain in 1580, St. Peter joined the Jesuit Order at the age of twenty. While serving in Colombia in 1610, St. Peter was horrified by the slave trade. He rushed to each arriving slave ship, bringing water, medicine, food, and clothing to the captives, and teaching them about God. This made him enemies among the slave traders, but he persevered in his mission, ultimately baptizing nearly 300,000 enslaved people.



Patience is a gift

Patience is a form of almsgiving. It's easy to only see things about people that bother us and assume the worst. Everyone needs to be loved. When we try to be patient, courteous, and friendly, we're giving them a gift: we're showing them the face of Christ.

"Wash the plate, not because you have to, but out of love for the person who will use it next." – St. Teresa of Calcutta



Heaven is for children

Jesus said, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

Children are confident, simple, honest, ready to forgive, and humble — a good description of the heart of a disciple. By nurturing and reinforcing these virtues, we can guide children toward Heaven:

Confidence in God's goodness: Children know when they're loved. When we spend time with God in prayer, Mass, and receive the Sacraments frequently, we become more aware of how He loves us.

Simplicity: Gratitude for what we have and focusing on the moment are central to this virtue. Celebrate the good moments of each day with your children and thank God for them. This practice

will help them experience joy and peace more often.

Honesty: Jesus tells us, "Let what you say simply be 'Yes' or 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). Say what you mean and

mean what you say. If children say they'll do something, ensure they follow through.

Readiness to forgive: As children, friends can fight in the morning and be friends that

afternoon. Scripture encourages us to forgive quickly: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Ephesians 4:26).

Humility: An excellent measure of humility is how we handle mistakes. Children aren't upset when they make mistakes and aren't afraid of looking foolish. They may try to improve but won't waste time feeling bad about themselves.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

In Hebrew, the word "amen" shares the same root as the word "believe," and expresses trustworthiness and faithfulness. Jesus sometimes said the word "Amen," twice in a row to emphasize the

Why do Catholics say "Amen" at the end of prayers?

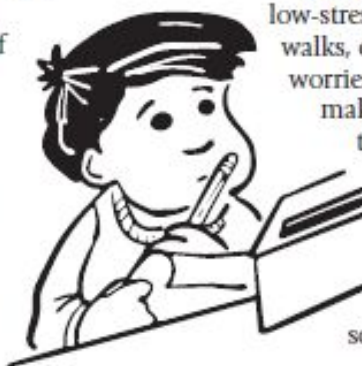


trustworthiness of His teaching. For example, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you" (John 6:53). When we say "amen," we express our faith that God will hear our prayers.

Finding time for quality time

As fall schedules get busy, staying connected as a family can be challenging. Still, there can be simple and practical ways to make the most of the time you have together:

Connect with each child daily: If time is tight, find moments during car rides, meal preparation, cleaning up after dinner, or at bedtime. Express appreciation for chores done, ask about anything interesting or funny that happened during the day, offer a compliment, or give a gentle pat on the back. Children need to know they're loved beyond expectations.



Schedule regular family nights: Aim for fun and low-stress activities like board games, after-dinner walks, or family sing-alongs. Try to set aside work and worries during this time. Don't feel pressured to make everything "perfect." Just enjoy being together.

Set up an "I need to talk" box: Create a box in which children can leave notes about subjects they don't feel comfortable sharing at the dinner table. Check the box regularly and take the time to listen and solve problems together.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48, Discipleship duties

The disciples were jealous of an unfamiliar man who was healing in Jesus' name. They seemed more concerned about losing the spotlight than about the healing itself. Yet, we often do the same when we refuse to participate in good works because the people are unfamiliar, those in charge don't do things the way we'd like, or we fear our efforts won't be recognized. Competitiveness and ego have no place in the Christian community.

Jesus was very clear: we must be ruthless in removing sin from our lives.



Giving up a relationship, job, or habit that keeps us from God may feel as painful as cutting off a hand, but the consequences of our choices last forever. Being lukewarm toward Jesus is impossible.

What can a parent do?

Teach children that being a disciple comes with commitments. If we promise to follow Jesus, we must give up whatever tempts us away from Him. Remind children that everyone on Jesus' side shares the same goal: to build up the kingdom of God. The work of the kingdom must come first.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 5 - St. Teresa of Kolkata (1997). Concha Agnes Bojaxhiu joined the Loreto nuns and taught in India. Shocked by the poverty and suffering she witnessed, she founded the Missionaries of Charity to help her to "serve [Christ] in the poorest of the poor."

Sept. 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c.326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

Sept. 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine (1621). A Jesuit, St. Robert was a scholar devoted to studying and writing about Church history, Scripture, and the Fathers of the Church, aiming to explain and defend Church doctrine. Although a cardinal and counselor to Pope Clement VIII, he lived a simple life.

Sept. 21 - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (1st Century). Also called Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. St. Matthew left everything when he was called to discipleship (Luke 5:27).



Parent TALK

Sunday Mass is non-negotiable

After Tessa turned ten years old, getting her to attend Mass on Sundays became a challenge. She loves Communion but said the rest of the Mass is boring and resists going. We frequently wrestled to get there on time. However, weekly Mass is non-negotiable in our household. So, how could I help her love it as much as I do?

I thought we would try different Masses. We usually go to the 9:00 am Sunday Mass because the priest is very kind and delivers inspiring homilies. However, at the 5:30 pm Saturday vigil Mass, children are involved in the readings and act as ushers. Tessa found that appealing.

Now, we take turns choosing the Mass we attend. When it's Tessa's turn, she always picks the children's Mass because she enjoys lecturing, ushering and handing out bulletins afterward. The joy and grace she receives from participating in Mass, rather than resisting it, are invaluable.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)


CMGConnect

DIOCESE OF PEORIA



End-User Instructions

Getting Started:

1. Go to <https://Peoria.cmgconnect.org/>
2. Create a new account by completing all the boxes under the **Register for a New Account** area. This includes your address, primary parish, and how you participate at your parish or school. If you have questions please contact your parish/school coordinator.
3. Your dashboard will show you the required and optional training curriculums that have been customized for your particular role within the Diocese.
4. Click  under the Safe Environment Training-Peoria to begin.
5. On the last page of the curriculum, submit your background check information. *The curriculum will be marked "Resume" until your background check is processed and reviewed by the diocese. Processing can take up to 7-10 business days.*
6. If needed, you can access your completion certificate after you are certified by returning to the training dashboard and clicking **Print Certificate**.



For technical assistance, contact us via the  button found in the bottom right corner of the web page.

Last Updated: 02/13/20

VOLUNTEERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines of this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our St. Patrick [parish/school] and the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and The Department of Children and Family Services. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Access, view and/or distribute pornography, including, but not limited to child pornography.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action consistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.

Volunteer's Printed Name

Volunteer's Signature

Dated: _____

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

VERIFICATION STATEMENT FOR FACULTY, STAFF, & VOLUNTEERS

Retain in Parish/School Office(s)

Name:

Parish or School:

St. Patrick

City:

Washington

I verify that I have read the contents of the following documents *(please check to indicate that the document has been read)*:

- ☐ Harassment (Policy C-401)
- ☐ Sexual Abuse of Minors (Policy C-402)
- ☐ Bullying Prevention (Policy D-147)
- ☐ Code of Pastoral Conduct
- ☐ Communication Policy
- ☐ Employee Code of Conduct *(school employees only)*
- ☐ Volunteers Code of Conduct *(school volunteers only)*

I have been given a copy of the documents listed above. I have read these policies and procedures, understand their meaning, and agree to conduct myself in accordance with the terms set forth within them. I agree to be governed by the provisions of these policies, and I acknowledge the rights and obligations of the Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria. I also acknowledge that the policies listed above are not intended to create any contractual obligations, express or implied, on the part of the Diocese of Peoria.

Signature:

Date:

Note to supervisor: Safe Environment Program Annual Update Verification Statements for all employees and volunteers are to be kept on file in the parish or school office and are subject to review by the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.