

ST. ELIZABETH of the Trinity

October 27, 2021

Dear Parents –

It has been so exciting having volunteers back in our school again - working the lunchroom, library, book fair and coaching our kids in sports to name a few! I also feel I have been able to get to know many more parents this year as we are having them around to assist in various activities.

However, volunteering also requires parents to complete several mandates that allow you to work with children.

First, all volunteers must complete the **Protecting God's Children Program**, which includes Virtus training, a background check, Mandated Reporter Training and filling out a few forms. Some of these items are completed annually, some are just once with refreshers every few years. The annual date for Protecting God's Children is July 1st, so forms completed in March of 2021 need to be completed again for this year. Protecting God's Children/Virtus training has been around for many, many years and is a requirement for any volunteer working with children, whether you are a coach or working the book fair with other adult volunteers in the area. Anyone over the age of 18 who works near students, even those working the score sheet at athletics games, must be Virtus trained.

Please contact Mrs. Czyz to inquire as to your account and what needs to be completed. **All accounts not up to date become deactivated on November 1st and will require reactivation by the Archdiocese.** Do not wait until you sign up to volunteer in case you have more steps to complete than you may think! As of today, Virtus classes are still online so now is your chance to sign up. At some point they may go back to in-person and that makes taking the class a lot more difficult.

The second mandate is a **COVID vaccination**. As of November 1st, any volunteer who comes in contact with students, same as above, is required to be vaccinated or provide a negative COVID test before volunteering, including concession workers and scoresheet keepers. All paperwork for this requirement can be sent directly to me. This is also for any adult over the age of 18.

Please know that we truly appreciate your time and efforts into volunteering as well as completing the requirements. My job is to ensure the safety and well-being of all the students in this building. There are opportunities for volunteering that will still assist our school that do not involve working with children, so please do not feel you cannot help out if you are not vaccinated or have not completed your Virtus training. If you volunteer for an event (book fair, athletics, set-up/clean-up), be sure to sign up for an event that fits your status - Virtus/Vaccination or not. But, keep in mind that your child LOVES to see mom or dad or even grandma/grandpa here in the school - well maybe not so much in Junior High...

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. I do thank you for volunteering and fulfilling these requirements. And Mrs. Czyz and I thank you for getting your paperwork into the office so we do not have to track everyone down!

Kristine Hillmann - Principal