

The Counselor's Corner

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

 **VIRTUS**[®] *Online*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

*I hope you all are having a HAPPY summer!!! I wanted to send out VIRTUS information to make sure all our parents will be ready and trained to volunteer at our wonderful school! If you are planning on volunteering in any capacity at Sacred Heart Catholic School, you **must** be VIRTUS trained. I will compile a new master list at the end of August of all parents/guardians (or anyone who is registered under SHCS as a volunteer) who are in compliance with VIRTUS. This master list will be left in the front office. If you are not on the list or show that you are inactive because you have not completed a refresher course, you will not be able to volunteer in any capacity.*

The first initial training is called "Protecting God's Children" (PGC). This is the program selected by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to educate clergy, staff, and volunteers who work with children and youth about sexual abuse and the ways to create a safe environment for children. The three-hour live session includes videos and facilitated discussions, which focus on the prevention of abuse and the protection of children. Adults learn how to recognize the warning signs of sexual abuse and how to respond appropriately. They will also learn about steps the faith community can take to create a safe environment for all God's children and how to respond when adults behave in a way which raises concerns.

The PGC course enables you to volunteer for five years. After five years, you must take a refresher course titled "Keeping the Promise Alive" (KPA), which is a one and a half hour course. You may not register for a KPA until your five-year anniversary date has passed. You then have one full year to take the refresher course.

Following this letter, you will find the upcoming dates/times and directions on how to register for a training course, which Sacred Heart Catholic School and Parish are offering for the courses. Please note no children are allowed to attend this training and there will be no late admittance.

If you have any questions regarding VIRTUS training, please call or email me, Mrs. Natalie Skrehot at 936-756-3848 or nskrehot@shconroe.org.

Many Blessings,

*Mrs. Natalie Skrehot, M.Ed., PSC
Guidance Counselor/Safe Environment Coordinator/Director of
Family and Community Engagement*

PGC Training Date/Time

Saturday - August 8, 2015 9:00 a. m. – 12:00 p. m.
SHC Parish Life Center (St. John Paul Room)

Wednesday – August 12, 2015 10:00 a. m. – 1:00 p. m.
SHCS Moran Auditorium

KPA Training Date/Time

Saturday – August 8, 2015 1:00 p. m. – 2:30 p. m.
SHC Parish Life Center (St. John Paul Room)

To Register –

- Go to www.virtusonline.org
- On the left hand side you will see “Login” if you are already VIRTUS trained or “Register” for new users. If you have a login but cannot remember your login information, send me an email (nskrehot@shconroe.org) and I can send you your login information. (Please note with it being summer it may be 72 hrs. before you receive a response)
- If you are a first time user, you must register. Please make sure when you register you use the same name that appears on your driver’s license. If it does not match EXACTLY, you will not be allowed into training.
- Please make sure you fill out the background check and volunteer compliance form during the registration process. If these are not filled out, you will not appear as an active user in the database even if you go through the entire training.
- First time user – when selecting a training date and site, you must select a “Protecting God’s Children” (PGC) three hour course. If you are VIRTUS trained, but it has been five years, you will need to sign up for the “Keeping the Promise Alive” (KPA) refresher course, which is one and a half hours.

All attendees must have one of the following **current** forms of ID in order to attend – Driver’s license (any state), State-issued Identification card, Passport, Mexico or Guatemala Consulate ID.

Thank you for your cooperation in getting VIRTUS trained!

Have a WONDERFUL rest of your summer and I cannot wait to meet all the new parents at orientation!