



St. Joan of Arc School

Grounded in Faith, Focused on the Future

August 17, 2022

Dear SJA Families,

Welcome to the 2022 -2023 school year. I am excited to be returning this year as your principal. As a community we are blessed to have so many dedicated teachers and staff, many who have already started setting up their classrooms and getting ready for the students to return. I will continue to send a weekly SJA Newsletter electronically each Wednesday at 4:00pm. The newsletter is our way of communicating important information and upcoming events. Please let the office know if you have any issues viewing the information. The newsletter can also be accessed on our school website. <https://stjoanarc.org/>

Attached to this newsletter is parent information that includes accounts and apps that are used throughout the school year. Please use these next few weeks to set up these accounts to help our school year begin smoothly.

We are excited to share, that over the summer months, new ceilings have been installed throughout the building, new lighting has been added to the entry way and interactive Benq Boards have been installed in all the classrooms. Some remodeling has been done in the library to provide space for our new nurse and shelving has been added to the Innovation Lab for our Maker Space.

Although this information was shared earlier in the summer, I would officially like to welcome Mrs. Baer, Mrs. Tobias and Mrs. Camarota to our faculty.

I am sad to say that a few weeks ago our air conditioning unit was vandalized. Currently, there is no air conditioning throughout the school building. We have been informed that as of today it may be 2 to 6 weeks before the parts arrive to repair the unit. As we begin our year, we pray for cooler temperatures but need to have a plan in place for the safety of our students and teachers. If the temperatures are above 90 degrees we may have to make a decision to dismiss 3 hours early at 12:05pm. As with other related weather closings, extended care will remain open for 1 hour after dismissal. A notification will go through our SwiftK notification system.

Throughout the last 2 years we have implemented COVID guidelines provided by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Attached you will find a letter with our most up to date information.

God Bless,
Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal

Important Dates:

August 23	Used Uniform Exchange	8:30am to 11:00am 2:30pm to 4:30pm
August 26	New Family Orientation	By Appointment
August 29	First Day of School Grades 1 -8	12:05pm dismissal no Extended Care
August 29	Orientation Grades PreK and K	9:00am and 10:30am
August 30	Full Day Grades 1 -8 Gradual Entrance PreK and K	3:05pm dismissal Extended Care for Grades 1-8
August 31	Full Day Grades 1 -8	3:05 pm dismissal

	Gradual Entrance PreK and K Back to School Night Grades 1 -8 6pm	Extended Care for Grades 1-8
September 1	Full Day Grades 1 -8 Gradual Entrance PreK and K	3:05 pm dismissal Extended Care for Grades 1-8
September 2	All students	12:05pm dismissal Extended Care for all grades
September 5	Labor Day	School closed – No extended care

School Calendar

School Calendar can be accessed on the SJA Website. <https://stjoanarc.org/calendar/>

You can subscribe to the calendar for easy access on your phone or computer.

Summer Work and Supply Lists

Summer work and supplies needed for the start of the school year can be found on our website. Use the following link to access this information. <https://stjoanarc.org/resources/> Summer Work is due when students return to school.

Uniforms

School uniforms are purchased from Flynn O’Hara Uniform Company. Uniform policy and information is attached.

Flynn O’Hara Uniforms
8868 Waltham Woods Rd.
Parkville, MD 21234
410-828-4709
<https://flynnohara.com/>

Used uniform exchange will take place on August 23 outside in the outdoor classroom. 8:30am to 11:00pm and 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Email Lschmick81@gmail.com with questions. Contact Mrs. Schmick if you have uniform donations. Please do not drop off at school.

Health Forms

Health forms may be mailed to the school, dropped off at the office August 17, 18 from 8:00am to 1:00pm or emailed to sbaer@stjoanarc.org



320 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
P: 410-547-5515
F: 410-547-5566

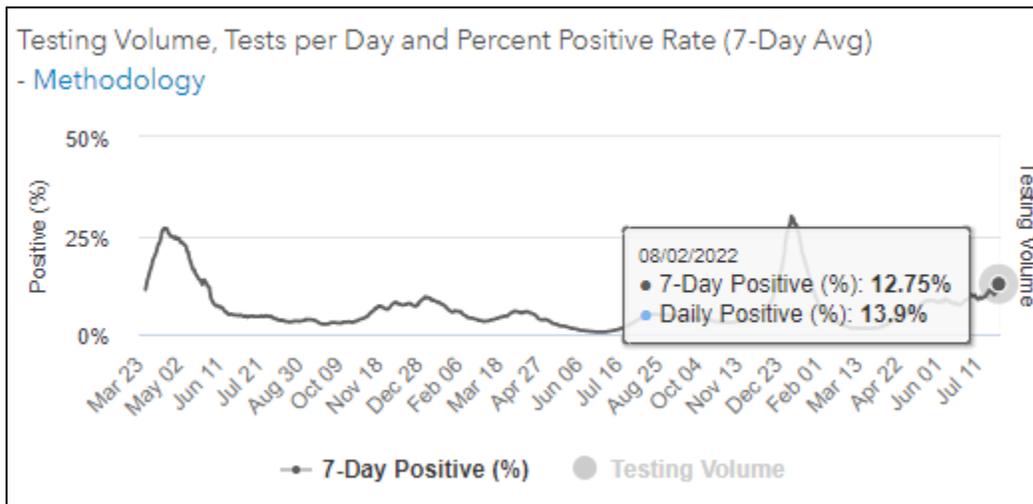
August 16, 2022

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying a relaxing summer! It was your support and partnership that afforded us the opportunity to safely provide in-person instruction during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years and we are looking forward to continuing that partnership for the upcoming school year.

Our theme for the 2022-23 school year is "One Body in Christ." Together with you, as "one body in Christ," we remain committed to the safety and well-being of our students and staff members.

Our Catholic schools operate in nine jurisdictions/counties throughout Maryland, and we continue to monitor each jurisdiction's COVID-19 positivity rate throughout the summer. While we are in a much better position than last summer, we must continue to remain vigilant. The latest coronavirus variant, BA.5 is extremely contagious and continuing to spread throughout all jurisdictions. Recent data from coronavirus.maryland.gov indicates a 12.75% average positivity rate across the State, which is considered substantial transmission.



Therefore, as we prepare for the start of the new academic year, I would like to provide a few reminders regarding the COVID-19 policies for the Department of Catholic Schools:

Masking

Students, based on parental choice, will retain the option of wearing a mask or not. Staff and visitors will also have the option to wear a mask or not. This applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so, and will be fully supported in their decision and will be treated with respect. Enforcement of this choice is between the parent and the child, not the school administration, faculty, or staff. This allows for a parent's personal accountability and responsibility for the health and well-being of their child.

ABOVE



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Hand Hygiene, Respirator Etiquette, and Sanitization

Washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Our schools will continue to reinforce proper handwashing behaviors. We will continue to provide handwashing supplies, including soap and water and hand sanitizer. Our schools will continue to reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases. Our schools will continue to have high touch surfaces cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.

Isolation and Quarantine

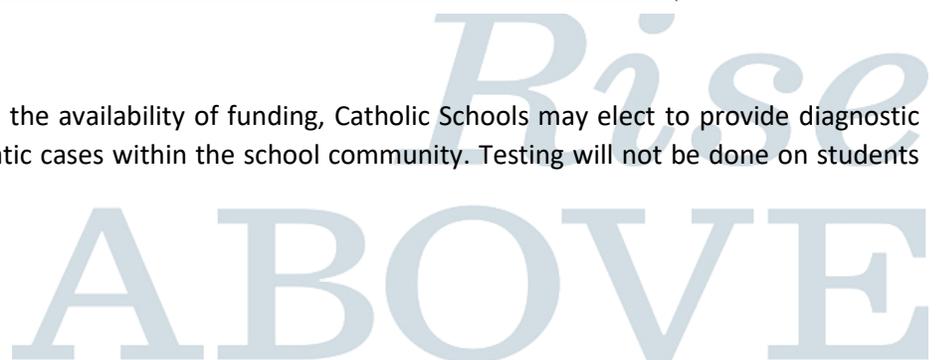
All Catholic Schools will adhere to CDC guidance relative to individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who has been identified as a close contact outside of the school by a health official. Students and staff who test positive for COVID and those who are unvaccinated and identified as a close contact, are required to wear a mask following their respective period of isolation/quarantine for five additional days. Those who are identified as a close contact, regardless of vaccination status, are not required to quarantine; however, those who can mask should do so for 10 days following the date of exposure. See MDH/MSDE reference below.

MDH/MSDE Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Isolation, and Quarantine

Staff or Student/Child with	Guidance for Management
COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff or student/child should not attend or work in a school or child care setting COVID-19 testing is recommended If test is negative, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without medication, and applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met
Positive test for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff or student/child must stay home for 5 days from the start of symptoms or from the date of the positive test if no symptoms After day 5, may return if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication Upon return, must wear a mask for 5 additional days (except while eating, drinking, sleeping or outside) If unable to wear a mask, may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for days 6 -10
Close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19 but no symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff or student/child can continue to work in or attend school and child care regardless of vaccination status Those who can mask should do so for 10 days from the last day of exposure A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot mask (ex. children under 2 years of age).

COVID-19 Testing

On a school-by-school basis, and based on the availability of funding, Catholic Schools may elect to provide diagnostic rapid antigen testing to confirm symptomatic cases within the school community. Testing will not be done on students without parental consent.





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COVID Vaccinations

COVID vaccinations are not mandated in our schools; however, we encourage vaccination for all eligible students and staff to reduce the potential for serious illness and hospitalization.

Please continue to remain vigilant and monitor the health of the members of your household over the summer. Our ability to offer in person instruction is dependent upon your partnership. If a child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID, RSV, or influenza, they should remain home to avoid exposing the school community to illness. If there is a family member in the same household with symptoms, the students from that household should remain home until the other individual is beyond the 5 days or they should test the child at home each day before sending the student to school.

Thank you for your partnership and support!

One in Christ,

Dr. Donna Hargens
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Rise
ABOVE



Parent Information

School Times

7:50am Parking lot opens for drop off
7:50am - 8:00am Students line up and wait by grade
8:00am Students enter the building and the School Day begins
8:10am Students marked late
2:30pm Parents line up for dismissal, parking lot opens at 2:50pm
3:05pm Dismissal
12:05pm Early dismissal Days

Emergency & Weather related Closings/Delayed Openings

St. Joan of Arc School follows the same procedures for school closing and delays as does the Harford County Public School System. If Harford County schools close early because of inclement weather, SJA will do the same.

Extended Care will not open on days when school is closed. Morning Care will not be open when school is opening late. If school is dismissed early, Extended Care will be opened until 1 hour after dismissal.

Dismissal Procedures

PikMyKid App

The PikMyKid app is required for all families in order to run a safe and efficient dismissal.

Existing families, your account has rolled over for the new school year. Please make sure if you have a new student entering, they are registered to your account.

All students will bring home a PikMyKid Car Tag at the start of school with an ID number and QR code.

New families, please download the PikMyKid app onto your mobile device. Please keep this handy in your car and hand them out to anyone who plans on picking up your child. You will be the Primary Parent for your child and in control of their dismissal time through the App. You can delegate alternate individuals, but they should have the App also as it will send a matching student ID number to the phone for us to validate the correct person is picking up the proper child. If you are part of a car pool, each child's number will be sent to the phone for validation.

VIRTUS (Volunteer)

All volunteers must complete VIRTUS training. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

Track It Forward

This is the website we use to track volunteer hours for the year. Each family is required to volunteer 20 hours per school year. If you choose not to volunteer, your FACTS account will be billed on May 15, 2023 for \$10.00 per incomplete hour up to 20 hours. Existing families, please make sure your information is correct and you have an account on Track It Forward. New families, please click the link to register and create an account for the school year. Some opportunities are already available. We are looking forward to having volunteers back in our school! <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/stjoan-arc-school>

FACTS

All families are required to have a FACTS account. This account is initially set up through School Admin during the registration process. FACTS is the platform all Archdiocesan schools use for tuition payments and incidental expenses (field trips, novels, extended care, etc.) There are two sections within your FACTS account. One for tuition and the other for incidental expenses.

Tuition payments are automatically withdrawn from your designated account. The incidental account can be set up as automatic withdrawals or you may go in and pay when billed.

Please note if you need to reschedule a tuition payment you must contact Pam Franke 3 business days prior to the scheduled payment date.

Any questions regarding your FACTS account please contact Pam Franke, Business Manager at 410-272-1387 ext 217 or pfranke@stjoanarc.org

PBIS

PBIS reinforces positive behavior. SJA stands on the principles of respect, responsibility and leadership. [Click here](#) to learn more about PBIS. Teachers will provide parents with account information.

SJA School Calendar

All SJA events will be posted to the calendar located online on the school website. Please sync your device to this calendar. <https://stjoanarc.org/calendar/>

School Newsletter

A weekly newsletter is sent electronically every Wednesday at 4:00pm. If you do not receive the email please notify the office immediately. The Newsletter can also be found on the school website.

Media Release

As stated in the [Student/Parent Handbook](#), parents who do not want their child to participate in media opportunities are asked to notify the principal in writing by September 1.

Timeline for Grant/Aid and ReEnrollment

November 1 - FACTS (Grant and Aid) applications open

December 1- January 8th - ReEnrollment for Current families in School Admin

February 28 - FACTS 9 Grant and Aid) deadline

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the online portal for reporting student progress in grades 3 -8. Teachers will provide parents with account information.

Extended Care

St. Joan of Arc School offers affordable before and after school care for families who have need of this service. Hours are from 7:00am until school begins and dismissal until 6:00pm on regular school days. Care will be provided for early dismissal days and teacher professional development days if warranted. [Click here](#) for more information to register.