



St. Joan of Arc School

Grounded in Faith, Focused on the Future

September 28, 2022

Dear SJA Families,

Yesterday we held the blessing of the Tracey Tokarski Butterfly Enclosure. We had a beautiful morning that we shared with Mr. Dennis Hash who built the enclosure and members of Mrs. Tokarski’s family, her husband Billy and son Will. The enclosure has taken residence in our lobby area, where the students are already watching the caterpillars creating their chrysalis. We are so grateful to be able to recognize Mrs. Tokarski’s influence on our school in this way.

Testing is complete. The students did an amazing job with the new test and format. Results will be included in the 1st trimester report cards.

Please join us for our annual Pet Blessing on October 4. Details and information are listed below.

God Bless,
Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal

Important Dates:

October 4	Liturgy 8:30am Grade 5 Pet Blessing 2:30pm
October 7	School Closed, AOB Professional Day, No Aftercare
October 9	“Alive” Mass – 11:15am
October 10	Picture Day – Class and Individual – Students in Regular Uniform – No PE Uniforms
October 11	Liturgy 8:30am Grade 4
October 18	Liturgy 8:30am Grade 8
October 20	Career Day – 10:00am – 2:00pm
October 21	12:05pm dismissal, Aftercare available
October 25	Liturgy 8:30am Grade 7
October 28	HSA trunk or treat
October 31	Halloween!

Blessing of the Animals – Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi

Parents may bring their pets to be blessed on October 4. Please follow the guidelines listed for the blessing.

- Pets need to be leashed or crated.
- Parents arrive at 2:20pm with their pets and pull into the normal dismissal lot.
- Teachers will be on duty to direct the cars.
- Lot will close at 2:30pm for safety.
- Parents and pets will exit their cars and move to the grassy area in the front of the school.
- Students will be brought out at 2:30pm and may join their families.
- After the blessing, families with pets will return to their cars first with their students and be dismissed from the lot, so that we can continue with our normal dismissal process.

Pictures

Picture Day is Monday, October 10. All students will be photographed individually and with their class. Students are to be in their regular uniform. No PE uniforms. These are the pictures we will use for the yearbook.

Volunteers

Teachers can use volunteers to help during lunch and recess time. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher. Remember all volunteers must be VIRTUS trained. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

Safe Schools Maryland

Last Spring St. Joan of Arc was recognized for receiving Gold Status as part of the Safe Schools Maryland Program. Attached is an opportunity for new parents or to refresh returning parents about the program.

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.

Yearbook

We have a limited number of 2021 – 2022 SJA Yearbooks for sale. The cost is \$23.00. If you would like to purchase a yearbook, please send a check or cash to the office in an envelope with your student's name and homeroom. Checks should be made out to St. Joan of Arc School.

Yard Signs

You can earn volunteer hours by posting a SJA yard sign on your lawn! Earn 10 hours for 3 months. Please let Elisa Maid know if you are interested at emaids@stjoanarc.org. All signs must be returned after the 3 month period to earn the hours.

STEM Projects

Butterfly Cages

Mrs. Field's middle school students are in need of some native flowers to fill their butterfly cages and to plant in our gardens. Any type of coneflower or aster would work perfectly. You can earn volunteer hours for each donation. Check Track It Forward for details. Thank you for your help!

Trex

Our school participates in the Trex Program (recycled plastic) and we need your help. Please save and send in your plastic bags so they can be recycled. [Click here](#) for more information about the program.

Transportation Procedures

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures are found in the Parent Student handbook on page 15. Please be sure to review. <https://stjoanarc.org/resources/>
Parents who wish their students to walk need to notify the office ahead of dismissal through email with dates.

Counselor's Corner

Middle school organization and study skills

I am hearing from the middle school teachers that students are struggling with organizing their time and turning in assignments by the due date. It is often helpful for students to have a physical planner (and not rely on assignments being posted online), which they can share with parents to help them schedule their

time. It might be helpful for parents to begin asking to see their student's planner and have a conversation with them about how they plan to meet the deadlines. This will help your student develop planning skills that will be necessary in high school and throughout their life. Most students are not inherently good at this and need help to develop and nurture these skills. As students are starting to return to after school activities, these conversations will be even more important to help them learn to balance different parts of their life.

Uniforms

Please be sure that your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. Just a reminder about second layer in school for all students.

Second Layer for Summer Uniform: Navy cardigan sweater with SJA logo or Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo

Second Layer for Winter Uniform: Navy sweater, cardigan, pullover or vest with SJA logo or Navy blue ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo

HSA News

The Charleston Wrap fundraiser ends on October 7. Please continue to sell online or use the booklet sent home. Our sales so far are at \$6,897. We have raised \$2,634 already for the school. Thank you and keep selling!

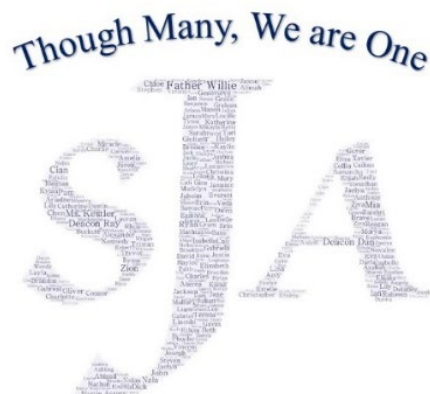
Career Day

Our **14th Annual Career Day** will be held on **Thursday, October 20, 2022** from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please see the attached letter for more information.

Parish News

The Wild Goose

Join Deacon Ray for a journey of exploration and discovery of the third person of the Trinity: The Holy Spirit. September 29 – November 17. See attached flyer for information.



MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

MCSS has scheduled two October
parent presentations
to inform parents/guardians about the
Safe Schools Maryland Anonymous Reporting System!



Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m.

We are offering these group presentations as refreshers or as an opportunity for new parents to be acquainted with the Safe Schools Maryland Anonymous Reporting System.

This 30-minute virtual presentation for parents will teach attendees what Safe Schools Maryland is, how it works, and how they can help keep their schools safer. These presentations will be held on several dates each month, so choose the date that works best for you. Our Maryland Center for School Safety staff will be available for questions after the presentation.

You must sign up so your school receives credit for your attendance. Meeting links will be provided for registrants a day before the meeting.

We hope you will join us to learn how each of us can contribute to a safe school environment.





St. Joan of Arc School
230 South Law Street
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
Phone (410)272-1387
school@stjoanarc.org



29 August 2022

Dear SJA Parents and Community Members:

Can you believe another school year is already upon us? The summer flew by, and I am sure you all agree when I say it is so good to have our students walking the SJA halls again. This year, SJA will be hosting our **14th Annual Career Day on Thursday, 20 October 2022** from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (rain date Friday, 21 October 2022).

Career Day is very special for our students. It is a day when they get to experience the wonders of prospective careers, discover jobs they haven't been exposed to, and learn from professionals (you!). We love highlighting the careers of SJA parents and community members, so we are once again turning to you all for volunteers.

When you volunteer at Career Day, you open students' eyes to the future, showing them how today's education can be connected to tomorrow's career. As a guest speaker, you will present your profession to the students in small groups. If you are reading this and eager to help, but not quite ready to be a Guest Presenter, don't fret as we have MANY areas that we will need assistance with, i.e. time keeper, hospitality, rotation assistance, set up, donation acceptance, etc.

We hope you will consider volunteering to be a part of such an insightful day for our SJA students. If you are interested in being a **Guest Presenter**, please respond by completing and returning the enclosed Presenter's Form <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N70GPXY> no later than 30 September 2022. The form may be returned via email to Roxyvdr@yahoo.com OR you may respond using the Survey Monkey provided. If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of the **Career Day Committee** to assist with set up, hospitality, class/group chaperone and/or clean up you may complete the Career Day Committee form or you may respond via the following Survey Monkey link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N9ZYTCG>. Upon receipt of your request to either be a guest Presenter or a member of the Career Day Committee, I will contact you to provide additional information and instructions.

If you are not interested or able to participate but know someone who is, please give them (or us) the necessary contact information to reach out.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting SJA and our incredible students. We can't wait to see as many of you as possible at Career Day!

Sincerely,

Roxanne Robin
Career Day Coordinator

**SJA'S STUDENT BODY WELCOMES
COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS JUST LIKE YOU**

SJA'S 14TH ANNUAL CAREER DAY

CAREER EXPOSURE & *Awareness*



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**ST. JOAN OF ARC
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
230 S. Law Street
Aberdeen Maryland

THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2022

10:00AM - 2:00PM

(RAIN DATE: 21 OCTOBER 2022)

TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ROXANNE @
ROXXYFDR@YAHOO.COM OR TEXT @ 985 713 4729

The Holy Spirit

Seminar Series
with Deacon Ray

THE WILD GOOSE
DISCOVERING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join us for a journey of exploration and discovery of the third person of the Trinity: The Holy Spirit. Using the fascinating video series 'The Wild Goose' by Fr. David Pivonka on the 'FORMED' website, participants will increase their awareness of the role of the Holy Spirit in their faith journey. Each week we'll watch a video at home with a small amount of reading, and then gather to discuss and explore together.

There will be 8 sessions running from September 28th to November 17th. Each week there will be two opportunities to participate:

- Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- Thursday mornings 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM.

Sessions will be held in the Parish Meeting House and there is no cost to attend. All are welcome, young adult age and up. Participants are asked to bring a copy of the Bible with them for reference. ***This is "entry level" spirituality and open to all! For questions, contact Deacon Ray.***

Please register by Sept. 26th through our parish website at:
sjaparish.org/events/wild-goose or calling the Parish Office at:
410-272-4535.

Please leave your name, contact info, and indicate what session you'll be attending.