



St. Joan of Arc School

Grounded in Faith, Focused on the Future

March 29, 2023

Dear SJA Families,

Our school community continues to pray for the students, faculty, families and first responders of The Covenant School Community in Nashville, TN. It is difficult to understand such violent events and even more difficult to explain to our children. Attached is a resource with some tips on how to talk to your children about this tragic event. Please know that SJA has daily protocols in place for the safety of our school community. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

As a safety reminder if you arrive after 8:10am and the lot is closed, you need to walk your student to the main door. Please do not drop them on Plater Street to walk up the side of the building. There are no teachers outside after 8:10am.

We were blessed yesterday to be visited by Fr. Matthew Hines, Seminarian James Lancelotta, 3 sisters from the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood and 2 sisters from the Servants of the Lord. They shared their vocations and dedication to our God. The students were able to ask questions about what it was like to live as a priest or sister. We thank them for sharing their faith with our students.

Students may help celebrate the opening of Baseball season by wearing their favorite baseball team t-shirt, Jersey or Sweatshirt with their SJA sweatpants tomorrow, March 30. Students in grades 2 and 3 may take their dress down on Friday since they will be attending a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry on Thursday.

May God continue to send His blessing during this Lenten season. Join us for student lead Stations of the Cross on March 31. Living Stations will be presented by our 8th grade students on April 5 at 10:30am.

Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal

Important Dates:

March 30	Grade 2 and 3 Field Trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry Baseball T-shirt/Jersey Dress down for grades PreK, K, 1 and 4-8.
March 31	Stations of the Cross 2:00pm Baseball T-shirt/Jersey Dress down for grades 2 and 3
April 2	Palm Sunday
April 3	Summer Uniform begins
April 4	Liturgy 8:30am
April 5	Living Stations 10:30am, 12:05 dismissal No aftercare
April 6 - 16	Easter Break – no aftercare
April 15	Bull Roast Ticket Sales – last day
April 17	Snow Day School closed – no aftercare
April 18	Liturgy 8:30am
April 21	School Earth Day Celebration
April 25	Liturgy 8:30am
April 29	Bull Roast 7:30 -11:30pm

Pictures

Students who ordered pictures on March 9 we given their pictures to bring home today.

St. Joan of Arc School Strategic Panning

Dear SJA families,

We are beginning the important process of strategic planning for the school. The goals set will drive the direction and progress of St. Joan of Arc School for at least 5 years. We last undertook this process in 2014, finalizing the plan in March of 2015. Our goals were met (despite the COVID pandemic) such as strengthening the STEM program and improving facilities. With the playground built, the butterfly garden thriving, the new building underway, STEM accreditation accomplished and more; we must plan our next steps. YOUR INPUT IS VITAL TO THIS PROCESS.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey by clicking this link: [Parent Strategic Planning Survey](#)

As always, thank you for your help and support of St. Joan of Arc School.

Peace and all good,
Mrs. Ginger Bahr
Strategic Plan Guiding Team

Construction/Drop off Pickup/Entrance Updates

We will continue our normal pick up and drop off procedures. Parents will enter the lot from Plater Street and exit to Edmunds Street. Drop off will begin at 7:50am. Students will enter the building in the morning through the main entrance. At the end of the day, parents will be let onto the lot at 2:50pm and students will be dismissed at 3:00pm through the main entrance. Thank you for your cooperation in order to keep our students safe.

Students arriving after 8:10am need to be walked to the main door by a parent in order to keep everyone safe.

Beginning Tuesday, March 14 Morning Care students **only** are to enter through the Law Street door from 7:00am to 7:45am. Parents need to walk their students to the door and ring the buzzer. Again, this is for the safety of our students.

Uniforms

Students may begin to wear summer uniforms on April 3. Please check the uniform policy and be sure your student is in the correct uniform.

Hersheypark

Thank you for purchasing Hersheypark tickets. We had 140 tickets purchased. Our 8th graders are on their way to the park in May.

HSA News

Bull Roast

Our Spring Bull Roast is approaching quickly! Have you purchased your tickets yet? Grab your friends and family for a night of food, fun, and raising money for St. Joan of Arc. You can purchase your tickets [online](#). Tickets are \$50 a piece or \$450 for a table of 10. Tickets can be purchased until April 15th. We are looking forward to a great evening and can't wait to see you there!

Joe Corbi

Today is the last day to place your Joe Corbi orders. As of today we have earned over \$ 2,000.00 for our school. Thank you for supporting SJA.

Ironbirds Tickets

Come and join us for a night at the Ironbirds on Thursday, May 25 at 7PM. Join us on the field and sing the National Anthem as a school community before the game starts! We look forward to seeing you there. Buy your tickets [here](#).

FACTS - Incidental Billing

Please be reminded to check your FACTS account for outstanding incidental billing which may include extended care, field trips and classroom supplies. Incidental billing is not paid automatically like tuition. You must go into your FACTS account and submit payment or set up automatic payments. All tuition and incidental billing must be paid on time to ensure PowerSchool access. Contact Pam Franke, pfranke@stjoanarc.org should you have any questions.

SJA's 2023 Summer Camp – Shine bright!

We look forward to providing your child with the best summer ever! SJA is offering 9 weeks of summer camp, from June 12 through August 11. For more information and to register go to <https://stjoanarc.org/summer-camp/> Deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. Please note, week 3 - 6/26-6/30 and week 8 -7/31-8/04 are full.

Parish News

Lenten Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross – LAST WEEK

Join the Knights of Columbus each week thru March 31

Choices include grilled cheese, haddock, tilapia, crab soup, steamed shrimp and all the fixings. Prices vary depending on choices \$3-\$13 per person. Payment by cash, check and Venmo accepted at the door. Doors open at 4:30 PM and food service ends by 6:45 PM. Join us at 7:00pm in the Church for The Stations of the Cross.”

Schedules and details for Holy Week, including The Christian Seder Meal and Annual Ecumenical Cross Walk can be found on the Parish Website. Please consider attending these events with your family.

Though Many, We are One



TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT VIOLENCE: TIPS FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

Families and school personnel play a critical role in helping to reestablish a sense of normalcy and security for children after an act of violence occurs. Follow these key reminders and visit www.nasponline.org/children-and-violence to learn more.



REASSURE CHILDREN

- Reassure children you are there to keep them safe.
- Make time for children to talk about and learn to appropriately express their feelings. Explain that all feelings are okay when a tragedy occurs and help to put them in perspective.
- Emphasize what schools and caregivers are doing to keep people safe. Point out clear or visible safety efforts whenever possible.
- Explain that, although the possibility of school violence exists, the probability that it will affect us (our school) is very low. Most schools are safe, even though it may not feel that way in the moment.
- Be aware of how your emotions/reactions could contribute to fear/trauma in some children. It's okay to acknowledge your own fear/concern, but prioritize calmness in the presence of children.



MAKE TIME TO TALK

- Be patient and look for clues that a child wants to talk, such as hovering around.
- Let children's questions guide the information provided.
- If a child is fearful/worried/confused, listen and acknowledge (e.g., "This is really hard to understand."). Use statements like "Let's talk about what we are doing at school/home to keep us safe (provide 2-3 visible or clear examples)." This is not a guarantee of safety; rather, it is reassurance adults are doing everything they can to support safety.
- Young children may need concrete activities such as looking at books, while some older children may prefer writing, drawing, or playing music to identify and express their feelings.
- Be mindful of a child's previous traumas or exposure to violence and chronic or systemic stressors in their life.



REVIEW SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Help children identify an adult at school and in the community that they can go to if they feel uncomfortable, threatened, or at risk.
- Review procedures and safeguards in school and at home. Be sure children understand the information.



OBSERVE CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL STATE

- Watch for changes in behavior, appetite, or sleep patterns that can indicate anxiety or stress. Some examples include irritability, nightmares, and stomachaches. These should ease with reassurance and time.
- Seek help from a mental health professional right away if you are concerned about your child hurting themselves or someone else. Also seek help if they have more intense reactions such as excessive fear or anger that lasts more than 2 weeks.
- Limit television viewing and social media that may have disturbing images or graphic references to the event.

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT VIOLENCE: TIPS FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

KEEP EXPLANATIONS DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

Communications should be tailored to the specific needs, age, and developmental level of each child. Balancing the amount of detail provided with reassurances is important at any age.

Early Elementary

Answer questions simply, without extensive details; balance with reassurances that they and their loved ones are safe and protected.

Upper Elementary and Early Middle School

Provide factual information to correct misinformation. Help them separate reality from fantasy. Invite students to share their thoughts and offer alternatives of expression, such as play acting or drawing.

Upper Middle and High School

Listen to students' ideas and observations about current safety efforts. Emphasize why and how to follow school safety guidelines (e.g., not opening exterior doors), report concerns, and get help. As needed, assist students with safe and prosocial advocacy and involvement.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE WHEN TALKING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- What happened is scary and sad, but most schools are quite safe. In our community, school staff are working with families and public safety providers to keep you safe.
- The school building is safe because ... (cite specific school procedures).
- School safety is primarily the responsibility of adults, but we can all play a role. Tell an adult if you see or hear something that concerns you. You may provide important information that can prevent harm.
- Sometimes people do bad things that hurt others. Adults work very hard to get those people help and keep them from hurting others. It is important for all of us to know how to get help if we feel really upset or angry. You can always tell ... (provide specific example).
- Stay away from guns and other weapons unless supervised by an adult. Tell an adult if you know someone has a gun. Access to guns is one of the leading risk factors for deadly violence.
- Violence is never a solution. Students can be part of antiviolence programs at school, learn conflict mediation skills, and seek help from an adult if they are (or if a peer is) struggling with anger, depression, or other emotions they cannot control.

For information about continuing to support children in coping with tragedy, see [Guidance at a Glance: "Helping Children Cope With Tragedy"](#)