

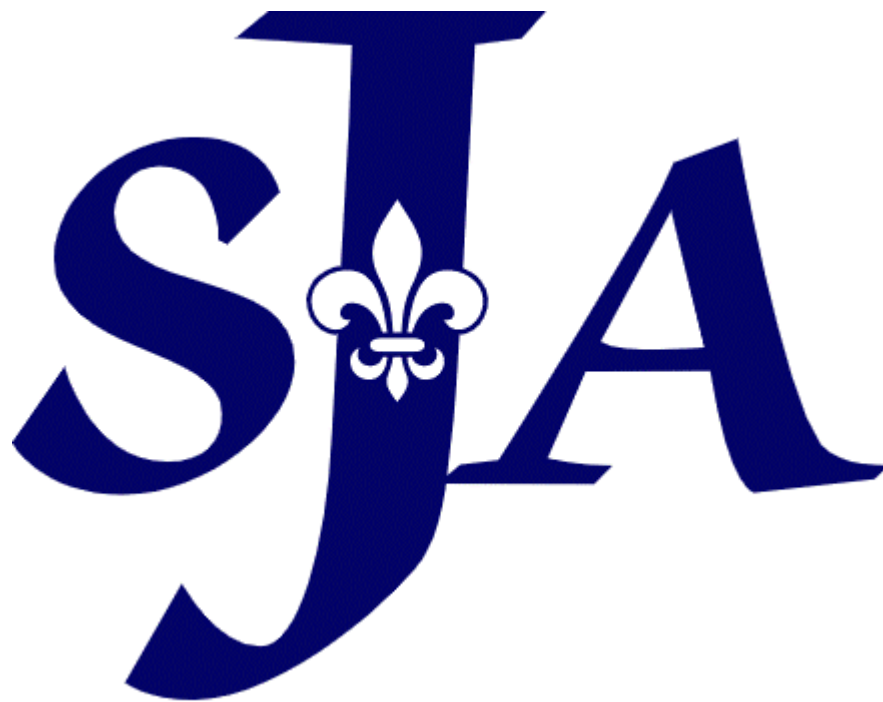
2023

2024



ST. JOAN OF ARC
SCHOOL

HANDBOOK



St. Joan of Arc School

Grounded in Faith, Focused on the Future

Parent Student Handbook
2023 -2024

St. Joan of Arc Catholic School is a co-ed elementary school for grades PreK4 through 8th Grade. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, or protected activity (i.e., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the complaint process). Requests for reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability may be directed to the Principal or the Resource Teacher. Religion is required for each year a student attends St. Joan of Arc School. All students enrolled in St. Joan of Arc School must attend religion classes and services.

The school reserves the right to deny attendance to anyone whose behavior is contrary to the teachings and ideals of the school or whose behavior or attitude is disruptive to the functioning of the student body.

St. Joan of Arc School reserves the right to amend the Parent/Student Handbook and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be notified of any changes made. This Parent/Student Handbook is an informative booklet for parents and students setting forth the rules and policies of the school and is not intended as an expressed or implied contract.

Mission / Vision

Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools

Vision Statement

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore nurture and sustain the God-given gifts of every person, especially students, to be used in service to the Mission of Jesus.

Mission Statement

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore provide a Christ-centered education that is academically excellent and empowers students to reach their full potential—spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, and morally. Fostered through robust collaboration among all stakeholders, the mission is accomplished through accountable leadership at all levels, ongoing and coordinated strategic planning, centralized efficiencies, and financial sustainability.

St. Joan of Arc School

Vision Statement

St. Joan of Arc Catholic School creates a vibrant 21st Century learning environment that infuses Catholic identity into every aspect of a curriculum focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Mission Statement

St. Joan of Arc Catholic School is a faith community of educators, learners, and families using God's gifts to develop 21st Century skills of innovation, collaboration, problem-solving, and reasoning to enrich the global society.

Statement of Beliefs

- Students are engaged in a challenging and collaborative learning environment that inspires the joy of discovery, results in quality work, and fosters ongoing faith formation.
- Each student is empowered to value his/her unique physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual gifts.
- Teachers and staff, as life-long learners, place high priority on professional development, leadership, and 21st Century skills as they implement a curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, math, humanities, and the arts in an authentic culture of faith.
- Parents and guardians provide enrichment by sharing career and artistic achievements through learning experiences which expand student interest in STEM careers.
- Business and academic communities actively participate in assisting teachers and students to advance STEM learning opportunities.

History of School

The Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore experienced tremendous immigrant growth between 1940 and 1960. Birth rates were high, and many converts joined the church. The number of families who moved into the Aberdeen area to work on the Aberdeen Proving Grounds increased.

The town's population grew from 1,525 in 1940 to 9,679 in 1960. St. Joan of Arc community responded to this growing need by building a rectory, convent, church, and school within a thirteen years. A two floor structure was opened as both school and church in 1954. The Sisters of St. Casimir utilized the first floor to house four grades while the second floor was used as the church during the construction of the new church site. By 1966 when the new church opened, the school had grown to include one class each of First through Eighth Grade. In 1993 a new two story wing was added to the school. The first floor new section is home to the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms. The second floor houses the 5th through 8th grade classrooms, Innovation Lab and the Media Center.

An elevator was added to the wing to make the building accessible to a greater number of students, families, and parishioners.

Originally the school primarily served the families of the Aberdeen area. Today, however, the school services the needs of families throughout the Eastern part of Harford County. St. Joan of Arc School is one of two Catholic elementary schools located in the Harford County region in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The school began with a faculty of religious from the Sisters of St. Casimir. In 1997 the two remaining sisters left, and the first lay principal was appointed.

In 1999, St. Joan of Arc adopted the middle school concept, initiated a Spanish program, and added a modular unit to accommodate its growth. In 2008 St. Joan added a new central heating and air-conditioning system.

The Archdiocese named SJA a STEM school in 2011. In 2012 a LabLearner Science Lab was added. Technology is fully integrated into the curriculum through the daily use of interactive Smart Boards in all classrooms school wide, wireless Internet access points to accommodate the growing number of mobile devices (iPads, laptops, tablets), 3D printer and curriculum, as well as online educational materials and programs.

In the fall of 2013, a Prekindergarten 4-year-old program was added. By the 2017-18 school year, the program had achieved a Level 5 (highest) quality rating in the EXCELS rating system of the Maryland State Dept. of Education. The addition of an Innovation Lab in 2015 provides an area for engineering projects and video productions. A state of the art playground was opened in the fall of 2016. Adding a MakerSpace to the Innovation Lab enhances the STEM program. Additional expansion of the school is planned as St. Joan of Arc continues to improve the campus to better meet student needs.

St. Joan of Arc was endorsed as a STEM school by the University of Notre Dame of Maryland in 2017 and accredited as a STEM School by AdvancEd (now Cognia) in 2018 based upon rigorous STEM standards. SJA was the first school in Maryland to receive this accreditation.

In 2022, St. Joan of Arc was awarded The Safe School Gold School Award from the Maryland Center for School Safety. SJA was the first private elementary school to undertake the Safe Schools Gold School engagement program.

Administration

St. Joan of Arc School is administered under the leadership of a Principal and Assistant Principal who conduct the day to day operations of the school. The school board serves as an advisor to the pastor regarding policy, finance and institutional advancement.

School Administration

PastorRev. William Franken
Principal.....Ms. Dianne Kestler
Assistant Principal.....Ms. Susan Tobias
Advancement Director.....Mrs. Elisa Ferraro Maid
Business Manager.....Mrs. Pam Franke
Administrative Assistant...Ms. Sierra Ficca
NurseMrs. Susan Baer

School Board

The School Board is comprised of volunteers from the larger community who, by virtue of their experience, are able to advise the Pastor and Principal to further ensure the viability of St. Joan of Arc School.

The current Executive Board members are as follows:

Chairperson.....Mrs. Jane Krolewski, Technical Director, Army Test & Evaluation Center
Vice-Chairperson.....Mrs. Stasia Lozinak, Executive Assistant, Ashley Addiction Treatment Center
SecretaryMrs. Dianne Dacey, Retired Educator Harford Co., Librarian Harford County Library
Treasurer.....Mr. Mike Sprouse, Senior Vice-President of Retail Banking, The Peoples Bank

Accreditation

St. Joan of Arc School is accredited by Cognia through June 2027. In accordance with standards set by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, St. Joan of Arc School met the requirements established by the Cognia Accreditation Commission and Board of Trustees and was thereby accredited by the SACS Council on Accreditation and School

Improvement.

Cognia STEM Certification

St. Joan of Arc School places a strong emphasis on our STEM program. SJA was the first school in Maryland to achieve STEM Certification through AdvancED, an international accrediting organization (now COGNIA). SJA has also achieved [STEM Endorsement](#) from the Notre Dame of Maryland University. SJA integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics into every area of the curriculum. Our vision and mission statements highlight the importance of STEM for the growth and future of our students. Technology is fully integrated into the curriculum through the daily use of interactive BenQ or SmartBoards in all classrooms, one-to-one Chromebooks in 4th through 8th Grades, two mobile iPad carts as well as dedicated iPads for Grades PreK4 through Grade 5, school wide wireless Internet access, as well as a state-of-the-art Innovation lab which includes a makerspace, computers, robotics, and 3D printing. Students use this lab for online research, video production, coding, 3D printing activities, and STEM projects. SJA is proud to incorporate many different STEM programs.

Academics

Promotion Requirements: Students are promoted to the next grade upon successful completion of all subjects in a given year.

Retention: Students who do not successfully complete required educational program may be retained at the current grade level. This decision is made by the principal in consultation with the parents after following the timeline described below.

Teachers should communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding the child's progress. By mid-February, the teacher, principal, parents (and student) review the student's work performance to date and discuss his/her educational needs for the remainder of the year and the possibility of failure and/or retention. This meeting is followed by a written communication to the parents reviewing the content of the meeting, including the educational plan.

Graduation Requirements: Students must successfully complete the standards for the Eighth Grade Curriculum according to Archdiocesan standards. A student receiving a final yearly average of less than 70% (E) in one major subject will be promoted to the next level provided that the student successfully completes an approved Summer School or Tutoring Course in that subject area. A student receiving a final yearly average of less than 70% (E) in TWO or more of the major curriculum areas will be retained. An 8th grade student must be in good academic, financial and behavior standing in order to participate in the end of the year graduation activities.

Awards

Assemblies are held each trimester to recognize student achievement. Students are acknowledged for academics, service, and character.

Subject Area Awards—These awards are given each trimester to one student at each grade level for showing excellent effort and achievement in special subject areas. Grades 1 through 5 will also give one award per class for Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

STEM Award—This award is presented to one student at each grade level who displays innovation, collaboration, problem solving, and reasoning when completing projects and utilizing technology.

PBIS Award – This award is presented each trimester to one student from each grade who has exemplified SJA positive behavior goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Leadership. The homeroom teacher decides this award.

St. Joan of Arc Award – This award is given once each trimester to one primary (K-2), one elementary (3-5), and one middle school student. These students demonstrate positive Christian character traits and virtues lived by St. Joan of Arc. A student may not receive an N in conduct or effort to be eligible for this award. The recipient of this award is chosen by the faculty.

Honor Roll - Students in grades 6-8 who demonstrate high academic achievement and who positively impact the learning environment are placed on Honor Roll based on the following criteria:

- **Principal's Honor Roll** – All A's and Satisfactory or better in all special classes, standards, effort, and conduct including unstructured time
- **Second Honors** – All A's and B's and Satisfactory or better in all special classes, standards, effort, and conduct including unstructured time

Improvement Award- This award is presented during the second and third trimester to any student in grades 6-8

who raises his or her achievement in two subject area grades without dropping in any subject. (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language)

Graduation Awards

Presidential Award-The President's Award for Educational Excellence honors those students who have maintained high achievement throughout their middle school years, and must have achieved in the 85th percentile or above in math or reading on standardized achievement tests. Students must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

Father Wagner Award – Since 1995, the Father Wagner Award is presented to a Catholic, graduating eighth grade student who has applied to and been accepted by a Catholic high school. The recipient exhibits academic excellence, community service, and spiritual presence. This award is a one-time stipend of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be used for Catholic high school tuition.

St. Casimir Award - The St. Casimir Award is presented to a graduating eighth grade student who exemplifies those qualities exhibited by St. Casimir during his lifetime: the lily representing Love, the crown representing Faith and Fidelity, and the sword representing Courage which are depicted in St. Casimir's emblem. The award is based on the student's spirituality, community service, and attitude. The student's religion and academic average are not to be considered when deciding this award.

M. Rosalie Schissler Academic Award – The M. Rosalie Schissler Academic award was established in 2006 in memory of Rosalie Schissler of St. Joan of Arc Parish. Rosalie was valedictorian of her high school graduating class in 1924. She placed great value on education and emphasized the importance of life-long learning. Ten of Rosalie's grandchildren graduated from St. Joan of Arc School. The Rosalie Schissler Academic Award is presented to the graduating Catholic eighth grade student who has attained a high cumulative grade point average in 8th grade. The award is a \$200 from the Schissler family.

Progress Reports

St. Joan of Arc School utilizes the Archdiocese of Baltimore Progress Report. The reporting system is on a trimester basis with all students receiving 3 progress reports. All grades are reported online through Power School in grades 3 through 8. Student assignments and grades should be reviewed by the parent/guardian on a regular basis. St. Joan of Arc teachers will make every effort to report academic concerns to parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of parent/guardian to cooperate in remedying the situation.

Pre-Kindergarten—Grade 2

Marking Code - Achievement

I - Independent
P – Progressing
E – Emerging
N/A – Not Assessed at this time

Marking Code - Effort/Conduct

O – Outstanding
G – Good
S – Satisfactory
N – Needs Improvement
U – Unsatisfactory

Grades 3 – 8

Marking Code - Subjects

A+ - 97-100
A - 93-96
B+ - 89-92
B - 85-88
C+ - 80-84
C - 75-79

- D - 70-74
- E - 69 and below

Subject Standards

- I – Independent/Proficient
- V – Very Good Progress
- P – Progressing
- S - Satisfactory
- N – Needs Improvement
- U – Unsatisfactory

Effort/Conduct

- O – Outstanding
- G - Good
- S - Satisfactory
- N - Needs Improvement
- U – Unsatisfactory

The following criteria will be used to determine the Effort Grade:

- Has necessary materials
- Hands in work on time
- Completes homework neatly, and according to directions
- Participates in class activities/discussions
- Punctual for class

The following criteria will be used to determine the Conduct Code:

- Acts in a Christian manner
- Respectful to adults and peers
- Observes school and classroom rules
- Displays self-control

***The standard grade for expected behavior in effort /conduct is S.**

Progress/Deficiency/Interim Reports

Interims are meant as a mid-point status report each trimester to give parents information so changes can be made before the official Progress Report time. Grades PreK-2 will receive a written communication on the individual child's progress two times a year, halfway into the trimester. Grades 3-8 will have access to their child's grades on-line. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the school if they are experiencing difficulty accessing their child's grades or if they have questions about their child's progress.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

First Trimester parent conferences will be held each year. Parents will be given a link by the homeroom teacher to sign up for a time. Middle School teachers may schedule team conferences spread throughout the trimester. Parents or teachers may request conferences at additional times. Parents are asked not to interrupt a teacher during instructional time.

Testing Program

MAP Assessment

All Archdiocesan schools administer the achievement test designated by the Department of Catholic Schools in prescribed grades.

Elementary school students in grades 2-8 are administered the MAP Assessment three times a year to measure growth. Pre K and Kindergarten students are administered the BRIGANCE developmental screenings. Parents are given feedback as to how their child is scoring at the end of the year.

Brigance Diagnostic Inventory of Early Development is utilized to determine readiness for the Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1.

NCEA IFG.ACRE

(National Catholic Education Association Information for Growth) Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education is administered to students in grades 5 and 8. This is used as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of the religious education program and offers a picture of where the children are in terms of their basic religious awareness.

Cumulative Assessments

Students are given mid-year and end of year assessments in grades 6-8. It may be in the form of a test or project. This will help to prepare students for the rigor of high school.

Instruction/Curriculum

St. Joan of Arc School implements the Archdiocese of Baltimore curriculum in grades PreK – 8. The Archdiocesan curriculum is based on National and State Standards while infusing the richness of Catholic identity throughout all the curricular areas. Programs are developmentally appropriate, student centered, focus on the development of the whole child, and challenge students to continued excellence. Specific areas of curriculum are reviewed and updated each year to ensure timely and relevant standards.

Students in grades PreK – 8 participate in Religion, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Physical Education, Spanish, Music, Library/Media, and ADST (Applied Design Science Technology). Technology is an important tool to enhance learning and is integrated very effectively throughout all areas of learning. Students become very skilled and creatively utilize the technology tools available to deepen and extend learning.

As a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) School, curriculum is integrated across subject areas and incorporated into real world and problem-based situations when possible. Students develop a strong sense of the skills necessary to effectively navigate a rich and varied course of study. Students master skills that transfer into all areas of their learning.

Textbooks and Materials

Textbooks are furnished by the school. These are to be treated with care at all times. Students are responsible for the condition of books used. Lost or damaged books must be paid for and replaced immediately. All textbooks will be collected at the end of the year. Consumable materials become the property of the student. It is important to note that in a STEM based education, many and various means are used to deliver curriculum. Textbooks are used as one such resource. Technology software and hardware are provided by the school.

St. Joan of Arc School uses multiple materials to present information and teach necessary skills to students. Subscriptions to online educational sites enhance lessons, provide student practice, support inquiry based learning.

Titles of Instructional Materials are provided on the teacher website.

Homework

Home study is a necessary part of each student's individual educational program. Each student is expected to spend time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work. Students in grades 2-8 are required to have a homework notebook and to list assignments for each subject.

For the average student, the daily homework allotment is:

Grade 1	15 - 30 minutes
Grades 2/3	30 - 45 minutes
Grades 4/5	45 - 60 minutes
Grades 6/7/8	1 - 2 hours

Long term assignments and projects cannot be completed adequately in one evening. They may require that the student complete work on a weekend or holiday rather than during the week.

If a student has class work that has not been completed in school, it is not considered a part of the homework assignment but is to be completed at home.

Students will receive prior notice of tests, exams, and project due dates to pace their studying.

In case of student absence, parents may request any assignments and materials be placed in the school office. Requests must be made before 10:00 a.m. by calling the school office and may be picked up between 3:15 and 4:00 p.m.

Honor Code

All students are required to complete assignments that are their own assignments. A student may ask for help but may not copy or plagiarize another's work including anything with ChatGPT/AI. Older students will be required to sign an Honor Pledge after receiving instruction regarding plagiarism.

Work Habits

Students are responsible for all classroom assignments, group projects, and homework according to the standards and due dates assigned by the teacher. Late work may earn a reduced grade. Students may be asked to complete late assignments during recess or after school.

Missing Assignments

If a student does not complete an assignment, a grade of NHI will be given which means that the assignment has not been turned in to the teacher. Students and/or parents should monitor PowerSchool to ensure that there are no missing assignments. If a student is absent, the teacher will determine the amount of time necessary to complete any assignments (up to two weeks). After this time, the NHI grade will be changed to a failing grade; work will no longer be accepted.

Missed Work

Students are responsible to meet with the teacher before or after instructional times with any questions about missing work. Assignments will be posted on the website, on Google classroom, and/or given when student returns from an absence. Please try to schedule appointments outside regular school hours to avoid missing instructional time. Absence from school during the academic year due to family vacations is strongly discouraged. Twenty days of absence in one school year may be cause for student retention.

Tests and Projects

All students will participate in formative and summative assessments to determine mastery of curriculum standards. Teachers will inform students and parents of developmentally appropriate expectations for all tests and assignments and post those requirements online.

Records

Student Records

Student records are maintained in the school office or in a designated administrative area. Access to records is governed by the records policy.

Records Policy (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

St. Joan of Arc School complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. In general, FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to education records. (The rights granted to parents under FERPA automatically pass to the student when the

student turns 18 or enrolls in college.) These rights and related procedures of St. Joan of Arc are as follows:

- Parents have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the School. Parents should submit to [insert title of appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School will make arrangements for access and notify the parent of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- Parents have the right to request that the School correct records they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. Parents who wish to request an amendment of the student's records should write to the Principal and clearly identify the part of the record they believe is inaccurate or misleading and the information they believe should be included in a corrected record. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested, the School will notify the parent of the decision and the parent's right to request a hearing.
- Parents generally have the right to consent in writing to disclosures of information from a student's education record. However, there are certain exceptions to the consent requirement, including disclosures under the following conditions:
 - To School officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information. A school official is a person employed by the School or the Archdiocese as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff); a person or company with whom the School has contracted to provide a service (e.g., attorney); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibilities or duties to the School.
 - To other schools to which a student is transferring.
 - In connection with financial aid under certain circumstances.
 - To specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
 - To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school.
 - To accrediting organizations.
 - In order to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
 - To appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

The School also may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent unless a parent objects in writing. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include this type of information in certain publications. Examples of such publications include a playbill, showing the student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; and sports activity sheets. The School has designated the following as directory information:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Honors and awards received
- Grade level

Parents who do not want the school to disclose directory information without their prior written consent must notify the principal in writing by **September 1st**.

- A log must be maintained of each request for access to and each disclosure of educational record information other than disclosure to parents or students 18 or older or school officials. The log should contain the name of the person(s), the date, and the legitimate interests the person had in requesting or obtaining the information.
- Parents have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by St. Joan of Arc School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-8520.

Media Release

Numerous opportunities are available to recognize or use student likeness in newsletters, brochures, newspapers, photographs or other media. Parents who do not want their child to participate are asked to notify the principal in writing by September 1.

Parental Involvement

The mission of St. Joan of Arc School is to work with the parents in order to educate the students. To this end, parents should be involved on a daily basis in the education of their children, including monitoring their schoolwork.

Partnership with Parents

In enrolling your child in a Catholic School, you agree to certain important responsibilities. These include:

1. to be a partner with the school in the education of your child
2. to understand and support the Catholic mission and identity of the school
3. to read all communications from the school and to request clarification when necessary
4. to know who your child's teachers are and to observe parent-teacher conference dates and any special requests for meetings
5. to discuss concerns and problems with the person (s) most directly involved
6. to be as actively involved as you can be in the life of the school and to volunteer assistance when possible
7. to promote your school and to speak well of it to others to include, but not limited to, social media platforms
8. to meet your financial obligations in a timely manner and to support the fundraising efforts of the school when possible
9. to appreciate a Catholic education and the benefits of attending a school in a Christ centered environment
10. to keep the school updated regarding your child's health conditions and to provide current physician's orders and required medications in a timely manner.
11. to behave appropriately at all school related functions, both inside and outside of the school hours, and whether on school property or third-party site, and including sporting events.
12. to follow the guidelines of this handbook including non-academic standards and expectations, including related to parking, drop-off, pick-up, and communication with teachers and staff.

Change in name, Address, or Family Status

If there is a change in the family status or the change of a child's name or address, it is important that the school be informed promptly of the change. In case of a change of custody or living situations, a copy of the portion of the court order that names the custodial parent must be on file with the school.

Parental Support/Compliance

In cases of serious or repeated noncompliance by a parent with school policies or procedures, the administration reserves the right to withdraw that parent's child/children from the school.

Home and School Association

It is an organization that:

- helps parents, school administration, and faculty develop a mutual understanding and appreciation of the mission of Catholic education as lived in the local Catholic School within the Archdiocese of Baltimore
- provides a formal avenue for parents/caregivers of current students to participate with the faculty and administration in their children's education
- develops supportive systems for communication and service to the local Catholic School
- works with the Principal to provide programs and processes that engage the School families in spiritual, educational, outreach, social, legislative, public relations, service, and fundraising activities that further the mission of the School
- collaborates with the other parish, civic, and School organizations
- is rooted in prayer, discernment, and the contemporary vision of the Church for Catholic education
- is accountable to the Pastor of the parish and the Principal of the School
- provides positive and energetic communication for the Administration and School community
- displays positive Public Relations/Marketing on behalf of the School
- supports financial endeavors for the School
- observes the School's mission and vision
- selects a representative to serve on the School Board

The HSA Executive Committee consists of the Past President, President, Vice- President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Events Coordinator, and three Members at Large (one from PK-2nd, one from 3rd-5th, one from 6th-8th).

Volunteer/Service Hours

There are also numerous areas and activities where parents may volunteer to help the school. Parents are required to commit to 20 hours of volunteer time a year, or pay a \$200 fee (\$10 for each hour). Volunteers who chair and event satisfy their requirement. Volunteers may donate goods for a portion of hours. These hours must be completed by May 15. Volunteer opportunities exist both during the school day and outside of school hours. It is hoped that each family can find some area or activity to meet this need and become involved in the school community. Hours are tracked through “Track it Forward”.

Due to safety concerns and instructional time, volunteers are asked not to bring siblings with them when they are volunteering in the classrooms. No siblings are permitted on field trips. For other events such as lunch, field day, etc., siblings must be in an area supervised by adults.

Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet and Technology Tools

Technology skills are necessary to ready our students for their future. Access to the Internet and technology tools (including software tools, web-based applications and services, computer equipment, iPads, and other personal electronic devices) allow students to conduct research, produce digital content, and communicate with classmates and teachers. The Internet and technology tools put enormous power at the fingertips of users. As such, they also place a great deal of responsibility on users.

It is imperative that technology resources be used to build community, encourage critical reflection, and foster readiness for future learning. Developments in technology at the School are to be used ethically, legally, and responsibly. As in other areas, our students are expected to make good choices with regard to their behavior.

Individual users are responsible for their activity on the Internet and technology tools, including the material stored and information shared. In order to protect private and personal information, unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information is prohibited. The School reserves the right to edit Internet accounts for child-only configurations, and to run filtering software for students’ protection.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that student users (and their parents) recognize the limitations the School imposes on the use of the Internet and technology tools and that they understand the standards of behavior the School expects of users.

All users of the School network and technology tools, whether on a School-owned or personal device, are responsible for adhering to the following guidelines for acceptable use.

Acceptable uses of the Internet and technology tools are for authorized academic and school-related activities that support learning and teaching and:

- Respect the privacy and property rights of others and the well-being of the School
- Are consistent with Roman Catholic values and morals
- Treat technology tools and computer equipment with respect.

Unacceptable uses of the Internet and technology tools include but are not limited to:

- Violating the rights or privacy of others, including by photographing or filming an individual without consent
- Posting or distributing videos or photographs without consent of the persons depicted and the School
- Using technology to send profanity, obscenity, or other offensive or harmful language
- Unauthorized copying, downloading, or installation of content, software or applications (including plagiarism or “pirating” music)
- Sending false information or sending messages to the School community that fail to identify the sender (including anonymous messages or messages using a pseudonym)
- Using any program designed to disrupt network performance or breach network security, such as software designed to capture passwords or break encryption protocols
- Revealing personal information beyond what is required for login while using Internet or web-based resources
- Responding to inappropriate messages from others (which should be reported to the School)
- Downloading or copying information onto disks or hard drives without prior teacher approval
- Accessing, downloading, storing, or printing files or messages that are inappropriate or may be offensive to others (including pornography and other inappropriate images)
- Sharing of passwords or attempting to discover another’s password (passwords should be changed frequently)
- Using or accessing another’s account (network accounts are to be used only by those for whom the account has been established)

- Intentionally writing, producing, generating, copying or introducing dangerous codes or programs designed to cause harm, including, but not limited to viruses, bugs, ‘worms’, etc.
- Intentionally damaging, altering, or tampering with any hardware, software, printers, keyboards, speakers, etc.
- Accessing or searching files, directories, or folders for which the user does not have authorization
- Intentionally erasing, renaming, or disabling of anyone else’s files or programs
- Accessing social media, email, or other off-task websites or apps during School without explicit permission of a teacher or adult supervisor
- Violating School conduct rules or the law.

Harassment/cyber-bullying of others online, whether against a student, non-student, or employee, is serious, is prohibited, and is contrary to the School’s policy and values. Harassment/cyber-bullying whether it is initiated on campus or off campus, online or in person, should be reported immediately to a faculty member, and may lead to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution under Maryland’s law prohibiting the Misuse of Interactive Computer Service (“Grace’s Law”).

Parents are responsible for:

- Reviewing and discussing this policy with their child as well as supporting the School in its enforcement
- Partnering with the School in monitoring their child’s technology use
- Modeling appropriate Internet behaviors for their child
- Reporting any concerns regarding this policy or their child’s use of the Internet or technology tools to School personnel.

Failure to adhere to the policy guidelines may result in a revocation of a student’s Internet access and other technology privileges and disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Web-based Services

The School uses Google Apps for Education as well as other web-based education tools, sites, and services (“web-based services”) to provide students with important web-based educational experiences and enhanced opportunities to communicate and share collaboratively with one another. As part of students’ use of web-based services, certain educational records may be created, collected, or stored. Directory information, such as a child’s name, email address, grade/age, and enrollment status, may also be shared with web-based services. The School may access, monitor, and review children’s use of web-based services and Internet use and children shall not have any expectation of privacy with respect to any communications or activities through such services. Use of web-based services is for educational purposes only and subject to the conduct and acceptable use guidelines set forth in this Handbook. A list of the School’s web-based services and corresponding privacy policies are available upon request. By enrolling a child in the School, the parent consents to the child’s participation in the School’s academic activities and programs, including the child’s use of and access to web-based services as described in this paragraph. In order to withhold or withdraw consent for the use of web-based services, parents must contact the School principal in writing.

Cell Phone/Smart Watch Policy

Students are not allowed to have a cell phone or a smart watch, or any other personal device that connects to the internet in the classrooms. Parents who wish their child(ren) to bring these devices to school must adhere to the following policy.

Any student who brings a cell phone/smart watch (or anything else that connects to the internet) to school must:

1. have the phone/smart watch clearly marked with their name
2. turn the phone off before exiting their vehicle and may be turned on after reentering their vehicle at the end of the school day
3. drop it/them off with their homeroom teacher upon arriving in the morning
4. pick it/them up at dismissal when exiting the building

****This policy is also in effect for school dances. Phones/smart watches must be turned in at the registration table**

Those students who do not follow this policy will:

1. have the phone taken away and write a reflection. (first offense)
2. have the phone sent to the office. Parents must come in and meet with principal to pick up. (second offense)

Administration

Crisis Intervention Plan/Crisis Team

St. Joan of Arc has a Crisis Intervention Plan that includes security, evacuation, and counseling services through the Archdiocesan Response Team. Some emergencies included in the plan are fire, gas leaks, bomb threats, natural disasters and school disturbances. Members of this team consist of administrators, teachers, and staff. Fire and crisis safety drills are conducted on a regular basis during the school year. Crisis safety drills include evacuation, reverse evacuation, lock-down, shelter-in-place, drop, cover and hold and other weather drills. SJA has adopted The Standard Response Protocol through the [I Love U Guys Foundation](#).

Emergency & Weather related Closings/Delayed Openings

St. Joan of Arc School follows the same procedures for school closing and delays as does 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.

Communication to Parents

Swift K 12

In the event of an emergency that would impact the health, safety, and welfare of our students or a situation that compromises the safety of our school facility or grounds, the school will notify parents through the Swift 12 Online Notification system. Parents will simultaneously receive a phone call, text and/or email alert to the phone numbers and email addresses that were submitted to our school. Weather closures may also be posted by this system. Periodically, non-emergency information may be communicated through the System. It is therefore imperative that the school office has current parent contact information at all times.

Weekly Update

A newsletter with information about the activities for the coming week and other pertinent information will be posted weekly on the school's website. www.stjoanarc.org.

Communication between parents and teachers

In the best interest of students, the school welcomes and encourages communication between parents and teachers. Whenever a situation occurs that causes concern, the concern should be addressed first at the level at which the situation arose, second with Administration. Teachers are seen by appointment. Please contact them directly by email or phone to schedule a mutually convenient time to meet.

The school website, www.stjoanarc.org, gives access to teacher and middle school pages. Each teacher communicates the calendar, academic and event information on his/her teacher website page and/or Google Classroom site. Principal and school updates may also be communicated through the KSwift12 system.

Parents whose phone numbers are unlisted must give the school either the unlisted number or a number where the parent(s) can be reached. It is essential that the school have this information in case of emergency. It will be kept in the strictest confidence. Any change of phone number or home address is to be given to the school office and homeroom teacher immediately.

Emergency information for each child is to be kept current. Children will only be released to the person(s) designated by parents in PowerSchool unless otherwise instructed by the custodial parent/guardian.

Non-Custodial Parent

Non-custodial parents are welcome to review their child's records unless there is a court order or legal agreement prohibiting such access. The school may notify the custodial parent of a request to review records.

St. Joan of Arc School does not allow a non-custodial parent physical access to his/her child during school hours or on school premises unless the custodial parent has consented or the school has a court order permitting access.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The State of Maryland requires the following statement in the Student Handbook:

"It is the policy of the State of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in

compliance with:

- (1) Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and
- (2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not:
 - (i) Discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
 - (ii) Refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or
 - (iii) Discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint."

The State of Maryland does not require a nonpublic school that is religiously affiliated to enroll, retain, or extend privileges to a student or prospective student who does not meet the usual and regular qualifications, requirements, and standards of the program or school or to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the program or school's religious or moral teachings provided that the denial, rule, regulation, or policy is not based on discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability may be directed to the principal.

Religion is required for each year a student attends St. Joan of Arc School. All students enrolled in SJA must attend religion classes and services. We will always teach and act consistent with the tenets of the Catholic Church.

Harassment Policy

It is the policy of the Archdiocese to prohibit harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or protected activity (i.e., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the complaint process) in its education programs and activities. Each Catholic school shall adhere to this policy with respect to students. (Employees are similarly protected from harassment by a separate Archdiocesan policy.) A school is not required to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with its religious or moral teachings.

I. Scope

This policy applies to all students in Archdiocesan elementary, middle and secondary schools. The Archdiocese neither condones nor tolerates harassment of students at school, at school-related activities or functions, or in any school-related setting. Harassment of students, whether engaged in by other students, teachers, administrators, or others, is prohibited. Violation of this Policy is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or suspension or expulsion from school, depending on the nature and severity of the offense and the individual's disciplinary record.

II. Prohibited Conduct

- A. For purposes of this Policy, "harassment" means verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or protected activity, that:
 - (i) Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment;
 - (ii) Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance; or
 - (iii) Otherwise adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities.
- B. Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, handicap or disability, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. "Sexual" harassment includes unwelcome

sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for educational decisions or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

III. Procedure

- A. Any person who believes that a student is being subjected to harassment should immediately report the harassment to any one or more of the following individuals: the student's teacher, the principal of the school, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.
- B. Individuals are encouraged to report harassment early, before it becomes severe or pervasive, so that preventive action can be taken. All complaints will be investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, and will remain confidential to the extent possible.
- C. Any retaliation, reprisals, or intimidation, whether by the alleged harasser or from another source, directed toward the complaining party or anyone else as a result of the filing or investigation of a harassment complaint is considered a serious violation of this Policy and should be reported immediately.
- D. Once the investigation is complete, the school will take immediate and appropriate corrective action when it determines that this Policy has been violated. The complaining party and the complained-of party will be advised of the investigation's findings and conclusions. A report of the findings will be forwarded to the Department of Catholic Schools.

Bullying Policy Statement

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation (as defined below) of any student is prohibited in all Archdiocese of Baltimore Schools. Retaliation or reprisal against anyone who reports such behaviors or participates in an investigation of a report is also prohibited. Such behaviors are contrary to school life in a Christ-centered community, which respects the dignity and uniqueness of all of God's children. To foster a school environment where all students are educated in a safe and caring atmosphere, all Archdiocesan schools will follow established procedures for bullying prevention, intervention, and response.

Discrimination and harassment of students on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or handicap, gender identity or expression, are also addressed under the Archdiocesan Student Harassment Policy in the Code of Conduct. Suspected abuse or neglect of students is addressed under the Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth.

"Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" means intentional conduct, including written, verbal, or physical conduct or an intentional electronic communication, that:

- a. Creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and:
 - i. Is motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability; or
 - ii. Is sexual in nature; or
 - iii. Is threatening or seriously intimidating; and
- b. Occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

*Electronic technology means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, pager, etc. *Retaliation means an act of reprisal or revenge, i.e., getting back at a person for an act he/she committed (such as reporting misconduct).

Reporting forms are located in the main office and on the school's website.

Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act's Applicability to Cannabis Use in Schools

There have been significant legislative changes at the state level around the use of cannabis in recent years. This year, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation that will allow individuals 21 and older to purchase cannabis products legally from a licensed dispensary, beginning on July 1, 2023. However, it is important to keep in

mind that, despite these changes, cannabis continues to be classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law, and its use remains illegal under federal law.

The policies and regulations set forth by the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act apply directly to the use of cannabis in schools, including childcare facilities located in schools, even if such use might be permitted under State law. All employees, contractors, volunteers, and visitors are required to comply with this law and may not distribute, possess, use, or be under the influence of cannabis while in schools or during working hours, including but not limited to while transporting students or attending school-sponsored activities.

Transportation Procedures

Arrival

Arrive on Plater Street lining up close to the curb – *NO CARS ARE TO BE DOUBLE PARKED– EITHER ALONG THE BUILDING OR PARKING LOT. Please do not block the crosswalks.*

Turn into alley, but do not discharge students until you make a LEFT TURN into the DROP-OFF ZONE which begins at the exit of the parking lot going out to Edmund Street and ends at the Plater Street entrance.

Students will exit the vehicles on the passenger side and will be helped by safety patrol students to proceed safely into the main entrance of the school.

AT NO TIME SHOULD A PARENT EXIT THE CAR IN THE DROP OFF ZONE.

All traffic will exit the parking lot onto Edmund Street. *PLEASE DO NOT PASS OTHER CARS IN THE DROP OFF ZONE AS THIS POSES A DANGER TO STUDENTS.*

Parents of PreK-4 students may walk their child to the line and wait, he/she may make a left turn into the parking lot; park on the side of the lot opposite the Drop-Off Zone (left side); and walk with the child to the small lot. The parent is responsible for the child's safety until the students enter the school. No student should be dropped off prior to 7:50AM as there is no adult supervision until that time. Parents may enroll in Extended Care if they must drop off their child earlier.

Dismissal Procedures

Vehicles are to turn right to enter the parking lot through the alley entrance on Plater Street only. Vehicles will be lined up in rows beginning at the residential side of the lot. (Parents are asked not to arrive prior to **2:50pm** as physical education classes are conducted on this lot.)

Upon arrival parents should wait along Plater Street until the lot is open. *NO CARS ARE TO BE DOUBLE PARKED– EITHER ALONG THE BUILDING OR PARKING LOT. Please do not block the crosswalks.*

The school office will be closed from 2:45-3:15PM daily to ensure safe and timely dismissal for all students.

SJA uses the Pik My Kid program for dismissal. Families will be given information to register within the system. Each family will be given a placard with the student name, number and a QR code. Teachers on duty for dismissal will scan the code or enter the student information into the system. At 3:05pm students will be notified through the system and proceed directly to their vehicles.

The rows will be dismissed through the Edmund Street exit. **ALL CARS MUST EXIT WHEN DIRECTED TO DO SO.** If your child is not yet in the car, you must exit the parking lot and reenter it through the Plater Street entrance.

Since no child may be left unattended, students not picked up 15 minutes after dismissal time will be sent to Extended Care and parents will be charged for at least one hour according to the Extended Care fees.

Students will only be released to custodial parents or those indicated on emergency contact list. Students will not be released to Taxi services or Uber drivers.

Admissions

Order of Preference for available student openings:

1. Families with children currently enrolled in St. Joan of Arc School
2. Families who are active parishioners at St. Joan of Arc parish.
3. Registered and active Catholics in Archdiocesan parishes.
4. Active Catholics in other Dioceses.
5. Non-Catholics

Application Process

- Re-registration for current school families will take place from November 1st until January 15th.
- We will begin processing new student applications during the first week of January. New Student Registration for the fall will be accepted the first week of February according to the above stated preferences, providing openings are available.
- Tuition Assistance Applications will be available through FACTS Financial Aid and are due February 28th. Late applications will be subject to available funds remaining.
- Applications for the following school year will be available upon request beginning September 1. Applications will only be held for one school year. If no openings are available, parents must reapply the following September.

Documentation Needed for Application

Completed applications should be submitted online to the school along with the appropriate fee, copies of the child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate (if Catholic), and immunization/health record.

Academic Requirements for Consideration

- School administered placement test
- Teacher recommendation from sending school
- Progress reports
- Standardized test results

Placement

Students are initially placed using a combination of the above criteria. The final decision will be from the administration.

Probation Policy (for new students)

There will be a meeting with parents of new students approximately one month after enrollment to determine if the student has adjusted well to SJA. All new students are given a one-year evaluation period. If during this time the school is unable to meet the needs of the student(s), the parent(s) will be asked to place their child in another school. Such recommendations would only occur after conferences with the parent(s) and after exhausting all other methods of help.

Financial Obligations

Tuition at St. Joan of Arc School is set by the School Board working in conjunction with the School Board Finance Committee and the Pastor. The schedule for tuition and fees will be published by April for the upcoming school year. Progress reports, access to on-line grades, and academic records will not be available until all financial obligations are satisfied.

SJA offers grant and aid based on a family's financial need. Aid is offered through the parish and school, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the State of Maryland. To apply for aid through the parish and school and the Archdiocese of Baltimore all applications must be 100% completed through FACTS by February 28th. Please go to <https://online.factsmtg.com/signin/3QD7M>

The State of Maryland offers aid through Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program. All deadlines and requirements are set by the State. Please go to <https://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/boost/application2022.aspx> for more information and to apply.

Tuition Payment Schedule

- 1 Payment: Payment in full for tuition and all fees by June 1 for the coming school year through FACTS.
- 2 Payments: Payment of all fees and one-half the tuition by June 1 for the coming school year and the balance by November 1 through FACTS.
- 10, 11, or 12 Payments: Ten, eleven, or twelve monthly payments made by electronic transfer through FACTS payment plan, with the first payment in June prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Any tuition accounts in arrears are referred to the school's business manager for appropriate action.

- Registration for the following academic year cannot be accepted when accounts are in arrears.
- Extended Care, Field Trip fees, and other charges will be billed and paid through the FACTS Payment System as Incidentals
- Incidental fees are not connected to automatic tuition payments.

2023-24 TUITION RATES

	<u>1 Child</u>	<u>2 Children</u>	<u>3 Children</u>	<u>4 Children</u>	<u>5 Children</u>
Active Catholic	\$7,700.00	14,900.00	21,850.00	28,550.00	35,000.00
Non-Catholic	\$8,800.00	17,100.00	25,150.00	32,950.00	40,500.00

- These rates reflect a \$500.00 discount for two children; a \$ 1,250.00 discount for three children; a \$2,250.00 discount for four children, and \$3,500.00 discount for five children.
- The Catholic Tuition Discount Form must be submitted each year in order to qualify for the Catholic discount of \$1,200.00.

Fees

- Technology Fee is included in the tuition rates.
- An Application Fee of \$99.00 per student is due at the time of a submitted application and is non-refundable.
- A Registration Fee of \$175.00 per student is due at registration, and is non-refundable.
- A Reregistration Fee of \$200.00 per students is due at reregistration for continuing students, and is non-refundable.
- 8th grade fee -\$200.00 final payment due by February 10, 2024 - includes Yearbook, Retreat and Graduation Fees

Withdrawals

The office must be notified in writing of the withdrawal of a student. Information should include the effective date and reasons for the withdrawal. Once all financial obligations have been met, records will be sent to the new school. Tuition may be refunded as follows:

- 90% of billed tuition if withdrawal is on/before September 1st
- 60% of billed tuition if withdrawal is on/before November 15th
- 30% of billed tuition if withdrawal is on/before February 15th

Attendance

Absence

Regular attendance is considered essential for learning at St. Joan of Arc School. Students need to develop the work habits and responsibilities required of all of us as we go through life. When a student is absent from school, a parent/legal guardian must telephone the school between 8am and 10am to report the reason for absence. All absences and tardiness become part of a student's permanent record. Absence from school during the academic year due to family vacations is strongly discouraged. Missed work and assignments may only be obtained upon return.

Students who are absent from school may not participate in any after school or evening school sponsored events such as sports, dances, etc.

When he/she returns to school, the student must bring a written note to his/her homeroom teacher signed by a parent/legal guardian stating the reason for absence. The school reserves the right to require a doctor's note for absences due to illness or injury or need for assessment/evaluation. A child may not return to school until he/she is well enough to participate in all school activities. If a student will be out of school for an extended period, whether continuous or intermittent, parents should consult with the administration regarding appropriate support of the student in fulfilling the school curriculum or alternative arrangements such as home and hospital services through the local public school district. Per Student Policy 1.0 More than 20 days absent in one school year is considered excessive. When a student has a chronic or intermittent health problem, parents should contact administration. Twenty days of absence in one school year may be cause for student retention.

The school asks parents to keep sick children home and must be fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours.

High School Admissions and Visitation Policy

Students in Grade 8 will be allowed two excused absence days during the school year to visit Catholic high schools they wish to attend. Students in Grade 7 will be allowed one excused absence day to visit Catholic high schools.

Truancy

Truancy is defined as a student absenting him/herself from school without parent/legal guardian permission, or leaving school grounds without permission during the school day. Truancy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Lateness/Assignments

Students may enter their homerooms at 8:00AM. The school day begins at 8:10AM. Any student arriving after 8:10AM is considered late and must report to the office for a late slip. Tardiness is entered on a student's permanent record. It is the responsibility of the student to check with the homeroom teacher to receive the necessary communication or work that may have been missed due to lateness.

Early Departure/Late Arrivals

The school discourages early departures and requests that families arrange medical and dental appointments, etc. after school hours, on early dismissal days, or during vacation periods. Check the calendar for days when school is not in session.

A student arriving later than 10:15 a.m. or leaving prior to 12:00 p.m. shall be considered ½ day absent. On a scheduled early dismissal day, a student who is in school less than 2 ½ hours shall be considered ½ day absent.

Regular Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 3:05 p.m. The school office will be closed from 2:45PM until 3:15PM for dismissal. All students must be picked up on school grounds (see Dismissal procedures). Car riders will be dismissed first, then the walkers. For the safety of all children, these procedures must be followed. Children who are still remaining 15 minutes after dismissal will be brought to Extended Care and charged accordingly.

Early Dismissal

All full and ½ day Professional days are listed on the calendar.

Scheduled ½ day dismissals occur at 12:05 p.m. Students follow regular dismissal procedures. Parents will be notified as early as possible to any changes in the school calendar.

Discipline

Statement on Philosophy of Discipline

St. Joan of Arc School strives to develop responsible, courteous, self-disciplined boys and girls whose pride in themselves, their parents, their school, and their community is reflected in their behavior. The development of such young people requires a consistent practice of thoughtful, responsible behavior during these formative years. Students are made aware that they are an integral part of the faith community and that their actions affect themselves as well as the entire community. The ultimate purpose is to develop true Christian character and a sense of responsibility: to establish an atmosphere conducive to academic excellence; and to protect the welfare of the individual, as well as the school community.

Students may be disciplined for conduct that occurs on school premises or at school-sponsored events, or for other conduct that adversely affects the interests or reputation of the school regardless of where the conduct occurs.

Behavior

To maintain a positive learning environment and standards that are consistent with our Christian philosophy, it is essential that students exhibit a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves as well as others. Listed below are some behaviors that are unacceptable:

- Disrespect in manner and/or language
- Rowdiness
- Using the property of others without permission
- Dishonesty
- Disruptive Behavior
- Failure to have necessary supplies for class work
- Dangerous Play
- Rudeness
- Vulgarity
- Dress code violations
- Gum
- Harassment of any kind by word or manner

- Possession or consumption of any drug or look-alike drug while at school or while attending a school function
- Possession or consumption of alcohol while at school or while attending a school function
- Possession of knives/weapons or look-alike knives/weapons
- Possession of pornographic material(s)
- Smoking/using matches/vaping/gummies
- Willful destruction of school property
- Leaving school property without permission
- Theft or extortion
- Fighting or threats of violence

The procedure for discipline is a series of steps as follows:

1. Warning by teacher
2. Age appropriate reflection signed by parents
3. Second reflection—counseling by teacher or Administrator
4. Office referral
5. In-school suspension
6. Out-of-school suspension
7. Expulsion

****Immediate suspension or expulsion may occur if a student engages in a more serious inappropriate behavior determined by the administration.**

The teacher will deal with infractions. Should circumstances warrant, the parent and/or the Administration involved will be consulted. In cases of serious or repeated violations, students may be subject to disciplinary suspension or expulsion. The school's fair procedure to be used in cases of possible suspension or expulsion is as follows:

- Communication has occurred in writing and through meetings with the parents regarding the student's repeated behavior
- If the student behavior remains unchanged, the parents are again informed (in writing) at the earliest reasonable date, by the principal that the student behavior is threatening his/her place in the school.
- The principal communicates with the appropriate Associate Superintendent, in advance, about possible expulsion.
- A right of review may be requested in accordance with the procedure established by the Division of Catholic Schools.
- In presenting expulsion to parents, the option to withdraw is to be extended.

While on suspension, the student is still responsible for missed work. After the specified amount of time for suspension, which shall not exceed three consecutive school days, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the Administration for reinstatement. The Administration reserves the right to determine the conditions for reinstatement.

An expelled student forfeits all privileges of the St. Joan of Arc School student. The Administrator reserves the right not to re-admit an expelled student at a later date. If a student is to be expelled, the student is entitled to a prompt review procedure established by the Department of Catholic Schools. A written request for review must be submitted to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools within 10 working days of the notice of intent to expel. Parents are given the option to withdraw the student in lieu of expulsion.

The school reserves the right to deny attendance to anyone whose behavior is contrary to the teachings and ideals of the school or whose behavior or attitude is disruptive to the functioning of the student body.

Search and Seizure

St. Joan of Arc School reserves the right to search school property (e.g., lockers, desks), a student's belongings, and areas under the student's control in order to enforce school policies, rules and regulations or otherwise to preserve a safe and orderly learning environment.

Conflict Situations

Conflicts are a normal and healthy part of living and growing. The administration will implement acceptable conflict resolution techniques to work towards a solution.

Health and Safety

AHERA

In October 1986, the U.S. Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Under this

law, comprehensive regulations were developed to address asbestos problems in public and private elementary and secondary schools. These regulations require most schools to inspect for friable and non-friable asbestos, develop asbestos management plans that address asbestos hazards in school buildings and implement response actions in a timely manner. Our program for fulfilling these responsibilities is outlined in our asbestos management plan. This plan contains information on our inspections, re-inspections, response actions and post-response action activities, including periodic surveillance activities that are planned or are in progress. The plan is kept in the principal's office and may be viewed upon request during normal business hours.

Maryland School Immunization Requirements

A child may not enter school, unless he/she has submitted an official immunization record or other appropriate documentation of immunization status. The immunization record must have the month, day and year of each vaccination and be signed by a physician or health department official. In the case of religious objection or medical contra-indication, form DHMH 89, must be submitted and kept on file and be approved by the school. Exempted students are to be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of the disease for which they are not immunized.

Dispensing of Medication

The administration of medication in school is discouraged. However, if a student's physician recommends that the student receive prescription or over-the-counter medication during the school day, a written order from the student's doctor is required. Medication can only be dispensed with a written order from the student's physician, specifying start and stop date. The original medication container or box for inhalers must be brought to the school. These containers or boxes should include the following: name of medication, directions for use, time for dispensing, name of doctor ordering the medication, date of prescription, expiration date as stated by the pharmacist, strength of medication/dosage, and student's name and grade.

Students may not possess, dispense or distribute medication on their own. Under special circumstances, individual students may be authorized by their physician to carry and self-administer emergency medications (e.g. inhalers, epi-pens). In this case, the school nurse must be consulted. All medication must be delivered to school by a parent/guardian.

Communicable Diseases

Parents must call the school if their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease. The school must notify their county Health Department. All reports are confidential. Reportable diseases include the following: Measles – regular or German (Rubella), Tuberculosis, Meningitis, Whooping Cough (Pertussis), Hepatitis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Food Poisoning, Mumps, Human Immune Deficiency, Lyme disease, Virus Infection (AIDS/all other symptomatic infections), Adverse reactions to Pertussis Vaccine, Animal bites / Rabies, Chicken Pox (varicella), Influenza, COVID-19.

Students should not be sent to school if they are sick in the morning. Do not send your child to school if he/she has:

- drainage from the eyes associated with conjunctivitis (pink eye); doctor's note is required for readmission
- fever (100 F or higher); students must be fever free for 24 hours without medication (Tylenol, Advil)
- has been having repeated episodes of vomiting or diarrhea
- is not feeling well enough to participate in school activities (a doctor's note is required for a student to miss PE class)
- children with strep throat must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning
- chicken pox until all lesions are scabbed over.
- any communicable disease in accordance with the disease specific health department recommendation

If a child becomes ill or injured at school and the teacher/med tech feels the child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, parents will be notified and asked to have the child picked up promptly.

Any chronic conditions, illnesses, hospitalizations, or at home student medication changes should be brought to the attention of the school as soon as possible.

Health Records

Parents are required to complete a Health Form listing any allergies, serious medical conditions, medications, and emergency contact information. The school must be notified of any changes that occur during the school year.

Head Injury

If any injury to the head or any other serious injury occurs to a student, then nurse will call the parent and send home a report. The report is to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to school. If the parent/guardian or alternative contact person cannot be reached in an emergency, the school will contact police/ambulance for

assistance.

Insurance

The school provides the option for parents to purchase health insurance for their children.

Allergies

Parents must notify the school of their child's allergies including food allergies. School medication orders must be renewed each year by the physician and the order must be signed on or after July 1. If the student carries an EPIPEN with them, the physician must state this requirement on the order.

Blood borne Pathogens

A complete Blood borne Pathogens Standard Exposure Control Plan has been established by the school and can be found in each Faculty Handbook and on file in the Office.

Vision/Hearing Screening

The school follows the directives of Harford County Health Department and responds to parent's requests for individual testing.

This testing is usually done for:

1. All new students who have not provided documentation for screening in the past year;
2. All students the year they enter the school in Grades PreK, kindergarten, 1, and 8 or 9;
3. Grade 3 or Grade 4 if funding is available;
4. Any student with a suspected hearing or vision problem as reported by school staff or parents/guardians.

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy Procedures

Maryland law requires that all educators and other school employees, including volunteers, report suspected child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities in order that children may be protected from harm and the family may be helped. Our school policy supports Maryland laws in this regard and requires that all school staff report suspected abuse and neglect to the Department of Social Services, Protective Services Division, and/or the local police department, as well as to the Principal.

Visitors

In order to ensure a safe environment for your child, all school doors will remain locked during the school day. All visitors must report to the office and receive an identification badge before visiting other parts of the school building.

Playground/School Supervision Provisions

Students have access to a playground, 1 paved lot, and a grassy area for recreation on school grounds. No students will be allowed out of the building without proper supervision by one or two staff members. Security cameras monitor all outside areas, both entrances, and the crosswalks to the church and church hall at all times. Should any student leave the building or outside supervised area without permission, it will be considered as a behavior infraction.

Supervision Responsibilities Before and After the Official School Day

St. Joan of Arc School is in session from 8:00AM until 3:05PM on full school days and until 12:05PM on early dismissal days. To ensure student safety, any student not picked up 15 minutes after the dismissal time will be sent to Extended Care and the parents will be charged accordingly.

Parents are required to follow the times stipulated when dropping off or picking up students. For safety reasons, students who arrive after 8:10am need to be brought to the office by a parent and signed in. The school is not responsible for supervision of students before or after the times stated above. The school is not liable for any injuries or accidents which may occur before or after the times stated above. If the student is participating in a scheduled, supervised activity before or after the hours noted above, specific arrangements must be made for drop-off and/or pick-up at the designated times. If children are participating in before or after school care, parents must comply with the rules established by the program for drop-off and pick-up.

Use of School Grounds

Any use of school grounds outside of school hours must be scheduled and approved through the Parish Office.

STUDENT SERVICES

IEP Process

If a child is not progressing academically, the school may ask the parents/guardians to initiate or the parents/guardians may initiate on their own the process to request a professional consultation and/or evaluation

through the local public school system. The evaluative process is generally called the IEP Process (Individual Educational Plan) and begins when a parent/guardian calls ‘Child Find’.

Following the initial phone call to the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Child Find, parents/guardians are given an initial meeting date within 30 days. At this initial meeting, parents/guardians and school faculty are invited to share their concerns, present information, and discuss whether an evaluation will take place. Catholic school staff, in particular the student’s teacher, are a vital part of the process.

If an evaluation is deemed warranted and takes place, recommendations and an academic plan are developed and given to the parents/guardians at the summative meeting following the academic evaluation.

If such a plan is developed and the test results determine that there is a need for accommodations and/or modifications within a student’s learning environment, the school administrator will consult with the parents/guardians to determine what accommodations, resources, plans, and school placements may be implemented. When appropriate, a Student Accommodation Plan is developed at your child’s Catholic School.

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. Extended Care fees will be billed separately from tuition. For more information and a fee schedule, please contact the school office. Once a student is picked up from aftercare daily, they may not return to aftercare the same day. On Early Dismissal days, aftercare will close at 4:00pm.

St. Joan of Arc Extended Care program adheres to the Code of Maryland Regulations Title 13A State Board of Education, Subtitle 17 Child Care—Letters of Compliance and has been awarded a letter of compliance. The full text of these regulations can be found in the classroom or online at

http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/12/subtitle_17_loc_comar_online.pdf

Parents can find the “Parents Guide to Regulated Child Care” at

<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/2/parentbrochuremsddecember2007.pdf>

Lunch

Children bring their lunches from home. Students eat lunches in the classroom. St. Joan of Arc encourages students to have a health, well-balanced lunch. ***No fast food lunches may be dropped off for students.*** Soda or other carbonated drinks are not permitted in school.

Students may carry a water bottle during the day for WATER ONLY. They have access to a bottle filling station.

School Activities/Organizations

- D.A.R.E.
- Student Council
- Band
- Catholic Schools Week
- Spirit Week
- School Pictures
- Christmas and Spring Programs
- Service Projects
- Altar Serving
- Various Local & Community Contests
- Safety Patrol
- **Field Day**

Extra-curricular Activities

Students will be given opportunities to participate in various activities and clubs throughout the school year. Clubs will be determined by the faculty and administration with consideration of student interests.

Field Trips

Field trips are considered an integral part of the school's educational program and a valuable learning experience for students. Field trips are scheduled at various times during the school year. In advance of the trip, a permission form, required by the Archdiocesan Department of Catholic Schools, is sent home. A student will be permitted to attend the trip only if the permission form is signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher by the specified date along with any fee.

If, for some extraordinary reason, a student is unable to participate, the student is expected to attend school on that day and fees must still be paid since the rates we are quoted reflect total participation. Work will be supplied by the teacher(s), and the student will be assigned a classroom in which to work under the supervision of a staff member. If a student is unable to attend because of illness, we cannot promise a refund. The teacher must be notified if a child will not participate in the field trip experience. Students who are kept home from the trip will be marked absent. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are encouraged to participate as chaperones on field trips as the need arises. However, because of safety and liability factors, pre-school siblings and other school-age siblings are not allowed. We do not permit parents not selected as chaperones to join the group at the trip destination as this creates confusion.

All chaperones are required to complete Virtus training.

PBIS

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has implemented an evidence and research-based Anti-Bullying Program, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). PBIS is a comprehensive framework in which schools focus on our Christ-centered teachings and values to create nurturing, safe, positive, and supportive learning environments. Consistent school-wide expectations are visible throughout the school and students' positive behavior is acknowledged and celebrated. The PBIS framework adopts behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that is designed to enhance academic and behavioral outcomes for every student.

At SJA we use and apply the ideas of, "Step up to respect, jump to responsibility, and accelerate to leadership" to capture the behaviors we want to see in our school. SJA has decided to use the PBIS Rewards App as a way of delivering positive reinforcement. This app allows teachers to give students points for positive actions in real time therefore letting them know when they are meeting or exceeding expectations. Additionally, this app allows parents to see how their children are doing and actively participate in celebrating successes.

Guidance and Counseling

St. Joan of Arc will provide a guidance counselor on site three days per week to help with school related issues and as a resource to families. Students may speak to teachers, school administrators, nurse, or the parish priest or deacon if an emergency arises when the counselor is not available.

SCHOOL UNIFORM 2023-2024

School uniforms are purchased from Flynn O'Hara Uniform Company.

Flynn O'Hara Uniforms

8868 Waltham Woods Rd.

Parkville, MD 21234

410-828-4709

<https://flynnohara.com/>

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. We expect students to maintain the type of neatness and grooming that does not interfere with the health and safety of themselves or others, nor with the educational process or religious dimension of the school. All uniforms must be clean, in good repair and properly fitted. All clothing must be labeled with the child's name.

The school recognizes that particular hairstyles are often part of racial, ethnic, spiritual, and cultural identity and practice. Accordingly, it is the policy of the School to permit individual families to decide the appropriate cared-for hairstyle for their children. All hairstyles need to be of natural colors. Boys need to be clean shaven.

PREK FALL/WINTER UNIFORMS (Nov. 1; March 31)

Girls and Boys

- Short or long sleeve navy uniform polo shirt
- Khaki elastic waist pants; no snaps, buttons, zippers or belts (No jumpers for PreK)
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo
- Solid color black or white tennis shoes with Velcro closure (no tie shoes)
- White socks that cover the ankle – no logos

PREK SUMMER UNIFORMS Options (August 29 - Oct. 31; April 1 – June 8)

Girls and Boys

- Short sleeve navy blue uniform polo shirt
- Khaki elastic waist shorts no snaps, buttons, zippers or belts
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo. (Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo maybe worn with shorts.)
- Solid color black or white tennis shoes with Velcro closure (no tie shoes)
- White socks that cover the ankle – no logos

GRADES K-5 FALL/WINTER UNIFORMS (Nov. 1; March 31)

Girls

- SJA plaid jumper (jumpers should be no more than 2 inches above the knee) with white peter pan collar blouse (cotton or polyester)
- or
- Khaki slacks with SJA navy banded bottom shirt, or SJA navy polo shirt (tucked in and worn with brown or black belt)
- Navy tights, navy leggings with white or navy socks that cover the ankle, navy knee socks, white or navy socks that cover the ankle – no logos
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo
- Uniform tan buck shoes
- Jewelry: watches, 1 pair of small earrings worn in the earlobe, one ring, a religious cross medal worn on a thin chain
- No make-up
- ONLY clear/natural nail polish and natural nails are permitted
- No Smart watches are permitted

Boys

- Khaki trousers (worn with brown or black belt)
- Long or short sleeve navy blue SJA polo shirt (tucked in)
- White or navy socks that cover the ankle – no logos
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo
- Uniform tan buck shoe
- Jewelry: watches, crosses or religious medals worn on a thin chain

- No Smart watches are permitted

GRADES K-5 SUMMER UNIFORMS Options (August 29 - Oct. 31; April 1 – June 8)

- Khaki shorts (worn with brown or black belt)
- Khaki uniform skort
- SJA navy blue polo shirt (tucked in)
- White or navy socks that cover the ankle – no logos
- Uniform tan buck shoes
- No long sleeve shirts may be worn under short sleeve shirts nor leggings worn under shorts or skort.
- Girls may wear SJA plaid jumper (jumpers should be no more than 2 inches above the knee) with white peter pan collar blouse (cotton or polyester)
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo. (Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo maybe worn with shorts or skort)

MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 6-8 FALL/WINTER UNIFORMS (Nov. 1; March 31)

Girls

- SJA plaid skirt or khaki slacks (worn with a black or brown belt)
- SJA navy polo shirt (tucked in)
- Navy tights, navy leggings with white or navy socks that cover the ankle Navy knee socks, white or navy socks that cover the ankle - no logos
- Second Layer- Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo
- Uniform tan buck shoes
- Jewelry: watches, crosses or religious medals worn on a thin chain, one small pair earrings worn in the ear lobe or 1 pair of small hoop earrings, one ring
- No make-up
- Only natural nails are permitted with clear/natural nail polish
- No Smart watches are permitted

Boys

- Khaki trousers (worn with brown or black belt)
- Navy blue SJA long or short sleeve polo shirt (tucked in)
- Second Layer-Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo
- White or navy socks that cover the ankle
- Uniform tan buck shoes
- Jewelry: watches, crosses or religious medals worn on a thin chain
- No Smart watches are permitted

MIDDLE SCHOOL Grades 6-8 SUMMER UNIFORMS Options (August 29 - Oct. 31; April 1 – June 8)

- Khaki shorts worn (worn with brown or black belt)
- Khaki uniform skort or SJA plaid skirt
- SJA navy polo shirt (tucked in)
- White or navy socks that cover the ankle – no logo
- Uniform tan buck shoes
- No long sleeve shirts may be worn under short sleeve shirts.
- No leggings may be worn under shorts or skort.
- Second Layer- Navy cardigan sweater, pullover sweater, sweater vest or Navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo. (Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo maybe worn with shorts.)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM (PreK – Grade 8)

Summer PE Uniform (August 29 - Oct. 31; April 1 - June 8)

- PE uniform instead of the regular uniform on PE days
- Regular tennis shoes that tie or have Velcro closings are required.
- White socks that cover the ankle – no logos
- Grey short sleeve t-shirt with SJA logo
- Navy micromesh gym shorts with SJA logo
- Second Layer-Navy Crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo
- No jewelry is permitted on PE days
- Parents should make sure that the student is dressed properly for weather conditions.

Winter PE uniform (Nov. 1; March 31)

- Regular tennis shoes that tie or have Velcro closings are required

- White socks that cover the ankle – no logos
- Second Layer-Navy Crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo
- Grey t-shirt, long or short sleeves, with SJA logo
- Navy uniform sweatpants with SJA logo
- No jewelry is permitted on PE days
- Parents should make sure that the student is dressed properly for weather conditions.

Additional information:

- ☐ Spirit wear and hoodies are not part of the regular uniform. Jackets are not to be worn in the building. Second layers for regular uniform are: Navy cardigan, pullover or vest sweater with SJA logo, navy ¼ zip fleece pullover with SJA logo, Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SJA logo (Summer and Spring only.)
- ☐ PE Uniform second layer is Navy crewneck sweatshirt with SAJ logo.
- ☐ Hats/caps may not be worn inside the building.
- ☐ Complete uniforms, with shirts neatly tucked in and buttoned, are to be worn every day, except for the day on which a student has Physical Education or on Mondays.
- ☐ Fad or costume jewelry is not permitted. Girls are permitted small post earrings no larger than a dime. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings in school or at school related activities. Boys and girls may wear one bracelet and a watch, and one necklace with a small pendant.

Out of Uniform Days

On occasion, there may be out of uniforms days scheduled. Clothing may not contain terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, slogans, writing, or images that are offensive, political, harassing, or discriminatory in nature.

Students also MAY NOT WEAR:

- ☐ Dresses, skirts, or shorts more than 2 inches above the knee
- ☐ Sandal, flip flops or other open shoes (safety reasons)
- ☐ Pants or jeans with tears, shreds or holes
- ☐ Tightly fitted or revealing clothing. (leggings must be worn with a long shirt that covers the top half of the leg)
- ☐ Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, or shirts with cut – out shoulders

****When in doubt, do not wear it to school.**

If an article of clothing is deemed to be inappropriate, a student may be required to alter his/her apparel.

Students who are wearing inappropriate clothing will not be permitted to attend classes until that clothing has been changed. Parents will be notified in this event.

Field Trips

Students are expected to wear their regular uniform on all field trips unless otherwise specified.

Lost and Found

St. Joan of Arc requires that all items of clothing be labeled with the child's first and last name. In that way, we may return clothing that is left in an area other than the child's classroom. Due to limited space, unclaimed clothing will be held for one month in the lost and found bin and then be donated.