



# St. Joan of Arc School

November 15, 2023

Dear SJA Families,

The Thanksgiving holiday is quickly approaching and with it more exciting times at St. Joan of Arc School. A special thank you to all those who contributed to our Good Samaritan Food Pantry. I received a lovely thank you note from the volunteers. Their shelves were very empty and they commented that our gift of food could not have come at a better time.

Our middle school students, altar servers, and SJA Voices represented our school at the Veterans Day Mass on Friday. We are so grateful for all our Veterans who attended the Mass and visited our classrooms. We thank you every day for your service to keep us safe.

Grandparent and Special Friend’s Day will be November 21 from 8:30am to 11:00am. Use this [link](#) to sign up.

Parent Conferences are November 20 and 21. Contact your child’s teacher to sign up.

Every Wednesday the students may wear their “Joy is Our Strength” t-shirt with their SJA gym pants, khaki pants or plaid skirt. If you did not order, we have a few for sale, contact the office for sizes.

Happy November!

God Bless,  
Ms. Dianne Kestler  
Principal



## Important Events

November 13 - 17	Book Fair
November 16	Band Day
November 17	Corner Stone Dress Down Day \$1.00
November 20	PBIS Ice Cream Reward
November 20 - 21	Parent Conferences – Virtual November 20 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm November 21 – 1:00pm – 4:00pm
November 21	Liturgy 8:30am Grandparents and Special Friends Day 8:30am – 11:00am Book Fair open at 11:00am Dismissal 12:05pm – after care open to 4:00pm T1 Closes
November 22 -24	Thanksgiving Break
November 28	Liturgy 8:30am Hearing and Vision Screening
November 29	High School Placement Test for Grade 8
November 30	Band Day
December 1	Report Cards sent home
December 2	Aberdeen Christmas Parade
December 5	Liturgy 8:30am Awards Assembly
December 7	Sounds of the Season 4:00pm – 5:00pm Aberdeen Library
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy 8:30am
December 12	Liturgy 8:30am

December 14	Christmas Concert 6:00pm
December 15	Jingle Bell Shoppe
December 19	Liturgy 8:30am
December 20	Living Nativity 10:30am Parents Welcome Dismissal 12:05pm
December 21- January 2	School closed – Christmas Break

### **Grandparent Special Friend’s Day**

Grandparents and Special Friends are welcome to visit St. Joan of Arc on Tuesday, November 21. We will begin with 8:30am liturgy followed by classroom visits from 9:30am – 11:00am. The Book Fair will also be open that day. All visitors who come into the school building must bring ID with them for the safety of our students. Use the link below to let us know who will be attending so we have a count for that day. Please complete by November 16.

<https://forms.gle/2SmSkqFknBzcdBoi9>

### **Book Fair**

The Book Fair is November 13 – 17. The students have 3 options to shop. Class shopping times are Wednesday and Thursday (cash, check made out to SJA, credit card, and ewallet). Family night is Thursday from 3:30pm – 6:00pm. Grandparents can shop on Tuesday, November 21.

Book fair website: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stjoanofareschool13>

See attached flyer for more information.

### **Sunshine Committee – Holiday Giving**

The faculty and staff at SJA are participating in the Holiday Giving Program at Harford Family House. We are "adopting" three large families totaling 15 persons. If you are able, we would love to have help from our school families.

If you are interested in assisting with this program, please send in *gift cards* in any amount to a place of your choice. Please place them in an envelope marked "**Holiday Giving**" and send them to the office no later than December 11. We will either purchase items from their wish lists or we will give them the gift cards.

Thank you very much for your assistance with helping the families at Harford Family House.

### **Power School**

All parent of students in grades 3-8 have access to PowerSchool and your student’s grades. If you have not signed in or are having difficulty doing so, please contact your student’s teacher or send an email to [hway@stjoanarc.org](mailto:hway@stjoanarc.org)

### **Notes from the Nurse**

**Students who are sent home sick need to stay home the next day in order to keep illnesses from spreading. If your student is feeling sick, please keep them home until their symptoms have improved.**

### **Hearing and Vision Screenings**

UM @ Upper Chesapeake Community Outreach Department will be here at SJA on Tuesday, November 28th to conduct Hearing and Vision Screening for our students. They will be screening ALL students in PreK-4, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 8 and students that are new to our school this year.

Parent volunteers are needed for this day to help walk the students back and forth for the screenings. If you'd like to help, please let me know. You must be VIRTUS trained. Even though the screenings will last most of the day, you can volunteer for any amount of time. Thank you in advance!

### **Attendance**

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please add 'attendance@stjoanarc.org' to your email to their teacher. Please include the reason for their absence including any symptoms they may be having if they are ill.

Thank you!

### **Spirit Wear**

**Joy is Our Strength** t-shirts are for sale. Adult and Youth sizes available. \$18 for long sleeve and \$15 for short sleeve. Cash or Check made out to St. Joan of Arc. Please email [svara@stjoanarc.org](mailto:svara@stjoanarc.org) to order.

### **Yearbooks**

2022-2023 Yearbooks are for sale while supplies last. Please click [here](#) to purchase.

### **PreK 3 Program - 2024 -2025 School Year**

The SJA PreK 3 program will be full day/5 days a week. Students must be 3 years old on or before September 1st and must be potty trained. No exceptions. We will only be accepting 12 students.

[Click here](#) to apply.

**Applications** have opened for the 2024-2025 school year for all grades. [Click here](#) to apply. Please contact Elisa Maid with questions at [emaid@stjoanarc.org](mailto:emaid@stjoanarc.org)

### **Grant & Aid Applications**

The 2024-2025 Grant & Aid Applications opened on November 1, 2023. You may access the application by clicking [here](#). Please be sure to complete your application early as the deadline is February 28, 2024 **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Should you have any questions please contact Pam Franke at [pfranke@stjoanarc.org](mailto:pfranke@stjoanarc.org).

### **School Safety**

In our efforts to create a safe and nurturing environment for our students, we continue to look at ways to improve safety and for our students to feel safe on our campus. St. Joan of Arc, along with the other schools throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore have adopted and will be utilizing the Standard Response Protocol throughout our campus this school year. The administration, teachers and staff have been trained in this protocol and have been teaching this to our students upon their return to school. Attached is information about the SRP.

### **HSA**

#### **Five Below Fundraiser**

Shop at Five Below in the Festival of Belair from December 1 – 7 and earn 10% of purchase for SJA. See attached Flyer.

Mark your calendar – **Jingle Bell Shoppe** is December 15. If you are interested in chairing the event please contact Jennifer Vass, [jennifervass1018@gmail.com](mailto:jennifervass1018@gmail.com)

### **RaiseRight Fundraiser**

Earn extra during bonus events this holiday season - starting this week. Check [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise-right.com) for participating brands during each event.

Nov. 16-17 Raise Days - bonuses for eGift cards and reloadable cards only

Nov. 25-Dec. 8 Dazzle Days Holiday Bonuses - special 2 week bonuses and 1-day surprise bonuses  
Dec. 9-18 eGift Card Bonuses

Note on Ship to Home option - can take up to 2 weeks, so RaiseRight is recommending holiday orders be placed by Dec. 6 and tracking is not available for U.S. Mail deliveries.

Use school code **A9C13C7351446** to earn for SJA if you haven't created an account yet.

### **Track it Forward**

Earn your service hours! We are in need of paper donations and candy canes/lollipops for the Christmas Parade.

### **Parish News**

#### *The Giving Tree*

The holidays are full of good cheer and family traditions, but not for everyone. Since 1985, “The Giving Tree” has been a way for St. Joan of Arc parishioners to bring joy and real help to local families who are struggling. It originally began with the Stout family, who provided six needy families with baskets of food. Since then, the project has evolved many times, and is now carried out in partnership with Catholic Charity's Early Head Start Program as well as directly helping other Aberdeen families in need. [Click here](#) for more details.

**Upcoming events** – [click](#) for more details

December 2 – Aberdeen Christmas Parade

December 3 from 9:00am – 11:00am Advent Breakfast and Alive Mass

December 9 at 10:00am in the Parish Hall – Breakfast and a Wreath

### **Community News**

#### **Christmas Time is Near**

[Aberdeen's Christmas Street Celebration!](#) Mark your calendars on December 2, for Aberdeen's biggest event. St. Joan of Arc Parish and School will be participating!



**TO a  
FUNDRAISING  
SHOPPING  
EVENT FOR**

**organization name** St.Joan Arc School

**date** 12/1/2023-12/7/2023

**time** 10a-10p

**where** Five Below in the Festival of Belair

**it's simple! 10% of the purchases made by members of your group will be donated back to your organization.**

**simply present this flyer to a member of our WOW CREW at the time of purchase.**

please note that we do not allow flyers to be handed out in our store or shopping center at any time before, during or after your event.

this section to be completed by five below associate

**purchase amount (pre-tax)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**register (circle one)**      **1**                      **2**                      **3**                      **4**                      **5**                      **6**

**associate name** \_\_\_\_\_

# SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS®

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**Safe . Easy . Essential .**

**Student Preview Day: *November 13 and 14*** students will get an opportunity to come to the Book Fair and write down their favorite books on a wish list.

**Student Shopping Hours: *November 15 and 16*** students who have money for the Book Fair may come to the Church Hall to purchase their books during their scheduled time.

**Family Book Fair Night: *Thursday, November 16 3:30-6pm*** Families are welcome to come and purchase books. This is a great opportunity to shop with your child while supporting SJA.

**Grandparent's Day: *November 21*** Students and their Grandparents/Special Friends will have an opportunity to come to the Book Fair to purchase books after mass.

**Payment Options:** Credit Card, Check(**made out to SJA**), Cash, and eWallet

For more information, visit our online book fair link.

**Online Book Fair:**

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/stjoanofarcschool13>

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

My shopping day is \_\_\_\_\_.



# STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

## COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

## HOLD

**"In Your Classroom or Area"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## SECURE

**"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## LOCKDOWN

**"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



## EVACUATE

**"To a Location"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



## SHELTER

**"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"**

**Hazards** might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

**Safety Strategies** might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

**Students** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

**Adults and staff** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

