



St. Joan of Arc School

November 29, 2023

Dear SJA Families,

The Advent and Christmas season are quickly approaching. Come join the SJA community on Saturday, December 2 to walk in the Aberdeen Christmas Parade. Meet in front of the Parish office by 2:45pm. Wear your favorite SJA Spirit wear and festive accessories.

On Sunday, December 3 plan to attend the ALIVE Mass at 11:15am to begin the Advent season. Children who wish to sing in the choir need to arrive at 10:30am.

The Christmas Concert is December 14 at 6:00pm. Band students and Grade 8 students are to report to the Church at 5:30pm. Students in PreK – grade 7 are to report to the school at 5:30pm. The school parking lot will be available for parking. Students may enter through the Main Entrance or the Law Street Entrance. Teachers have sent details from Mrs. Dandino on what to wear for the Concert. We look forward to seeing everyone at this event.

Volunteers and items are needed for the Jingle Belle Shoppe. See below for more information.

As the 1st trimester comes to a close, we want to hear from you. Please let us know how we are doing. <https://forms.gle/KyMWPgnykT5CoSq59>

As the weather turns colder, please send your student with a coat, hat and gloves. We will continue to go outside for recess and PE as long as it is above 32 degrees. Please see below for our weather related closings/delay policy.



God Bless,
Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal

Important Events

November 30	Band Day
December 1	Report Cards sent home Bingo Dress Down Day
December 2	Aberdeen Christmas Parade 3:00pm
December 3	ALIVE Mass 11:15am
December 5	Liturgy 8:30am Awards Assembly
December 7	Band Day 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 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
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

Weather related Closings/Delay Policy

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 open until 1 hour after dismissal.

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 the family the gift cards.

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 to order. Students may wear these to school every Wednesday.

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

Registration for continuing students

Starting on December 1, current SJA students will be able to register for the 2024-2025 school year. SAVE \$75 on re-registration if paid on or before February 10, 2024. Re-registration increases to \$200.00 if paid after February 10, 2024. DEADLINE FOR RE-REGISTRATION is March 1, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elisa Maid.

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.

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.

Jingle Bell Shoppe

December 15 is the shopping day. Volunteers and items are needed. Please [click here](#) to sign- up to help. Thank you for your support.

RaiseRight Fundraiser

Earn extra during bonus events this holiday season - starting this week. Check RaiseRight.com for participating brands during each event.

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 at 11:15am.

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 _____



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.

