



St. Joan of Arc School

December 13, 2023

Dear SJA Families,

The second candle of Advent is lit. This week we focus on Mary and her willingness to say “yes” to God. We thank her for supporting us as she did for Jesus throughout his life on earth. We also celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe by sharing Juan Diego’s story and presenting red roses to the Blessed Mother at our school Liturgy. Our students are learning many things about their Catholic Faith as we move through the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

The Christmas Concert is tomorrow, 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.

As the weather turns colder, please send your student with a coat, hat and gloves. Remember to label all items. 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.

We have collect my lost items over the last few weeks. Please call the office or stop in to claim your child’s missing items.

At drop off and pick up, please do not double park, block crosswalks or get out of your car to walk towards the building. We want to be respectful to our neighbors and keep everyone safe.

A special Christmas Card was sent home today for each family to brighten your holidays.

God Bless,
Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal



Important Events

December 14	Aftercare closes at 5:00pm Christmas Concert 6:00pm
December 15	Jingle Bell Shoppe/Hot Chocolate Truck
December 18	Class Christmas Parties 2:15pm
December 19	Liturgy 8:30am Buddy Day BINGO 2:10pm
December 20	Living Nativity 10:30am Parents Welcome Dismissal 12:05pm No Aftercare
December 21- January 2	School closed – Christmas Break
January 3	School Reopens

After Care Information

After Care will close at 5:00pm on December 14 to prepare for the Christmas Concert. There is no After Care on December 20, school will dismiss at 12:05.

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. Due to the confusion of the late opening, moving forward a SwiftK message and Facebook post will be sent for closings and delays.

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

New Student Applications

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

Current SJA students are able to register for the 2024-2025 school year. Please click [here](#) to continue the enrollment process and complete the registration form and fee. 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.

Parent Surveys

Last call for Parent surveys. As the 1st trimester just closed and a new one begins, we want to hear from you. Please let us know how we are doing. <https://forms.gle/KyMWPgnykT5CoSq59> This is a quick and anonymous survey.

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.

Environmental Club

Join today! Club members will develop projects that make our school and our world a healthier, “greener” environment. This session’s projects will revolve around continuing our recycling programs, learning about hibernation, migration, winter tree identification, native gardens and preparing bluebird boxes for spring. Join us for lots of fun! See attached permission slip to sign up.

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.

Jingle Bell Shoppe

December 15 is the shopping day. Information and order forms were sent home with students today. See attached flyer for more information.

Track it Forward

Earn your service hours! We are in need of paper donations as well as other donations before the break.

Parish News

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 – 4:00pm & 7:00pm

December 25 – 10:00am

For more information on Parish Activities [click](#) here.



Environmental Club Permission Slip

WINTER SESSION: January 16, 23, 30
February 6, 13, 20, 27
March 5, 12, 19



Time: 3:15 - 4:15

Where: St. Joan of Arc School

Who: Students in Grades 2 - 8 (maximum 18 students)

Club members will develop projects that make our school and our world a healthier, "greener" environment. This session's projects will revolve around continuing our recycling programs, learning about hibernation, migration, winter tree identification, native gardens and preparing bluebird boxes for spring. Join us for lots of fun!

Please fill out 1 permission slip for each child in your family.

Return permission slips no later than Monday January 8th to Mrs. Field or Mrs. Simmons

My child _____ Grade. _____ has my permission to participate in SJA Environmental Club.

How is your child going home? Car _____ Aftercare _____

Carpooling (your child may only go with people from this list):

(List people, other than yourself, that may be picking up your child from the club)

Person completing this form _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Email address _____



Penguin Patch®
KIDS' HOLIDAY SHOP

Jingle Bell Shoppe

DEAR PARENTS,

Penguin Patch® Holiday Shop is coming to our school! Next week your child will be able to participate in an educational, fun, and exciting experience.

Parent volunteers will assist children while shopping to allow them to purchase surprise gifts for loved ones. We offer over 100 different gifts that can be purchased for as little as \$.25 and up to \$12.00 each. The gift items offered are Kid Tested Mom Approved®. The Holiday Shop is a fun, unique way to empower your children with generosity!

Please ensure that the **Gift List Budget Envelope** is completed and returned (with cash or check) to school on the date that your child's class is scheduled to shop. Please don't let your child miss this opportunity to grow and experience the spirit of giving!

All checks should be payable to:

SJA - HSA

*Checks made payable to Penguin Patch® Holiday Shop cannot be accepted.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR GIFT FROM YOUR CHILD, ASK THEM WHY THEY PICKED THAT GIFT FOR YOU. IT WILL BE A MEMORY THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME!

Teacher: _____

Shop Date: Friday, December 15

Scheduled Shopping Time: _____

Please ensure that your child brings their **Gift List Budget Envelope** on the specified date to his/her class. Thank you!



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.

