

St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



August 28, 2024

Dear SJA Families,

I want to thank all of you for a great start to the new school year. The students have been arriving with excitement and smiles each morning. I encourage you to talk daily with your students about their day, what they learned and what is happening in their classes.

The start of the school day is scheduled for 8:10AM. Please make sure that you are dropping off your child in time for the day and to start promptly .

This years Back to School Night has been rescheduled for Thursday September 5th from 6:00-7:30 PM. I hope to see all of you on September 5th.

Mr. Gregory Komondor
Associate Superintendent for the Archdiocese of Baltimore
Acting Principal of St. Joan of Arc

Attached to this newsletter you will find your Parent Information packet for the 2024-2025 school year. This will have information and links for all things school related through out our school year.

Important Dates

- **August 29th** - 8:00 -12:05 Early Dismissal PreK3 & Prek4 (No aftercare for Prek3 & PreK4) K-8 Full day 3:05 dismissal
- **August 30th-** 12:05 dismissal
- **Sept 2nd-** School Closed
- **Sept 5th-** Back to school night
- **Sept 9th-** Charleston Wrap Fundraiser begins
- **Sept 11th-** Freedom Walk
- **Sept 13th-** Back to School Picnic

Spiritwear

Show your school spirit and purchase your [SJA wear](#). The store will be open until Friday September 13th to get all orders in.

Weekly SJA themed tshirts- This year's AOB theme is "Give Thanks with A Grateful Heart". SJA has decided to use "Be Grateful and Give Thanks" for our tshirt logo. The deadline to order shirts is Friday, September 13. Once orders are delivered, students may wear these shirts every Wednesday with their PE bottoms or dress uniform bottoms unless otherwise stated. Please click [here](#) to place your orders.

Notes from the Nurse

Health Forms for the school year should be filled out and turned in for this school year. If you have any questions please contact sbaer@stjoanarc.org

HSA

HSA will be set up at our Back to School night on September 5th for you to sign up to volunteer at our upcoming events throughout the school year. Our first event will be our **Back to School Picnic** Friday, September 13h 4:30-6:00 PM. HSA will provide popsicles for the event, please feel free to bring your own dinner and a blanket for the black top. A flyer will go home early next week. Also, our Charleston Wrap Fundraiser will be starting on September 9th. This is a great time to start your holiday shopping all while helping raise money for our school. Your child will be coming home with a packet and information as the fundraiser grows closer.



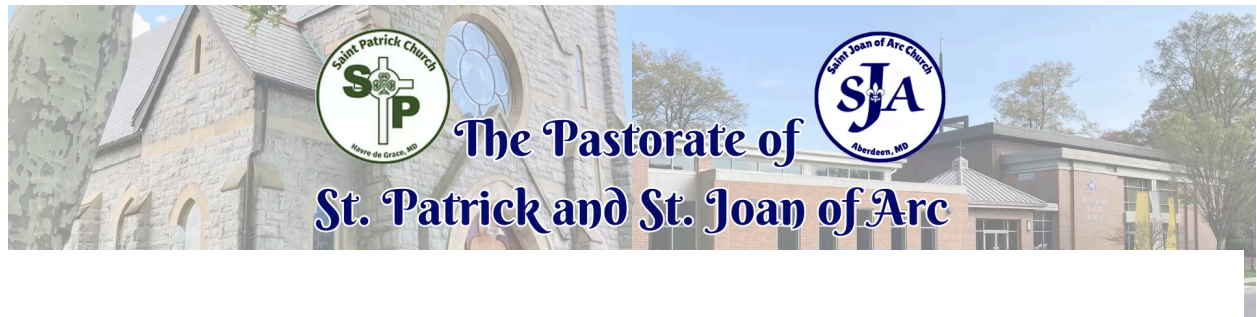
Upcoming Scholarship Opportunity for the 2024-2025 School Year

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will have two \$250.00 scholarships for this coming school year (2024/2025). One for rising 4th and 5th graders, and another for rising 6th, 7th, & 8th graders. In order to apply, candidates need to:

- Have a Veteran in their family (living or deceased) who was honorably discharged. Applicants must be United States Citizens.
- Submit a 2-4 paragraph essay on their family member, or write about what Patriotism means to them OR Draw a picture of their Veteran family member with an explanation of what Patriotism means to them.
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a community leader (teacher, priest, scout leader, etc.)
- All submissions need to be turned into St. Joan of Arc School Main Office with the candidate's First Name, Last Name, and Grade by September 11, 2024.



Winners will be presented with their certificates at the Trimester 1 award ceremony.



Parish Bulletins

[St. Joan of Arc Weekly Bulletin](#)

[St. Patrick Church Weekly Bulletin](#)

Pastorate Picnic

 **SUNDAY
SEPT 22
2024** 



Mass celebrated outside at 11:00 AM
**Followed by Fellowship, Food,
Family Games, Music and More**

**ST. PATRICK PARISH | 615 CONGRESS AVE
HAVRE DE GRACE
(Outside Parish Hall)**

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



FROM THE STORE



✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Newspaper sleeves

✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex
NexTrex.com 540-542-6930



Parent Information 2024 -2025



ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

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 right into the alley off of Plater St. , but do not discharge students until you make a LEFT turn into the DROP-OFF ZONE on the parking lot. Please exit out onto Edmund Street.

Students will exit the vehicles on the passenger side and will be helped by safety patrol students and staff 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.***

No student should be dropped off prior to 7:50 AM 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 **2:30pm** 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 or driveways.***

The rows will be dismissed through the Edmund Street exit. ***ALL CARS MUST EXIT WHEN DIRECTED ASKED TO DO SO. If your child is not yet in the car, you must exit the parking lot and re enter 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 on the emergency contact list.

The school office will be closed from 2:45-3:15PM daily to ensure safe and timely dismissal for all students. The last entry into school for early dismissal will be no later than 2:30 . This means the phones will not be answered and no more early sign outs are allowed.

PikMyKid App

The PikMyKid app is required for all families in order to run a safe and efficient dismissal. Existing families, your account has rolled over for the new school year. Please make sure if you have a new student entering, they are registered to your account. All students will bring home a PikMyKid Car Tag at the start of school with an ID number and QR code.

New families, please download the PikMyKid app onto your mobile device. Please keep your child's car tag handy in your car and hand them out to anyone who plans on picking up your child. You will be the Primary Parent for your child and in control of their dismissal time through the App. You can delegate alternate individuals, but they should have the App also as it will send a matching student ID number to the phone for us to validate the correct person is picking up the proper child. If you are part of a car pool, each child's number will be sent to the phone for validation.

Administrative Team

Principal :

Advancement/Admissions- Mrs. Elisa Maid emaid@stjoanarc.org 410-272-1387 ext. 223

Business Manager/FACTS/Tuition- Mrs. Pam Franke pfranke@stjoanarc.org 410-272-1387 ext. 217

Office Assistant- Mrs. Christina Hinch chinch@stjoanarc.org 410-272-1387 ext. 218

SJA School Calendar

All SJA events will be posted to the calendar located online on the school website. Please sync your device to this calendar. This is a live calendar so please check back weekly for updated events. <https://stjoanarc.org/calendar/>

Emergency & Weather related Closings/Delayed Openings

St. Joan of Arc School follows the same procedures for school closing and delays as does the 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 1 hour after dismissal.

Track It Forward

This is the website we use to track volunteer hours for the year. Each family is required to volunteer 20 hours per school year. If you choose not to volunteer, your FACTS account will be billed on May 14, 2025 for \$10.00 per incomplete hour for up to 20 hours. Existing families, please make sure your information is correct and you have an account on Track It Forward. New families, please click the link below to register and create an account for the school year. Each family only needs one account. Some opportunities are already available. We are looking forward to having volunteers back in our school! For questions about Track It Forward or volunteer hours please contact Christina Hinch at chinch@stjoanarc.org
<https://www.trackitforward.com/site/stjoan-arc-school>

VIRTUS (Volunteer)

All volunteers must complete VIRTUS training. Please [click here](#) to learn more. If you have been VIRTUS trained previously, please make sure your account is up to date. Contact Pam Franke at pfranke@stjoanarc.org if you have questions about your VIRTUS status.

FACTS

All families are required to have a FACTS account. This account is initially set up through School Admin during the registration process. FACTS is the platform all Archdiocesan schools use for tuition payments and incidental expenses (field trips, novels, extended care, etc.) There are two sections within your FACTS account. One for tuition and the other for incidental expenses. Tuition payments are automatically withdrawn from your designated account. The incidental account can be set up as automatic withdrawals or you may go in and pay when billed. Please note if you need to reschedule a tuition payment you must contact Pam Franke 3 business days prior to the scheduled payment date. Any questions regarding your FACTS account please contact Pam Franke, Business Manager at 410-272-1387 ext 217 or pfranke@stjoanarc.org

PBIS

PBIS reinforces positive behavior. SJA stands on the principles of respect, responsibility and leadership. [Click here](#) to learn more about PBIS. Teachers will provide parents with account information the first week of school.

Trex

Our school participates in the Trex Program and there are two ways families can help. You can bring in plastic bags and/or you can volunteer to take plastic to donation sites. (Bringing in plastic bags does not get volunteer hours) We weigh the plastic after it comes to school and then take it to donation sites in the area to be recycled. In the past our school has won planter boxes and wind chimes for the amount of plastic we have recycled. If you are looking for volunteer hours you can sign up to take the bags to our donation location. You will need to take a picture of the donation at the store for verification. The donation locations are bins outside Food Lion, Safeway, and Weis. Depending on how many families sign up, it could be a bi-weekly volunteer job and spans the entire school year. The bags are very light to carry but if needed we can help your student carry them to your car at pick up time. Please email Mrs. Simmons (rsimmons@stjoanarc.org) to let her know if you are interested in volunteering. You can earn 1 volunteer hour per drop off trip. Please log your trip in Track it Forward for approval.

School Newsletter

A weekly newsletter is posted electronically on the school website under [News](#) every Wednesday at 4:00pm.

Media Release

As stated in the Student/Parent Handbook, parents who do not want their child to participate in media opportunities are asked to notify the principal in writing by September 1.

Timeline for Grant/Aid and ReEnrollment

November 1 - FACTS (Grant and Aid) applications open

December 1- January 10th- ReEnrollment for Current families in School Admin

February 28 - FACTS 9 Grant and Aid) deadline

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is the online portal for reporting student progress in grades 3 -8. Teachers will provide parents with account information the first week of school.

Extended Care

St. Joan of Arc School offers affordable before and after school care for families who have a need for this service. Hours are from 7:00 am until school begins and dismissal until 6:00pm on regular school days. Extended Care will be provided for early dismissal days until 4:00pm **on designated days only**. [Click here](#) to register or email extendedcare@stjoanarc.org for more information.

