

St. Joan of Arc School



Parent Newsletter

March 5, 2025

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

Today we entered the holy season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Mass. We will also be participating in the Stations of the Cross Liturgies on Fridays during Lent. Yesterday, our 8 th graders took 100 cooked pancakes to the Good Samaritan House as part of their Shrove Tuesday project to raise money for our butterfly garden. I hope that each of your families can find this a time of entering into a deeper relationship with our Lord.

My plan to have a fire drill today was sidetracked by the unexpected early dismissal for weather. I do want to let you know that in addition to keeping up with those requirements, we will be having additional lockdown drills in the coming days and weeks to meet those legal requirements. Please continue to talk to your children about these coming drills so that they are not stressed by them.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz

Important Dates

Mar 5	Ash Wednesday School wide Mass
Mar 6	John Carroll Rock Band 2pm
Mar 7	Report Cards go home Stations of the Cross 2pm
Mar 11	T2 awards assembly
Mar 13	SJA Voices Dessert night
Mar 14	Pi Day PBIS Buddy Day Stations of the Cross 2pm
Mar 17	St. Patricks Dress Down Day
Mar 21	No School / Professional Day
Mar 24	No School

Mar 25	Casey Cares Pajama Drive
Mar 28	Stations of the Cross 2pm
Mar 31	Spring Uniform begins

Hot Lunch: Tomorrow you will receive the link for our next Hot Lunch on Wednesday, March 12th. All orders must be placed by Monday, March 10th. We are also in need of Hot Lunch volunteers. [Please click here to sign up.](#)

Report Cards/ Trimester 2 awards: This Friday March 7th, Report cards will be sent home in the afternoon. If your child will be receiving an award you will be notified. Our awards assembly will be Tuesday, March 11, 2025 after our 8:30 am mass.

New- Aftercare/Club Pickup Procedure Change: Please see the attached flyer about our new pickup procedure for after school activities. This new procedure will be implemented on Monday 3/10, so please be sure to read the flyer before then.

BOOST Scholarship: The BOOST(Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today) Scholarship awards for some students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price school meals program (FARMs) to attend eligible nonpublic schools. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Scholarship Opportunity: The DAVA Scholarship is offering our students another scholarship opportunity. Please see the below requirements.

Our organization has created scholarships in the amount of \$250 each, which will be awarded to two (2) students pursuing an education at St. Joan of Arc School. This award is to be used for tuition or any other related educational expenses. One (1) scholarship will be awarded to a student entering grades 4 or 5, and the other to a student entering grades 6, 7, or 8 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with a valid Green Card who is enrolled to attend the 2025-2026 school year at St. Joan of Arc School.
- Be a descendent/relative of an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
- Provide the required student information: name, grade entering.
- Obtain one (1) recommendation from a community leader, i.e. teacher, scout master,

coach, etc.

Using the theme, "What the American flag means to me," submit one of the following:

- A written 2-4 paragraph essay; or
- A captioned drawing.

Drop off the required information, submission and recommendation by the deadline of **Wednesday, April 30, 2025** to the main office of St. Joan of Arc School.

From Mrs. Ericson: Congratulations to the 4th grade class for 100% book return last week!

Hershey Park: Discounted HersheyPark tickets are on sale again this year! Please click [here](#) to order. Ticket sales will end on Friday April 11th. Admission tickets are discounted to \$50.00 each. Meal tickets are \$20.00 each and include one entree, one side, and one 24 oz fountain drink. Every 10 admission tickets sold, earns one admission ticket to help send our 8th graders on their class trip for free! Tickets are valid for any one public operational day in 2025. Please email svara@stjoanarc.org with any questions.

Brag Book: Our students have so many interests outside of school and we would like to highlight some of their talents, achievements, and interests. If you would like your student to be featured in our 1st ever SJA Brag book, please email Elisa Maid at Emaid@stjoanarc.org a picture and a blurb about what you would like to showcase. This is a great way to discover more about our students for prospective families and current families. Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Please understand that this will be a virtual book that will be posted on our school's website.

HSA : Thank you to all those who attended our Cash Bingo last Friday. The evening was very successful. We will be having another Cash Bingo this Spring and look forward to seeing you all there.

Our Joe Corbi's fundraiser is off to a great start. The fundraiser runs until March 14th. Please be sure to have all your orders in prior to March 14th. If you have any questions please feel free to email Mrs. Hinch, chinch@stjoanarc.org

SJA Summer Camp: Bring on the fun and sign up for summer camp at SJA. See attached flyer for detailed information for camps. Camps are filling up quickly. Please [click here to register](#).

STEM Camp July 7-11: SJA will be holding a STEM CAMP this summer. This is a great experience for your students to use their creativity, imagination, and build confidence. Attached to the newsletter is the Camp Invention flyer. Sign up now and use the discount code “FUN25” to take \$25.00 off. [Click here to register.](#)

Lenten Fundraiser: Starting this Wednesday, March 5th and running through Wednesday, April 9th we will be making 'Blessing Bags' for a Lenten Service Project. This is sponsored by the Sunshine Committee. (See flyer)

We will be collecting hygiene products for women and children that utilize the WE Coalition through The Willow House right here in Aberdeen. It is the yellow house at the end of Law Street. (301 Bel Air Ave.) They provide support and housing for women and children in need.

The items we will be collecting are: soap, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, perfume/body spray, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, combs, brushes, small mirrors, etc. We are also asking for a small toy to be added to the children's bags- like coloring books and crayons, deck of cards, card game, small toy or puzzle.

There will be a school wide prize of “Ice Cream for Breakfast” on Wednesday, April 16th- the day before our Easter Break. Thank you for your help with this project! If you have any questions, please reach out to Gina Sanphillipo or Susan Baer.

Reminder from the Nurse. If your child is sent home sick from the nurse, THEY MUST STAY HOME THE ENTIRE NEXT DAY OF SCHOOL.

If your child is staying home for any reason, please include the nurse in your email to their teacher(s). (sbaer@stjoanarc.org) Please include their symptoms including temperature reading and any positive lab tests. Your help and cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Donations Needed: Water and Kleenex Donations are needed by the Nurse and Music and Art Teachers. We go through an amazing amount of water bottles each day. If you can't donate~ please be sure to send your child with a refillable water bottle to school each day!

Parish News

[St. Joan of Arc](#)

Fridays during Lent: Join us on Fridays during Lent for a delicious Friday Fish Fry dinner downstairs in the Parish Hall, eat-in or to-go. Meal prices range from \$8-\$13, offering the best

deal in town. Payment by cash, check, credit card or Venmo/PayPal accepted at the door. Doors open at 4:30 PM. Then, at 7 PM, come upstairs to the church and participate in the ancient and moving Catholic devotion, “The Stations Of The Cross.” Each week we will journey together in the footsteps of Jesus on the road to Calvary. On the final Friday, April 11, enjoy the beauty of ‘Tenebrae’ – a beautiful and profound reflection on the mysteries of the season using scripture, song, darkness and light.

[St. Patrick](#)



St. Joan of Arc School

Grounded in Faith, Focused on the Future

The budget has been developed and tuition has been set for the **2025-2026** school year. Tuition for the upcoming school year **will not change**.

2025 -2026 TUITION RATES

	<u>1 Child</u>	<u>2 Children</u>	<u>3 Children</u>	<u>4 Children</u>	<u>5 Children</u>
Active Catholic	\$7,950.00	15,400.00	22,600.00	29,550.00	36,250.00
Non-Catholic	\$8,950.00	17,400.00	25,600.00	33,550.00	41,250.00

- Technology Fee is included in the tuition rates.
- The Catholic Tuition Discount Form must be submitted each year in order to qualify for the Catholic discount of \$1,000.00 per child.
- A Multi Child Discount is given in this way: a \$500.00 discount for two children; a \$1,250.00 discount for three children; a \$2,250.00 discount for four children, and \$3500.00 discount for five children.
- 8th grade fee is \$200.00. Final payment is due by April 17, 2026
 - Includes Yearbook, Retreat and Graduation Fees

Application and Registration Fees (non-refundable)

New Students

Application Fee: \$99.00

Registration Fee: \$175.00

Continuing Students

Re-registration \$200.00 each year*

*Please note that \$75.00 of the re-registration fee will be waived for students re-registering by January 10, 2025.

FACTS Tuition Management and Financial Aid Information for the 2025-2026 School Year

FACTS will continue to serve as the preferred provider for financial aid and tuition management service within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. FACTS Tuition Management Company will collect all tuition payments, including payment in full, semi-annual and monthly payments. **ALL FAMILIES ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN UP AND MAKE PAYMENT THROUGH FACTS** utilizing automatic bank payments (EFT) or by credit card. (*There is an additional fee for processing the credit card option). Easy and convenient online registration is available.

FACTS Grant and Aid

Tuition Assistance for the 2025-26 School Year is available through the Archdiocese of Baltimore for all families who qualify. To apply, please visit the FACTS Grant and Aid website at www.factstuitionaid.com. FACTS Grant and Aid application fee is \$35.00. The deadline to apply for Archdiocesan Assistance is February 28, 2025. FACTS will require the submission of 2023 Tax Return and 2024 W2.

Additional assistance is available through St. Joan of Arc School and Parish. The process of using FACTS will be the same for AOB or local assistance distribution. Our goal is to help all families afford a Catholic education for their children. Additional funds are available through **Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program** for those students who qualify by income. For more information, go to <http://marylandpublicschools.org/pages/boost/index.aspx>

NEW INFORMATION!

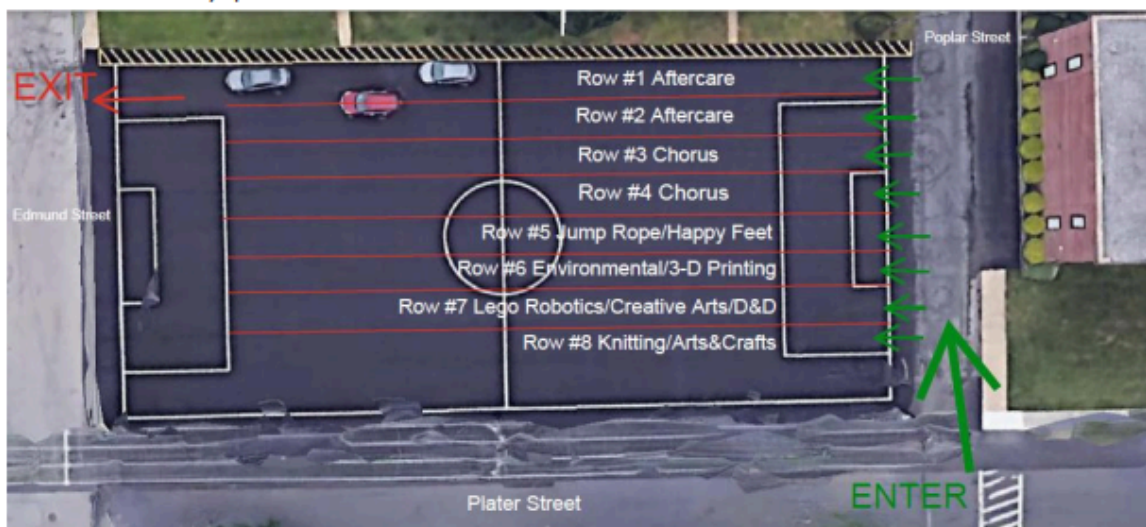
Clubs & Activities Parking Update

Due to the amount of clubs/activities we are able to host this year, we implemented a new pickup procedure to ensure the safety of our students and streamline the process.

Below is an aerial view of the parking lot with rows labeled according to our current clubs/activities. Families will pull in stadium style just as they do for normal dismissal from Plater Street. Please park in the designated row that is labeled for the club your child is in. Starting Monday 3/10/25, there will be cones outside labeled with the clubs/activities to help guide cars to the correct row. If you have multiple children in clubs, please park in the club row associated with the later pickup time so not to hold up the earlier pickup rows from pulling out. Club moderators will walk the children out at the dismissal of club to their designated row. Once the row is full, the cars will be dismissed all at once and exit towards Edmund Street.

For aftercare families, please use the first two rows. Pull all the way up, sign out your child(ren) then pull away in a continuous row, similarly to our morning drop off procedure. If you have a child in aftercare and a club, please park in the club row, sign out your aftercare student, then return to your car in the club row for club dismissal.

We understand this is a new process and may take some time. Please be patient as we navigate this new procedure to ensure everyone's safety. Please contact Mrs. Vara in the main office, svara@stjoanarc.org or 410-272-1387 ex 218 with any questions.



Lenten Fish Fry

Starts
March 7th

*and
Stations
of the Cross*

Fridays in Lent

*Doors Open 4:30 PM
Stations @ 7 PM*



Knights of
Columbus



IT'S A SCHOOL WIDE LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT



**We are collecting hygiene products
to benefit the Willow House. ***

(right at the end of Law Street at 301 Bel Air Ave.
Its the Yellow House!)



*The Willow House is part of the WE Coalition which provides support and housing for women and children in need.

We will be making 'Blessing Bags' for the women and children.

This could be soap, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, perfume/body spray, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, small toys, combs, brushes, small mirrors, etc. (Donations must be new/unused.)

For the Children's Bags,
we would like to include a small
toy, coloring book and crayons, a
book, card game or game.

Our collection will run from **Wednesday, March 5th
through Wednesday, April 9th.**



There will be a school wide Ice Cream for
Breakfast Treat on April 16th at snack time..

This is sponsored by the Sunshine Committee.
Questions: Contact: gsanphillipo@stjoanarc.org or
sbaer@stjoanarc.org.





Summer Camp at SJA – 2025

Welcome to SJA's 2025 Camp – Bring on the fun!

We look forward to providing your child with the best summer ever! SJA is offering 7 weeks of camp, making it easy to fit one or more weeks into your schedule.

Excluding Camp Invention and Vacation Bible School, all other camps are from 8am – 4pm. Students must be entering Kindergarten to register.

Deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Week 1: Around the World - June 9-13, Camp Cost \$270 (5 days, 8am - 4pm)

We will travel around the world in 5 days! Fun facts, games, traditions and food samples from around the world, ending the week with an International Dance Party!

Week 2: Nature Week - June 16-18, Camp Cost \$162 (3 days, 8am - 4pm)

Nature, Nature, Nature! Learn about critters and their habitats, as well as our outdoors with Mrs. Simmons! Please note there is no camp on Thursday or Friday, June 19th and 20th.

Week 3: Art/Music - June 23 -27, Camp Cost \$270 (5 days, 8am - 4pm)

Enjoy a week of exploring art and music!

Week 4: Camp Invention - July 7-11, See Separate Registration (5 days)

Camp Invention is a high-energy, hands-on STEM Camp. Register at [Camp Invention](#).

Week 5: Creative Chef - July 14-18, Camp Cost \$320 (5 days, 8am - 4pm) CLOSED, all spaces are full.

We will cook all week preparing dishes that the kids will eat from fresh ingredients. Everyone will learn kitchen safety and how to use kitchen tools to make yummy foods!

Week 6: Character Week - July 21 -25, Camp Cost \$270 (5 days, 8am - 4pm)

Each day we will have fun learning activities celebrating a variety of characters.

Week 7: Vacation Bible School – July 27 – August 1, Camp Cost See Separate

SJA VOICES DESSERT NIGHT

When?

Doors Open at 6:15
pm. Performance
starts at 6:30.

Where?

222 South Law St.
Aberdeen, Md.
Church Hall

Thursday, March
13th, 2025

SJA Voices will be
politely accepting tips
for buses to the
festival in spring.



*Jam with
Jesus!*



**Volunteers
Needed**

SJA Family

STEM NIGHT

Knights Unite for STEM Education

APRIL 10, 2025

5:00-7:00 PM

Come join the SJA students and staff as we celebrate our annual Family STEM Night! This event is a free, come-and-go event for Pre-K-8 students, families, and community members!



Engage in fun, interactive, STEM learning activities and demonstrations, take a peek at our 4th and 5th grade Science Fair and Invention Convention projects, and learn about STEM related careers!

ST JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL
230 S. LAW STREET
ABERDEEN MD 21001

**Volunteers
Needed**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MFIELD@STJOANARC.ORG

Official Maryland State Scholastic Championships



Maryland State Girls Championship (Haring Qualifier)

Magnus Chess Academy in partnership with the Maryland Chess Association

March 1st, 2025

Location:

Bender JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Rd, Rockville, MD 20852

Championship and U 800 Sections

Maryland State Scholastic Championships (Denker, Barber, and Rockefeller Qualifiers)

Magnus Chess Academy in partnership with the Maryland Chess Association

April 26th -27th, 2025

Location:

Hammond High School, 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046

Championship 2 day sections for High School (9-12), Middle School (6-8), and Elementary School (4-5)

Championship 1 day sections for Primary School (3-4) and K-1.

Under sections for High, Middle, Elementary, and Primary Schools

For more information and registration visit

<https://chessacademy.com/collections/chess-tournaments>