



Weekly NEWSLETTER



September 10 , 2025



A note from Mr. Schmitz.....

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

On Thursday, we will have our Freedom Day celebration at 10am on campus on our recess lot. This is an adjustment to our usual walk through the community. I know this is disappointing to some, but it seemed like the prudent approach at this point. Parents are still welcome to join us. Please bring a folding chair.

We will have MAP testing next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please try to help your children get plenty of rest the nights before, a good breakfast on those days, and encourage them to do their best on the tests.

On Friday, the band program will be visiting the school to offer lessons for our students. These will take place on Thursdays, and we will rotate pullouts so that students are not always missing the same classes. If your child would like to play the saxophone, someone has donated a sax, I believe it is a tenor sax, which has only been used a few times. It is a valuable instrument, and I would be happy to pass it to a student who would enjoy playing it.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz

25-26 Income Survey

We need your help! Every year our school has an opportunity to participate in federal and state programs that benefit our students with a variety of materials and services.

In order to determine the funding available for these programs, we must have an accurate record of family income information. To obtain this information, we are asking each family to complete our 2025-2026 Income Survey.

We ask that you please complete the survey by FRIDAY, September 18, 2025. Click [HERE](#) for the survey.

Families will receive 1 service hour for completing the survey. After you complete the survey(s), please email Sierra Vara at svara@stjoanarc.org with "Income survey completed" in the subject line to receive 1 hour of service.





Weekly NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 11- Freedom Walk to Festival Park

September 19 - 1/2 day dismissal with Aftercare
12-4pm

September 22- School Closed

September 23- Candy bar sales begin

October 2- Class photo and Individual picture/
Pet Blessing 2:30pm-3:00pm

October 3- School closed/ Professional
Development for teachers

October 7- Hearing and Vision Screening

October 10- Bingo @ 6pm

Yearbook orders

Good news, glitches with the 24- 25 school Yearbook have been corrected . The Yearbook is in production now and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival.

School store now open

Our school store is now OPEN! Please [click here](#) to place your order.

Spirit T-shirt 25-26 on sale now!

Please [click here](#) to purchase this years Spirit t-shirt which may be worn on Fridays during the school year. All orders are due by September 12, 2025.

We want to hear from you!

What does your child do outside of school that needs to be celebrated? Please email a photo and a brief description of his/her accomplishment to Mrs. Maid at emaid@stjoanarc.org. She will be posting these accomplishments and forming a SJA Brag Book. This is a great tool for us to showcase our students' interests and accomplishments to the community and to families who might have an interest in our school.

Parish Bulletins



[St. Joan of Arc Bulletin](#)



[St. Patrick Bulletin](#)



Weekly NEWSLETTER



Hot Lunch Program

SJA will be starting the hot lunch program back up on Wednesdays. The first lunch will be Wednesday, September 17th. You will be able to access the order form from the weekly newsletter this week **only** in addition to Bright Arrow email reminders on Thursday and Sunday.

Future order links will only be delivered via Bright Arrow notifications on Thursdays and Sundays. Orders are due by 8am each Monday morning for that Wednesday's lunch. There will be **NO exceptions**. Your student will have the option of ordering cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza or a garden salad (with or without chicken) from Pats. If a student is absent, we can not roll orders over to the next week.

Please click [here](#) to access the first order form. Please fill out one form per student.

Contact Mrs. Sierra Vara at svara@stjoanarc.org with any questions.

Lunch Volunteers

With the lunch program beginning, we will be needing weekly lunch volunteers on Wednesdays to help deliver food to classrooms. You can choose one lunch period or both. Every Wednesday 10:45am - 11:45 and/or 11:30 - 12:30. Please [click here](#) to access the volunteer sign up on track it forward. **VIRTUS** training must be completed in full before you can volunteer in the building. This is a great way to earn hours for the school year.

MAP testing

MAP testing will begin next week Monday 9/15- Wednesday 9/17 for all 2nd - 8th graders. Make up testing will be held the following week. It is important our students get a proper night's rest as well as a healthy breakfast each morning.

Freedom Ceremony



PBIS Day 9/19

Mark your calendars! Our first PBIS house event is on Friday 9/19/25. We ask students to wear their house color shirt, PE bottoms and sneakers. Each month we will have a different theme, this month is "Joy". Ask your child, what brings them joy?

If anyone cannot access the PBIS app to please contact Mrs. Simmons, rsimmons@stjoan.arc.org



Weekly NEWSLETTER



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, 2026 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.

[Track it Forward website](#)

Counselors Corner..

We are excited to begin our third week of school! Our weekly social-emotional learning lessons have started in every grade, and our September theme is "Friendships are Rooted in Christ". Throughout this month, students are learning how to build respectful, caring relationships with one another, guided by our faith.

As part of our commitment to supporting the whole child, we also want to highlight the importance of mental health. Parents and students alike are encouraged to remember that just as we care for our bodies, we must also care for our minds and hearts. Small practices, like open conversations at home, healthy routines, and taking time to rest, go a long way in helping children feel balanced and supported. Ms.-B!

FACTS

Tuition payments are withdrawn automatically each month. Incidental expenses default to auto pay unless you go into your FACTS account and cancel this feature. Summer Camp, Extended Care, Field Trips and classroom materials are examples of incidental expenses.

World's Finest Chocolate

This year our World's Finest Chocolate Bar fundraiser will begin on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. More information will be sent home the week prior to the start. The fundraiser will run thru October 17, 2025. Last year was a huge success and we can't wait to see what we can do this year!

HSA

Join the SJA community for a fun night of Bingo on October 10th in the church hall. Please [click here](#) to purchase tickets. We hope to see you there!

Virtus

In order to volunteer at St. Joan of Arc, it is required for those 18 years & older to complete the VIRTUS training online at www.virtusonline.org. Please contact Christina Hinch, chinch@stjoanarc.org if you have any questions.

Nurses Corner.....

Just a reminder to send in any medications your child may need at school. This includes Over-The-Counter Medications.

Also please remember to include "attendance@stjoanarc.org" when emailing your child's teacher about lateness, absences or when they are leaving early. Thank you!

We will be holding Hearing and Vision Screenings on Tuesday, October 7th. We will screen all new students, and those students in PreK-4 (if new), Grade 1 and Grade 8.

If you have concerns about your child, please let me know, and I can add them to the schedule.

Volunteers Needed: Parent volunteers are needed on October 7th to help walk the students to and from class and the screenings. If you would be available, please let me know. Your help is greatly appreciated and it would go towards your volunteer hours. You must be VIRTUS trained.

There is a change in the Nurse's Office this year. Mrs. Baer will be working Monday through Thursday. Mrs. Teresa Stupi will be working on Fridays.

Thank you!!



Band



Mr. Learish, our band teacher, will lead a band demonstration on Friday, September 12, 2025 for students in grades 4-8. He will also be reaching out via email/phone to assist the parents of those who are interested in registering. Please visit the band website [here](#) for information regarding registration, instrument rental, and the band schedule.

The HSA Presents

Bingo 14 Night



Friday, Oct 10th

\$20 per Ticket

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Game starts at 6:30 pm

Drinks & pre-packaged snacks available for purchase

Pastorate of St. Patrick's and St. Joan of Arc

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION

Click here to register.

Parent Meeting and First Class September 28th

CONTACT SINEAD BOYD FOR MORE INFORMATION
SINEAD.BOYD@ARCHBALT.ORG
410-939-2525




THE PASTORATE OF SAINT PATRICK AND SAINT JOAN OF ARC

Family Faith Formation Gathering and Mass

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
9:00-10:15 a.m.

Join us in the St. Patrick's parish hall for fellowship and race to learn about the finding of the true cross!

- † Crafts
- † Donuts
- † RC Car Race




615 Congress Ave. Havre de Grace, MD

PASTORATE OF ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOAN OF ARC

CONFIRMATION Registration

Click here to register.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM




Parent Meeting and First Class September 28th

CONTACT SINEAD BOYD FOR MORE INFORMATION
SINEAD.BOYD@ARCHBALT.ORG
410-939-2525

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."
— Romans 12:12