



Weekly NEWSLETTER



September 17 , 2025



A note from Mr. Schmitz.....

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

I hope the school year is off to a good start for everyone!

Our revised Freedom celebration was very successful, and we had great singing from the SJA Voices, a Scout color guard supervised by Mrs. Ivory, speeches from Deacon Ray Van Pelt and Capt. Andrew Hubley on the meanings of service and freedom, and a special visit from the County Council President Mr. Patrick Vincenti, and his Assistant, Samantha Beers.

I am requesting with a loud and large "PLEASE", please complete the Parent Income Survey. The due date is tomorrow, and the Archdiocese asks that you complete a survey for each child in attendance at SJA. Thank you!

We are launching Intramural Volleyball on October 2, and hope many of our students grades 5 through 8 will participate. The fee for the season is \$15. You may send a check or cash with your registration or indicate you would like to be billed through your FACTS account. We are hoping to follow-up volleyball with basketball and pickle ball later in the year. Thanks Mrs. Jones for pushing this program forward!

Please label your children's possessions, especially apparel that is put on and taken off throughout the day, as these are the items most likely to get lost, e.g., SJA sweatshirts and quarter-zips. This will be helpful for the lost and found, where many of the items look the same. We will set up the lost and found table before every break throughout the year (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Summer).

On Friday, we will have a fire drill and a "Secure" drill. We are generally in a secure state anyway, since our doors lock and open electronically. During the drill, however, there will be a few minutes during the drill when we will not be opening the door. This fulfills one of the drills required by the Archdiocese to fulfill the Love You Guys protocols which we have adopted. We have some separate requirements under Maryland state law. We make every effort to carry out all of these mandatory exercises to minimize alarm in our students. I wanted you to be aware, however, in case someone mentions something during the ride home, at the dinner table, etc.

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.





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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

School store now open

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

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 email@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.

Counselors Corner...

This month's SEL theme, "Friendships are rooted in Christ," reminds us that God calls us to care for ourselves as well as others. One way to do this is by learning healthy tools to manage big feelings. A simple strategy students are practicing is called the "tapping technique," where gentle taps on the hand, arm, or face are paired with "I statements," such as "I am calm or I can handle this." This helps our students learn to name their feelings and guide themselves back to their peace. You may want to talk with your child at home about what helps them feel steady, whether that's deep breathing, saying a prayer, or asking for help. Together, we can build toolkits of faith and wellness that guide our students each day.

Parish Bulletins



[St. Joan of Arc Bulletin](#)



[St. Patrick Bulletin](#)



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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](#)

Picture Day

October 2nd is picture day here at SJA. There will be a class picture as well as individual pictures taken. The individual picture is for this year's Yearbook. Please check to make sure your child has proper and complete dress uniform. Order packets will be going home with in the next week or two.

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. Information will be sent home this week. 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!

Intramural Volleyball sign up



**CO-ED VOLLEYBALL
INTRAMURALS \$15**

Join us in the PLC for Volleyball - skills
training & game time
*5th - 8th grade
Thursdays, Oct 2 - Nov 20
Time: 3:15-4:15pm

SEE YOU THERE!

RETURN SIGNUP/\$15 BELOW TO MRS JONES BY
SEPT 24

*PARENTS - EMAIL MJONES@STJOANARC.ORG FOR
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES*

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____



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Hot Lunch Program

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.

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

Applications for the Fall Cohort of the STEM Explorers Program are open!

Led by researchers at MIT, Caltech, and Stanford, the STEM Explorers Program introduces ambitious students like you to the cutting edge of your scientific field of interest. You'll work 1-on-1 with a PhD mentor and create an independent project.

Explore cool topics like astrophysics, quantum mechanics, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, robotic control, game theory, genetic engineering, and many more!

Timeline

- Week 1: Introduction to your mentor and align on a topic
- Week 2-4: Explore the topic and identify the research question
- Week 5-9: Create project with 1-1 support from expert mentor
- Week 10-12: Complete final edits and submit project for final evaluation

Complete this [application](#) to be considered for participation and receive more information. We look forward to working on interesting science with you!



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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.



DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS?

SJA wants to strengthen and support our school community. Please let me know if you own your own business. We would like to create a page on our website with the name and logo of your business. Please contact Elisa Maid.

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!!

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The HSA Presents

Bingo¹⁴ 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

[First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Registration](#)

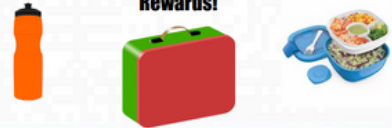
CONTACT SINEAD BOYD FOR MORE INFORMATION
SINEAD.BOYD@ARCHBALT.ORG
410-939-2525




Trash Free Tuesday



When: Begins September 23, 2025
Why: To help the environment by reducing the amount of school waste.
How: Every Tuesday bring your lunch in at least 3 reusable containers & receive 3 Points on PBIS Rewards!



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