



Weekly NEWSLETTER



A note from Mr. Schmitz....

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

We have a lot coming up! In the Catholic Church, October is a special month dedicated to the Holy Rosary in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a time in the Liturgical Calendar called Ordinary Time, during which the Church celebrates the earthly ministry of Jesus. Similarly, we meditate on the Mystery of Jesus as we pray the Rosary. The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. Because our school Mass is on Wednesday, we will celebrate on October 8. Other dates to note:

October 1 – Scout Uniform Day. Any Boy or Girl Scout, Cub Scout or Brownie can wear their Scout uniform to school on this Wednesday.

October 2 – We will have the Blessing of the Animals 2:30-2:45, on the lawn next to the Parish. Families can park in the lot and bring the pets. All students meet on the lawn in front of the Parish Office. Kids who cannot bring pets may bring a photo or drawing of their favorite animal; - October 2 is also school photo day. All students should wear their dress uniforms, but students who have PE that day – Kindergarten, and 4 th , 5 th , and 7 th grades – should wear their normal PE shoes so they can be on the gym floor without marring it; - Finally, on October 2, we are having a visit from the Maryland Terrapin Program, with mini-lessons throughout the day so that students can learn about the Diamondback Terrapin, a native Maryland animal.

October 3 – School closed; Archdiocese of Baltimore Professional Development Day

October 8: Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary - We will celebrate with a procession at the start of Mass and a closing offering of flowers from each class to the Blessed Mother. We encourage you to join us!

October 10 – Home School Association Bingo!

October 17 – ½ day for student

October 24 – 5:00 to 7:00, Trunk or Treat; 6:00 to 8:00 Middle School Social

October 29 – All Saints School Mass (All Saints Day is November 1!) featuring our 2 nd grade Saints; 4:00 – 8:00 Evening parent-teacher conferences via Zoom

October 30: Culmination Activity for the Month of the Rosary - Students will gather in the Parish Life Center/Gym to create a living Rosary. All grades will have a role in this unique prayer service that creates a physical representation of a Rosary as we pray. Also, October 30 is a half- day for students, with class parties 11:00 to 12:00; and afternoon in-person parent – teacher conferences.

At the end of last school year, I solicited interest in a committee to look at uniform options going forward. The committee met last week. I will process the feedback received and advise of changes we will make based on the committee's discussion. Consideration was given at the meeting for parent ease and expense, and along those lines, we may streamline the uniform options.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz

September 24 , 2025





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DATES TO REMEMBER

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- Trimester 1 Interims / Bingo @ 6pm

October 17- PBIS House day/ **12:05 dismissal** /
Aftercare til 4pm

October 24- Trunk or Treat 5-7pm/ Middle
School social 6-8pm

October 29- Parent Teacher Virtual Conference
4-8pm

October 30- **12:05 dismissal** / Class parties/
Parent Teacher Conferences til 4pm

October 31- School Closed

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.

School store now open

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

Counselors Corner...

I'd like to share a reminder about how important our children's basic needs are to their learning and mental health. A consistent sleep schedule, balanced screen time, and opportunities for fresh air, sunlight, and physical activity all make a significant difference in the classroom. When students are rested, active, and physically well, they are better able to focus, manage their emotions, and produce their best work. Small changes at home, such as turning off devices before bed, encouraging outdoor play, or maintaining a regular bedtime, can go a long way in supporting your child's well-being at school. - Ms. B

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 go home this week.

PE Class Participation

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is a friendly reminder that all students are expected to participate in gym class unless they have a note from home or a doctor's note. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Blessings- Mrs Jones

Band Sign up

Grades 4- 8th

For more information about the SJA Band Program:

- [SJA Band Website - CLICK HERE](#)
- Registration form - Instrumental Music Program
- Instrument rental - Music and Arts
- New band parent video
- Mr. Learish: (443)-877-9354
benjamin_learish@gmail.com

**There is a video on the website to learn more about band registration, rentals, and schedule.



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HSA NEWS

Join us for a fun family event!



Cash Bingo!



We Want to Hear from You!

Your input is important to us. Please take a few moments to complete a quick survey to help us better understand what types of events and activities you'd like to see this year.

Please [click here](#) for the survey, _

Support SJA



Volunteer & Donate

Check out our Sign ups to see how you donate or help at our events.

[BINGO](#)

[TRUNK OR TREAT](#)



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Hot Lunch Program

Hot lunch 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. **Please be sure to put your student's name and correct grade on the order form.** 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.

Faith Formation

As we begin our 2025–2026 Faith Formation year, we look forward to walking with your family in faith! Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will have their first class with their parents on Sunday, October 12 from 9:45-11am in the Hall. Students preparing for Confirmation will have their first class with their parents on Sunday, October 19th, from 9:45-11am in the Meeting House. Children who are enrolled in kindergarten through 5th grade Catechesis classes will have their first meetings on Sunday, October 19 from 9:45-11am in the Hall. Our next Youth Ministry event will be making chili for Our Daily Bread, a Catholic charities affiliate that provides hot, nutritious lunches to anyone in need in Baltimore. We will meet on Thursday, October 2 from 6:30-8pm in the St. Patrick's Hall at 650 Pennington Avenue. Please join us and sign up to bring an ingredient at [Youth Ministry Chili Sign-up Genius!](#)

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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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'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




PASTORATE OF ST. PATRICK & ST. JOAN OF ARC



Youth Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION FORM

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



Contact Charlotte Snyder for more information
 charlotte.snyder@archbalt.org or
 (410) 272-4535

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