



Weekly NEWSLETTER



October 29, 2025



A note from Mr. Schmitz.....

Dear SJA Families and Parents,

I enjoyed the Trunk or Treat festivities and the middle school social last Friday night. Thanks to H.S.A., parent volunteers, and the middle school teachers who made these events a success. I finally got to take advantage of one of the pastorate's Jubilee Year pilgrimages last Saturday. It was a special day. I hope that each of you got to experience one of these trips, and thank Fr. Francis and Fr. Franz for their effort and energy in organizing these and accompanying parishioners.

Today, we celebrated one of my favorite days of the year – the second graders portrayal of their favorite saints at the school Mass, which anticipates the Feast of All Saints coming up on Saturday, November 1. As Leon Bloy, the French novelist wrote, “The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint.”

Next Monday, November 3, the winter uniform season starts. Details on the uniform are in the Parent Student Handbook.

On Friday, November 14, we will have our first Archdiocesan Schools asynchronous learning day. There is one at the end of each of the first two trimesters. Work will be sent home with students that should be able to be completed within a half day, and which will be graded for trimester 2. The day is a work day for teachers which allows them to pull together all the grading, etc., needed for student grade reports to be completed, as well as planning lessons for the second trimester. As we did last year, report “cards” will be issued electronically until the final set of grades, which will be sent on a physical report card. The first trimester grades will be available on November 21.

As we move deeper into the harvest season and closer to the Thanksgiving holiday, I am reminded of the many blessings in my life. Please know that I am thankful to have a supportive parent community, and such wonderful children in our school.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz





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DATES TO REMEMBER

October 29- Parent Teacher Virtual Conference
4-8pm

October 30- 12:05 dismissal NO aftercare or clubs/ Class parties/ Parent Teacher Conferences til 4pm

October 31- School Closed

November 3- Winter Uniform begins

November 7- HSA Movie night 6-9pm

November 13- MD STEM FEST

November 14- Asynchronous 1/2 day no students on campus

November 17- Scholastic Book Fair begins

November 19- HSPT for 8th grade

November 21- Report Cards

November 25- Grandparents & Special Friends day/ Trimester 1 awards/ 12:05 Dismissal NO aftercare

APPLICATIONS



Applications for the 2026-2027 school are now open for **NEW** students! Help spread the word about SJA to prospective families.

Parents and students are our best resources to give 1st hand experiences. Plus we have a referral program too! Make sure the prospective family lists you as the referral.

Winter Uniform

Winter uniform begins November 3, 2025. Please make sure your student is in proper uniform.

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 until 1 hour after dismissal.

Parish Bulletins



[St. Joan of Arc Bulletin](#)



[St. Patrick Bulletin](#)



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Counselors Corner.....

October can be a busy and emotional month for students as routines settle in and academic demands grow. Encourage your child to take small breaks, get enough sleep, and talk openly about what they're feeling. A quick check-in, from you each day- "How are you doing, really?"- can make all the difference. Remember, healthy kids learn the best. As we care for our children's hearts and minds, let us also remind them that God is always near —offering peace, strength, and calm in moments of stress. -Ms. B

GRANT & AID 2026/2027

The 2026–2027 Grant & Aid Applications opened on October 1, 2025. You may access the application by clicking [here](#).

Please be sure to submit your application early. The deadline is February 28, 2026—no exceptions.

FACTS now offers a dedicated phone line for applicants who need assistance with the Grant & Aid process. Their representatives are available to help with the application form, documentation, or any general questions: (866) 315-9262.



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Sunshine Committee News!

Thank You!!!

The Sunshine Committee would like to thank you for all the fleece donations for our PBIS Service Project. CORRECTION: Our final count was over 300 scarves!!!

Here is a list of our Upcoming Service Projects.....

November- Food Drive to fill the Parish Pantry

December- We will be sponsoring families in our community for Christmas. Gift cards are welcome in any denomination.

January/February- We will be collecting Mittens/Gloves and Socks to give to local charities. Look for sales during the holidays and after.

Your help in making these Service Projects a success is greatly appreciated!
You may send items

Nurse's Notes.....

Cold and Flu Season is upon us. Please remember to get your Flu Shots!

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

Thank you!



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From Mrs. Eriscon

Faith Formation

BOOK FAIR ... coming soon

It is almost one of our favorite times of year...The Scholastic Book Fair is right around the corner. Please [click here](#) for further information.



Our Faith Formation classes are in full swing! Our First Sacraments preparation class will meet from 9:45-11:00 in the Hall, and our Confirmation preparation class will meet from 9:45-11:00 in the Meeting House this weekend. Students who are registered for non-sacramental year faith formation classes are invited to check their mailbox in the back of the church for an activity sheet! We will have Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 11:15 Mass, too!

All middle and high school students are invited to attend Youth Ministry on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00! We will have an Escape Room Challenge this Thursday, October 23, and we will have a Basketball & Board Game Night next Thursday, October 30! Please join us for food, faith and fun! And bring a friend!

We also invite all of our families to attend our Family Faith Gathering on November 2nd from 9:45-11:00! Elementary school children can come dressed in costume (although costumes are optional!) and go trick or treating with the saints. We warmly invite all middle and high schoolers to come dressed as a saint with some information to share, and we will provide candy that you can give out to trick or treaters. Please email charlotte.snyder@archbalt.org to participate - you can earn service hours too!



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Knitting and Crocheting Club

Grades 5-8

Start: Monday, November 3, 2025

End: Monday, December 8, 2025

Time: 3:15pm-4:00pm

Meeting Dates: 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8

Where: Resource room: Chairperson-Mrs. Baur



Students will provide their own knitting needles or crochet hook (H-8 size works well.)

Students will learn the basic stitches for knitting and/or crocheting.

Please cut on the dotted line and send in the bottom portion.

My child, _____ has permission to participate in the knitting and crocheting club.

Parent signature: _____

Parent email: _____



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