



Weekly NEWSLETTER



A note from Mr. Schmitz....

October 8, 2025



Dear SJA Parents and Families,

I hope the arrival of autumn has been agreeable to you. I like it all, cooler weather, changing colors, maybe my wife will bake an apple pie, - everything except for leaving for work in the dark. And the Ravens' season so far, but let's move on to something else!

I want to let you know that we will have our first lockdown drill on Friday. You should talk to your child about emergency drills and the importance of following instructions and doing them properly, but that they should not be anxious. I will let you know how things have gone after we have completed the drill. Our school calendar had listed volleyball and band as afternoon activities on Thursday, October 30. Those popped up as repeating activities, but we will not have them take place on October 30, as it is parent and teacher conference day. We are sorry for any confusion.

We will be sending out MAP scores for you children, grades 2 through 8, on this Friday, October 10. When the scores come out, I will include a letter that can assist in interpreting your child's scores.

I hope many of you are able to attend Bingo with the H.S.A. this Friday Night. I am starting to get excited about our upcoming faith formation activities - the All Saints celebration featuring our second graders (10/29), and the Living Rosary (10/30) coming up at the end of the month, - and the all of the fun of Trunk or Treat on October 24.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz





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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

November 7- HSA Movie night 5-
9pm



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.

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.

School store now open

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

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](#)

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2026-2027 school are now open! 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. .

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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HSA NEWS

Join us for a fun family
event!



Cash Bingo this Friday 10/10
in the church hall



Support SJA





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Faith Formation

Youth Ministry will be hosting a service night from 6:30-8pm in the meeting house on Thursday, October 9th. Please join us as we perform corporal works of mercy!

This is a big weekend for faith formation! Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will have their first class with their parents on Sunday, October 12th, from 9:45-11am in the Hall. Children who are enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade catechesis classes can pick up their first Take Home activity from the "mailbox" on the table in the narthex after all masses this weekend - just look for the balloons! Children's Liturgy will be happening during the 11:15am mass as well.

Students preparing for Confirmation will have their first class with their parents on Sunday, October 19th, from 9:45-11am in the Meeting House.

Counselors Corner

Something we are focusing on this month is helping students learn how to self-advocate —speaking up respectfully when they need support or are feeling uncomfortable. Self-advocacy looks different at every age. For our young students, it might mean saying, "I need a break" or "Can I get some water?" For our older students, it can sound like "I'm feeling frustrated and need a minute to regroup, or using an "I" statement, such as "I feel upset when I'm interrupted because it makes it hard for me to focus". When we teach children to use their voices calmly and clearly, we are helping them build confidence, emotional awareness, and problem-solving skills they'll carry for life. -Ms. B



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Nurses Baer Says...



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!

Sunshine Committee News!

The Sunshine Committee is organizing our Fall Community Service Project. This is our PBIS Project for October. Students will be making adult and child size scarves out of fleece to donate to a local organization.

We are looking for donations of fleece. Please check 'Track it Forward' for more information. Please send donations by Monday, October 13th.

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.

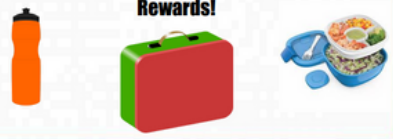
January/February- We will be collecting Mittens/Gloves and Socks to give to local charities. Look for sales during the holidays and after.

Your help in making these Service Projects a success is greatly appreciated!

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




TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING

Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works

- You buy a gift card. You get the full value.
- The brand gives back. No extra money comes out of your pocket.
- Your organization earns. Impacting what matters most to you.

Shop 750+ popular brands

Getting your morning coffee. Doing DIY projects around the house. Ordering takeout. Conveniently raise money by doing everyday things.

It's super convenient. All I need to go shopping is my phone—I don't even need credit cards or my purse. I'm going to pay for these things anyway, I love being able to use gift cards so we get something in return."
 Jan H., owner for hockey

Get started by downloading the **RaiseRight™** app on your phone or go to **RaiseRight.com** on your computer. For step-by-step instructions, visit **RaiseRight.com/NoStartEarning**.

RaiseRight Fundraiser runs all year round. Use the QR code on the left or use enrollment code **ASC13C7351446** for SJIA at RaiseRight.com. See flyer for Bonus Fest for ways to increase earnings in October.



RaiseRight.

BONUS FEST
 October 3-26

Shop new bonuses every weekend, Friday-Sunday. Earn more on your everyday shopping and make a bigger impact on your organization.

Things to know

- Bonuses start each weekend at 12:00 am ET Friday and end at 11:59 pm ET Sunday.
- Offers will be announced each Friday via email and on Facebook.
- Every purchase from our weekly featured brand earns you an entry to win one of four \$100 gift cards!

Plus, four chances to win a gift card from one of our featured brands!

How to participate

- Already have a RaiseRight participant account? View and shop bonuses on the RaiseRight mobile app or at **RaiseRight.com**.
- Don't have an account yet? Follow the easy steps to get started at **RaiseRight.com/NoStartEarning**. Check with your program coordinator to get your organization's unique enrollment code.

DSW JCPenney Total Wine GAP

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