



# Monthly NEWSLETTER



February 26, 2026



## *A note from Mr. Schmitz.....*

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

This Friday, 2/27, will be our end-of-second-trimester asynchronous day. This allows our teachers to finalize grading for Trimester 2 and enter those grades. Work will be sent home for students to complete.

Our Trimester 2 awards will be presented after morning Mass on March 11.

This is also a reminder that Tuition Assistance Applications are due this Saturday, 2/28/26. All returning families should complete their application by the due date. New families entering in the spring or summer will still have an opportunity to apply, though they will receive a late application message when doing so.

We love when you come to worship with our students! To help them remain attentive and reverent, please limit interactions with your child during Mass to a smile or discreet wave. This allows our students to focus on the Liturgy and practice proper comportment.

This month, the school will begin conducting periodic whole-school uniform dress checks. Our school uniform is a source of pride in our Catholic identity and a reminder of humility—encouraging us to put God and others before ourselves. If you need any uniform items, please contact the office, and we will help you access items from our used uniform exchange.

Finally, we will have a lockdown drill next week. Please speak with your child beforehand if they may feel anxious. I will notify you once the drill has been completed.

Blessings,  
Mr. Schmitz



 **Dates to Remember – March**

 **Special Days & Holidays**

- March 2 – Read Across America Day – Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!
- March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 13 – School Closed (Professional Development)
- March 16 – School Closed
- March 29 – Palm Sunday

 **School Events**

- March 4, 11, 18, 25 – 8:30–9:30am: School Wide Liturgy
- March 6, 20, 27 – 2:00–3:00pm: School Wide Stations of the Cross
- March 11 – 9:15–10:30am: T2 Awards Ceremony
- March 12 – ACRE Testing (5th & 8th Grade)
- March 12 – PBIS House Day – Faithfulness

 **Music & Clubs**

- In-school band lessons: March 5, 12, 19, 26
- Concert Band Rehearsal (after school 3:15–4:00pm): March 5, 12, 19, 26
- Environmental Club (after school 3:15–4:15pm): March 5, 12, 19, 26
- SJA Voices (after school 3:15–4:15pm): March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- Happy Feet (after school 3:15–3:45pm): March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

 **Athletics**

- 2nd Basketball Session (6th–8th Girls, after school 3:15–4:15pm): March 4, 11, 18, 25

 **Field Trips**

- March 6: K–5 Field Trip, 11:30am–1:30pm
- March 26: PreK3–2 Field Trip, 8:30am–12:00pm

 **Fun Event**

- March 28: SJA Springfest, 9:00am–2:00pm





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## ★ Applications for the 2026–2027 School Year Are Now Open for New Students!

We're excited to welcome new families to St. Joan of Arc School! Parents and students are our best ambassadors—your first-hand experiences make a big difference.

💡 Spread the Word:

- Share SJA with prospective families
- Encourage them to list you as their referral to participate in our Referral Program

**Let's grow our school family together!**

## 📝 Registration for the 2026–2027 School Year

Secure your child's spot for next school year with just 3 easy steps:

1. Visit your family's [Admissions & Enrollment Portal](#)
2. Log in
3. Complete the Registration Form to start the re-registration process

Registration Fees for Continuing Students:

- \$150 per student if paid on or before January 10, 2026
- \$200 per student if paid after January 10, 2026

🕒 Deadline for Re-Registration: February 10, 2026

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## Join Us for Read Across America! Grades PreK3-5



Enjoy fun reading activities, storytime, and a special week as we honor our love for books and learning.

To start our week off this year we will have our first ever Hats off to Reading! Parade in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Students in grades Pre K - 5 are invited to design and create their own Dr. Seuss style hat to wear in our parade on Monday, March 2 right after morning announcements. Hats should be no higher than one foot tall, sit securely on the head and be able to be placed on top of and taken off by the child alone. Be creative! You can use any materials, have moving parts and be as colorful as you like. Old hat, New hat, Fuzzy hat, Who Hat. Join the parade, you CAN do that!

**READ ACROSS AMERICA Week**  
March 2 - 6, 2026  
PreK 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

DAY	ACTIVITY
<b>MONDAY</b>	Hats off to Dr. Seuss! Design your own Dr. Seuss style hat at home. Wear it to school on Monday.
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Books Bring Out Our WILD Side! Wear a shirt with an animal or an animal print with your PE bottoms.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Bring in a small blanket/stuffie or a towel and your favorite book(s) for Camp Out and Read in the classroom.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Dress up as your favorite book character.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Reading Makes for a Bright Future! Wear your sunglasses with your school uniform.
<b>HAT DESIGN RULES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rest securely on the head</li> <li>no taller than 1 foot</li> <li>able to put on and take off independently</li> </ul>



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## A Few Updates from the Nurse's Office

### **Cough Drops:**

We will no longer be stocking cough drops in the office after this week. I will send an email home to parents regarding this change. If a student needs a cough drop, they will need to bring them from home with a note from their parents giving them permission.

### **Water Bottles:**

Please send your child to school each day with a refillable water bottle. This will help with hydration and eliminate headaches later in the day.

### **Attendance Notes:**

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

Please let me know if you have any questions: sbaer@stjoanarc.org.

**Thank you!**

## **Sunshine Committee News: Blessing Bags**

The Sunshine Committee's School-Wide Lenten Service Project has begun! The project will run from February 18 through March 11. This year we will be filling Blessing Bags for families in need.

We are collecting donations of hygiene products to include in the Blessing Bags. Suggested items include: soap, body wash, toothpaste, lotion, perfume or body spray, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, combs, brushes, small mirrors, and small toys.

Toy donations may include books, coloring books and crayons, card games, small games, or other small toys.

As a special thank-you for your generosity, there will be a school-wide treat on April 2 — Ice Cream for Breakfast!

## **Congratulations from Mrs. Ericson**

Congratulations on Kindergarten and 4th grade on 100% book return this month.



# Monthly NEWSLETTER



## Counselor's Corner

As we welcome March and the first signs of spring, we are reminded of the light and hope that are central to our Catholic faith. Longer days and sunshine invite us to step outside, breathe deeply, and appreciate God's creation. This season is also a gentle reminder to check in on your mental health and the well-being of our children. Open conversations, prayer, and small acts of kindness can help nurture both faith and emotional wellness. May this time of renewal bring light to our hearts and strength to our school community and our family units. - Ms. B

## House Day

Our next house day will be **Thursday, March 12, 2026**. Please be sure to have students wear their house color shirt with PE Bottoms and tennis shoes.

## Faith, Fun, and Friends All Summer Long!

Come experience the joy of summer at SJA Camp! See flyer below for details.

**SJA Summer Knights Day Camp**

Week 1 – TIME TRAVELER CAMP - June 15 – June 18 \$249  
We will travel around the world in 4 days! STEM activities from different countries, guest speakers coming to visit us, secret codes detectives and future space games travel rockets!

Week 2 – SURVIVAL & NATURE - June 22 – June 26 \$300  
Wilderness survival, building campfires, campfire skits, woodshop projects and nature scavenger hunts.

Week 3 – CREATIVE ART / MUSIC- June 29 – July 02 \$240  
Come ready to create! We will be exploring music and art and more FUN!!

Week 4 – CAMP INVENTION - July 06 – July 10  
Separate registration required.

Week 5 – CREATIVE CHEF– July 13 – July 17 \$350  
Cooking breakfast, lunch and dessert with an amazing young chef!

Week 6 – CAMP TEAM "SJA" OLYMPICS - July 20 – July 24 \$300  
Competitive team events, including relay races, obstacle courses, potato sack races and water games FUN!

Week 7 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - July 26 - July 31  
To register for VBS please contact the parish. Registration will be in early April. Camp will be in the morning and aftercare will be available.

To register: [www.stjoanarc.org/summer-camp](http://www.stjoanarc.org/summer-camp)  
Contact Val Ivory: 609-313-2866 or [vlivory@stjoanarc.org](mailto:vlivory@stjoanarc.org)

**A TYPICAL DAY AT THE ALL-NEW 2026 CAMP INVENTION®**  
Led by qualified local educators, this fun, hands-on STEM summer adventure is designed to ignite creativity and boost confidence in curious kids!

**A.M. BASE CAMP:** Start the day with creative games.

**FUR-ENSICS™**  
Campers build confidence and critical thinking skills as they explore forensic science and the inner mechanics of their adorable take-home robotic copybara!

**THE INFRINGERS™**  
Inspired by real-world STEM superheros, campers work together to invent creative solutions for challenges in their community and around the world.

**GAMES & LUNCH:** Play action-packed games & refuel with lunch!

**MAKE WAVES™**  
Diving into entrepreneurship, campers design an eye-catching billboard board to hook teachers and practice persistence as they discover the science that keeps it afloat!

**SPACE MOPHERS™**  
Campers build a DIY rocket and practice problem solving as they give a dazzling crystal tree and hatch an animal egg in the Space Lab.

**P.M. BASE CAMP:** Wind down with problem-solving games.

**"CAMP INVENTION IS THE BEST!**  
This was my first year and I can't wait to come back!"  
-Olivia S., Camper

**SAVE \$25**  
WITH CODE FUN25 AT [INVENT.ORG/CISAVE](http://INVENT.ORG/CISAVE)  
Offer expires March 31, 2026

**SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**  
Grades: Rising K - 6th  
Campers are grouped by grade  
Location: St. Joan of Arc School  
230 S. Law St., Abenssen, MD 21001  
Dates & Time: July 6 - 10, 2026 | 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Cost: \$285 (before discount)  
Payment Plans Available up until 5/7/2026  
Sibling Discounts at [INVENT.ORG/CISAVE](http://INVENT.ORG/CISAVE)  
Before and After Care Available: \$100 AM to 9:00 PM | Additional \$100  
Camp Directors: Melissa Field | [mfield@stjoanarc.org](mailto:mfield@stjoanarc.org)  
Megan Reith | [mreith@stjoanarc.org](mailto:mreith@stjoanarc.org)

For a more convenient program schedule, add our Before and After Care option to your cart at registration. Before and After Care hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for an additional \$100 per week.

If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit [invent.org/cisave](http://invent.org/cisave) for other locations near you.

Register at [INVENT.ORG/CISAVE](http://INVENT.ORG/CISAVE) or 800-968-4332

# Monthly NEWSLETTER

## ✨ Join the Club.

Please see below flyers for our latest club.

2025-2026 PERMISSION SLIP

## 3D Printing Club

**PRINTING CLUB**  
ST. JOAN OF ARC SCHOOL

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Club members will learn the basics of 3D printing. They will use tinkercad to create 3D models and practice saving their models in the correct file format so they are compatible with our 3D printers. Club members will also be taught to print their design projects and will learn how to work and maintain the school 3D printers. Club members will become the 3D printing experts at our school. Students will be expected to follow the SJA standards of behavior and conduct

**Club Leader:** Mrs. Field

<p><b>EVENT DETAILS</b></p> <p>Start: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 End: Tuesday, March 7, 2026 Time: 3:15pm-4:15pm Where: Innovation Lab</p>	<p><b>NOTES</b></p> <p>*Club will be limited to the first 12 students who sign up</p>
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Parent or Guardian Consent Form

**PRINTING CLUB**

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in 3d printing club.

My child is enrolled in aftercare  
\*Students enrolled in a club must also be enrolled for drop-in aftercare.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT**

Name: _____	Address: _____
Contact: _____	Email: _____

SIGNATURE AND NAME OF STUDENT _____	SIGNATURE AND NAME OF GUARDIAN _____
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## Knitting and Crocheting Club

**Grades 5-8**

Meeting Date: 3/9, 3/23, 4/20, 5/4  
Time: 3:15pm-4:00pm  
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.

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

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

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

**Grades 1-4**

Meeting Dates: 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27  
Time: 3:15-4:00  
Where: Mrs Baur's classroom

Students will participate in drawing activities and making craft items.

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

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My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to participate in the arts and crafts club.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Monthly NEWSLETTER



## Pastorate News

Happy Lent!

Please join us for our Family Faith Gathering on Sunday, March 1, from 9:45–11:00 a.m. Children are warmly invited to sing in the Children's Choir at the 11:15 a.m. Mass as well—just arrive around 10:45 a.m. for rehearsal. We also hope you will join us for Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Our seventh graders will lead on March 6, our sixth graders on March 20, and our fifth graders on March 27. The eighth graders will present a Living Stations of the Cross for all students and guests on Thursday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m., before Easter vacation. Please join us for these beautiful prayers.

In addition, we are hosting our Pastorate Lenten Children's Mission on Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick. A group of dynamic young adult missionaries who lead retreats around the country will lead this mission for children ages 4–17. Adults are invited to attend a mission with Dr. Mary Healy at the same time. Admission is free, and lunch and snacks will be provided. These missions promise to be truly grace-filled experiences offering families a meaningful opportunity to grow in faith and encounter Christ in a powerful way together.

Come check out our Youth Ministry Nights on Thursdays from 6:30–8:00! We alternate between St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc. Find a date and event that looks like fun, and join us for food, faith, and fellowship.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- March 5th: Paint Night at St. Patrick
- March 12th: Service Night at St. Joan of Arc
- March 19th: Trivia Night at St. Patrick
- March 26th: Seder Meal at St. Joan of Arc





# Monthly NEWSLETTER



## HSA News

### 1st Annual Springfest

Join us on March 28th from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. for our 1st Annual Springfest! This is a family-friendly event, so please bring the kids along. We will have:

- Food trucks
- Vendors and crafters
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Bounce houses
- Games
- And much more!

### Little Entrepreneur

Do you have a little entrepreneur in your family? We are looking for young children who would like a chance to sell their creations at Springfest on March 28th. They would be featured in our Mini Moguls Market within the kids section of our event. They will not be charged a fee to attend. They will be responsible for pricing & selling their product and collecting their own money. We will provide them with one table each under a tent provided by us. If you have someone interested in participating, please reach out to Christie Baginski at [christiebaginski@gmail.com](mailto:christiebaginski@gmail.com) or Samantha O'Hara at [samantha0513@live.com](mailto:samantha0513@live.com) with their information. We would need their name, a contact email, & the product they would like to sell.

Just as an FYI, we are already having a bake sale and have a lemonade stand, Girl Scouts booth, & a 3D printing entrepreneur.

Looking forward to seeing some young business people in action!

### Joe Corbi's Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated! Our delivery will be in March. As soon as we have an exact date and time, we will share that information with all school families.





# Monthly NEWSLETTER



## HSA News

### **April Fundraiser at Pirates Cove**

We're excited to partner with Pirates Cove in HdG during spring break for a 2-hour fundraiser to support SJA! Join us for a fun-filled time and help raise funds for our school. We hope to see you there!





# Monthly NEWSLETTER



## Family STEM Night

Bring the whole family for an exciting STEM Night at SJA! Explore what STEM is all about. . It's a fun way to learn, create, and discover together. Please be sure to check Track it Forward for opportunities' to volunteer that evening.



**SJA**  
PRESENTS  
**STEM FAMILY NIGHT**  
OCEANS OF INNOVATION  
COME MAKE WAVES BY HOSTING  
A STEM TABLE

Do you or your organization have experience working in a STEM field? Our school would love to have you host a table at our STEM night and share your knowledge with our students!

St. Joan of Arc School is hosting a family STEM night on Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 5:00-7:00 pm, and we would love to have your help! We are looking to partner with local organizations, businesses, and community members to make our STEM night a memorable and educational experience for our students and their families.

The purpose of our STEM Night is to inspire students to explore STEM topics and careers, to showcase school STEM projects, and to highlight businesses and organizations in our community that use STEM skills. Our hope is that this STEM night encourages our students to explore all the ways STEM skills are used in industry and in everyday life. The theme for this year's STEM event is "Oceans of Innovation".

There is no fee for hosting a table at this event, we are just hoping to build partnerships with organizations in our community and expose our students to practical applications of STEM. Each table host is asked to provide a volunteer who can share a poster, interactive demonstration, science experiment, or engineering challenge with our students. Your involvement will provide an invaluable opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

If you are interested in hosting a table, please contact me, Melissa Field, via email at [mfield@stjoanarc.org](mailto:mfield@stjoanarc.org), by Friday, April 3, 2026.

**APRIL 23, 2026**  
5:00-7:00 pm



**SJA**  
PRESENTS  
**STEM FAMILY NIGHT**  
OCEANS OF INNOVATION

**APRIL 23, 2026**  
5:00-7:00 pm

Join us for an exciting evening of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math activities inspired by the wonders of the ocean!