



Monthly NEWSLETTER



March 30, 2026



A note from Mr. Schmitz.....

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

March started off with a fun filled Read Across America week. The kids enjoyed all the activities and it was great fun to see the Dr. Seuss themed hats that were created at home. The week culminated with students going to see Seussical the Musical and they loved it. Thanks to Mrs. Maid for writing the arts grant that afforded the activity, and Mrs. Bauer for organizing the children's hat parade.

I want to invite you, as we approach Easter to the Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet and Good Friday Veneration of the Cross liturgies, which are so poignant and truly help us to meditate on Christ's love for us and to understand how joyful Easter really is. I hope you will be able to attend St. Joan of Arc Church, St. Patrick Church, or St. Francis de Sales for these liturgies, and of course Easter Mass. I wish all of our students, families, and teachers a wonderful and refreshing Easter holiday.

There is a Federal Tax Credit for contributions to private K-12 educational organizations. This would give the donor a dollar for dollar tax credit against owed federal income tax. It is available only in states in which the governor opts into the program. The organization or school must use the donation for scholarships, tuition assistance, tutoring, technology and other designated purposes. Please consider contacting Governor Moore's office to express support for opting into this program.

Right now, we have our "Casey Cares" Pajama Drive going on through April 17th. If you wish to participate, please bring in a pair of new child sized pajamas (infant - young adult). All donations will go to The Casey Cares program. The program gives fun pajamas to children who are in the hospital or receiving in-home treatments.

We held our initial Conversation under the Canopy at the outdoor classroom on March 24. Thanks to those who attended. This was a time for casual conversation, "ask the principal" type questions, and suggestions for things you would like to see. Also, by the time you get this, we will be celebrating our first Spring Fest event. Thanks to the H.S.A. for all of their hard work on this big lift!

Every year our 8th grade students visit Hershey Park in celebration of 8th grade graduation. Our trip is scheduled for June 1, but we need your help. Please donate to the cause or sell tickets to the Park, each 10 tickets sold gives the school one free ticket that will be used for student admission. We have 23 students and Tickets are \$50.00 (regularly \$89.95 at the gate). This low price deal ends April 13. Access the link on the SJA website.

Wednesday, April 1, is our date to change to the summer uniform. Please check the Parent Student Handbook on the SJA website if you have any questions.

Please mark your calendars for STEM Night on April 23. It is one of the best nights of the year!

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz





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April at a Glance –

Liturgies & Religious Observances

- April 1 – Schoolwide Liturgy (8:30–9:30 AM)
- April 2 – Holy Thursday (Early Dismissal/Half Day) **NO Aftercare**
- April 3 – Good Friday (School Closed)
- April 4 – Holy Saturday
- April 5 – Easter Sunday
- April 15 – Schoolwide Liturgy (8:30–9:30 AM)
- April 22 – Schoolwide Liturgy (8:30–9:30 AM)

School Closings & Breaks

- April 3–10 – Easter Break (School Closed)

Clubs, Arts & Activities

- April 13 – Arts & Crafts Club (3:15–4:00 PM)
- April 14 – Happy Feet (3:15–3:45 PM) & SJA Voices (3:15–4:15 PM)
- April 16 – Environmental Club (3:15–4:15 PM)
- April 17 – SJA Voices Dessert Night (6:00–7:00 PM)
- April 21 – Happy Feet & SJA Voices

Band & Music Events

- April 16 – In-school Band Lessons; Concert Band Rehearsal (after school)
- April 23 – In-school Band Lessons; Concert Band Rehearsal (after school)

Testing & Academics

- April 17 – Math MAP Testing
- April 20 – Reading MAP Testing
- April 22 – ELA MAP Testing
- April 23 – Science MAP Testing (Grades 3, 5, 7)
- April 24 – Trimester 3 Interims

Special Events & Trips

- April 15 - Field Trip Kindergarten
- April 21 – Field Trip (Grades 5–8)
- April 22 - Field Trip Prek 3 & 4
- April 24 – PBIS House Day





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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!

Summer Uniform Reminder

Our Summer Uniform begins on April 1st.

Please take a moment to review the Student Handbook for full details on uniform expectations and guidelines.

Thank you for helping ensure our students are dressed appropriately for the season!

Club update

Our Arts & Craft club is now full and no longer taking participants. Thank you to all that signed up!

Congratulations from Mrs. Ericson

Congratulations on Prek 3, 2nd, and 5th , grade on 100% book return this month.



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STEM / Green School Initiative

Beginning the week of April 13, when we return from Spring Break, we will introduce Earth-Friendly Fridays during lunchtime. On these days, students will focus on reducing waste by being more mindful of what they bring, use, and discard.

This initiative is designed to promote responsible habits, increase awareness of environmental impact, and empower students to make small changes that lead to a big difference.

We appreciate your support in helping our students grow as thoughtful stewards of our planet!

Let's Bump It Up To Help Our Earth!
Trash Free Tuesday



Earth-Friendly Friday

When: Begins The Week of April 13, 2026 Through the End of the School Year

Why: To help the environment by reducing the amount of school waste.

How: Every Tuesday & Friday bring your lunch in at least 3 reusable containers & receive 3 Points on PBIS Rewards!





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Counselor's Corner

April is National Stress Awareness Month, a time to recognize the impact stress can have on both children and adults-and to learn healthy ways to manage it. While stress is a normal part of life, students in elementary and middle school may not always have the tools or language to express how they feel. As parents and caregivers, you play a vital role in helping children navigate these emotions in a positive, faith-filled way. Stress can show up in different ways depending on age. Parents can help children feel safe and secure, encouraging open communication, modeling healthy coping skills, promoting balance, practicing relaxation techniques, and limiting screen time before bed, all of which can create healthy home environments. As a Catholic community, we are blessed with the gift of our faith as a source of comfort and strength. Reminding children that they are never alone-even in times of stress- can be incredibly reassuring. - Ms. B

House Day

Our next house day will be **Friday, April 24 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
Contact Val Ivory: 609-313-2866 or 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 copybar!

THE INFRINGERS™
Inspired by real-world STEM superpowers, 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 MORPHERS™
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.
All images feature actual campers enjoying our new 2026 program.

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
Before and After Care Available: \$100 AM to 9:00 PM | Additional \$100
Camp Directors: Melissa Field | mfield@stjoanarc.org
Megan Reith | 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 for other locations near you.

SAVE \$25
WITH CODE **FUN25**
AT INVENT.ORG/CISAVE
Offer expires March 31, 2025
Discounts cannot be combined.

Register at invent.org/cisave or 800-968-4332

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Inventors in Creativity and Innovation
Arts Education Outreach Program
General Motors
Nashville Convention Foundation
Overlook Family Foundation
The Red Backpack Foundation by Sara Blahnik
Shutterstock Technologies LLC
U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) STRM
Walton Family Foundation
The Westman Family Charitable Fund



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Casey Cares PJ Drive Update

We are excited to continue collecting new pajamas (all sizes) for the #CaseyCaresBiggestPJParty!

Our PJ Drive at St. Joan of Arc School runs through April 17, helping bring comfort to children in hospitals. The Casey Cares Foundation provides uplifting programs and essential support to critically ill children and their families—bringing comfort during difficult times. We're proud to support this incredible mission through our school community!

Current Progress

So far, we've collected an amazing 114 pajamas!

Class Standings (So Far!)

Let's see how each class is doing in our PJ Drive competition:

PK4 – 73 pajamas

2nd Grade – 11 pajamas

PK3 – 10 pajamas

Kindergarten – 9 pajamas

1st Grade – 4 pajamas (tie)

4th Grade – 4 pajamas (tie)

PK4 is in the lead — can anyone catch them? Let's go, classes!

Prize Opportunities

Individual Prizes

Participation Prize:

Each student who donates receives a Chick-fil-A® Kids Meal (Elementary) or Sandwich (Middle School) coupon

Super Star PJ Collector:

Donate 40+ pajamas to earn:

Plush Chick-fil-A® Cow + Catering Tray Card (\$70 value)

Class Prizes

Top 3 Classes (40+ pajamas):

Milk & Cookie Party + Teacher Catering Tray Reward

Top Grade Level (100+ pajamas):

Chick-fil-A® Nugget "Be Our Guest" cards for the entire grade

Let's keep the momentum going and make a difference—every pair of pajamas brings comfort to a child in need.



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Track It Forward – Volunteer Hours Update

Families have received email updates regarding their progress toward completing the required 20 volunteer hours for the 2025-2026 school year.

All families are reminded that any uncompleted hours will be billed through your FACTS account at a rate of \$10.00 per hour. Charges will be applied by the end of May.

There are still many opportunities available to fulfill your hours through volunteer work and donations. We encourage families to visit the [Track It Forward](#) site to view current opportunities and sign up.

Important Deadlines:

- All volunteer hours must be logged in Track It Forward by May 15, 2026
- Any hours logged after this date will be applied to the 2026-2027 school year

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community!

Help Support Our 8th Grade Trip to Hersheypark!

Our 8th grade class is preparing for an exciting end-of-year trip to Hersheypark, and we're asking for your support to help make this experience possible for all students.

Please scan the QR code on the flyer below to purchase discounted tickets to Hershey Parl. For every 10 sold we receive one free ticket for our students.





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Pastorate News

Happy Holy Week! As we enter this holiest time in our Church year, we warmly invite you to join us for our 8th grade presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross at 10:45am on Thursday, April 2! This beautiful SJA tradition offers a meaningful opportunity to walk in Jesus's footsteps, reflect more deeply on His Passion, and remember His great love and sacrifice. Through this experience, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy of Easter more fully.

We also hope you will join us for our Triduum masses.

April 2: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm

April 3: Stations of the Cross at 3pm and the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 7:30pm

April 4: Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

April 5: Easter masses at 8:30am and 11:15am

Upcoming Youth Ministry Opportunities include:

April 16: Service Night at SJA mulching and beautifying our campus

April 23: Stump the priest night and Adoration at St. Patrick

Our Sunday Catechesis Class will meet on April 19. First Sacraments students will meet on April 26 (with a parent session). Confirmation Class will meet on April 19 and 26 (with a parent session). Please pray for all of our students! We are so excited that our First Communion children will receive Jesus on May 3 and our Confirmation students will be confirmed on June 14!

We are also getting ready for a big celebration of the Memorial of Our Lady at Fatima on May 13. We will need lots of students to be part of a procession and to sing songs during mass, so we would love for you to save that date and join us!



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Help Raise money for our SJA Sports Programs

SJA

PINNIES

FOR SALE

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SJA SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS

* * * * *

 

Youth Sizes Small - XL \$25 each Adult Sizes Small - 3XL \$30 each



ORDER TODAY
Simply scan the QR code with the camera on your phone. Sale through April 17, 2026 at 9:00am



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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!





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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.

[Volunteer and Donations are needed. Please click here to sign up](#)

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, 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!