



Monthly NEWSLETTER



April 27, 2026



A note from Mr. Schmitz....

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

I hope that each of you had a wonderful Easter and Easter break. I mentioned Spring Fest in the last newsletter, but I was writing before it occurred. I was overwhelmed by the support which we received from parent volunteers who helped with the difficult task of moving tables from the church to the school and back and setting up the gym and breaking it down after the event. Thank you again to our H.S.A. for putting together this event and soliciting the people power that made it work so smoothly. On a similar note, the Voices Italian Night event was a lot of fun, and again, our students and parents pitching in made the set up and break down of the hall work. Thank you.

April is Military Appreciation Month. As April draws to a close, I want to give a huge shout out to all of our parents serving or have served, and thank you for entrusting your children to SJA.

On April 28, all of our 7 th graders will be taking the Pre-HSPT. This is a no-fault, low stress was to prepare for taking the HSPT next year as 8 th graders. All students in the AOB will take the test on Tuesday when they return from being off for our annual faculty retreat day.

On Tuesday, April 21, our 5 th through 8 th graders went on a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, MD, where they visited the Grotto - a beautiful outdoor area for prayer and reflection, participated in Mass in the beautiful church on the Mt. St. Mary's University campus, and visited the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint. Thanks to Fr. Francis for providing the coach buses for our trip!

Fr. Francis and Fr. Franz have also begun Lunch with the Fathers, a time during which they will have lunch with students in 5 th grade and up, so that students can interact with them on a more casual basis than when they are at church. They enjoyed having lunch and meeting with our 6 th grade students on Thursday, April 23.

I hope you were able to make it to STEM Night, also last Thursday. It was a great time, and a celebration of the creativity and ingenuity of our students. Thank you to Mrs. Field and our entire STEM committee, as well as our kids and parents who made this night a tremendous success. Once again, thanks to parents and students who pitched in to help us clean up afterwards.

Our Spring Concert will take place from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7.

On Wednesday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church will be having a Mass and neighborhood rosary procession to celebrate Our Lady of Fatima. All of our families are encouraged to participate in this beautiful faith activity. Students who attend will receive a homework pass for that night.

We have been looking at our survey results, which I will share with our H.S.A. membership to continue to try to improve in areas in which we got mediocre approval ratings. We do appreciate your recognition of Parish's, administration's, and teachers' strong efforts to maintain and grow St. Joan of Arc School's Catholic identity.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz





Monthly NEWSLETTER



May Calendar

May 4 – Field Trip (1st & 3rd), Happy Feet, SJA Voices

May 6 – Liturgy, 1st Grade Library Trip, K Mother's Day Tea

May 7 – Dress Rehearsal (1–3 PM), Spring Concert (6–8 PM)

May 8 – May Crowning (2 PM), MS Social (6–8 PM)

May 11 – Arts & Crafts Club

May 12 – Happy Feet, SJA Voices

May 13 – Liturgy

May 14 – 7th & 8th Estuary Trip

May 15 – Volunteer Hours Due, 4th Grade Trip

Spirit Week (May 18–21)

- May 19 – PBIS: Gentleness
- May 20 – Library (Gr. 2 & 4), Liturgy
- May 21 – Field Day + 12 PM Dismissal (Aftercare until 4 PM)

No School

- May 22–23 – Memorial Day Weekend
- May 25 – Memorial Day

End of Month

- May 26 – Summer Reading Begins, SJA Voices
- May 27 – Library (Gr. 3 & 5), St. Joan of Arc Day
- May 28 – 5th & 6th Estuary Trip

Weekly Clubs

- Happy Feet & SJA Voices – Tuesdays
- Arts & Crafts – Select Mondays

Reminder

Volunteer hours due May 15





Monthly NEWSLETTER



Aftercare Schedule Updates – May

Please note the following changes to aftercare hours in May:

- May 7 – Aftercare will close early at 5:00 PM due to the Spring Concert.
- May 21 – Half day of school; aftercare will run from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
- May 22 – No aftercare (Flex Day).
- May 25 – No aftercare in observance of Memorial Day.

Thank you for planning accordingly!

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!

BOOST Scholarship Reminder

All BOOST Scholarship applications must be completed by May 8.

The BOOST (Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today) Program provides financial assistance for eligible students to attend participating nonpublic schools.

Priority is given to:

- Students who qualified for FARMS and received BOOST last year
- Siblings of current recipients

Eligibility Requirements:

- Entering K–12 for the 2026–2027 school year
- Enrolled or planning to enroll in a participating nonpublic school
- Meet FARMS (Free & Reduced-Price Meals) income guidelines
- [Apply here](#)



Monthly NEWSLETTER



Congratulations from Mrs. Ericson

Congratulations to Prek 3, 1st .4th, and 5th, grade on 100% book return this month.

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!





Monthly NEWSLETTER



From the Sunshine Committee:

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Blessing Bags initiative. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to assemble over 200 bags. We have received many messages of appreciation from recipients, and we are truly thankful for your continued support.

From the Nurse:

Allergy Season:

Allergy season is currently at its peak, with exceptionally high pollen counts. Many students who experience seasonal allergies are finding symptoms particularly challenging at this time. If your child takes allergy medication, please ensure it is administered consistently, as this can help alleviate symptoms such as congestion and itchy eyes.

Forms for Next Year:

Please remember that all required forms for the upcoming school year are due by July 1. These forms should be submitted through the FinalSite website. Additionally, if you would like your child to receive any over-the-counter medications at school, a provider's signature is required. This can be completed on either the Medication Administration Form or the Archdiocese Over-The-Counter form.

Please note that we must have a signed order that includes both a parent/guardian signature and the signature of your child's medical provider.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at sbaer@stjoanarc.org.



Monthly NEWSLETTER



Counselor's Corner

May is Mental Health Awareness Month—a time to support emotional well-being, reduce stigma, and remind children their feelings matter. As the school year is winding down, and schedules fill, check in with your child's heart and mind. As Catholics, we know each child is wonderfully made in God's image (Psalm 139:14). Their struggles are important—and they are never alone. To help, support your child by making space for conversation ("What was the best part of your day?"). Practice gratitude at dinner or bedtime by sharing thankfulness. Pray as a family, inviting God into your routine for peace, patience, and guidance. Model balance through encouraging rest, outdoor time, and screen breaks. You got this, parents! – Ms. B.

House Day

Our next house day will be **Tuesday, May 19th 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 \$240
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 copybara!

THE INFRINGERS™
Inspired by real-world STEM experiences, 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 beachgoers 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.

All activities feature actual campers enjoying our new 2026 program.

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
Grades: Rising K - 6th
Camps are grouped by grade
Location: St. Joan of Arc School
230 S. Law St., Abersdeen, 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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Monthly NEWSLETTER



NEWS from the PE office:

Field Day is fast approaching - May 21st

We will be in need of volunteers that day. Anyone who helps can get credit towards their required hours. for the 26-27 school year. **[Please click here to sign up.](#)**

Track It Forward – FINAL REMINDER

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!



Monthly NEWSLETTER



Pastorate News

We hope you are having a blessed Easter season! Easter extends all the way until Pentecost on May 24th, and we have lots going on this month!

Our First Communion children will receive Jesus for the first time on Sunday, May 3rd at the 11:15 Mass! We would love to have a beautiful Children's Choir that day. All children are warmly invited to attend and to lift their voices in song together. Please come at 10:30am to practice. We will continue our celebration after Mass with cake and drinks.

On May 13th, please join us for our pastorate celebration of Our Lady of Fatima! Mass will begin at 6pm, followed by a living rosary and a festive dinner. We welcome our sacramental preparation students and others to join in our procession carrying flags and banners. We hope you will join us for this beautiful evening!

On May 17th, we will have our last Faith Formation and Confirmation classes for the year from 9:45-11:00. It has been such a joy walking with you in faith this year!

Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship at Youth Ministry on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm! Don't worry if you've never come before! Every week is different!

May 7: Service Night/Gaga Ball at St. Patrick

May 13 (Wednesday!): Please join us for our Fatima Celebration at 6pm at SJA

May 21: No Youth Ministry

May 28: Fruits of the Spirit Night at SJA



Monthly NEWSLETTER



HSA News

Thank you to all of the volunteers and attendees and vendors who helped make our first spring fest a success! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at bingo on May 1.

The HSA Presents

Bingo¹⁴ Night



**Friday
May 1st**

\$20 per Ticket

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Game starts at 6:30 pm

Drinks & pre-packaged snacks available for purchase

4

BINGO				
15	20	1	10	19
25	44	40	18	63
37	60	★	13	30
33	5	27	48	53

GO

10	19
18	63
13	30

24

30