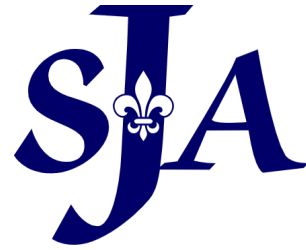


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



August 19, 2026

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

It seems as if I was just writing to wish you a happy summer vacation, and here it is already time to write to welcome everyone back. I hope you had a most enjoyable summer. I want to share a few things as we get ready to begin. We are fully staffed in terms of teachers. If you are aware of someone who would be interested in working as a PreK3 Instructional Assistant, a Kindergarten Instructional Assistant, or in our Extended Care Program, please encourage them to visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore website to apply: <https://www.archbalt.org/employment/>.

We are welcoming several new teachers this year. They are listed elsewhere in the newsletter, and Mrs. Maid is assembling a more formal introductory page to share with you.

The Archdiocese has encouraged us to execute an evacuation drill and fire drill early in the school year, so your child may tell you within the first couple of weeks of school that we have conducted one of these. We are required by law to conduct ten fire drills per year, so getting a solid start on those before cold weather hits is desirable. This year, as previously, I will let you know when we are planning lock down drills so that you can prepare your child if he or she is likely to feel anxious during these events.

Along the lines of school safety, and mindful of the tragedy which occurred in Minneapolis at the beginning of last school year, the Archdiocese issued a lengthy set of protocols for school Masses held in conjunction with the Parish. Reluctantly, after reviewing these with Fr. Francis and Fr. Franz, we have decided to have our school Masses in the school, and they will be for faculty and students only. We are sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment this causes. We will continue to maintain our Catholic identity, and celebrate various school liturgy and sacramental experiences throughout the year, notwithstanding the school Mass parameters.

Next Wednesday, August 26 at 3:30 in the PLC, we will once again host our Step Up to Middle School event to help rising 6th graders and their parents become comfortable with the expectations of Middle School. Students will begin with a group of our 8th grade students for fun activities, and then be able to ask questions about work load, the difference in assignments, etc. Parents will begin with middle school teachers, and will be able to ask questions about the

changes middle school will introduce into students' workloads, schedule, school day, etc. At the end, we will bring everyone together briefly to allow questions from parents to 8th graders, and students to teachers.

We are excited to see our students again, and we wish all of you a happy and successful new school year.

Blessings,
Mr. Schmitz

A note from our new Assistant Principal.

SJA Families,

I am honored and excited to join the St. Joan of Arc school community as your new Assistant Principal! It is a privilege to partner with our students, families, faculty, and staff as we continue the important mission of Catholic education.

I bring 34 years of experience in education, serving as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, instructional coach, assistant principal, and principal. Most recently, I had the joy of serving as Principal at St. Michael St. Clement School, where I was blessed to work alongside dedicated educators, students, and families.

Throughout my career, my focus has always been on developing every student to his or her God-given potential. I believe that when we nurture each child's gifts and surround them with faith, hope, encouragement, and love, our students can truly flourish.

I look forward to getting to know our students and families, building meaningful relationships, and working alongside our school and church community to make this a successful school year. I am grateful for the warm welcome and excited for all that God has in store for our school community!

Blessings for a wonderful school year!
Mrs. Patricia Angelini
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

Date	Events
Aug. 31	First Day of School / Prek Meet & Greet/ Blessing of the Backpacks
Sept. 1	8:00–11:00 AM — PreK Group 1 Gradual Entry
Sept. 2	8:00–11:00 AM — PreK Group 2 Gradual Entry
Sept. 3	8:00–11:00 AM — PreK All Students 6:00–7:30 PM — Back to School Night
Sept. 4	Half Day — 12:05 PM Dismissal
Sept. 7	Labor Day — School Closed
Sept. 10	Band Demo 6:00–7:30 PM — Back to School Night – Middle School
Sept. 11	Freedom Ceremony
Sept. 12	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser begins
Sept. 15	HSPT Registration Opens
Sept. 18	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser
Sept. 19	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser begins Student Council Campaign
Sept. 25	Student Council Elections

Parent Information Packet

Please take a few minutes to read through our [Parent Information Packet](#). This packet contains important information to help you and your family prepare for a successful school year.

It includes essential school policies, procedures, and helpful information, including **detailed drop-off and pick-up procedures**. We encourage all families to review the packet carefully and keep it available for reference throughout the school year.

Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with this important information. We look forward to a wonderful school year together!

SJA New Teachers for 2026-2027

2nd grade - Rachel Rosenzweig

4th/5th grade ELA and Social Studies - Beth Dousa

4th/5th grade Math and Science - Dylan Tucker

7th grade Science - SarahMarie Curran

Middle School STEM - Shannon Van Daniker

Spanish Teacher - Fatima Reyes



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

This year, St. Joan of Arc School will be holding **two separate Back to School Nights** to provide families with important information for the upcoming school year. Back to School night is for parents and guardians, we kindly ask for children to not attend.



Grades K–5 Thursday, September 3 6:00–7:30 PM



Grades 6–8 Thursday, September 10 6:00–7:30 PM

Families should **meet in the PLC Building** for general school information. Following the general information session, parents will proceed to their child's classroom to receive important information specific to their child's class and the **2026–2027 school year**.

We look forward to welcoming all of our families and beginning another successful school year together!



SUPPLY LISTS & SUMMER WORK

Supply Lists and Summer Work can be found on our **school website under Resources**.

Students should be working on their summer assignments **throughout the summer months** to ensure they are prepared for the new school year.

SUMMER WORK

- **All summer work is due on the first day of school.**
- **First Day of School: August 31, 2026**



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students will have the **entire first week of school** to bring in their required school supplies.

Please visit the school website under **Resources** for complete supply lists and summer work information.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A **weekly school newsletter** is posted electronically on the school website every **Wednesday at 4:00 PM**.

Families can find the newsletter under the **News** section of the school website.

Be sure to check each week for important school announcements, upcoming events, reminders, and updates!

TRACK IT FORWARD

Volunteer Hours

Track It Forward is the program we use to track family volunteer hours throughout the school year. Each family is required to complete **20 volunteer hours per school year**. We offer many opportunities throughout the school year to volunteer as well as make donations to earn volunteer hours.

Families with whom do not complete their volunteer hours will be billed through their **FACTS account at the end of the school year** at a rate of **\$10.00 per incomplete hour**, up to a maximum of 20 hours.

EXISTING FAMILIES: Please log in to your Track It Forward account and make sure your family information is correct and up to date.

NEW FAMILIES: New families should use the link below to register and create an account for the school year.

Only one Track It Forward account is needed per family. Please click the link to visit the Track It Forward site : <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/stjoan-arc-school>

VIRTUS VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT

All volunteers at St. Joan of Arc School are required to complete VIRTUS training before volunteering.

NEW VOLUNTEERS :If you have not completed VIRTUS training, please click here to learn more and complete the required training.

RETURNING VOLUNTEERS: If you have previously completed VIRTUS training, please make sure your VIRTUS account and information are up to date.

If you have questions about your VIRTUS status or are unsure whether your training is current, please contact: [Christina Hinch](#) or [Pam Franke](#).

POWERSCHOOL

PowerSchool is the online portal used to report and monitor **student progress for grades 3–8**.

Teachers will provide parents with their **PowerSchool account information during the first week of school**.

Please make sure you activate your account upon receiving information to stay informed about your child's academic progress.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

HSA is looking forward to the new school year and cannot wait to see all of our families at the Back to School Nights. We have a variety of community building activities & fundraisers to support technology updates for our students planned for the school year. Thank you for partnering with us to make SJA School a great place for our kids to learn and grow!

We are currently looking for a Family Night Coordinator, please [click here to sign up](#)



WE ARE LOOKING FOR OUR NEW

FAMILY NIGHT COORDINATOR

Help create fun, meaningful community events
that bring families together and support SJA!

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinate 6 community events throughout the school year
- Collaborate with a variety of local businesses to help raise funds to support SJA

PERKS:

- Earn 10 volunteer hours
- Create fun opportunities for families to come together
- You won't be alone; other HSA members will work with you!



REACH OUT
IF INTERESTED:



Ashley Letsche



letscheam@gmail.com



SJA St. Joan of Arc School

SAVE THE DATE!

TRUNK OR TREAT

23 OCT 2026

SJA PARKING LOT

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OUR YOUNG
STUDENTS WHEN DECORATING YOUR TRUNK
AND CHOOSING YOUR COSTUMES. KEEP IT
SPOOKY, NOT SCARY!





Make SJA more affordable with RaiseRight

Raise money for SJA and offset tuition when you buy gift cards to pay for purchases, shop online, dine out, or book travel through RaiseRight. It's a fundraiser that works with your routine—not against it.

How it works



Earn from hundreds of brands as you shop, dine, or book travel.



The brand gives a portion of each purchase back to [ORG NAME] as earnings.



We share the earnings back with [ORG NAME] to help you offset costs.

Start earning in 3 easy steps

1

Scan the QR code or use the code A9C13C7351446 at RaiseRight.com to join SJA's program

2

Create your RaiseRight account

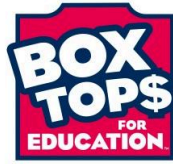
3

Start shopping and earning — without changing your budget



SCAN TO JOIN





Hello SJA families!

My name is Ashley Letsche and I'm the Box Tops for Education Coordinator for our school.

Teachers and students need our support, and Box Tops is a fast and easy way for you to help. **How it works is simple:** when you buy one of the 350+ participating products, you can earn on items you're already buying. Just scan or submit your receipt in the Box Tops app or shop with your Walmart connected account, and you'll earn money for our school.

Our goal is to earn \$500 through Box Tops this year. Every purchase really adds up!

Here are more details about how you can help us reach our goal:

- 1 Buy Box Tops products,** then scan or submit your receipt in the Box Tops app within 14 days of purchase.
- 2 Refer friends and family to the program.** You'll get Bonus Box Tops for our school with each referral when the person you refer scans their first receipt within 14 days of purchase.
- 3 Turn on notifications in the Box Tops app** to get scan reminders and stay updated on special offers, new products and opportunities to earn for our school. To turn on notifications, open the Box tops app and go to "Communications Settings" by tapping on the person icon in the upper-right corner.

Let's work together to give our students what they need to succeed!
Little by little, we can make a big difference.

Thank you for your support,

Ashley Letsche

READY TO START EARNING FOR SCHOOLS?

Get the Box Tops app today!

Scan the QR code or use
code **V63TORFM** to join and
earn **25** Bonus Box Tops in
the Box Tops app.





THE PASTORATE OF ST. PATRICK & ST. JOAN OF ARC

School is right around the corner, and we are so excited to welcome our students for another year of growing in faith together!

Registration is open for sacramental preparation! We warmly invite all of our second through fourth graders who have been baptized to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Our Confirmation preparation program is for students in grades four and higher and helps young people deepen their relationship with Christ through prayer, service, and catechesis as they prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have two sections: one for students in grades four through six, and one for students in grades seven and higher.

We hope all middle and high school students will join us for youth ministry! We will have a fun evening of service and fellowship at the Aberdeen Family Swim Center at 615 Old Robinhood Rd this Thursday, August 20th from 5-7pm. The cost is \$10 per person, and snacks will be provided.

The Youth Ministry will have a cookout next Saturday, August 29th from 6:00-8:00 PM by the playground! Enjoy food, outdoor games, time with friends, and an opportunity to learn about what we have planned for the year!

Please see flyers below for more information

Pastorate of St. Patrick's and St. Joan of Arc

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION



Click
here to
register

First
Reconciliation and
Holy Communion
Registration



Parent Meeting

September 13th (SJA)

September 20th (ST. PATRICK)

First Class

September 27th

CONTACT SINEAD BOYD FOR MORE
INFORMATION

SINEAD.BOYD@ARCHBALT.ORG
410-939-2525



PASTORATE OF ST. PATRICK AND ST. JOAN OF ARC

CONFIRMATION Registration



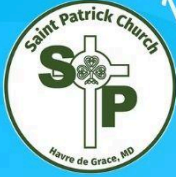
Click here
to register.

CONFIRMATION
REGISTRATION FORM



Parent Meeting and First Class
September 27th

CONTACT SINEAD BOYD FOR MORE INFORMATION
SINEAD.BOYD@ARCHBALT.ORG. 410-939-2525



Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc

Youth Ministry



SERVE & SWIM PARTY

AUGUST 20 , 2026
5-7PM

★ (WEATHER PERMITTING)

Aberdeen Swim Club

**615 Old Robinhood Rd,
Aberdeen, MD 21001**

Cost \$10 a person



Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc



YOUTH MINISTRY

GATHER & GRILL

**Saturday,
August 29, 2026
6:15 PM – 8:00PM**

**Location:
St. Joan of Arc**



FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FUN