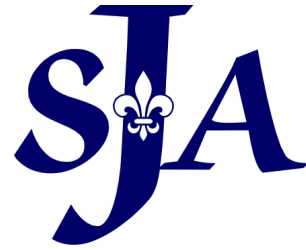


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



September 9, 2026

Dear SJA Families,

I hope everyone is settling into a comfortable school routine.

Next week,, we will be re-admitting parents and grandparents to the school Mass in the PLC gym. Please preregister, because a) everyone who comes will have to go through the Raptor system, and we can expedite that, and b) I need to know how many chairs to set out. The time for checking in will be from 9:15 to 9:30, with the Mass at 9:45. Please share the signup link with grandparents who wish to attend.

We look forward to seeing Middle School parents at Back to School Night this Thursday at 6:00 to 7:30. As a reminder, we will start in the church with some introductory comments and introductions, and then you will proceed to the school through the Law Street entrance, before heading to your child's classroom.

On Friday, we are having our annual Freedom Celebration. With this year being the 25th anniversary of 9/11, this will be a prayerful remembrance of those killed in the attacks, and those who died as first responders. Parents are invited to attend. Please bring a folding chair and set up along the inside of the fence. Students may wear red, white and blue accessories on Friday.

Tomorrow, Thursday, 9/10, we will have a Purple Thursday dress down, since we have the Freedom Celebration on Friday. Students may wear PE bottoms and Ravens tee-shirts or jerseys. If, heaven forbid, your child roots for another pro or college football team, they may wear that team's jersey.

MAP Testing begins next week with Math on Tuesday, 9/15, and Reading on Thursday, 9/17. It resumes the following Tuesday with the test on Language Usage. Please help prepare your kids for a good testing experience by getting them plenty of rest the night before, and a good breakfast on the morning of the tests.

We are planning to start up hot lunches again on Mondays and Wednesdays in early October. In order for this program to work, we need volunteers to help with the distribution of lunches to classrooms. Sign-ups will be on Track It Forward. Thanks for considering the opportunity to assist us!

As always, thank you for entrusting your child's education to St. Joan of Arc School!
 Blessings,
 Mr. Schmitz

Important Dates

Date	Events
Sept. 10	6:00–7:30 PM — Back to School Night – Middle School
Sept. 11	Freedom Ceremony 9:45 am
Sept. 12	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser begins
Sept. 15	HSPT Registration Opens/ MAP Testing Math 8:30am Grades 3- 8th
Sept. 17	MAP Testing Reading 8:30am Grades 3- 8th
Sept. 18	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser /Band Demo
Sept. 19	World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser begins Student Council Campaign
Sept. 22	MAP Testing Language Usage 8:30 am Grades 3- 8th
Sept. 25	Student Council Elections
Oct 2	Picture Day

26-27 Income Survey

We need your help! Every year our school has an opportunity to participate in federal and state programs that benefit our students with a variety of materials and services. In order to determine the funding available for these programs, we must have an accurate record of family income information. To obtain this information, we are asking each family to complete our 2026-2027 Income Survey. We ask that you please complete the survey by FRIDAY, September 18, 2026. [Click HERE](#) for the survey. Families who complete the survey their child(ren) will receive a dress down pass.

911 ceremony

Students are allowed to wear red, white, and blue accessories with their uniform. Families we invite you to join us, we will be meeting on the black top.



Wednesday School-Wide Mass

We are excited to announce that **parents and guests are welcome to join us for our Wednesday School-Wide Mass in the gym!**

Guests are asked to arrive **no earlier than 9:15 a.m. and no later than 9:30 a.m.**, as Mass will begin promptly at **9:45 a.m.**

Due to new safety protocols, **all guests attending Mass must be Raptured in and receive a visitor badge** before entering the gym.

To help make the check-in process as quick and easy as possible, please [click here](#) to provide the information needed to have your badge prepared in advance.

If you are new to our school, we may need to see your photo ID on the day of Mass. Once your ID has been entered into our system, you will not need to provide it again for future visits.

We are so happy to be able to welcome our parents and guests back to Mass and look forward to having you **join our students in prayer each Wednesday!**

SJA School Calendar

All St. Joan of Arc School events will be posted on the online school calendar available through the school website. We encourage all families to sync their mobile devices and personal calendars to the school calendar to stay informed about upcoming events and activities.

Because this is a live calendar, updates and additions may occur throughout the school year. Please check the calendar regularly, especially on a weekly basis, to ensure you have the most current information regarding school events, activities, and important dates. <https://stjoanarc.org/calendar/> . To view the calendar please use the passwords: **stem@SJA26***

Reminder BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

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

Families should **meet in the church** 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!

High School Fairs

This fall, we will offer in-person fairs as a “fair only” format for middle school families to learn more about our Catholic high schools. These take place from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Registration is not required. Please use [this](#) to promote these events with your school families. Use this [QR code](#) for families to sign-in at the fairs. This [QR code](#) links to the High School Fair Survey for families to complete.

- Wednesday, September 16: Archbishop Spalding High School in Severn
- Tuesday, September 22: Maryvale Preparatory School in Lutherville
- Thursday, October 1: Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore City

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**.

Access for parents will begin on September 10, 2026. Returning families and are having issues after the 12th please reach out to Shannon VanDaniker svandaniker@stjoanarc.org.

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

BrightArrow Text Message Opt-In

If you could please take a moment to opt in to receive text messages from BrightArrow, our school's communication platform, we would greatly appreciate it.

To opt in, please text “Yes” to 79041.

BrightArrow is the platform we use to communicate important information to parents, including:

-  **Emergency notifications**
-  **Weather-related closings and delays**
-  **Important school information**
-  **Upcoming events**
-  **Other time-sensitive updates**

For our new parents: Occasionally, BrightArrow emails may go directly into your SPAM/Junk folder. Please check your SPAM/Junk folder and select “Not Spam” to help ensure that future messages are delivered to your inbox.

Thank you for taking a moment to opt in and stay connected with our school!

SJA BRINGS BACK HOT LUNCH!

 **HOT LUNCH IS BACK FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR!**

We are excited to bring back **Hot Lunch** to SJA ! We are looking for Volunteers to help our Hot Lunch program run smoothly. [Please click here to sign up](#) .

 **BEGINNING OCTOBER 5**

Students will once again have the opportunity to enjoy **hot, delicious lunch options** during the school day.

 **Pizza on Monday and Chic-Fil-A on Wednesdays**

 **Kid-Friendly Favorites**

 **Convenient & Delicious**

More information, including the **menu and ordering details**, will be coming soon!

GET READY FOR HOT LUNCH AT SJA!

We can't wait to serve you!  

SJA Chromebook and Technology Usage



Grade Level Focus: This policy is designed for Elementary and Middle students (Grades K-8) to ensure a safe, focused, and equitable learning environment when using technology.

Purpose: This policy establishes guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of school-issued technology, including Chromebooks, the school network, and internet access. Adherence to this policy is mandatory and directly supports the educational mission of the school.

Section A: Acceptable Educational Use

Chromebooks are provided as educational tools and must be prioritized for academic tasks. This includes actions on any school-issued device.

Offense Category	Specific Offense	Consequence Level (See section D for code action)
A.1. Educational Focus	Using the device for unauthorized, non-educational purposes during instructional time (e.g., streaming videos, playing unapproved games, accessing social media, and unapproved camera usage/ video recording).	C1
A.2. Network Security	Attempting to access or modify another student's files, accounts, or personal information. Sharing one's own login credentials (username/password) with any other individual.	C2
A.3. Software & Downloads	Installing, downloading, or running unauthorized software, extensions, or applications without explicit permission from IT staff or a teacher.	C2
A.4. Filter Circumvention	Attempting to bypass, disable, or circumvent school internet safety filters, content blockers, or administrative access restrictions (e.g., using proxies or VPNs).	C3

Section B: Device Care and Maintenance

Students are responsible for the physical condition of their assigned Chromebook and accessories. This includes actions on any school-issued device.

Offense Category	Specific Offense	Consequence Level (See section D for code action)
B.1. Minor Physical Damage	Accidental damage resulting from negligence (e.g., minor screen crack, minor liquid spill, missing keys) that does not render the device unusable.	C1 + Turn in for Evaluation
B.2. Major Physical Damage	Damage that makes the device unusable or requires extensive repair (e.g., a cracked screen that obstructs viewing, significant liquid/ substance damage, or structural frame damage).	C2 + Fee + Turn in for Evaluation
B.3. Failure to Report	Failing to report damage to a teacher or IT staff within one school day of the incident can exacerbate the problem.	C2 + Turn in for Evaluation
B.4. Unauthorized Alteration	Applying permanent labels, stickers, drawing, writing, or otherwise physically altering the device outside of school-issued labels.	C1 + Restitution + Turn in for Evaluation
B.5. Missing Device/Theft	Losing the device due to negligence or confirming the intentional theft of the device.	C4 + Fee
B.6 Ownership of School-Issued Device	Responsible for your own device. Students keep their hands on their own devices.	C1

Section C: Digital Citizenship and Safety

Students must adhere to legal and ethical standards when communicating and accessing

information online. This includes actions on any school-issued device.

Offense Category	Specific Offense	Consequence Level (See section D for code action)
C.1. Inappropriate Content	Viewing, storing, transmitting, or displaying sexually explicit, obscene, or racially/ religiously offensive images, text, or sounds.	C2
C.2. Academic Dishonesty	Using the device to cheat, plagiarise, or unauthorize communication during assessments.	C2
C.3. Cyberbullying/Harassment	Using the device to threaten, bully, harass, or insult any individual (student or staff) via email, comments, document sharing, or social media while on or off campus.	C3
C.4. Intentional Vandalism	Deliberately deleting, modifying, damaging, or disabling data, files, software, or hardware belonging to the school or other users.	C4
C.5. Illegal Acts	Any action that constitutes a violation of local, state, or federal law.	C5

Section D: Consequence Matrix

The following consequences are cumulative (progressing to the next level for subsequent offenses) and may be applied immediately based on the severity and nature of the violation. A Chromebook Penalty Box is when a student can still use their Chromebook but can only access Google Suite applications (Ex. Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slides)

Level	Action (C1)	Action (C2)	Action (C3)	Action (C4)	Action (C5)
Disciplinary Action	Verbal Warning or Referral and loss of device usage for the remainder of the class period or day. Possible Penalty Box enforced.	Referral and 2-3 day loss of Chromebook privileges (device remains at school/office/ homeroom teacher/ technology coordinator). Possible Penalty Box enforced.	Referral given. Parent/Guardian meeting required. 1 week with a loss of Chromebook usage. Penalty Box enforced.	Referral given. Mandatory meeting with the Principal and IT/Counseling staff, and parents. 1-2 day out-of-school suspension (OSS) or in-school suspension (ISS).(device remains at school/office/ homeroom teacher/ technology coordinator).	Referral given. Permanent loss of school-issued technology privileges. Expulsion proceedings initiated. (device remains at school/office/ homeroom teacher/ technology coordinator).
Suspension of Device/ Fees * Fees are issued for Market Price of the replacement at the time order.	None.	Possible fee after technical review/cleaning .	Possible fee after technical review/cleaning. Possible mandatory technology training or digital citizenship course.	Full cost of repair or replacement of damaged property. Possible mandatory technology training or digital citizenship course.	Full cost of repair or replacement of damaged property. Possible mandatory technology training or digital citizenship course.
Documentation	Recorded by teacher, IT	Documented in the student	Documented in the student	Documented in the student	Documented in the student

	Staff, & administrator.	disciplinary file.	disciplinary file.	disciplinary file.	disciplinary file.
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Counselor Corner

As parents, one of the simplest ways we can support our children's mental health is by making time for meaningful connection- especially in a world filled with screens and distractions. Instead of the everyday "How was your day?" (which often gets a quick "Fine"), try asking more specific questions:

"What was one good thing that happened today?"

"Did anything make you laugh today?"

"What was the best part of your day?"

"Was there anything difficult today?"

These small conversations help children of all ages feel seen, heard, and valued. Whether your child is in elementary school or preparing for high school visits, they still need and long for connection with the adults who love them! Children may not always ask for our attention, but they continue to need our presence, encouragement, and reassurance. - Ms. B

Nurse's News

Nurse's News.....

Welcome! This year we will have 2 Nurses at SJA and a new NURSE EMAIL! To reach the nurses, please use: nurse@stjoanarc.org. That way your email will be answered by the nurse working that day.

Susan Baer RN (sbaer@stjoanarc.org) will work Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Barbara Polack RN (bpolack@stjoanarc.org) will work Thursdays and Fridays.

Medication Policy:

- All Medications (Prescription or Over The Counter require a Maryland Medication Authorization Form, signed by both the doctor and the parent/guardian.
- A new form is needed for any changes in dose or schedule.
- Bring medications to school In Its original, labeled packaging. Students should not transport medications. There are no stock medications available.
- Orders are valid for the entire year unless changed, expired or discontinued. All medications must be picked up by the parent at the end of the year.

If your child will be Late, Absent or Leaving Early....

- Please be sure to do the following:
- Send an Email to your child's teacher and also "Attendance@Stjoanarc.org". Please include your child's name, and the reason for them not being in school.
- If they are coming in late or leaving early, please let us know the time.
- If your child is out sick, please share their symptoms. We like to keep track of what is happening in each classroom.
- Please also let us know about any planned vacations or other scheduled events!
- Thank you! The nurses can be reached by calling: 410-272-1387, EXT# 153 or 'nurse@stjoanarc.org

If your child Is Ill:

- If your child becomes Ill while at school, you will be notified by one of our nurses or the office staff.
- **24 hour Rule: Your child must be symptom free (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cough) for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school**
- If your child is sent home sick- they must remain home for the next school day.
- A temperature above 100 degrees F. It is a fever.

Hearing and Vision Screenings- September 24 and 25th

Upper Chesapeake Health System's Outreach Program will be here at SJA on September 24 and 25th.

Students in PreK-3, PreK-4, those new to Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 4, Grade 8 and all students that are new to our school, are scheduled to be screened. Parental consent is

required this year for the screenings. Permission slips will be sent home today. There is a \$10 cost per screening. **Please return all permission slips by 9/18!**

If you have concerns about your child, please reach out to us and they can be added to our list.

We are looking forward to a healthy school year,

Nurse Barbara and Nurse Susan



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](#)

Please join us for BINGO Friday, October 9th in the church hall. Please see the flyer below to purchase your tickets.

SJA HSA

Bingo

23

B
12

12	24	35	53	67
3	19	42	56	72
7	28	★	49	61
14	21	38	58	73
5	16	33	50	66



45

CASH
PRIZES
&
BASKET
RAFFLES

8



9 October



**257 Law St,
Aberdeen**



Doors open at 6



Games start at 6:30



**Simple snacks and
refreshments
available for purchase**



Cash only on site

Bring your luck!

Scan
to pay



For Weis4School account please use the school id :86423



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!



weis4 school
BUILDING A WEIS FUTURE

Help your school earn a share of
\$500,000
REGISTER • SCAN • EARN

Dear Parents,

Educational technology and funding changes daily. To keep up with these changes and expenses, our school is partnering with Weis Markets® in their annual Weis 4 School™ program. Register your Weis Rewards™ card online at weis4school.com. By participating in this program, we can earn money for our school by simply shopping. Once you register, you're in the program and you do not need to register again this school year. Please share this information with your friends and family. The more interest and enthusiasm we generate, the greater the benefits to our school.

Thank you for your support.

weis4school.com      



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!



SJA WINE EVENT

at the
Vandiver Inn



— SAVE THE DATE —

SUNDAY • 08 • 2-5 PM
NOVEMBER

Join us for an afternoon of community gathering,
wine tasting and fundraising for SJA



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.

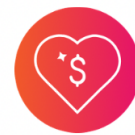
How it works



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



The brand gives a portion of each purchase back to SJA as earnings.



We share the earnings back with SJA to help you offset costs.

Start earning in 3 easy steps

1

Scan the QR code or use the code 2284F17L51446 at RaiseRight.com to join SJA's program

2

Create your RaiseRight account

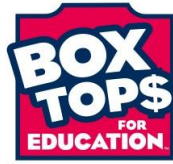
3

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

We hope you're having a blessed week! Please remember to [register for First Sacraments](#) for students in grades 2–4, and [Confirmation](#) for students in grades 4 and higher who have already received Baptism and First Communion.

Do you have a Catholic student in grade 4 or higher who has received First Communion? If so, your child is warmly invited to join our altar server ministry to grow in faith, take an active role in the Mass, and serve God and others with joy! We will have altar server trainings after school on Thursday, September 17th and Monday, September 21st. All interested and current servers are welcome to attend one or both of these events from 3:15-4:30. Please complete this [interest form](#) to sign up!

Kick off the year with us on September 13th from 9:45–11:00 AM! We'll have our **First Sacraments Preparation Parent Meeting**, race remote control cars, and think about what it means to have the right direction in our lives. Just as a car needs someone to guide it, we need God to guide us! Bring a remote control car to race Fr. Franz! If you don't have one, we'll have extras so everyone can participate!

And middle schoolers, **Youth Ministry is back!** Join us on September 17th from 6:30–8:00 PM for **mini golf and ice cream at Arctic Circle**, September 24th as we explore **Pope Leo's first encyclical and what it has to say about AI**, and October 1st for a **Trivia Night**. Bring friends!! We can't wait to see you and begin another exciting year together!