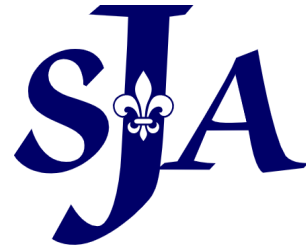


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



September 2, 2026

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

It was so great to see our students again. Morning drop off has been going smoothly. Afternoon pick up should speed up when everyone has their PikMyKid codes, and we have had a couple of days of practice.

This is a reminder to review the Parent Student Handbook with your child(ren), sign a "Read Receipt" for each child's homeroom teacher, and return them to school by the end of the first week of school. In addition, if you have a child in middle school, please review the Read Receipt for the Honor Code indicating that your middle school student is familiar with those expectations.

We had 20 of our eighth graders sign up to be safeties! They will begin helping with morning drop off beginning Monday.

We look forward to seeing K through 5 parents at Back to School Night this Thursday at 6:00 to 7:05. 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 PLC entrance, before heading to your child's classroom.

We had our first event qualifying as an Emergency Drill on Tuesday. If your child tells you that we had a hold put in place, this was for a staff member who was not feeling well. (She is on the mend!) Our teachers put into play what we practiced this week, and our kids were well-behaved throughout. We will be looking to complete an Evacuation Drill and a Lockdown Drill soon, as well as our first Fire Drill.

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to St. Joan of Arc School!

Blessings,

Mr. Schmitz

Important Dates

Date	Events
Sept. 2	8:00–11:00 AM — PreK Group 2 Gradual Entry
Sept. 3	8:00–11:00 AM — PreK All Students 6:00–7:05 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 9:45 am
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

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.

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

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 6:00–7:05 PM



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!



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 10th 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!

School Uniforms

Please click [here](#) for the pictorial.

After careful consideration and much deliberation, we announced a streamlined look for the 2026-2027 school year last May. The major highlights were:

- The buck shoes, skort, leggings, and cardigan have been eliminated at all grades. The buck shoe will only be allowed the 1st trimester.
- Belts have been eliminated for elementary students only. Students must have banded polo tops now. Non banded shirts must be tucked in AND will only be allowed for the 1st trimester.
- Middle School students must wear the polo tucked in with a belt.
- Approved shoes for Elementary School Girls: Mary Jane Shoe (Black), Merrell Jungle Nubuck Moc (Brown) or Oxford Shoe (Black).
- Approved shoes for Elementary/Middle School boys: Merrell Jungle Nubuck Moc (Brown) or Oxford Shoe (Black).
- Approved shoes for Middle School girls: Women's Penny Loafer (Burgundy), Merrell Jungle Nubuck Moc (Brown) or Oxford Shoe (Black).
- The uniform did not change for PreK.

This update will unite our student population and make mornings easier ensuring your student is adhering to the uniform policy.

School uniforms are purchased from Flynn O'Hara Uniform Company. Uniforms can be purchased at the brick and mortar store or online. We are kindly asking families to be in compliance with the uniform policy that is stated in our handbook.

Counselor Corner

The first few weeks of school can bring excitement, but also stress, worry, tiredness, and big emotions. As we settle into new routines, simple things can make a big difference

when at home with our families: we can listen before trying to fix, protect healthy sleep routines, encourage movement and time away from screens, remind children that mistakes are part of learning, and normalize making time for family prayer and reflection. Most importantly, let our children know they are seen, valued, and never alone. As a Catholic community, we are called to care for the whole child-mind, body, and spirit-while reminding each child of their God-given dignity and worth. - Ms. B

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.

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

Please see the following important health update which we have received from the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Measles Information and Reminders

Dear Principals and Nurses,

Given the recent measles cases reported in parts of Maryland, this serves as an important reminder of how quickly measles can affect a school community and why prevention is so important. As a reminder, it is recommended that each school establish a relationship with their local health department, early in the school year. Please check the websites for your local health departments and the John Hopkins website to stay update about the number of cases in your area.

· Local health departments: [Maryland Department of Health MDH Health Department](#)

JHU Measles Tracker: [U.S. Measles Tracker | International Vaccine Access Center](#)
[Pages - Maryland Department of Health declares measles outbreak in three Maryland counties](#)

A school is considered an outbreak when there are 3 or more linked cases, which is a very small number of cases as far as communicable disease is concerned. As per AOB School Policy, any unvaccinated students would be instructed to isolate and be excluded from school during the outbreak. Students must take responsibility for keeping pace with their studies. There will be no virtual learning option available if a student is not immunized and is excluded from school due to an outbreak of a communicable disease. The faculty has no obligation to help a student make up missed work from this type of absence. Additionally, teachers are under no obligation to provide work in advance for the student.

[Measles Cases and Outbreaks | Measles \(Rubeola\) | CDC](#) As a reminder, students in the Archdiocese of Baltimore schools must be immunized unless an approved immunization exemption is on file with the Department of Catholic Schools. Exempted students are to be excluded from school if there is an outbreak of the disease(s) for which they are not immunized.

[Policy Manual - Immunization Requirements](#) Although the vaccine can be provided after an exposure, it is preferred to provide it in advance of an exposure. We recommend that parents take this opportunity to review their child's immunization records, speak with their child's healthcare provider if they have questions about vaccinations and familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of measles by viewing the link here [Measles Fact Sheets](#).

Measles Facts Sheets in English and Spanish [Pages - Measles](#)

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.

ALLERGY AWARENESS!!

- ☐ SJA is a Peanut/Tree Nut Aware (though not nut-free. Nuts are allowed in the classrooms.
- ☐ All snacks/treats for class events must be Nut Free, Store Bought and Clearly Labeled.
- ☐ Students bringing nuts to school are encouraged to wash their hand after eating to prevent cross-contamination. Desk tops are also wiped.
- ☐ These allergies can be life threatening!
- ☐ Please be sure to educate your students about allergy awareness.
- ☐ They may NOT SHARE FOOD!

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- Coming Soon

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 soon. There is a \$10 cost per screening.

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 flyer below to purchase your tickets.





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.

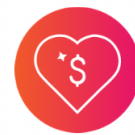
How it works



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



The brand gives a portion of each purchase back to 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

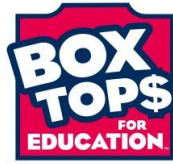
3

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

Welcome back to a new year of Faith Formation! We're looking forward to growing closer to Christ together!

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. See the flyers at the end of this newsletter to register!

Kick off the year with us on September 13th from 9:45–11:00 AM at our Race Car Rally! We'll race RC cars, have some fun, 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—and the Sacraments help guide and strengthen us along our faith journey. If you don't have a remote control car, don't worry! We have extras so everyone can participate!

And middle schoolers, **Youth Ministry is back!** Join us 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 **Corporal Works of Mercy service night**. Bring friends!! We can't wait to see you and begin another exciting year together!

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