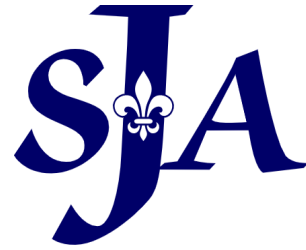


St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter



September 23, 2026

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

Happy first week of fall. If you haven't taken the opportunity to do so, **please complete the [Archdiocesan Family Income survey](#)**. Again, only one needs to be completed per family this year, rather than one for every child. A dress down pass will be given for a future date for children of parents who complete the survey.

As mentioned last week, the HSA is sponsoring an exciting social event coming this November 8, at Van Diver Inn. I hope that many of you can join us. The efforts to arrange childcare at St. Patrick so that parents can enjoy a relaxing adult Sunday afternoon and still be home to spend the evening with the kids appears to be moving forward thanks to Fr. Francis and Charlotte Snyder. I will keep you informed, but it would be wonderful to have a big turnout for this event. I will continue to keep you advised. The HSA provides tremendous support to the school, not just in terms of fundraising, but also community building. The financial support is important, though, and much appreciated.

Speaking of the HSA, Trunk or Treat will be here before we know it. Some of you are probably already thinking about costumes or trunk decorations. At SJA, we hope to enjoy the spirit of dressing up and the fun of trick or treating without highlighting the demonic or malicious. Good costume ideas include superheroes, occupations, and, of course, saints.

We will have vision and hearing screening for students on Thursday and Friday in conjunction with the county health department. If your child is eligible for testing, you received a permission slip this year to complete for them to be tested. On Friday, we will also have student council speeches and elections. And the candy drive has begun! Last year's drive provided the school with over \$10,000.

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

Blessings,

Mr. Schmitz



Upcoming Events: September & October

September 23 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

September 24–25 – Hearing & Vision Screening

September 24–30 – MAP Testing Window

September 25 – Student Council Elections | 9:00–10:00 AM

September 26 – World’s Finest Chocolate Fundraiser Begins

September 30 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

October 1 – Band Begins | 8:00–9:00 AM

October 2 – Picture Day

October 5 – Blessing of the Animals | 2:30–3:30 PM

October 7 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

October 9 – HSA Bingo | 6:00–8:00 PM

October 12 – T1 Interims Go Home

October 14 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

October 21 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

October 22 – School Closed | Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 23 – 2-Hour Delay Opening



Trunk or Treat | 5:30–7:30 PM



Middle School Social | 6:00–8:00 PM

October 28 – School-Wide Liturgy | 9:45–10:30 AM

October 29 – Living Rosary | 8:00–9:00 AM

October 30 – Class Parties | 2:00–3:00 PM

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**

New Lunch Ordering Process

This year, we will be implementing a new process for placing lunch orders. All lunch orders will be placed online through our website. ([Click here to place your order](#))

Orders may be placed in advance, and all orders must be submitted by the specified due date. Please note that no exceptions will be made after the deadline.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us make this new process as smooth and efficient as possible.

GET READY FOR HOT LUNCH AT SJA!

SJA School Store Is Here!

We are so excited to announce that **SJA now has a year-round school store!** We are thrilled to offer **SJA gear all year long**, making it easier than ever to show your school spirit.

You can also find this year's **Theme Shirt** available for purchase in the store!

And don't worry about shipping or pickup—we've got you covered! **SJA will collect the orders and distribute them at school**, so there's no need to worry about having items shipped directly to you.

[Click here to purchase show your SJA spirit all year long!](#)  

SJA Themed shirt for the year

Starting **Friday, October 9th** students may wear their SJA themed shirt with PE bottoms. This can be this year's themed shirt ([which you can purchase here](#)) or years past themed shirt.

Water Bottle Reminder

A gentle reminder that students are asked to bring their **own reusable water bottle** to school each day. As a **Green School**, we want to do our part to reduce waste and encourage environmentally friendly practices.

We have **water refill stations available throughout the school** for students to refill their bottles as needed.

Thank you for helping us keep our school green! 🌱

Picture Day – October 2

Picture Day is **Friday, October 2**, here at SJA! Students will have both a class picture and individual picture taken.

The individual picture will be used for this year's school yearbook, so please make sure your child is ready for picture day!

Students should come to school in their proper and complete dress uniform.

 Picture order form must be turned in day of photos

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 Raptored 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. RSVP must be completed by 9/22/26

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.**

Counselor Corner

September is a wonderful time to remind our students to take care of their mental health, and it is just as important as taking care of our bodies. Mental health includes how we think, handle stress, and connect with others. This month we encourage our students to ;

*Talk to a trusted adult when something is bothering them.

*Take a break and use healthy ways to manage big feelings.

*Be kind to themselves and others.

*Get enough sleep, move their bodies, and make time for things they enjoy. Remember the balance.

* Remember that asking for help is a sign of strength- not weakness!

You don't have to have it all figured out. Just take it one day, one step, and one breath at a time. God is always with you. - 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.

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](tel: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.

HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

[Bingo sales](#) will continue online through 8 October, and on the 9th we will only be offering cash ticket purchases at the door. And as promised, Trunk or Treat signups are live - we cannot wait to see you there!



As announced at the Back to School Nights we are partnering with Vandiver Inn to host a Wine Tasting fundraiser to benefit our school on Sunday, 8 November from 2-5 PM. Using the historical Vandiver Inn we will be creating a cocktail party vibe where we can eat, drink, and be merry before we launch into the holiday season. We will be sampling wines from California, Portugal and Italy which will be paired with small plate food offerings. We will be offering raffles, silent auctions.

[Please click here to purchase tickets](#)



Now that we are settling into our school routine, the HSA is pleased to host a Back-to-School Social! Please join us for food and fellowship on October 1st from 4-6 pm. There will be food trucks and ice cream set up in the parking lot. Please join us and get to know your fellow SJA families and staff better.



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!





ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

STEM DAY 2026

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

Open to the public 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
C5ISR Campus | Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
Building 6001 (outside)

Get ready for an electrifying experience at APG STEM Day! Dive into hands-on technology demonstrations straight from the cutting-edge labs of the world-renowned Aberdeen Proving Ground.

**Don't miss your chance to explore,
experiment, and be inspired!**



ALL ADULTS MUST PRESENT A VALID REAL ID TO ENTER THE APG GATE

Last But Not Least! Parish News



Start your engines! Our Faith Formation, First Sacraments and Confirmation classes all start this weekend!! There's still time to register so please follow the links!

- [First Sacraments](#): Grades 2-4
- [Confirmation](#): Grades 4-12
- [Altar Serving](#): Grades 4-12
- [Sunday Children's Choir](#): All ages!

We hope to see our Middle Schoolers for Youth Ministry on Thursday evenings! Bring your friends! They don't have to attend our school or church - all are welcome!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **September 24: Youth Ministry Soul vs Scroll at SJA 6:30-8pm** Come see what our Pope has to say about AI, technology, and what it means to be truly human!
- **September 27: First Sacraments, Faith Formation and OCIC Sessions** 9:45-11am in the Hall and the Meeting House
- **September 27: Confirmation Session** 9-10:15am at St. Patrick
- **October 1: Youth Ministry Trivia Night at SJA 6:30-8pm**