St. Joan of Arc School

Parent Newsletter

November 4, 2026

Dear SJA Parents and Families,

November has arrived and we are a quarter way through the school year already. Amazing how quickly things move. When the school year started, I thought the Ravens had a chance to go to the Super Bowl! Ouch.

Mrs. Angelini and I have had the chance to visit many classrooms to observe instruction, and see your children learning. It is a joy to see how smart they are and to watch them grow. I have also enjoyed spending some time with first grade and Kindergarten to read them stories. Those are always high points of my day.

As our first trimester winds down leading up to Thanksgiving, encourage your child to keep pushing until that nice break when we can stretch out for a couple days, count our blessings, enjoy our families and friends, and eat great food.

I had noticed survey responses last year which commented that for our military families, it would be nice for them to have their children off on November 11, Veteran's Day. Accordingly, I scheduled our faculty retreat for that day so that could happen. We appreciate the service of our families who serve and have served, and hope this is helpful to you.

We hope your children and you have had the opportunity to enjoy the various events which have taken place in October, and thanks to the H.S.A. for all of their support and hard work. I hope to see many of you this Sunday at Plates and Pours at the Vandiver Inn.

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

Blessings,

Mr. Schmitz

📅 November School Calendar

- **November 4:** 12:05 PM Dismissal; Teacher Professional Development
- **November 9**: School wide Dress Down Day
- **November 5–14:** Charleston Wrap Fundraiser
- **November 6:** Prospective Student Open House | 8:30–10:30 AM
- **November 11:** Veterans Day – School Closed for Faculty Retreat
- **November 14–23:** Scholastic Book Fair
- **November 17:** HSPT Testing | 8:30–11:00 AM
- **November 20:** Asynchronous Learning Day – No Students on Campus; Trimester 1 Ends
- **November 24:** Grandparents Day & Half-Day Dismissal
- **November 25–27:** School Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Financial Aid Applications Now Open for 2027–2028!

The **2027–2028 Grant & Aid Application** is now open! Families can access the application by clicking here.

Please be sure to submit your application as early as possible. The deadline to apply for both Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. Joan of Arc Grant & Aid is **Sunday, February 28, 2027. No exceptions will be made.**

Need help with your application? FACTS offers a dedicated support line to assist families with the application process, required documentation (2026 W-2 and 2025 tax return), and any questions you may have.

FACTS Grant & Aid Support: (866) 315-9262

We encourage all families seeking financial assistance to apply before the deadline!

📚 Applications Are Open for the 2027–2028 School Year!

Do you have a child or younger sibling who is ready to join SJA? New student applications are now open for the 2027–2028 school year! Secure your child's spot and begin the admissions process today.

Click here to apply!

Referral program

Did you know SJA has a referral program? If you refer a new family to SJA and the new student is accepted and completes a full year at SJA you will receive $500 your tuition.

🍎 SJA Hot Lunch!

New Lunch Ordering Process

We are excited to continue our Hot Lunch program with a new, convenient online ordering process! All lunch orders must be placed through our school website.

Click here to place your order!

Orders may be submitted in advance but must be completed by the designated deadline. **No late orders or exceptions will be accepted.**

Thank you for your cooperation and support!

🛍️ Shop the SJA School Store!

Show your school spirit all year long with our **SJA School Store!** Shop a variety of SJA gear, including this year's Theme Shirt.

Orders will be collected and distributed at school, so there is no need to arrange shipping or pickup!

Click here to shop and show your SJA spirit! 💙💛

Grandparents Day

We warmly invite you to join us for **Grandparents Day on Tuesday, November 24, 2026!**

The morning will begin with Mass in the church at 9:45 AM, followed by grandparents visiting their students' classrooms.

For everyone's safety, all visitors must check in through Raptor and receive a visitor pass before entering the church or school.

If you plan to attend, please complete the form to RSVP no later than Thursday**, November 19th**, so we can process visitor information in advance.

Due to limited classroom space, we kindly ask that families limit their guests to no more than four per family.

RSVP here

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for our students and school community. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you at Mass!

Counselor Corner

Happy November, parents. Our character trait is JOY for this month! In our Catholic faith, we are reminded that true joy comes from God and is often found in the little moments of everyday life. Parents, you can help nurture joy at home by sharing family prayers, expressing gratitude, enjoying time together without distractions, and finding opportunities to serve others. Remember, our greatest work is not found in a busy schedule or a perfect home, but in the love, faith, and values you pour into your children each day. Let's make room for more joy, peace, and gratitude this November. - Ms. B

📚 News from Our School Library

Congratulations to 2nd and Prek 4 grade on 100% book return.

 Scholastic Book Fair eWallet

Shop cash-free and worry-free with Scholastic eWallet!

Our Scholastic Book Fair is making it easier than ever for students to shop independently with eWallet, a convenient digital payment option.

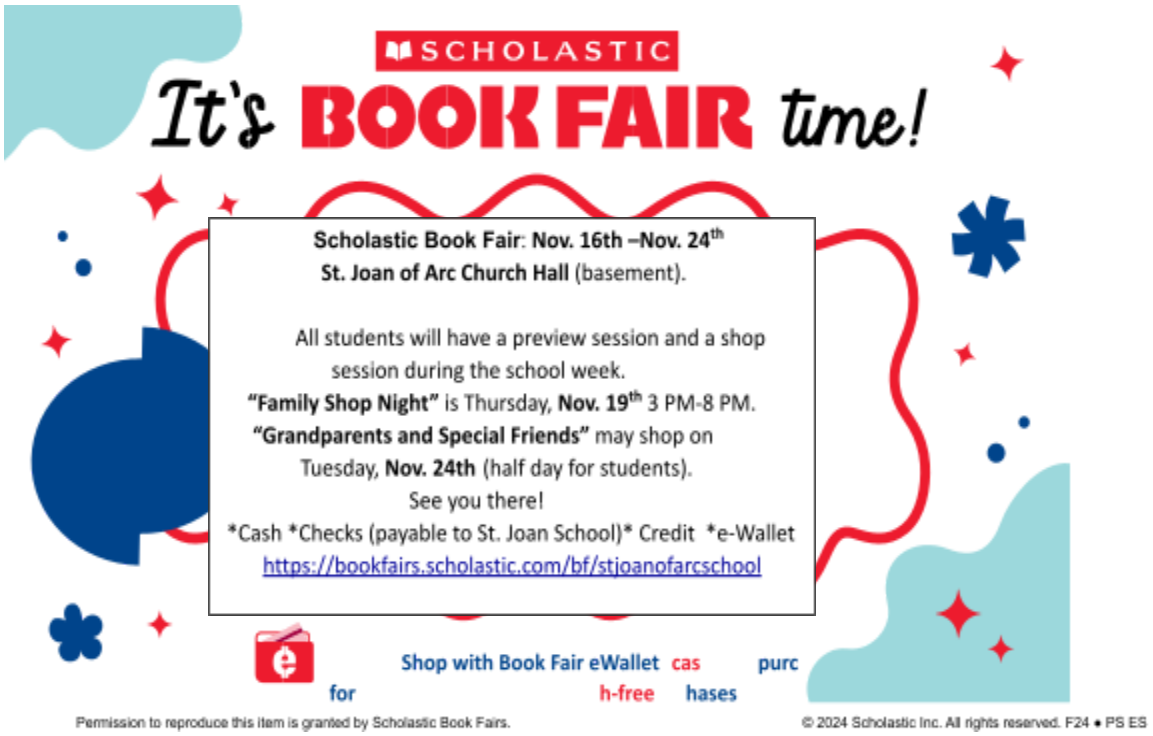
How Does eWallet Work?

- Set up an eWallet: Visit our school's Book Fair homepage to create an eWallet for your child.
- Add funds: Funds are available immediately, so your child can shop at the Fair without carrying cash.
- Invite family and friends: Grandparents, relatives, and friends can contribute to your child's eWallet.
- Reuse year after year: Once created, your child's eWallet stays in their Scholastic account and can be used at future Book Fairs.

Ready to Get Started?

Families can create an eWallet, add funds, and manage their balance through their Scholastic account.

[Visit our school's Scholastic Book Fair homepage to get started.]



Original Works Artwork!!

Soon you will be able to see your child's artwork and all the wonderful keepsakes that can be created. These make wonderful Christmas/Holiday gifts and will be delivered just in time for the holidays. 🎁

Order forms will be sent home soon!

(See flyer below)

Sunshine Committee News.....

We are starting our Food Drive ASAP! The Good Samaritan Pantry is in desperate need of:

CANNED VEGETABLES: Corn, Green Beans, Green Peas, Tomatoes, Carrots

CANNED MEATS: Tuna and Chicken,

ANY PASTA, RAMEN, MAC-N-CHEESE

SPAGHETTI SAUCE (Cans are cheaper than glass bottles), **BREAKFAST FOODS:** Cold Cereal, Oatmeal in Variety Packs

DRIED LENTILS, KIDNEY BEANS, GARBANZO BEANS,

GRAPE OR APPLE JELLY

PEANUT BUTTER

SOUPS: Vegetable Beef, Vegetarian Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Chicken and Rice

SALTINE CRACKERS

POPCORN

Please start sending donations into school as soon as you are able. **Our Food Drive will run through December 14th.** The School Wide reward for donations will be a fun out of uniform day wearing Christmas/Holiday Tops and Sweatpant Bottoms!

Monetary donations are also being accepted. Please place cash in an envelope marked "Food Pantry" when you send it to school. Help us make the holidays a little easier for everyone.

From the Nurses.....

Class Parties: Please remember that we have many students with **severe food allergies** here in our school. Each homeroom is different but many of the allergies include: Peanuts, All Tree Nuts, Dairy, Eggs and Certain Pea Proteins. Before sending in any food items, please check with your student's teacher or room parent.

Cold and Flu Season:

As cold and flu season approaches, we can work together to help keep our school community healthy! Please remind your children to:

- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods, and drink plenty of water.
- Stay home when sick and until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, with symptoms improving.

Cough Drops: If you feel like your child may need to use cough drops during the school day, please do the following:

1. Please see the email that went out this morning for directions.
2. Then send in a supply for your child's use. Please do not send in large bags. We don't have a large storage area. We will let you know when to replenish them.

Thank you for helping us keep our students, staff, and families healthy this season! Please remember to get your Flu Shot!!

Let's Fill the Shelves Together!

SUPPORT OUR GOOD SAMARITAN PANTRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!!

The Sunshine Committee is hosting a food drive to bring hope and comfort to local families and individuals in need this holiday season. Your generosity can help brighten someone's holiday and ensure no one goes without the essentials. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference!



The Pantry has URGENT NEEDS FOR:

CANNED VEGETABLES: Corn, Green Beans, Green Peas, Tomatoes, Carrots
CANNED MEATS: Tuna and Chicken,
ANY PASTA, RAMEN, MAC-N-CHEESE
SPAGHETTI SAUCE (Cans are cheaper than glass bottles),
BREAKFAST FOODS: Cold Cereal, Oatmeal in Variety Packs
DRIED LENTILS, KIDNEY BEANS, GARBANZO BEANS,
GRAPE OR APPLE JELLY
PEANUT BUTTER
SOUPS: Vegetable Beef, Vegetarian Vegetable, Chicken Noodle, Chicken and Rice
SALTINE CRACKERS
POPCORN

We will also accept monetary donations in lieu of food items. Please place them in an envelope marked: "Food Pantry."

School Wide Reward:
A Day of Wearing Holiday Shirts with Sweatpants!!! Date to Be Announced

Drop-off Location:
Outside the Main Office

Collection Dates:
Now through December 14th

ORDER NOW!

CAPTURE A memory!



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Bringing art to life.

Celebrate your child's creativity with keepsakes you'll love.

HSA NEWS

The HSA has been running full tilt since the start of the school year. We have held several successful community and fundraising events, which would not be possible without the support of our school families—thank you! Additionally, thank you to the SJA families who are attending, donating to class baskets, or sharing information for our newest upcoming event, Plates and Pours.

The Charleston Wrap fundraiser launches this week. This is a 100% online fundraiser and a wonderful way to reach out-of-state family and friends who might not otherwise be able to participate in SJA fundraising events.

Thank you,

Ashley

ATTENTION: SJA PARENTS & Guardians

Come Join The STEM COMMITTEE

As SJA prepares for our STEM Certification Renewal this 2026–2027 school year, we are reaching out to passionate parents to help guide and elevate our STEM program! If you are interested in any capacity, please sign up with the link below!

As a Committee Member, you will:

- Partner with faculty to plan exciting, hands-on STEM events
- Volunteer to run and support STEM Days and STEM Night
- Offer real-world industry perspectives and guidance
- Meet bi-monthly (in-person or virtual options)
- Support STEM Club and Lego (Robotics) Club
- Help with gathering supplies, donations, and volunteers for STEM Projects



SIGN UP

Contact Mrs. VanDaniker
svandaniker@stjoanarc.org
for any questions or
additional details.



SJA VOLLEYBALL INTRAMURAL PERMISSION SLIP

Volleyball Intramurals will be held during the months of November and December.

Grades: 5-8th
Dates: Thursday, Nov 5, 12, 19, Dec 3 and 10
Time: 3:15 - 4:15 pm (Pickup is in the school parking lot)

Please cut and return bottom portion of this to Mrs Jones
Any questions, please email, mjones@stjoanarc.org

Student Name:_____
Grade:_____
Parent Name:_____
Parent Email:_____

This activity is entirely voluntary and may represent additional risk. Therefore, it is required that you, as a parent or legal guardian, give permission for your child to participate in this activity, and that you accept the risks associated with this activity. If your child does not return the signed Permission & Release Agreement he/she will not be able to participate in the activity.

I hereby given my express permission as parent/legal guardian for my child (please print)_____,to participate in the Activities described above.

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date

Last But Not Least!

Parish News

We look forward to seeing all of our First Sacraments, Confirmation, OCIC and Faith Formation families this weekend for classes from 9:45-11:00 AM.

Advent is right around the corner! Join us on Sunday, November 22nd, anytime between 9:45 and 11:00 AM to create an Advent wreath and discover a simple way to bring prayer into your family's week as we await Jesus' birth. All are welcome—come share in this beautiful tradition! Coffee, cocoa and donuts will be served!

Please save the date for our Youth Ministry fundraiser "Parent's Night Out" event on Friday, December 4th from 5:30-8:30pm! Get some Christmas shopping/wrapping done while your kids have a party of their own!

We hope to see our Middle Schoolers for Youth Ministry on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8pm! Bring your friends! Upcoming events include:

November 5th - Mass: More than Meets the Eye at St.Patrick

November 12 – Angel Tree Service Night at SJA

November 19 – Friendsgiving with Fr. Francis and Fr. Franz at St. Patrick