

July 27, 2021

Dear SJRCS Families,

We hope your summer has been filled with sunshine and fun! Welcome to the community of St. John Regional Catholic School. We are truly blessed here with our supportive parents, outstanding faculty and staff, and excited children as we embark on the upcoming school year.

School Year Theme

The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is *The Year of the Eucharist: Encountering Christ's Presence*. As a Catholic School, we know that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The Eucharist is the sacrament of unity and charity. As we begin this new school year, we pray that we may be united in faith, love, hope, and Christian Charity. For we know from Sacred Scripture, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB) Leadership Team

We have not received detailed guidelines regarding COVID from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. We know that the AOB Leadership Team has the safety of all families and staff in mind as they are working closely with the CDC and Health Department. We will share this information as soon as we receive it. At this point, we are planning for a "normal" school year – and will adjust to the requirements as needed.

Now Hiring

At this point, we have a few openings for the 2021-2022 school year. We are seeking an exceptional grade 3 teacher- interested candidates should contact Dr. Jones at ajones@sjrcs.org. Also, we need cafeteria workers as we fully open our cafeteria this year. Please contact Mrs. Hanner at khanner@sjrcs.org to express interest in these positions.

VIRTUS Training (Important!)

In order to volunteer at the school, the Archdiocese of Baltimore requires that all adult volunteers must be VIRTUS trained and background checked. We suggest you start your training over the summer months. <https://content.schoolinsites.com/api/documents/68c095752cf74e25b5c0fa50b06d51a0.pdf>

Welcome Packet (formerly Summer Packet)

We will be sending the Welcome Packet to our school families. The Welcome Packet contains information about the school calendar, Home and School Association (H.S.A.), and upcoming events. Please contact the name on the flyer or the school office (301.662.6722) if you have any questions.

Home and School Association (H.S.A.)

The St. John Regional Catholic School Home and School Association is a parent-led group under the leadership of HSA President Molly Gilbreth. The HSA enriches our school community by providing the opportunity for fellowship and fun! We encourage all parents to join the Home and School Association and to attend/volunteer at their amazing events! HSA information will be shared in the upcoming Welcome Packet and parent letters.

Summer Reading / Work

Please go to our website www.sjracs.org and click on the blue parents tab on the top right corner, which will redirect you to a new page which at the bottom has the virtual Summer Packet. Your student would be a rising student into the next grade. Please follow and complete those assignments.

School Supplies List and School Information

Also on that parent page, you will find underneath the Summer Reading/Work. You will see a tab for Summer/Welcome Packet, where all the information you need to start school will be placed. You can currently find the School Supplies List there. Happy Shopping!

School Uniforms

On the SJRCS website located under the school logo is a blue banner, you will find a drop-down menu entitled Student Life. Please click on that tab to select the Uniforms tab. Here you will find pictures of what the school's spring and winter uniforms look like. The Winter uniform is appropriate year around and is required from October 1st until April 30th. An optional summer uniform can be worn from the start of school until September 30th and May 1st until the last day of school. The Used Uniform Sale will be held on Wednesday, August 11 (9am to 1pm) in the school gym.

Our uniform supplier is Flynn & O'Hara located at 5210 Randolph Rd, Rockville. MD 20852. We suggest that new parents plan a trip down to the store to try on uniforms as their sizing can vary. You can learn more by visiting their website <https://flynnohara.com/> or calling the store at (301) 838-8958.

Family Handbook

The Family Handbook will be posted on the SJRCS website (www.sjracs.org) in August. Each family will need to sign and return the Family Handbook Form, which will be distributed during the first week of school. Please contact the school office (301.662.6722) if you have any questions.

Class Lists

We know that students are eagerly anticipating their class placement. We are still working on this project and are planning to distribute this information in mid-August. Thank you for your patience.

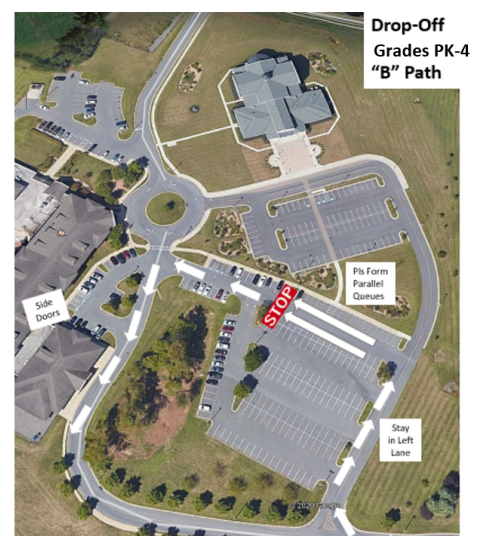
School Hours

Due to curricular requirements, the school hours have been slightly adjusted. Morning drop-off will begin at 7:50 a.m. until 8:05 a.m. when the tardy bell rings for morning announcements. Afternoon pick-up will begin at 2:30 p.m. for PreK3, 2:40 p.m. for PreK4, and 2:50 p.m. for grades K-8. Half-day noon dismissal pick-up will begin at 11:30 a.m. for PreK3, 11:40 a.m. for PreK4, and 11:50 a.m. for grades K-8. Grade levels will be assigned specific entry/exit doors to the building during drop-off and pick-up.

Morning Drop Off Procedures

Between 7:50 – 8:05 am cars will line up according to their oldest child's grade level.

- Grades PreK – 4 will:



- Enter from the East entrance. Please follow the “B” path and form two lines in the large parking lot.
- at the fire hydrant merge into a single lane before proceeding to the Primary Wing entrance for drop off.
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- PreK to 1st-grade students will enter the primary wing entrance and proceed to their homeroom.
- Students in Grades 2 - 4 will exit their vehicle and walk along the sidewalk on the admin parking lot to enter the building in the green side door entrance and proceed to their homeroom.

- Grades 5-8 will:

- from the East entrance please follow the “A” path in front of the church and form two lines.
- wait at the stop sign to merge into a single lane before proceeding to the main entrance for drop off.
- Students will exit the vehicle, enter the main entrance, and proceed to their homeroom.



Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

- Prekindergarten

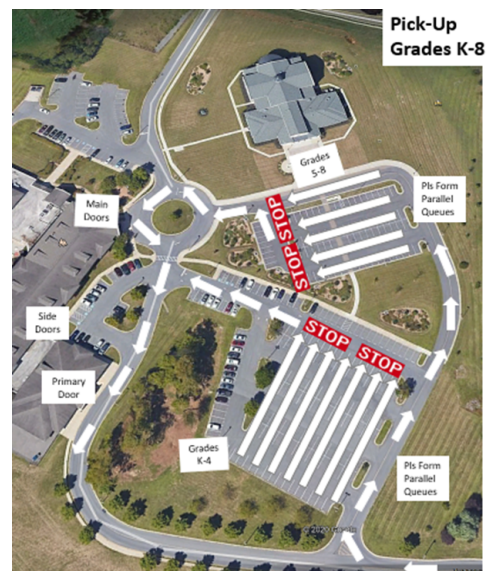
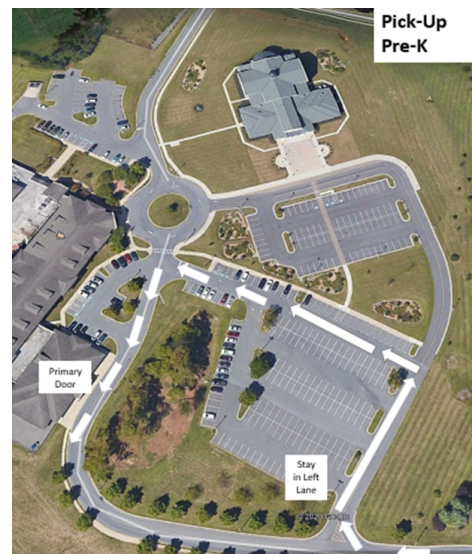
- PreK3 students will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. at the primary entrance.
- Students in PreK4 will be dismissed at 2:40 p.m. at the primary entrance.
- Please enter our campus and create a single queue using only the main entrance. If you have children in other grade levels please join those respective queues after collecting your Pre-K student.

- Grades K-4

- Dismissal begins at 2:50 p.m.
- Students will be exiting the same door into which they entered during arrival and meet their family pick up in the SJRCS parking lot.
- Please enter our campus using the main entrance and queue using our traditional stadium layout in the large parking lot (i.e. multiple rows of cars facing north).

- Grades 5-8

- Dismissal begins at 2:50 p.m.
- Students will be exiting the same door into which they entered during arrival and meet their family pick up in the Saint Katherine Drexel (SKD) parking lot.
- Please enter our campus using the main entrance and queue using a modified stadium layout in the SKD parking lot (i.e. multiple rows of cars facing west).



Families with children in more than one K-8 grade will only need to queue once and will collect all their children at the same time beginning with their oldest.

Students not picked up after dismissal and remaining in our building will be sent to After Care. Parents will be responsible for the payments to After Care. No shuttle bus transportation will be provided for the 2021-2022 school year.

Calendar Highlights

Professional Days

The teachers, instructional assistants, office staff, and administrators will be preparing to launch the new school year on Monday, August 23- Friday, August 27. Please note that the school office will be closed for the AOB Convocation on Thursday, August 26.

Baseball Game

Mark your calendars for the SJRCS Summer Bash at Nymeo Field at Harry Groves Stadium on August 10th at 6 PM. Tickets are available at www.sjrscs.org/summerfun2021. Beware, we have just learned that pirates intend to take over the stadium that night! ARGHHH, you ready??

Meet the Teacher

All students and families are invited to school on Friday, August 27 (9:00-11:30 a.m.). This event is an opportunity to meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and drop off school supplies. We kindly request that families with last names A-L attend 9-10:15 a.m. and families with last names M-Z attend 10:15-11:30 a.m.

First Day of School (Grades 1-8)

Students in grades 1-8 will start school on Monday, August 30. This is a half-day noon dismissal day, pickup will begin at 11:50 a.m. and no lunch will be served.

First Day of School (PK3, PK4, Kindergarten); Full Day for Grades 1-8

Students in pre-kindergarten 3, pre-kindergarten 4, and kindergarten will start school on Tuesday, August 31. Students will attend according to their enrollment plan (half-day or full-day). If your child has a MWF schedule, then his or her first day will be on Wednesday, September 1. Students in grades 1-8 will experience their first full day of school.

Back-to-School Meetings

We have scheduled Back-to-School meetings according to your child's grade level. We would like to highlight each grade level and give parents the opportunity to meet fellow parents of their child's grade level. The H.S.A. will be available to answer questions about their numerous programs and events. We will meet in the gym for a general presentation, then travel to the classrooms for an opportunity to talk with your child's teacher.

PreK3 and PreK4: Monday, August 30 (8:30-9:30 AM) Student(s) may attend with a parent(s).

Kindergarten: Monday, August 30 (10:00-11:00 AM) Student(s) may attend with a parent (s).

Grade 7: Monday, August 30 (5:00-6:30 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 8: Monday, August 30 (6:30-8:00 PM) Parents only, please

Grade 5: Tuesday, August 31 (5:00-6:30 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 6: Tuesday, August 31 (6:30-8:00 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 3: Wednesday, September 1 (5:00-6:00 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 4: Wednesday, September 1 (6:00-7:00 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 1: Thursday, September 2 (5:00-6:00 PM) Parents only, please.

Grade 2: Thursday, September 2 (6:00-7:00 PM) Parents only, please.

First Friday Mass

We will celebrate the Eucharist, encountering Christ's presence, during our first school liturgy. We are not certain if this will be an all-school liturgy or grade-level liturgy with live-streaming yet. We will share the format as soon as we know.

Labor Day

In celebration of Labor Day, there is no school on Monday, September 6.

Picture Day

Student pictures are tentatively scheduled for:

Individual Photos

- Monday, 9/27 – PreK – 1st grade
- Tuesday, 9/28 – 2nd – 5th grade
- Wednesday, 9/29 – 6th – 8th grade

Class Photos

- Friday, 10/15

Questions

We are sure that you have many more questions as we prepare over the summer to start the new year. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Joy Afable jafable@sjrcs.org or Mrs. Lara Schumacher, Lschumacher@sjrcs.org or call 301.662.6722.

The office summer hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 AM -12 PM.

We look forward to seeing all our Wildcats at the start of the 2021-2022 school year!

In Christ,

Dr. Annette M. Jones
Principal

Mrs. Kim Hanner
Assistant Principal

