Dear Parents:

St. John Regional Catholic School will be participating in a suite of web-based online tools to enhance your child's learning. We will be using Google Apps for Education, Discovery Education, and additional curriculum resources in our classrooms. These powerful productive and collaborative online resources, used by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, allow students and teachers to work together on projects via the web and in real-time. We are excited as this represents an important step in our digital learning plan towards teaching 21st-century skills to all students.

In the fall, all students will be provided with school assigned user IDs and passwords to complete class assignments. Please do not change your child's username and password, as it leads to confusion while using the resources during school. Students will have a Google Apps for Education account that integrates with a site called Google Classroom. This is a secure learning network that allows students to interact with their teachers regarding classroom assignments, homework, and activities, all without access to email.

Your student's teachers will use the following electronic resources for lessons, assignments, and communication in a structured manner. Students will be instructed that their electronic media accounts are an extension of the classroom and the use of their account is subject to the same rules of appropriate classroom behavior expected at school. Teachers will be working with students to educate them around utilizing the online resource productively and responsibly. All students using the SJRCS Google Apps for Education account and digital resources are bound by the policies and guidelines as outlined in the Technology Acceptable Use Policy. Students found to be misusing their accounts or violating policies will be referred to the school's administration.

Electronic Media and Online resources used at SJRCS for educational purposes only.

- **Google Classroom** – SJRCS Teachers in Grades PreK-8 use this Google product to ***communicate homework***, in addition to creating paperless classrooms where students can upload assignments to their teachers. This program works in conjunction with Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, and Drawings. Google Classroom does have email notification options for parents. Details on how to receive email invitations will be sent home in the Friday Folder following back to school night. An app is available for use on mobile devices.

- **Google Drive**- available anywhere from any device with Internet access, providing storage for documents and files. Students can develop an e-portfolio of work throughout their years at school.
- **Discovery Education** - Discovery Education is our school's primary science resource for grades K-8. Students in Grades 6-8 access the science curriculum online by completing activities in the classroom using the Discovery Education Science Techbook digital textbook. Students in Grades 7 & 8 have access to Discovery Education's Social Studies Techbook, a digital textbook using an inquiry-based approach to enhance literacy and critical thinking skills.
- **IXL** – An online program that supports curriculum content with unlimited practice skills. Students in Grades 1-3 have access to Math and Reading exercises, and students in Grades 4-8 have access to activity practices in Math, Reading, and Spanish.
- **Math** – Students in K-8 have access to online math materials from the McGraw Hill series, Connect Ed.
- **Seesaw** - A secure online *private* journal where students can document and reflect on what they are learning in class via photos, videos, worksheets, drawings, and voice recordings.
- **ThinkCentral/Voyages/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** – Students in Grades 2-8 have access to online materials for their reading and middle school English textbooks.

Thank you for your support as we move forward with 21st-century teaching and learning at St. John Regional Catholic School. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our IT Director, Michael Fairley, at mfairley@sjrcs.org.

Further information about GAFE can be found here
https://support.google.com/a/answer/139019?hl=en
Seesaw: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rRj6TtHjCcDYCwfuIN-ts9EvKUbgh8nk/view