



The Wildcat Wire

St. John Regional Catholic School

Weekly Newsletter



September 17, 2021

Here's the Scoop



Dear Parents,

2021-2022 AOB Family Survey

All the schools of the Archdiocese of Baltimore participate in several federal programs that provide our students with a variety of materials and services. It is one of the ways in which we receive benefits, such as textbook funding, grant requests, and provide accurate reporting for our eligibility for E-Rate funding for technology. We certainly wish to receive our fair share of federal dollars in education and your assistance is critical in supporting our efforts. In order to determine eligibility for these programs, parents must fill out the survey provided in this link by October 1st, in lieu of the traditional paper income surveys distributed in previous years. You need to complete the form for each child that you have attending SJRCS. This survey is confidential; they are not shared or distributed. Please remember to complete all questions on the form. [21-22 Income Survey Link](#)

Basketball

The AOB leadership team has approved sports for SJRCS. As expected, the players, parents, and coaches will be following AOB's COVID guidelines for health and safety. The basketball registration and information is posted in this week's Friday Folder and [on MySchoolBucks](#). If you have any questions about the basketball program, please contact Mr. Mike Walters mwalters918@gmail.com. Go Wildcats!

SJRCS Golf Tournament

The 23rd Annual Monsignor Echle Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021, at **Musket Ridge Golf Club**. Registration will begin at 8 am, with a 9 am shot-gun start. We are currently taking registrations for players to make this year's golf tournament a success. Carts, Greens fees, Range Balls, Breakfast and Lunch provided by Chick-fil-a Frederick, Dinner by PIGS BBQ catering, Beverages provided by Brewer's Alley, Contest, Raffles, and Prizes are included.

Register today at <https://www.sjracs.org/golftournament>

Questions? John Barrett johnbarrettjr@gmail.com

Key September Dates

Sept. 13 Story Time Tots (8:30am)
Sept 14-23 Fall Scranton Testing
Sept. 17 Band Demo
Sept. 20 HSPT Test Prep Deadline
Sept. 24 **Noon Dismissal**
Sept. 27 Individual Photos; PK3, PK4;
Kindergarten; Grade 1
Sept. 28 Individual **Photos: Grades 2-5**
Sept. 29 Individual **Photos: Grades 6-8**
Sept. 30 **Noon Dismissal**
Sept. 30 Parent Teacher Conferences
(1-4 PM and 5-7 PM)
Sept. 30 Oct. 7: H.S.A. Book Fair
Sept. 30 Used Uniform Sale
Oct. 7 Parent Teacher Conferences

Volunteers Needed! (Earn Bonus Hours)

Please join us as a volunteer during this fun event! Volunteers will earn 2 credit hours for every hour volunteered during the event.

Volunteer Sign Up Genius

Questions? Kristin Dusablon kmdusablon@gmail.com

Donations Wanted!

Please consider donating items for our raffle baskets! You will receive 4 tuition credit hours for items donated towards the raffle baskets and prizes.

Amazon or via Sign Up Genius

Questions? Kristin Dusablon kmdusablon@gmail.com

Student Uniforms

Please ensure that your student is following the SJRCS school uniform code. Examples of uniforms can be found on our SJRCS website. <https://www.sjrscs.org/uniforms>

Students dress in uniforms in order that their attire is in keeping with those attitudes necessary and helpful to foster an academic climate within the school. We take pride in the appearance of our students. Their dress reflects the quality of the school, their conduct, and their schoolwork.

The following dress code (winter uniform) is appropriate all year and is required from October 1st until May 1st. We ask your cooperation in adhering to the school uniform code. Parents will be contacted by email or the uniform violation form if violations of this code occur.

Uniforms must be purchased through Flynn and O'Hara. Items with plaid or with a school logo must be purchased through Flynn & O'Hara. If skorts, sweaters, or vests are not purchased through Flynn & O'Hara they must match the style and color of the regulation uniform.

During specific celebrations such as Catholic Schools Week Open House, First Friday Mass, etc., students will be required to wear their full winter uniform.

Sneakers (white or gray, not black) are to be worn with the school gym uniform on the day that students are scheduled for their physical education class. Sneakers are not to be worn with the winter uniform. With the winter uniform, students are required to wear a dress shoe. Clog type shoes or shoes with heels or platforms are prohibited.

In God's grace,

Dr. Jones
Principal

Mrs. Hanner
Assistant Principal



Administrative Items

Grandparents Day

Please note that due to COVID, the SJRCS Grandparents Day has been cancelled. Please note that the students will have a noon dismissal.

Cafeteria News

As reminder, the modified School Lunch Ordering Schedule started on Sunday, September 5th. Online lunch orders are due on Sunday evening for the following week. [We encourage families to use the online ordering system in My School Bucks store.](#) Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Parents, consider helping to deliver lunches or monitor recess, sign up here for September and October. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-daily>

Outside Food

Parents, please refrain from delivering or ordering from food delivery services for student lunches.

Face Mask Reminder

This is a reminder that cloth face coverings should be:

- solid-colored or printed made with at least 2 layers of breathable material
- fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face (cover nose, mouth, and secure under the chin)
- masks with inappropriate or political messages or innuendos are not permitted
- neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas, and containing valves, mesh material, or holes of any kind are not acceptable.

8th Grade Families

Considering Catholic High School? The AOB High School Guide can be found on their website at: <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/our-schools/high-school-admissions/> Mark your calendars as the deadline for AOB High School Applications is December 17th.

Is your 8th grade planning on taking the Catholic High School Entrance Test on December 1st? Registration for the Catholic High School Entrance Test on December 1st at SJRCS is open until November 29th. Follow this link to register: <https://stsusers.com/stsusers/registration/static/baltimore.php> All AOB 8th grade students will be taking the exam at their home school. Please scroll down to the bottom of the page to select St John Regional. Frequently asked questions regarding the HSPT can be found here: <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/our-schools/high-school-placement-test/>

SJRCS is offering a HSPT Test Prep course taught by Mrs. Cody and Mrs. LaPier via Google Meet/Classroom to review math and language arts concepts as well as some learn some test-taking strategies starting mid October lasting 6 weeks. Registration is currently open until October 6th: <https://forms.gle/WchnaAXK5LCfamw58> the cost of the course is \$60 plus \$15 for the book. SJRCS has some books in stock and available to purchase for \$15.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is offering HSPT Test Prep courses to review math and language arts concepts and learn some test-taking strategies. Information about the course can be found here: <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/hspt-prep-course/>. Please be aware that registration is now open, and that the deadline to register is Monday September 20th.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent - Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, September 30th and October 7th (1-4pm; 5-7pm). Login instructions will be sent home in the Friday Folder on September 10th. Registration will open Monday September 20th at 9am and close on Monday September 27th at 12pm.

High School Fairs

This fall, AOB is offering both virtual and in-person fairs for middle school families who want to learn more about our Catholic high schools. The Virtual Fairs will take place on September 29, October 11, and November 2 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please visit <https://www.archbalt.org/schools/our-schools/high-school-admissions/virtual-admissions/> to register for the event, and to receive access details.

For families looking for In-Person Fairs, these will take place from 6:00pm to 8:05pm according to the following schedule:

1. Monday, September 20: St. Mark in Catonsville
2. Tuesday, September 21: Resurrection – St. Paul in Ellicott City
3. Wednesday, September 22: Immaculate Conception in Towson
4. Thursday, September 23: St. Joseph Fullerton in Perry Hall
5. Monday, September 27: Cardinal Shehan in Baltimore
6. Tuesday, September 28: Monsignor Slade in Glen Burnie
7. Thursday, September 30: St. Margaret in Bel Air

The Open Fair takes from 6:00pm to 6:30pm, followed by three Breakout Sessions. Registration is not required, but masking is required of all participants. These fairs are open to students and families from any school who wish to attend.

Arrival and Dismissal Process (updated September 2, 2021)

Everyone seems to be adjusting quite well to our Arrival and Dismissal process. Your patience and adherence have been greatly appreciated! The latest version can be viewed at the links below:

[PK](#)
[Grades K-4](#)
[Grade 5-8](#)

Join the Band 2021!

The purpose of this program is to broaden the education of your child by giving him/her an understanding of music. Participation in the band gives the student a feeling of accomplishment which is becoming such a rare but valuable part of life. The mental and physical disciplines involved in learning to read and play music are of immeasurable value to the overall development of the child.

Our purpose is to bring the experience of music to every child. *Format Classes* are organized to offer instruction on band instruments to all interested students enrolled in the 4th through 8th grade. These classes are taught by highly qualified teachers. Classes meet once a week from October through May, except on school holidays (minimum of 28 lessons). The health and safety of our students and staff is paramount; all guidelines of the archdiocese and each school will be followed. Our plan is to return to in school lessons and rehearsals. Students will be scheduled by instrument or level of achievement.

To ensure your child's name is included on the schedule, please mail the registration form and fee to our office no later than October 1, 2021.

In order to provide instruments at the lowest rental cost, the program has contacted with Music and Arts. Information pertaining to their instrument rental program is available electronically. If you have any questions regarding the instrument rental, please contact Music and Arts at 888-731-5396 or visit their website at

www.MusicArts.com. The band registration form and additional information is available on our website at www.instrumentalmusicprogram.org. If you have any questions about the band program, please contact our office at instrumentalmusic.baltimore@gmail.com or 410-442-5804. All students must be registered each year.

More information and the registration form can be found in the Friday Folder in the Parent's section on the SJRCS website. Please complete the registration form and return it to the address at the top of the form.

Scantron Testing

This year standardized testing will use [Scantron Testing](#) will be administered three times a year; concentrating on the content areas of reading, literature, and math, and science and social studies midyear. Our first round of testing will take place the week of September 13th during LA and Math class. Over the course of the next few months we hope to give you an overview of our teachers and staff. It's always nice to put a name with a face.

Recorder Classes - 3rd Grade Parents/Guardians



I am excited to announce that your child will be learning to play the recorder for music class. As mentioned on the supply list, please **follow the directions below to pay the \$6.50 for the recorder** that is being supplied by the school. There are great variations in recorders made by different companies, so it is important that all students use the same brand and model recorder in class so they are in tune with each other. If your child is getting a sibling's recorder from a previous year or have their own already, please make sure it is this model: **Yamaha Soprano Baroque YRS-24B.**

I am requesting that students **practice at home at least 20 minutes a week.** This can be done all at once or spread out over the week. Please encourage your child to practice their music at home. The more they practice, the more songs they will learn to play, the easier it will get, and the more enjoyable the experience will be for all.

If your child has a different brand/model recorder at home, please keep that one at home for practice and purchase a School Recorder to keep in their locker for music class. If they do not have a recorder at home already, the student will be taking their School Recorder home to practice during the week and then bring it back to school on the day they have music class (3A Tuesday, 3B Thursdays, 3C Fridays).

If you want to leave a recorder at school and have a separate one at home, you may purchase an extra one from a dollar store, toy store, and music store or you could purchase a second recorder through the school (additional \$6.50). Note: the extra Home Recorder does not have to be the same brand and model as the School Recorder.

Students will not be physically blowing into their recorders while in the classrooms due to their masks. We have plans to take them outside at times, keeping over 6' distance so they can practice but they will also be required to practice and record themselves at home. Instructions on how to do that will come later.

*****Remember:** Your child is responsible for having their School Recorder and music folder for every music class, even half days and Mass days.

Payment Options:

- 1) If your child already has a YAMAHA SOPRANO BAROQUE recorder, send me an e-mail by Friday, 9/24 and send in the recorder with your child to their next Music class. pfrazier@sjrcs.org
- 2) If you need to purchase a recorder, please use MY SCHOOL BUCKS to pay by credit card or e-check:
 - a. www.sjrcs.org – click the My School Bucks icon
 - b. Select “Browse All Items”
 - c. Find the item labeled “Music Recorder 3rd Grade Only”
 - d. Make your selection (1 or 2 recorders = \$6.50 each recorder)
 - e. Process your payment
- 3) We prefer the online payment method, but if you are unable to use MY SCHOOL BUCKS, you will need to mail a check payable to SJRCS and mark the envelope Attention: 3rd Grade Recorders. We must receive the check by Friday, October 1st.

I am so happy that we are able to continue this long tradition and great learning activity for our 3rd graders in this ever-changing year. I look forward to helping your children learn to play this musical instrument. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Peggy Frazier
Music Teacher, SJRCS



MEET OUR STAFF

Over the course of the next few months we hope to give you an overview of our teachers and staff. It's always nice to put a name with a face.

This week we would like you to meet our 8th Grade teachers:

Mrs. Amanda Cody is originally from Alabama where she taught middle school at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School. She has been teaching for 20 years, with this being her eighth year at SJRCS.

She has been married for 20 years to her husband, James. Together they enjoy traveling, kayaking, and playing trivia. Mrs. Cody is a member of Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown, MD

Mrs. Julie Pessagno has been at SJRCS for 15 years and she says, *she has loved every day of it!*

Mrs. Pessagno has been married 29 years to her husband, Chuck, and has two daughters who attended SJRCS and St. John's Catholic Prep as well. Her oldest daughter is a graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and is now employed at AstraZeneca. Her other daughter is a junior at Gettysburg College, majoring in Health Science.



Mrs. Amanda Cody
Grade 8A Teacher



Mrs. Julie Pessagno
Grade 8B Teacher

The Pessago's adopted two adorable puppies (their first time as dog owners). When not grading papers or planning lessons, Mrs. Pessagno likes to visit historical local places such as the Seton Shrine and Harpers Ferry, WV.

Ms. Marlene Seifert has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from the University of Buffalo. She currently lives in Hagerstown, Maryland. This is her second year at St. John Regional Catholic School. In her free time she enjoys traveling with her family.



Today is National Constitution Day



Did you Know...

1. The U.S. Constitution was signed 233 years ago.
2. The original document was four pages long.
3. The Constitution includes seven articles.
4. There are 27 Amendments to the Constitution. The most recent amendment was originally proposed in 1789 and not ratified until 1992.
5. The Constitution contains 4,400 words.
6. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.
7. Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution



Admissions Director's Corner

New Wildcats – We want to welcome the Whitman Family and the Falcon Family as they started at our school this week! We are happy to welcome wonderful families such as these to our school community. Please share my email with those families that you think would be better dressed in Wildcat blue!

Social Media – We encourage you to like our Facebook page St. John Regional Catholic School where we post glimpses into our school day. You can also find us on Instagram at SJRCS. If you could please find St. John Regional Catholic School on Private School Review, Niche, Great Schools, and Google My Business. Share with the world what you love about SJRCS. We are happy to give you volunteer hours for your time! Please let us know you did it by going to our Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0549abaf28a1fc1-social>.

Uniforms – We have many new families feeling the pinch of the limited stock at FlynnO'Hara. Please go through your winter uniforms now and donate to our used uniform sale. The sale will be held on September 30, from 11:00 am – 3:00 p.m. in the gym area. Please enter through the main office and check in. If you have any gently used uniforms that you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the main office starting on Monday, September 13. Please help us out so our Wildcats can be compliant with the winter uniforms which starts on October 1st.

SJRCS Grandparents – While the event will not be happening, I would love to collect some digital photos to celebrate our Grandparents and that special bond they have with our students. Please email me at LSchumacher@sjrcs.org a photo of your children with their Grandparents or special someone by Wednesday, September 22nd.



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

JOIN the H.S.A. – The H.S.A. needs your support! It is your contribution to the H.S.A. which makes possible all of our efforts. You can sign up for only \$30.00 per family on-line at [MySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com) or you can complete the membership form and submit it along with a check to the school office.

Back to School Photos – Share your Back-to-School smile with SJRCS HSA! Please submit a photo of your children from their first day or week of school to kick off our 2021-2022 year! We will be compiling the pictures and putting together a video to share with all as a kickoff to school. **TODAY** is the last day to submit your photos by emailing them to HSA@sjrcs.org.

Garden Committee – Thank you so much to the Garden Committee and all the volunteers that came out to help beautify the school grounds. You are a wonderful example of how our community can come together and work together to accomplish great things for our school. Our sincerest gratitude for your hard work, valuable time, and generosity.

Scholastic Book Fair – The in-person Scholastic Book Fair is returning this year! The fair will run from 9/27 through 10/7. Promotional materials will be sent home in this week's Friday folder. We will be looking for volunteers to help. Look for a signup link and more details to come in the following weeks.

Spring Fair – The H.S.A. is taking over the Spring Fair this year and while the fair isn't until June the planning starts now. This is the 30th Anniversary of the fair and we need to make plans and celebrate it! We are in need of volunteers to be on the Spring Fair committee. This is a great way to earn your tuition credit for the year! Please email us at HSA@sjrcs.org if you're interested.



Around the School



*Our Garden
Committee cleaning
up last weekend --
Thank you!*

