



St John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary School

8912 Old Branch Avenue • Clinton, Maryland 20735

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August 3, 2021

Dear Saint John's Families,

Throughout the unpredictability of navigating the COVID 19 pandemic our main goal was to utilize our faith and keep the presence of God in every aspect of our endeavors. Through Jesus, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. One of those gifts is wisdom. *Wisdom* helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives. We are grateful for the wisdom necessary to endure the challenges we faced. We are also thankful for the constant support of our entire school community.

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year and begin to transition back to full in-person learning, the Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic Schools Office continues to monitor the available data and guidance from health authorities, and I expect to provide further guidance in the coming weeks. With all of this in mind I can share with you what the fall is expected to look like here at Saint John the Evangelist School.

- **Saint John the Evangelist School will open on August 31, 2021 with full in person learning for all grades and students. School Hours are 8:00-2:45**
 - *The academic program will return to its original form with enhanced safety protocols.*
- **Saint John the Evangelist Before and After Care program will reopen for care from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.**
 - *Before Care begins 9/1/21*
 - *After Care begins 8/31/21*

Mandatory Back to School Nights and Home and School Meetings will be held in person with a virtual option.

New Family Orientation/All Families Primary Back to School Nights will be held on 8/26/21

- New Family Orientation at 4:00 pm in the church hall
- Pre Kindergarten 3 and 4 at 5:00 pm in the classrooms for all families
- Kindergarten at 5:00 pm in the classroom for all families
- 1st Grade at 5:00 pm in the multi-purpose room for all families
- 2nd Grade at 5:00 pm in the library for all families

Primary classrooms will be open to everyone from 3:00–5:00 for a “Find your Seat” for families that would like to bring their child in to become familiar with his/her classroom.

Back to School Nights for Grades 3–8 and the first Home and School Meeting will be held on September 2, 2021.

- 3rd Grade Back to School Night at 5:00 pm in the multipurpose room
- 4th Grade Back to School Night at 5:00 pm in the library
- 5th Grade Back to School Night at 5:00 pm in the church hall
- Middle School (grades 6–8) Back to School Night at 6:00 pm in the church hall
- Home and School Meeting for all parents at 7:00 pm in the church hall.

All of these meetings can be attended virtually. Parents will receive a Google Meet invitation. Parents must sign in to the comment section once they have logged into the meeting. More log in information will be coming as the date gets closer. Parents attending the in person meeting will sign in upon arrival. For those families that attend in person, there will be a sign-in table upon arrival.

Once final guidance has been received, I will email a copy of the SJE COVID Addendum that outlines our reopening plan which has been approved by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The successful partnership between home and school remains a top priority, especially during this transitional period of getting back to some sense of normalcy. It is vitally important that we work together to ensure the health and safety of the entire community and be vigilant in keeping children home if they display any COVID-19 symptoms or have had any exposure.

Please be reminded to send in all the required paperwork with your child on the first day of school. All forms can be found on the SJE web-site as indicated. These forms include: www.saintjohnsschool.org

- Transportation Form–School Life/General Forms
- Emergency Contact Information– School Life/Nurse Notes
- Clinic Card– School Life/Nurse Notes
- Medical Authorization Form– School Life/Nurse Notes

If your family will be using the Before and Aftercare Services, Registration Fees will be billed in August via TADS. However, since some parents are unsure of their work schedule and not sure of the usage for the program, the monthly tuition will not be billed until September. The payment plan for Before and Aftercare will be from September 2021 until June 2022.

Service and Volunteer hours along with Fundraising commitments will be put back into place this year.

Service Hours- We will make every effort to offer a virtual option for all mandatory meetings.

Volunteer Hours- If you wish to complete your 10 Volunteer Hours all at once you can purchase any item from below and send it to the Development Office.

- 2 cases of copy paper 8 1/2 x 11
- 2 large boxes of sidewalk chalk
- 4 basketballs
- 4 soccer balls
- 5 bouncy balls (kick balls)
- 4 hula hoops
- 1 case of toilet paper (commercial grade)
- 2 cases of hard rolled paper towels (commercial grade)
- 1 case of Clorox Clean Up
- 1 case of Windex
- 2 cases of GOJO soap- unscented
- 2 cases of large 55 gallon trash bags
- 2 cases of lunch size napkins
- 2 cases of 9" paper plates
- 2 cases of plastic fork, spoons or knives

For additional explanations or items, please contact the Development Office.

There will be additional opportunities to fulfill your volunteer hours throughout the school year.

Fundraiser Raffle Tickets will be given to families at the Home and School Meeting on September 2, 2021 and they will be due on October 1, 2021. The first drawing will take place on October 19, 2021.

Please take time to review the school's dress code in the handbook. Students are expected to be in full uniform next year.

There will not be a 5 day a week hot lunch program this year. However, we are looking into single serve lunch options for students, i.e. Chick-Fil-A, Bagged lunches. We hope to start the program by October. Students will continue to eat in their classrooms this year. **With that said, due to allergy restrictions we ask that students NOT bring any foods containing peanuts.** Once restrictions are lifted, students will once again eat in the multi-purpose room, allowing more space and we will return to the previous policy and procedures. We will offer the State Nutrition Milk Program to be served with lunch. These order envelopes will be handed out at the Orientation Meetings and will start mid-September.

To continue in the spirit of Wisdom, the Catholic Identity Theme this year is: "Growing in Faith". We will continue to keep God central in our lives as we remain faithful to our Lord, Jesus Christ as we work together with God as we face new challenges that lay before us.

In Christ.

Ms. Gillespie