

# Be a SJB Buddy Family Volunteer

**Cost: \$0.00 !!!!**

*Please return via the Tuesday folder by May 23, 2018. Thank you!*

As you know, here at St. John's we have a wonderful school community that boasts friendships and a support network among all families. Nonetheless, adjusting to a new environment can be a bit overwhelming. As a way to prepare and introduce new families to SJB, many years ago we implemented the Buddy Family Program. This program pairs up a new family with one that is already established at St. John's. Ideally, the Buddy Family has a child of the same gender and in the same grade as the new student. It really has helped bridge the gap for new families because the Buddy Family answers questions, introduces them to other SJB families, and helps them prepare for school.

The main job of the Buddy Family is to be welcoming and answer questions. Here are some additional ideas on how you can welcome a new family to SJB.

1. Contact your Buddy Family within 2 weeks of your notification to introduce yourself and answer any questions.
2. Arrange a social get-together so that your families can meet face-to-face.
3. After the school packets are received in the summer, call to confirm that they received theirs. Make sure your Buddy Family understands the paperwork and answer any questions. Promote the community spirit at SJB by suggesting your Buddy Family sign-up for volunteer opportunities listed in this packet – maybe recommend that you both volunteer for the same events.
4. Within 2 weeks of school beginning, contact your Buddy Family to be sure they are prepared for the first day of school.
5. Try to attend the Buddy Family Picnic on Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
6. Stay in touch the first week of school and answer any questions.
7. At Back to School Night, make an effort to introduce them to other parents (especially those in the same class/classes as their children).
8. Prior to any social or fundraising event, contact your Buddy Family and encourage them to participate.

If you would be interested in becoming a Buddy Family, please provide your information below. Questions? Contact Hilary Lappin (Ava 1<sup>st</sup>, Colin 3<sup>rd</sup>) at [hilarylappin@gmail.com](mailto:hilarylappin@gmail.com) or (202) 368-8284.

*Note that we typically need most if not ALL existing SJB families with an incoming kindergartner to make this program a success!*

***Yes!*** I would love to welcome new families to SJB as a Buddy Family Volunteer

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Desired grade:**

**Gender:**