



August 18, 2022

Dear SJB Families,

St. John the Baptist Catholic School is turning 60!

Cardinal Gregory will honor SJB for this milestone during a Mass for Catholic schools at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Monday. We hope that you will say a prayer for our school, teachers, students, and families. We pray in gratitude for the blessing of Catholic education and ask for the Holy Spirit's continued presence and guidance.

Our theme for the 2022-23 school year is *We Bring Peace to the World*. During a time of considerable conflict and division, our students will explore what it means to be a peacemaker.

Here is the plan to start the 2022-23 school year at St. John the Baptist.

### School Hours

Full Day	8 am to 3 pm
Half Day	8 am to 12 noon
Full Day After Care	3 pm to 6 pm
Half Day After Care	12 noon to 4 pm
Morning Care	7 am to 7:55 am

**The First Day of School...** is Monday, August 29. It is a full day for K-8. After Care begins at 3 pm. It is a half-day for preschool with no After Care. Morning Care begins at 7 am in the room across from the school office.

**Drop-Off K-8** – Parents drop off their children in the main parking lot along the

gold line from 7:45 to 8:00. Children wait outside with their classmates outside their classroom doors. At 7:55, the doors to the classroom open for children to go inside. School begins at 8:00.

**Pick-Up K-8** – Parents pick up their children at 2:55. Parents may line up their cars before 2:50 in the main lot. Parents should remember to hang their parking permits from their rear-view mirrors with numbers facing out. A staff member enters the permit number, and the family name appears on the carpool board in each classroom to indicate which students go out for first pick-up round. Teachers bring remaining students for subsequent rounds. Permit numbers are not entered for those rounds.

**Pick-Up on Half-Days...** Same procedure but with dismissal at 11:55 am.

**Drop-Off Preschool** – Parents walk their children from the preschool lot to the preschool classroom at 8:00. Siblings may walk from preschool to their K-8 classrooms at 7:45 am.

**Pick-Up Preschool** – Parents use the preschool parking lot for pick-up at 2:45. A teacher brings siblings of preschool students to the preschool for pickup.



**Save Your Permits!** New parents will get them at the New Family Orientation. Returning families should call the office at 301-622-3076 for replacements.

*For the first week of school, new families may park along the fence to White Oak Middle School and walk with their children along the side of the parking lot to the school.*



## For more information...

- [Drop-off and pick-up page](#)
- [Drop-off and pick-up video](#)
- [Mid-Summer Letter](#)
- [Mid-Summer Memo](#)
- [Printable Calendar](#)
- [Parent Handbook](#)

**Lunch...** 11:30-11:50 Grades K-4  
11:50-12:10 Grades 5-8

Parents may send their child with a bag lunch or order from [Main & Market](#), which begins lunch deliveries on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Parents delivering a forgotten lunch should mark their child's name and grade on the bag and place it on the table outside the school office. Students without lunches will check the table before lunchtime.

**Water...** Students may have bottles with water only during school.

During lunch, students may have water or a sports drink or juice.

**End of Milk...** Milk delivery has been cancelled. The deliverer informed the school that there are not enough daily orders to make delivery worthwhile.

**No Need for PE Uniforms in Week One...** See the [uniform page](#) to find out which day your child should come to school wearing a PE uniform.

## Annual Survey Letter

Dear SJB Families,

We are asking for your participation in our annual family survey, which helps our school secure state and federal grant money for educational programs, technology, textbooks, and building improvements. Please complete the confidential survey -- just one per family -- and include grade levels for all of your children at SJB.

### There are two ways to access the survey:

1. Click on the survey link in the email sent today, August 18.
2. Log into the parent portal.

### How to log into the parent portal – a reminder:

- go to the [school website](#)
- select "sign in"
- enter email address that you use to log into TADS

Once you are in the portal, click on *Forms* in the burgundy bar and the survey will come up. Only address and grade level are shared with the Catholic Schools Office to determine funding for our school. We are seeking 100 percent cooperation for the benefit of our students. Thank you for your cooperation and support for your child's school.

Brian Blomquist  
Principal

## Interested in Volunteering?

- Fill out the [volunteer interest survey](#).
- Read the [volunteer flyer](#) by the Home School Association.
- Go to the SJB [volunteer page](#).
- Come to the community-volunteer courtyard reception at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Sept. 1.



*For the latest information on dates and activities, see the [SJB Online Calendar](#)  
Calendar Notes*

- *Wednesday, Aug. 24 - Preschool Open House & Orientation - 5-6 pm*
- *Wednesday, Aug. 24 - Middle School Orientation – 6-7 pm*
- *Wednesday, Aug. 24 - New Family Orientation K-8 – 7-8 pm in Library*
- *Thursday, Aug. 25 - Kindergarten Open House – 11 am to noon*
- *Wednesday-Friday, Aug. 24-26 - School Store - 10 am to 3 pm*
- *Thursday, Sept. 1 - Back to School Night K-8 – Courtyard Reception 6:30 pm*
- *Friday, Sept. 2 - Half Day – 12 noon Dismissal – After Care noon to 4 pm*
- *First Week Preschool – Noon Dismissal – No After Care except for Friday*
- *Monday, Sept. 5 - Labor Day Holiday – no school*
- *Friday, Sept. 9 - [Back to School Barbecue](#) -- 6 pm – SJB Field*
- *Monday, Sept. 19 - [After-School Chess](#) Begins - 3-4 pm in room across from office*
- *Thursday, Sept. 22 - [Portrait Day](#)*

**Health & Safety Protocols...** It is a parent's responsibility to keep a sick child home. If a student has symptoms at school, the school isolates the child until the parent picks up the child. There are no morning temperature screenings or 3-foot distancing requirements, and masks are optional. Parents may send their child to school with a mask. Teachers remind children to wash their hands and wipe down desks. Five-day isolation from school is required for any student or staff member who tests positive for Covid-19. Parents should notify the school of a child's positive result. The school notifies class families of a positive case. Contact tracing is done individually. The school continues to consult with the Montgomery County health department, SJB's delegating nurse and consulting pediatrician, and the health advisers of the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington.

**After Care...** moves from Kindergarten and the Art Room to the Lyon Center. Here is the [After Care Sign-Up Form](#). See the [After Care page](#) for more information including the [After Care contract](#).

**New Faculty Information** went out in the [Mid-Summer Letter](#). There's been a staff change since then. Ms. Chaney has accepted a teaching position closer to home. SJB sends prayers to Ms. Chaney.

**SJB welcomes Mrs. Tracy McGowan** as new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher this school year.

Mrs. McGowan has taught at SJB before, in both upper grades and lower grades including the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Last year, Mrs. McGowan helped in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and other grades, as a classroom aide. Mrs. McGowan has an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master's Degree in Developmental Reading from Loyola University of Maryland. When she's not busy raising her two teenage sons, Mrs. McGowan likes to read, play tennis and walk her rescue dogs, Penny and Chance. We are pleased to have Mrs. McGowan as 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at SJB. We pray for her and her family.