



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST | NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER – 2020

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

With the increase in new Covid-19 cases in Montgomery County, the school is preparing for an order from the state or county to change to all-distance learning. We would prefer to continue with the plan we've started, but we are confident that, if we must adjust, we will shift smoothly and continue to deliver a high-quality education to your children. The school planned a distance-learning option over the summer, and teachers already are preparing for the all-virtual week after Thanksgiving.

To help us in our preparation, we ask parents of in-school learners to please send your child to school with a reusable shopping bag capable of hauling all of your child's books and materials in the event that we have to close the facility and shift to distance learning.

In preparation for the after-Thanksgiving virtual week, we will send home books and worksheets on Friday, Nov. 20. We will alert everyone if we need to do this sooner. Very soon you will see your child's daily schedule posted on the parent portal, and teachers will send a hardcopy of the schedule home with in-person learners before virtual learning begins. The virtual school daily schedule will be the same as the current daily schedule, which is familiar to your children.



Fall Assessments

The [fall-to-fall report](#) compares percentiles of each grade (e.g., fall 2019 national percentiles of 3rd graders were compared to fall 2020 national percentiles of 4th graders.) The assessment page also has results of the last full year of assessment: 2018-19.



Upcoming Calendar Dates

- **Wed Nov 11: No School (Veteran's Day)**
- Thu Nov 13: 8th grade fundraiser ends!
- Nov 23–24: Parent-teacher conferences
- Nov 23–27: No school
- Nov 30–Dec 4: Distance-learning (all)



Next School Board Meeting: Monday, December 14. Save the date! If you have questions, please submit them on [this online form](#).

School Advisory Board/ HSA

Meeting Highlights – November 9, 2020

The monthly meeting of the School Advisory Board/Home School Association was held on Monday night.

Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Board Meeting Updates

- The HSA Charleston Wrap Fundraiser was a success! Mrs. Fitzgerald noted that in future years, it would be important to coordinate/plan out fundraisers to not overlap.
- Other fundraising/community planning events are in progress, including something for December (in lieu of not having Breakfast with Santa).
- The board asked for feedback on how the Principal's Note and general communication is working in the school. Give feedback through the HSA question form.

Faculty Report/ Open Forum / Questions From Families

- Teachers are preparing for the all-virtual week after Thanksgiving. The goal is to provide families with information and materials about the week before the Thanksgiving break.
- In response to questions submitted before the meeting:
- The school will look for ways to integrate music into classes.
- The school will consider gradually adding K-3 Spanish instruction.
- The school will consider assessing students in grades 1-3 in *social development and work habits* on the 2nd quarter report card.
- SJB will consider increasing guidance counseling for entire classes specifically about pandemic-related anxiety.
- Mr. Blomquist recently posted Fall Assessment scores by grade to the [SJB website](#) noting that, while of course COVID-19 has affected learning, since the fall of 2019 SJB students have showed greater growth than their peers in math and reading.



Support the Eighth Grade Fundraiser! To buy wreaths, go to [Giftitforward.com](#) and use code [STJOHNMD005](#). Referral names: Colleen Ionata or Kristine Ribas. Order deadline is Nov. 13. Proceeds go toward graduation activities. For more information, go to [Gold Folder](#).



Charleston Wrap Fundraiser: Thank you to all the SJB families and faculty who supported the HSA by promoting and purchasing items from our Charleston Wrap fundraiser. After not having this fundraiser for a few years, we didn't know how much success we would have, so we are very happy to report that we raised **over \$2,100!** HSA fundraisers support SJB students. We are able to use these funds for school improvements, such as educational materials, playground equipment, IT technologies/upgrades, and student tuition aid. Every little bit helps—thank you all!

Please Remember to Apply for Archdiocesan Tuition Assistance in TADS

Go into your TADS account and select financial assistance. Awards announced in March. It's policy: families must apply for Archdiocesan assistance to be considered for parish assistance in the spring.

Ideas, thoughts, feedback about communications?

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