



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST | JANUARY NEWSLETTER – 2021

JANUARY 13, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

We hope that you will help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week Feb. 1-4. Together we opened SJB school, and we've kept our school going with the support, teamwork, and unity of our families and staff. Father David will preside over a special Mass for our school at 11 am on Wednesday, Feb. 3. Here's the Mass [livestream link](#). We'll share more plans to celebrate our Catholic school on the [Gold Folder page](#).

Reminder: There's no school Friday or Monday -- [SJB online calendar](#)

Thank you, families, for registering your children on TADS. Registration lets the school plan its budget, staff, and schedule for the next school year.



Yearbook Postings Due: Jan 14!

Are you interested in congratulating a future graduate, promoting your business, or leaving behind a special message to appear in the yearbook? Full (\$50) and half page (\$25) ads can be purchased and designed online through Jostens and will appear in the back section of our 2020-2021 yearbook. Click here for the [catalogue](#). Questions? Contact Mrs. Leishear at Chrissy.Leishear@SJBSilverSpring.org.



Upcoming Calendar Dates

- Monday Jan 11: Re-registration begins for Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Friday Jan 15: No School
- Monday Jan 18: No School - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Tuesday Jan 19: Opt-in takes effect
- Jan 31 to Feb 6: Catholic Schools Week
- Monday Feb 1: Open House for New Families 9-10 am ([Invitation Link](#))



Next School Board Meeting: Monday, Feb 8 You may submit questions on [this form](#).

School Advisory Board/ HSA

Meeting Highlights – January 11, 2021

The School Advisory Board/Home School Association held their monthly meeting at 6pm yesterday evening. Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Board Meeting Updates

- The school and parents are thinking about ways to make Catholic Schools Week a success. There was discussion about having students and others share their SJB-Catholic school experiences in narrative or video.
- Mrs. Irwin, on behalf of the SJB teachers, thanked the SJB families for their generosity at Christmas. Thank you from all the SJB faculty!
- SJB is still waiting for Chromebooks to arrive.
- SJB allows sweatpants and sweatshirts so that students can dress warm for school.

Open Forum Questions & Responses by Mr. Blomquist

- If the Archdiocese decides to close schools for inclement weather, SJB will follow Archdiocesan policy and close for safety. The school will notify and prepare teachers and families if there's a change.
- Mr. Blomquist shared the homework survey results, which showed support for a limited homework increase among 62 percent of 5-8 families and 55 percent of K-4 families. The school is considering an allowance of limited homework for the 3rd quarter.
- There were questions about providing more PE opportunities for distant learners, something the school is looking into.
- SJB students in four upper grades have had teacher-guided discussions about recent events at the Capitol. SJB teachers have a framework for guiding students through hard conversations.
- Mrs. May, SJB guidance counselor, is planning meetings with students to talk about fears, anxieties, and feelings related to the pandemic, school pressures, and current events. If you are interested in having your child join a guidance group, send an email with your child's name and grade to doreen.may@sjbsilverspring.org.



- ▶ **School Pictures Flyer** You can still order pictures from the Fall Portraits. Check out the [flyer](#) for details.



- ▶ **School Directory Accessible on Portal App:** Did you know that you can access the directory by staff, student or parent on the *Parent Plus* app on your phones? Look for the app to download!

Did You Know? Amazon Smile can be a way to support the school? You can designate *Saint John the Baptist School in Silver Spring* as the organization that benefits from your Amazon purchases.

Ideas, thoughts, feedback about communications?
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