



# St. John Catholic School

405 E. North Street Jackson, MI 49202  
(517) 784-1714

Dear St. John School Families,

Welcome back, SJS families! We are thrilled to have the families of twelve new students in kindergarten through the sixth grade, and a number of new preschoolers join us for the 2018-2019 school year. We also welcome several new staff member to our St. John School family:

It's been another busy summer at SJS. In addition to the usual cleaning and polishing that is done each year, old flooring and asbestos removal has taken place in two of preschool enrichment rooms and in Dr. Heller's new music room in the south hall with new flooring all waxed and ready to go; the front circle driveway and parking lot behind the school have been repaved (Grateful to our parish Witness to Hope donors for funding this much needed project!); a new projector and interactive whiteboard are being installed in room 121 – our second 5<sup>th</sup> grade class; a new set of iPads has been ordered with Race for Education money; and we are firming up hiring for our fifth and first grade openings.

On the Diocesan level, Sean Costello, Superintendent of Schools, has resigned from this position. He will continue his training to be a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church and will be serving in the Flint area. Tom Maloney, former president of Lansing Catholic High School, has been appointed our new superintendent. Please pray for Tom and his staff, that God will bless and guide their efforts to lead our schools.

New teachers and staff:

**Mrs. Erin Trudell** joins **Mrs. Vicki James** to teach our fifth graders this year. Erin received her Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and has taught at the college level. She has also worked as an aide in our preschool program and as a volunteer in other classrooms. **Mrs. Kay Francey** will be acting as a mentor for the first few weeks to assist with the opening of the classroom.

**Mrs. Kathie Sutton** taught first grade here at SJS and she taught in the Napoleon School District for many years. Kathie has agreed to open our first grade classroom for us this year, and will remain with us full- or part-time as needed throughout the school year. We are grateful to Mrs. Sutton for her willingness to share her gifts, talents and wealth of experience with our first graders!

In addition to the new teachers, we have a support staff change. We are sorry to report that **Erin Layne's** family is relocating to Missouri. We wish them well in this new chapter of their lives. **Jeana Okoniewski** is moving to the morning M,W,F preschool aide spot, and **Angie Root** has accepted the afternoon aide spot for that class. **Wendy Risner**, will continue as the aide with Marla Krueger on T,Th mornings with the preschool 3s, and then move to the other end of the hall to provide additional aide support for Dana Farley's group.

**Carrie Stadelman** will continue with as coordinator of our TRIP program. She and husband, John, will welcome a new addition to their family in January.

**Race for Education** money is being used to purchase a new set of 30 iPads, as well as cases, apps and upgrades to help us effectively manage our use of technology in the classroom and in the technology lab. We are so incredibly **grateful for those fundraising efforts** that allow us to continue to make improvements to our school programs.

Our **Back-to-School Family Open House** is scheduled for **Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**, from 6:00 to 7:00. School and parish families are all welcome to attend. This evening provides an opportunity for old and new friends to gather, to check out the classrooms and school areas, to meet the teachers and school staff, and to enjoy some time together. The Lumen Christi Spirit Team will be here selling spirit wear, and representatives from Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, CP Credit Union, Britches and Bows, Jackson District Library, TRIP, SJS Latchkey, our hot lunch program and our St. John PTO group will be on hand as well.

St. John PTO invites you to join us at our second annual **Boo-Hoo Breakfast! Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**. Join St. John's PTO in the parking lot for coffee and donuts as you drop your children off for their first day of school. Share summer vacation stories, commiserate over how fast your kids are growing up, and learn about how to get involved at St. John's School! **K-105.3** will be broadcasting their **Schools Rule** morning show from our school parking lot that morning.

**Parent Information Night** ~ Please mark your calendars for this very important Parent Information Night. This **parents-only meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30**. We begin in the **school gym** for general information at 6:30. Following this, parents will move to the classrooms for a short informational presentation by the teachers.

**Fall Festival Raffle Tickets** – This year, each school family will be mailed **one book of general raffle tickets** to sell. Tuition vouchers (\$500 amount) will be among the prizes rather than a separate raffle again this year. Additional tickets will be available at the school. The proceeds of this raffle benefit our area Catholic Schools.

**Fall Festival** – St. John Parish and School will be in charge of the Taco/Nacho Booth at the 2018 Family Fall Festival, September 14th through 16th. Adult volunteers are needed to make and serve walking tacos, fish tacos, nachos and drinks during the weekend of the festival. Please sign up online to work a shift using the link below or call Kristi Blair at the school office at 784-1714. We had a great work crew last year, and we look forward to our second year. On the job training will be provided.

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090A4EAF92EA13-fall](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090A4EAF92EA13-fall)

**Help Needed:** Please contact Mrs. Blair at 784-1714, extension 202, for more information. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit for the following paid positions, please pass along the info:

#### **Recess/Lunch Supervisor**

- Supervise students on the playground and in the lunchroom
  - between 10:50 and 12:20 each day or
  - between 11:00 and 12:00 each day.
- Work with administrator, other supervisors and teachers to maintain a safe environment for recess and lunchtime activities.

#### **Dismissal Supervisor**

- Work with administrator to supervise and help maintain a safe environment for students during the time of school dismissal from 3:10 – 3:40 on full days of school, and 11:30 – 12:00 on half days.

The next several pages contain important information as your family prepares for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 784-1714 ext. 202. I'll do what I can to help.

Whether your ties to our school family are relatively new or span many years, please know that you are a valuable part of our very special St. John School family. Looking forward to another great year!

Blessings,

*Mrs. Kristi Blair*

**Monday, August 6**

School office officially opens. Office hours ~ 9:00 to 2:00.

**Monday, August 20**



**Back-to-School Family Open House** (6:00 – 7:00)

Join us for a fun, informal way to kick off the school year. Get reacquainted with old friends and meet new friends. Find out ways you can be involved in our school family. Meet your child's teacher and take a look around our building. Pick up your Fall Festival tickets. Feel free to invite relatives and friends!

Representatives will be on hand from: St. John PTO, TRIP, SJS lunch program, Latchkey, CP Federal Credit Union, Britches and Bows, Jackson District Library, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, and LC spirit wear.

**Tuesday, August 21**

First half-day of school for **K through 6 only**.

Half-day schedule is 8:10 – 11:45.

NO JPS BUSES! LC Buses will transport between schools.

**Out of uniform day!** Please follow guidelines in the parent handbook or on our website at [www.jcsstjohn.org](http://www.jcsstjohn.org) for dress-down days.

Lunch envelopes will be sent home for the week.

**Wednesday, August 22**

First full day of school. **(K-6 only.)**

NO JPS BUSES at dismissal today!

**First day to wear uniforms.** Please follow dress code guidelines found in the parent handbook or on our website at [www.jcsstjohn.org](http://www.jcsstjohn.org)

Full day schedule is 8:10 – 3:20.

Latchkey begins – both a.m. and p.m. Child Care begins.

Cafeteria opens. Hot lunch available.

**Wednesday 6:30 p.m. ~ IMPORTANT PARENTS-ONLY MEETING (Preschool thru 6th) ~ GYM**



6:30 pm

7:00 pm

General meeting in the gym.

Meeting in your child's classroom.

Teachers will give a brief overview of their program, and will have a handout for parents. If you have more than one child in the school, parents may want to split up during this time. Please be sure to pick up a handout from each child's teacher.

**Thursday, August 23**

Full day of school. **(K-6 only.)**

**Friday, August 24**

Full day of school. **(K-6 only.)**

**First Children's Mass – 9:00 in the church.**

Please join us today or any Friday for a wonderfully uplifting celebration of the Mass.

**Mon., August 27 thru  
Thurs., August 30**

Full days of school. **(K-6 only.)**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND** No school – Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 3.  
Enjoy a safe and happy four-day weekend!

**Tuesday, September 4**

School resumes – full day.

**First day of school for our preschool 3 year olds!  
(Preschool 3s come from 8:10 – 11:00.)**

**Wednesday, September 5**

**First day of school for our preschool 4/young 5 children!  
(8:10 – 3:10 / Please bring a packed lunch and drink.)**

**Friday, September 7**

**Children's Mass and Adoration**

## ST. JOHN SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF:



Preschool Aides	Mrs. Marla Krueger Mrs. Jeana Okoniewski, Mrs. Wendy Risner, Mrs. Angie Root		
Preschool Enrichment Aides	Mrs. Dana Farley Mrs. Ashley Ruge, Mrs. Wendy Risner, Mrs. Dru Densmore		
Kindergarten Kindergarten Aides	Mrs. Kathy Robinson and Mrs. Karen Barrett Mrs. Kathy Kryst, Mrs. Michelle Willett, Mrs. Nikki Rhinehart		
First Grade	Mrs. Kathie Sutton		
Second Grade	Mrs. Angela Fitzpatrick		
Third Grade	Mrs. Tara Brady Mrs. Colleen Panici		
Fourth Grade	Mrs. Kristie Wasick		
Fifth Grade	Mrs. Vicki James Mrs. Erin Trudell Mrs. Kay Francey		
Sixth Grade	Mrs. Betsy Saunders		
Teacher Aide	Mrs. Nancy Osterberg		
Latchkey and Early Childhood Program Coordinator	Mrs. Dru Densmore		
Latchkey Assistants	Ms. Tonya Clemons, Ms. Ann Marie Raetz, Mrs. Theresa Zenz		
Reading Specialist	Mrs. Terrie Wright	Art	Mrs. Cyndi Brinker
Title 1 Services	Miss Judy Smith	Music	Dr. Lisa Heller
Technology	Ms. Antoinette LaCinski	Library	Mrs. Jacki Staudacher
Physical Education	Mr. Shane Brogan	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	Mr. John Kivel
Spanish	Mrs. Jill Fletcher	Math Support Instructor	Mrs. Jacki Staudacher
Principal	Mrs. Kristi Blair		
Office Support Staff	Mrs. Karen Guerin and Mrs. Tammy Klavon		
Fundraising Coordinator	Mrs. Val Doane		
Director of Faith Formation	Mr. Todd Gale		
School Counselor	Mr. Marshall Hesslau		
Cafeteria Manager	Mrs. Amy Kaiser		
TRIP Coordinator	Mrs. Carrie Stadelman		

Maintenance	Mr. Larry Brown, Mr. Dennis Mullen, Mr. Benny Grajewski
Morning Supervisors	Mrs. Angie VanDam and Ms. Helen Bulinski
Playground and/or Lunch Supervisors	Mr. Dennis Mullen, Mrs. Jane Smith, Mrs. Heather Shaughnessy Mr. Bradley Jackson, Mr. Marshall Hesslau, <i>help needed</i>

### Information at a Glance

**Parking Lot Drop-off Procedures:** All parents are asked to enter the school driveway from North Street both at arrival and dismissal times. **Parents who drop off preschoolers** will be routed through the staff parking area to the east-west lanes on the playground. We ask that you park your car and walk your child to the east entrance near the office. Preschool students may arrive no earlier than 8:00. Overflow parking is available to the left of the traffic lane past the playground equipment. All other parents are asked to pull as far forward in the traffic lane as possible **to the first set of orange cones near the east sidewalk** before stopping to have your child(ren) exit the car from the passenger side. This helps to keep traffic from bottleneaking at the driveway entrance and to prevent preschool traffic from being stuck. Morning traffic is one-way and exits to Leroy Street.

If you need to come into the building **at arrival** any day, please park in the overflow lot located to the left of the traffic lane beyond the playground area. Please do not park in the staff lot in the morning. We need to keep these spots open for preschool drop-off.

**Parking Lot Dismissal Procedures:** At dismissal, all traffic enters from and exits to North Street. Parents who are picking up only preschoolers may park in the empty spaces along the North Street fence area or in the east-west parking lanes, and enter the building through the east entrance near the office to sign preschoolers out of the classroom. Parents who are picking up K-6 students will follow the flow of traffic to park in the parking lanes facing the playground. It is extremely important that parents fill in the lanes from the south end of the lot near the basketball hoops with three to four cars per lane. This helps to minimize moving traffic where and when the students are dismissed. Parents are asked to come up to the building to meet your child(ren) and to escort them safely to your vehicle. Students will be waiting in the "cone zone" south of the middle entrance doors for you to come get them. We ask you to exercise extreme caution and friendly courtesy during dismissal time.

If you need to come into the building **at dismissal** any day, please make an effort to park at the end of a row of cars so that there are no cars parked in behind you. Please do not park in the teachers' lot along the north end of the building on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays in order to allow space for parents of preschoolers to park.

If you and your child(ren) choose to remain to play on the playground after school, **please wait until the lot has cleared before accompanying your child(ren) to the play area.** Children may not play after school without an adult.

**Parking Lot Supervision** – To ensure the safety of our children, students must have adult supervision on our parking lot. The morning parking lot supervisors will be on duty beginning at 7:50 each morning. Any student who is dropped off prior to 7:50 will be taken to Latch Key, and the parents will be charged a daily rate. Our after school parking lot supervisors will be on duty until 3:35 each full day. Any student who is still waiting for a ride at that time will be taken to Latch Key, and the parents will be charged a daily rate.

**Latch Key News** – The first day of Latch Key for both the morning and afternoon programs will be Wednesday, August 22. Those families who are currently registered with our Latch Key program will be receiving additional information in a separate August mailing. Those of you who are interested in registering your child with Latch Key or those with any questions, please contact Dru Densmore at (517)784-1714 extension 100.

\*\*\*Please contact Mrs. Dru Densmore, (517)784-1714 ext. 100, for Latch Key rate information.\*\*\*

**Bussing** – The JPS bus route schedule is usually published in the Jackson Citizen Patriot. You will also be able to access this information on-line at [www.jpsk12.org/domain/21](http://www.jpsk12.org/domain/21) in the near future. Contact JPS Transportation at 517-841-2180 for more information. Lumen Christi bus information is available at [www.jcslumenchristi.org](http://www.jcslumenchristi.org) or by calling Lumen Christi at (517) 787-0630.

**School Supplies** – You may view the supply list at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/dress-code--supply-list.html>

**Parent Handbook** – You may access the 2018-2019 St. John School parent handbook online at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/handbook.html>. Print copies will be available for pick up at our Parent Information Night on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dress Code** – You may view the dress code at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/dress-code--supply-list.html>. Preschoolers do not wear uniforms; students in kindergarten through sixth grade do follow this dress code. A locally owned business called Britches and Bows, located at 1212 Wildwood Ave, Suite A in the small shopping center west of the intersection of N. Wisner and Wildwood near the old Shaw's Furniture building, carries our uniform plaid jumpers (K-3) and skirts (K-6). Sear's, Target, Land's End and other local stores carry pants, shorts, skirts and shirts that conform to our dress code. Our St. John PTO will offer the opportunity to order St. John shirts, sweatshirts and zippered fleece early in the school year. Order information will be made available at that time. We also have an assortment of used uniform clothing here at the school. You are welcome to arrange a time to come in and take a look. A plain, solid color belt is suggested, but not required, for all K-6 students. Magnetic closure belts may be an easier option for our younger students. These are available for purchase at Britches and Bows in Jackson. Please label all clothing.

**Britches and Bows Uniforms** – Visit Karen Lewan at Britches and Bows (1212 Wildwood Ave, Suite A) for your uniform needs. If they don't have the size you need in stock, they are able to get them in three days. Karen will have a table at our August 20<sup>th</sup> Open House, or call her at (517) 782-8046.

**Used Uniform Sale** – Gently-used uniform clothing is for sale on racks in our school breezeway. If you would like to sell any gently-used uniform clothing, please write your child's name and price on an envelope and pin it to each item. Hang the clothing on hangers, and drop them off in our school office so that we may ensure that clothing adheres to our school dress code. Feel free to "shop" our used clothing sale. If you would like to make a purchase, place the money in the envelope and turn it into the office. We'll pass the money along to the seller.

**Hot Lunch Program** – The monthly lunch menu accompanies the school newsletter or may be viewed on our school website at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/lunch.html>. Envelopes are distributed in the classrooms on Thursdays. We ask parents to return a lunch envelope with money for weekly lunch purchase on Friday for the following week. Additional funds may be added to the account at any time. This process helps eliminate daily money handling. Lunch balances may be viewed on PowerSchool. Hot lunch is \$3.00. Doubles - \$1.00. Milk – 2% white or chocolate - 50¢. Bottled water - 50¢.

**Free and Reduced Lunch Assistance Benefits Our School!** – The federal government provides assistance to families who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Application forms will be available at both the Family Open House and Parent-Only Meeting, are on hand in our school office and available for download on our website at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/lunch.html>. The application process and all information is completely confidential, and qualifying students use the same process for lunch purchase as everyone else so it's all very discreetly handled.

Mrs. Kaiser receives federal money for each student who qualifies, to help supplement our hot lunch program. In addition to this, **Title 1 funding**, which provides reading and math assistance for some of our students, is also affected by the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. I encourage you to take advantage of this beneficial program.

**Preschool 4s Lunch** – Our preschool 4s will be bringing a packed lunch and drink to school each day. They will be eating in the classroom. For the time being, they will NOT be able to purchase a hot lunch.

**Weekly Newsletters** – A link to our weekly school newsletter will be sent to you electronically on Thursday of each week so that you may view the newsletter on our school website at <http://www.jcsstjohn.org/newsletter-calendars.html>. If you prefer, you may call our school office at 784-1714 to request a paper copy that will be sent home with your oldest child on Thursday. (Preschool 4s/Young 5s will take home this information on Fridays.)

**Facebook** – St. John Elementary School is on Facebook. Check us out!

### **Information Links:**

St. John School Website – <http://jcsstjohn.org>

