



November 24, 2021

Dear SJA Families,

It was wonderful to see the Grandparents in our Church last Friday. I am not sure who was more excited, the students or their grandparents. Smiles, pride and joy was shared by all. If you were not able to join us, use this link to watch the festivities.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE_2giKU0NCDUGLdvuuz5rg



I know that we are all looking forward to the holiday season and a nice break. But as the holidays approach and we gather with our families and communities, please stay safe and healthy. Continue to keep students home, who are not feeling well, and thank you for cooperating with our guidelines. Remember that if your child misses school for illness, a doctor's note or negative PCR is required for return to school. Please also take note of the International Travel Guidelines that have been updated and are attached.

The faculty and staff of St. Joan of Arc wish all of a wonder Thanksgiving holiday.

God Bless,
Ms. Dianne Kestler
Principal

Important Dates

November 29	School reopens
December 1	High School Placement Test – grade 8
December 6	Report Cards sent home
December 8	8:30am Liturgy – Immaculate Conception
December 9	Christmas Programs 2:00pm and 6:30pm
December 14	8:30am Liturgy – Awards Assembly
December 15	Jingle Bell Shoppe
December 17	2:00pm Living Nativity
December 20 – 31	Christmas Break

Important Information

Uniform Policy

Please be sure that your student is in proper uniform. Numerous reminders have been sent home about what should be worn to school. We are noticing numerous hair violations and hope that the days off will give everyone time to be in compliance. You may refer to the handbook or contact the office with questions.

From our Handbook:

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. We expect students to maintain the type of neatness and grooming that does not interfere with the health and safety of themselves or others, nor with the educational process or religious dimension of the school. All uniforms must be clean, in good repair and properly fitted. All clothing must be labeled with the child's name.

Girls

- No extreme hairstyles. Bangs above the eyebrows. (The School reserves the right to determine what constitutes an “extreme style”)

Boys

- No extreme hairstyles; hair may not extend below top edge of shirt collar; bangs should be above the eyebrows.
(The School reserves the right to determine what constitutes an “extreme style”)

Christmas Programs – Mark your calendar! December 9

Christmas Programs will be held differently this year due to COVID and our concern for keeping everyone safe and healthy for the holidays. Please be aware that our plans may need to be altered if positivity rates change in the next few weeks. The number of guests per student may have to be limited. The plan is to have 2 programs, each held in the church on December 9. Grades PreK, K, 1, and 2 will perform at 2:00pm and grades 3 – 7 will perform at 6:30pm. Both programs will be live streamed.

Script Program

Do you want to save money on your tuition for next year? Buy gift cards at face value through: shopwithscrip.com enrollment code: A9C13C7351446

Choose from hundreds of retailers (Target, Amazon, Royal Farms, Disney, American Girl etc). Save money on every day purchases, like gas, groceries, gifts, travel etc. Buy at face value and you get a certain percentage back. You get half towards tuition and the school gets half. For example: If you buy \$100 shop rite gift card, there is a 4% rebate. You get \$2 towards tuition; the school receives \$2. Plastic gift cards will be sent to the school. Plastic Gift Card Orders will be placed on the 15th of every month. Some retailers offer e-gift cards (download and print or scan from your phone) that can be used right away. Last year multiple families saved \$400 off their tuition! Thanksgiving Day is November 18-19. Higher rebate bonuses will be offered on certain brands on these days only. Any questions please contact Meg Whitehead: hpucup9@hotmail.com

Weather Related Closings

St. Joan of Arc follows the same procedures for closing and delays as does Harford County Public School Systems.

Grant and Financial Aid for 2022 -2023

2022-2023 Grant & Aid Applications will be opened on November 1, 2021. Please be sure to complete your application early.

SJA Masks

Adult and student size SJA masks are available for sale in the school office for \$5. Please send a check or cash in an envelope with your student name and size.

STEM

The 2021 Maryland STEM Festival is in the books! You can extend your 2021 Festival experience by watching the recordings of our virtual events.

[Steve Spangler Live](#) - The STEM Superstar brought his unique award winning experiments to the Maryland STEM Festival

[Mental Health Research](#) - A panel of experts assembled by National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Maryland, discuss their careers in mental health and what drew them to this field.

[STEM of Many Colors Conversation](#) - STEM Professionals from minority communities discuss what they do and encourage students from their communities to follow STEM career paths. Speakers from Google, Merck Animal Health, JHU-APL, US Army and more

Parish News

Advent Breakfast – Sunday, November 28

Breakfast will start at 9 AM and go until 11 AM downstairs in the Church Hall, so stay late after 8:30 Mass or come early for 11:15 Mass! Tickets will be available at the door - cash or checks only so come prepared: Adults \$7; Children (10 and under) \$4; \$25 for a family ticket.

Come Join the Parade!

On Saturday, December 4th Aberdeen will hold its 44th Christmas Street Celebration and St. Joan of Arc will be participating in the parade! We invite you to not just be a spectator but walk with us and help increase the visibility and presence of our wonderful Parish and School in the larger community!

All families and parishioners of all ages are welcome to attend. To walk with us just come to the parade line up and find us, 2-2:45 on Law St. (from W.Bel Air Ave – Robinson)

The theme of the celebration this year is "Whoville."

Donations of lollipops are needed for our float. Please send in to the school beginning November 29.

The Giving Tree!

Our 'Giving Tree' will be set up in the Church Narthex from November 26 to December 11th. We invite you to take a tag from the tree and then buy and gift wrap the gifts listed and return them (with the card attached) to the parish no later than December 12th. Head Start will then distribute them to families in need.

Alternatively, or in addition, you may choose to make a monetary donation via our Offertory Box, or online via GiveCentral.org (see below)

For further information and links, please visit our website at www.stjoanarc.org



Travel Guidance Reminder

As we move into the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, many will be traveling to visit family and for vacations. Please accept the following as a reminder relative to the requirements related to COVID-19 protocols upon return for those traveling.

Domestic Travel:

Currently there are no specific restrictions, testing or quarantine requirements relative to domestic travel being required by the CDC or the State of Maryland. If your school has implemented a more restrictive policy relative to domestic travel, a reminder of such policy is to be shared with your families as soon as possible. Domestic travel includes travel to any destination within the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and all United States possessions and territories.

International Travel:

For those planning international travel, you are referred to the guidance offered by the CDC regarding preparations for and returning from international travel. Please carefully review the following webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

Specifically with regard to returning from international travel, you are referred to the section on the above referenced webpage entitled “**After Arrival in the United States**”. Those returning from international travel are expected to comply with the following guidance issued by the CDC:

ALL Travelers

- Get tested with a COVID-19 [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel.
- Self-monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#); [isolate](#) and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements after travel.

If the traveler is not fully vaccinated, in addition to the testing guidance above the individual must comply with the following requirements:

- Stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if you test negative at 3-5 days.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

As a reminder, the above protocols are subject to change if there are changes with regard to the spread of virus. If changes are required, families will be updated. However, family must comply with the guidance in force at the time of travel.