



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish

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SJCS Event Manual

TK/Kinder Orientation Hour – Parents with children entering pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are invited to come to the orientation to meet their teachers, and learn about procedures, schedules, and other important information for their young ones!

New Parent Info Hour – An orientation that invites all new families from all grades to meet with the principal and other staff to learn more about the school. In this orientation, families will learn procedures, expectations, scheduling, new service opportunities and more!

Welcome Back BBQ – A celebration where we bring together all new and returning families to eat and celebrate the start of the new school year. Families are invited to bring a dish to share with everyone.

Fingerprinting/ Cyber Safety Training – We are happy to offer fingerprinting services for one evening only at the start of the school year! In order to volunteer with our students, every adult must be fingerprinted before beginning their volunteer work. There is a \$34 one-time fee to be fingerprinted. Please make your appointment by calling the school office 510-276-6632. Cyber Safety Training is an informative session about dangerous and safe behaviors for our students on the internet.

First Day of School - We welcome all students to gather in the gym for no additional cost beginning at 7:40am. The school day begins with prayer, pledge and announcements at 7:55 a.m. Parents that need their child to arrive to school earlier, are welcomed to send their scholar to SEP (School Extended Care) as early as 7:00am for an additional fee. SEP also meets in the school gym. Students line up with their class every morning for prayer, pledge, and announcements. Students that arrive after prayer and announcements will be marked tardy.

Parent Coffee Chat – The principal hosts coffee chats to gather parents and to present information over coffee and doughnuts. Our first Parent Coffee Chat will be held the first day of school at 8:30a.m in the gym. Attend the first coffee chat to learn about service hour opportunities, fundraisers, and various school events. Please check our calendar online to stay updated on scheduled coffee chats.

School Board Meetings – School Board appointed officers attend these meetings and are responsible for a variety of consultative tasks including finance, school development, strategic planning and capital improvements. Keep an eye out for opportunities to join the School Board committees.

Back to School Night – An evening event beginning in the church where parents can get to know their child's teacher and learn about class procedures, routines, and teacher expectations for student behavior and work. This is an adult-only event; please plan accordingly as childcare will not be provided.

Parish/School Festival – The festival is sponsored by the St. John parish and school and is planned and facilitated by parent volunteers. It's a weekend of great food, fun games, prizes, music, and dancing. It's an event for all family and friends to attend! Please note that we will need parents to be booth chairs and volunteers to work hours in the booths during the festival weekend. Donations will also be accepted for our festival. Please note that the Family Service Hour Program requirement is that every family must complete 2 hours at the festival. Don't forget all volunteers need to be fingerprinted and safe environment trained to be able to volunteer!

Weekly Mass – Each Wednesday (most weeks) our school community joins the parish community in celebrating the Eucharist. Parents are welcome to attend any and all masses and are asked to sit in the back half of the church on days when the school community attends. Throughout the year there will be choir masses and faith family masses. Faith families include students from each grade level who share in faith-centered activities throughout their years at SJCS.

Student Council – Student Council is open to 4th-8th graders who apply and earn a position as a member. Student council is responsible for leading assemblies, planning some community service activities, and acting as overall student leaders.

Awards Assemblies – There are assemblies scheduled to honor students who have received various awards such as an SLE (Student Learning Expectation), or Most Improved award. Parents are welcome to join and celebrate in the gym during these assemblies. Parents are notified when their child earns an award.

Student of the Month Assemblies – Student of the Month awards are given to one student of each grade throughout the school year. These are awarded based on class participation, dedication, and student performance.

Parent/Teacher Conferences – This is the only mandatory time when parents meet with their child's teacher to discuss individual student academic, social, and spiritual growth. Students in grades 4th-8th are expected to attend their scheduled conference meeting with their parents. Students in lower grades are not required nor encouraged to attend conferences. Parent/Teacher conferences fall on noon dismissal days and can be viewed via the October calendar.

Caritas Creek at CYO Camp – A weeklong science and community building camp attended by 6th and 8th grade students. Be on the lookout for fundraisers to support efforts for Caritas.

St. Francis Blessing of Animals – We invite our community to bring their pets for our morning celebration in which they are blessed by our pastor in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

Halloween Festival – The PTG (Parent Teacher Group) sponsors a carnival-like event to celebrate Halloween at school. On this day, students partake in various games and earn prizes. This day is kicked off with a Halloween parade as students walk around the schoolyard in their Halloween costumes. This event usually falls on the half day dedicated to celebrating this holiday.

Golden Age Gift Drive – This community service project is dedicated to collecting and donating toiletries and gifts for elderly and shut-ins in our parish community.

Santa Shop – A classroom is turned into a magical Christmas store where students can purchase small priced items for loved ones.

Christmas Program – Students at all levels sing and portray the true meaning of Christmas in this musical program. Family and friends are welcome!

Peace Prayer Service – Students lead a prayer service honoring people who have been peacemakers. This is usually held in the gym or church, and family and friends are welcome.

Open House – Current and prospective families may come to our school and admire the beautiful work of our students, meet faculty and staff and schedule appointments for testing. This event kicks off Catholic School's Week, the last Sunday in January. Join us at mass before the open house.

Catholic School Week – A week full of activities dedicated to honoring all of the uniqueness of Catholic education. A list of activities will be sent home prior to the commencement of this special week.

Alumni Basketball Extravaganza – Join us in welcoming home alumni with our annual alumni basketball event. We offer three games- an alumni game, competitive alumni game, and staff vs. 8th grade game. This event also includes raffles, food, and music.

Olympic Day – On this day students wear their class color shirt with casual active wear and partake in obstacle course-like activities in the gym. Classes earn ribbons and awards to mark their achievements.

CYO Crab Feed- The Catholic Youth Organization sponsors an annual crab feed to raise funds for their youth sports program.

Stations of the Cross – During the season of Lent, classes pair up to portray the Stations of the Cross each week. This is a moving experience for which families are welcomed to join us in the church.

1st Holy Communion – Our 2nd graders experience the special sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. The school family and congregation are welcome to come and share in this event.

State of the School Address –

The annual State of the School Address is an opportunity for families to learn about the school's progress and achievement, as well as future goals for the long-term success and viability. Covered at this event is information regarding the overall spiritual, academic, and financial State of the school, as well as projections in each of these areas.

May Crowning Mass – This is the mass where our school honors Mary. During this mass the 8th grade May crowning court is honored as well as the 2nd grade recent first holy communicants. Family and friends of honorees are welcomed to this Mass.

Invention Convention – An annual event that allows students to creatively explore the engineering process. Students use their STEM skills and cross curriculum projects and

8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass- The 8th graders enjoy their final school Mass before graduation. 8th Grade students process in wearing their graduation attire and are honored with a special song, sung by the kindergarten class. A special awards ceremony is held immediately following mass.

8th Grade Dinner Dance- The 8th grade students are honored for their success at SJCS with a special dinner and dance. Family and friends of 8th grade graduates are welcome.

Field Day - This is the day where students wear their class color shirt with casual active wear and partake in various obstacle course like games in the church parking lot and gym. This is a noon dismissal day.

*School events are subject to change. If you have any inquiries regarding school events, please check our updated calendar and weekly newsletter on our website.

*Every Wednesday we will upload our school newsletter online. Families will receive a school messenger notice to let them know that they can read our newsletter online.

*Every family has access to the school handbook online. All parents are responsible for reading and signing an acknowledgement that they have read and understand the contents of the school handbook. Please refer to this handbook for further information regarding school procedures, policies, and activities.