



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish

270 E. Lewelling Boulevard | San Lorenzo, California 94580
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April 13, 2016

Letter from the Principal

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing you to WCEA and St. John Catholic School's accreditation process. This is the beginning of a busy but extremely important period as we prepare ourselves for the scheduled accreditation visit in March 2017.

What is WCEA? The acronym stands for Western Catholic Educational Association. WCEA has developed a self-study protocol in association with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) focused on improving student learning. St. John Catholic School will be working toward accreditation with WCEA.

What is the focus for accreditation?

The focus for accreditation is on assessing student success in meeting School-wide Learning Expectations (SLEs), diocesan and local curriculum standards, and other governing authority expectations that demonstrate improvement in student learning.

Who is involved in this accreditation process? This process involves ALL of our stakeholders – students, faculty and staff, board members, parishioners, and YOU, our school families, who believe in our mission to strive for academic excellence in a supportive and welcoming Christ-centered community.

How can you help? There will be many ways for parents to engage in the accreditation process. First, please be sure to complete the Catholic Identity Survey that was distributed on Monday. This information will be used to celebrate our successes and set goals for the future. Thank you for being here in this place at this time as we work to create a positive future for our students at St. John Catholic School.

Blessings,
Mrs. Rachel Gonsalves



Super Hero Spring Social and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 16 from 6-9 p.m.

*Proceeds go toward playground equipment
and updating the outside play areas*

Pre-Sale tickets are \$15/family and Day-Of pricing is \$20/family (up to 4), and \$2 for each additional family member. Dinner can be purchased at the snack bar. Visit the Mini Auction to bid on prizes including Disneyland tickets, wine baskets, zoo passes, Rockin' Jump certificates, CYO Summer Camp coupons, and MORE!



**Now Accepting
Applications for the 2016-
2017 School Year**

Please share the good news about St. John Catholic School with your friends and family! We are accepting applications now for grades PreK-7 for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are available in the office.

There are very few spots remaining in our high-quality Pre-Kindergarten program! Spread the good news about the great things happening at SJCS!

WANTED: School Board Members

Share your gifts and talents with the SJCS community! The SJCS School Board is recruiting new members to join this very important advisory board for our school. If you would like to get involved and help steer the strategic direction of SJCS, this opportunity is for you. We are looking for dedicated folks to serve as committee members for Catholic Identity, Cultural & Community Outreach, and Enrollment. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Gonsalves at rgonsalves@csdo.org or School Board President Lehua Lee at leekidsonly@gmail.com.

WCEA Survey – Catholic Identity

On Tuesday, April 12 all families received an email with a link to a survey about Catholic Identity at St John Catholic School. Results will be used to highlight strengths and develop action plans for our WCEA/WASC accreditation. Your feedback is important to us as we work to make St. John Catholic School the best it can be.

For families who do not have access to a computer or Internet access, we will make our school's computer lab available this Thursday, April 14 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. for families to complete this survey.

As an incentive, there will be a special reward for classes that reach 100% participation by the April 22 deadline!

St. John Catholic School Health Audit

Each year, the Diocese of Oakland conducts a health audit at each of the 44 elementary schools in our diocese. St. John Catholic School was audited on Monday, April 4.

Laws regarding TB testing and immunizations have changed, and you may have received a notice from Ms. Serrano asking for specific records or information for your child. By law, we are required to have immunization, health check, and TB testing results on file at school. We ask for your cooperation and submit the requested information as soon as possible.

We thank you for your partnership in helping keep all of your children safe and healthy at school.

**St. John Catholic School 2016-2017
Tuition**

How is a tuition increase determined?

First, we analyze our fixed costs given to us by the diocese, such as salaries and benefits, diocesan assessments, insurance, permits and licensing fees. Those costs have increased 7-10% for next year. Next, we look at our current expenses and trends, and project capital purchases such as technology, textbooks and curriculum, etc. We analyze utilities, property taxes, and county fees. A lot goes in to balancing a \$1.2 million operating budget!

How does SJCS remain competitive?

Quality Catholic education **must** remain affordable and attainable for our families. With that in mind, we have made a modest increase of \$30/month per student, equivalent to \$300/year.

With this increase, we believe a quality education at St. John Catholic School is still within reach. Our tuition is still below the diocesan average, and we continue to be competitive compared to other Catholic elementary schools in our Southern Alameda County area.

How does SJCS achieve academic excellence with technology? In addition, we will assess a \$50 technology fee to begin paying for the technology hardware improvements and expected costs for licensing as we continue to be a leader in educational technology at St. John Catholic School.

How is placement on tuition scales determined? Based on information from two separate audits with our parish offices (November 2015 and April 2016), families have now been placed in the correct tuition scale. If you have any questions about your status as an active parishioner, please contact the rectory at 510-351-5050 or our school office at 510-276-6632.

2016-2017 Registration Packets

It's time to register your students at St. John Catholic School for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

- Registration Dates: April 13 – May 1, 2016
- Late Registration Fee of \$50 will be assessed for registration after May 30, 2016.
- If you did not receive a registration packet, please contact our office at 510-276-6632.

Bancroft Clothing Price List

Bancroft Clothing is currently updating the uniform items and price list for SJCS. We expect to receive it in early May and will distribute it as soon as it arrives.

Service Hour and Fundraising Statements

Each family is required to complete 20 service hours and raise \$300 in fundraising through eScrip, fall fundraiser, See's Easter Candy Sale, and the FunRun. Service hours must be completed by May 1, 2016 for this school year. Hours completed after May 1 are credited to the 2016-2017 school year.

Lost and Found is Overflowing!

Our Lost and Found bin in the hallway outside the science lab is overflowing! Please claim your lost items before Friday, April 22 – at that time all items will either be donated to Uniform Exchange or to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you!

NEW! If you still need to complete service hours, St. John Catholic School will accept donations of **\$25 Lakeshore Learning** gift cards. Each \$25 donation is equivalent to one service hour. These donations will help us offset the cost of classroom materials.

**Lakeshore Learning
1144 Montague Ave.
San Leandro, CA 94577**

Distribution of Student Cumulative File Documents

Please note that St. John Catholic School is not able to make copies of immunization records, birth certificates, baptismal certificates, etc. from students' cumulative files. Information contained in student cumulative files may only be duplicated and sent to another school when a request is made in writing from the school requesting the file.

Wednesday Newsletter Going GREEN

Beginning next school year, St. John Catholic School's Wednesday Newsletter will be distributed electronically. Electronic communications are more eco-friendly (aka GREEN). You can check out the Wednesday Newsletter, flyers, and attachment archives for **this** year on our website:

<http://www.stjohncatholicschool.org>

Summer School

Summer school is available at some of our neighboring Catholic elementary schools. St. Leander, St. Joachim, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Clement will offer programs this summer. Applications for St. Leander and St. Joachim program information are in the school office.

Flores de Mayo

You are invited to the Filipino-American Community's Celebration of Flores de Mayo on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The procession starts at 4 p.m. in the parking lot, followed by mass at 4:30 p.m. and reception in the gym after mass. If you can donate food (sliced fresh fruits and desserts) contact Rory Alquillera at (510) 481-5097.

We are looking for young girls ages 14 and younger to participate in the procession. Boys are also welcome to join as escorts. For further details if you wish to participate, please contact Olive Evangelista olivedce@yahoo.com, Vicky Herrera mari_bhec@yahoo.com, or Naomi Galang naomi_galang@sbcglobal.net

SJCS Car Show Donations Needed

SJCS will be hosting our 13th Annual Hot Rod, Custom & Motorcycle Show on May 21. We are collecting donations for Car Show gifts and raffle prizes. If you're willing to make a donation or know someone who is, please contact us at sjscarshow@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity!



2016-2017 School Year Registration

April 13 – May 1, 2016

Late fee of \$50 assessed after May 30

5th Grade Bake Sale

Thursday, April 14

Scrip Orders due!

Thursday, April 14

8th Grade Retreat @ Holy Redeemer

Thursday, April 14

St. John Catholic School

Family Dance and Mini Auction

April 16, 6-9 p.m. in the gym

Catholic Identity Survey Deadline

Friday, April 22

Progress Reports Go Home

Friday, April 22

St. Vincent de Paul Hot Dog Lunch

For ALL students on Tuesday, April 26

Hot dog and chips will be provided

St. John Catholic School

Spring Music Concert

Wednesday, April 27, 6 p.m. in the church

Registration Fees and Paperwork Due

May 1, 2016

St. John Catholic School 13th Annual Hot Rod, Custom & Motorcycle Show

Saturday, May 21

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.