June 23, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We take this opportunity to say good bye to Father Joseph Piekarski who has been assigned by Bishop Koenig to St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Hockessin. We thank him greatly for his eight years of pastoral leadership at St. John the Beloved. We send him our best wishes and continued prayers as he begins this new chapter in his service within the Diocese of Wilmington.

We extend our welcome to Father Michael Vannicola, our new pastor! He will join us on June 28th. We prayerfully support him, wish him the best and know his time with us will be very fruitful... God Bless!

I wish you all a peaceful and restful summer. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. I ask that you keep me in yours.

We will see you in August!

Yours in St. Francis,

Mr. Richard D. Hart
Principal
Thank You

On behalf of our faculty and staff we offer our sincerest thanks for your generosity this school year. We are especially grateful to our volunteers who helped in so many ways. St. John the Beloved School is a better place because of all that you do.

Looking Ahead

- The first day of school for grades K-8 will be Monday, August 28. EC3 & EC4 will have orientation on Monday, August 28 and Tuesday, August 29, and will begin school on Wednesday, August 30.
- School year uniform guidelines must once again be adhered to. Please think about what you will need and contact Rush Uniform to ensure the timely arrival of your items.
- Please reference our SJB Parent Student Handbook for all guidelines on uniform, hair, make-up, jewelry, etc.

Summer Office Hours

- July 5, 12, 19, 26 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- August 1 - 18 7:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Regular office hours resume on August 21st. The office is open from 7am-3pm while school is in session.

Important Dates

- Monday, August 28 First Day of School (K-8); EC3 & EC4 Orientation
- Tuesday, August 31 EC3 & EC4 Orientation
- Wednesday, September 1 First Day of School for EC3 & EC4
- Friday, September 1 11:35 am Dismissal
- Monday, September 4 No School
Middle School Math for 2023 - 2024

SJB has examined our practices through the Middle States self-evaluation process and has identified that providing additional math support and enrichment at the middle school level will benefit our students. It is our firm belief that providing three groups of math for each middle school grade will be in the interest of all middle school students. It is our intention to implement three groups of math at the start of the 2023 - 2024 school year. In order to make this a reality, we are in the process of interviewing and hiring a part-time math teacher.

Student placement in a group will be based on multiple factors, including but not limited to report card grades, STAR Math assessments, and teacher recommendations. Math groupings do not impact placement in other core content areas, such as ELA. For example, a student in 6-2 math could be in 6-1 ELA, social studies, or science.

Math groupings will be announced in August when schedules are distributed. Students have been placed appropriately to ensure that all groupings serve the intended goal. We will reassess student groups by the first trimester interim. Our ability to differentiate instruction across three math groups will best meet the needs of the students.

Class Placement

As usual, teacher assignments will be sent out to students in the EC programs through Grade 3 in August. Early Childhood and Kindergarten students will be contacted by their teachers for in-person orientations. Students in grades 1-3 will receive postcards in the mail from their homeroom teachers in August. Students in Grades 1-8 are welcome to visit school on Friday, August 25th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm for a sneak peek walkthrough. Please note these visits are not teacher visits but an opportunity for you and your child to see their classroom prior to the beginning of school and drop off any supplies you wish.

HSA

Please consider joining our Home and School Association. Meetings take place monthly and you can help as much as your schedule allows. Our HSA is responsible for planning monthly SJB takeovers with local businesses, Fall and Spring Bingo, New Family Social, Father/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son Event, Santa Secret Shop, and so much more. If you would like to become involved, please send an email to hsa@sjbdel.org.
Student Council

The St. John the Beloved Student Council held elections for the 2023-2024 Executive Board of Student Council last month. These students will serve during the upcoming school year. Congratulations to our Class of 2024 Executive Officers:

- Lina Clark
- Basil Costantino
- Matthew Grillo
- Chloe Lewandowski

Thank you to all who helped make the 2022-2023 Student Council successful. Because of their hard work and dedication, donations were made on the school’s behalf to many worthwhile charities and organizations including Neighbors to Nicaragua, Little Sisters of the Poor, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Venice Florida (Hurricane relief), Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (in memory of Lisa Boyer), Catholic Relief Services -- Water Security and St. John the Beloved Outreach.

Yearbook

Thank you so much to Mrs. Nowaczyk and Mrs. Procaik for making our Yearbook so special over the last several years. We are truly appreciative of the lasting memories you have provided for so many SJB students. If you are interested in joining the Yearbook Committee, please contact the office. One of the best ways you can help with the yearbook is by submitting lots of pictures as soon as events happen. This allows the committee to work on pages well in advance. Send in pictures from the first day of school, field trips, sporting events, class parties, field day, Communion, Graduation, carnival and all those events that make our school such a great place! Pictures can be sent at any time to yearbook@sjdel.org.
Field Days 2023

Thanks to Mr. Cocco and our many volunteers who made Field Day so much fun for the students of SJB! The days were filled with laughter, water and parachutes! And finally a big thank you to our Home and School Association who provided a pretzel snack and pizza lunch for each of our students on their Field Day.

Tech Talk- Summer Information

Each year students in grades 3-8 must complete the SJB 1:1 Bootcamp. The link to the bootcamp will be emailed to you in the first week of August. Please keep watch for it in your email. Families may complete the bootcamp together; however, a separate Google form must be completed for each student for accountability purposes. Completion of the bootcamp helps us meet our Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance requirements.

SJB is a 1:1 Technology Campus. A fully charged and fully functioning Chromebook (all keys must work) is an essential part of each school day.

Students must have a sturdy chromebook case (hard sided) with a shoulder strap and headphones (EC3 - 5th gr) or headphones/earbuds (6-8). These are required school supplies every day for all classes in the 1:1 program.
Additionally, Chromebook repairs must be handled in a timely manner. If your child’s device is currently not working properly, please take some time this summer to have all repairs completed so that we start the year off with Chromebooks in working order.

When purchasing a new Chromebook, please pay close attention to the **Auto Update Expiration (AUE) date**. This is especially true for low priced devices. They may be priced that way because they have a short life. Learn more about the AUE here: [https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en](https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en)

**Google Auto Update Policy**

Chrome devices (e.g. Chromebook, Chromebox, Chromebase, Chromebit) receive automatic updates that enhance both the device and its software. Device updates provide the latest features and keep the device secure, and are applied across the operating system, browser and hardware. These updates depend on many device specific non-Google hardware and software providers that work with Google to provide the highest level of security and stability support. For this reason, older Chrome devices cannot receive updates indefinitely to enable new OS and browser features.

Every ChromeOS device receives regular updates from Google until it reaches its Auto Update Expiration (AUE) date, listed below, subject to support from component manufacturers. When a device reaches AUE, automatic software updates from Google will no longer be provided.

ChromeOS devices that have not reached their AUE date will continue to receive OS updates and function with Chrome Education Upgrade and Chrome Enterprise Upgrade. After the AUE date is reached, existing and future policies may not work as intended, and technical support will not be provided.

Google will publish a model’s AUE date on this page after its release, giving buyers time to make purchase decisions. Please check the AUE date when making a purchasing decision. Source: [https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en](https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en)

Another site with good information: [https://www.dignited.com/93195/what-is-auto-update-expiration-aue-date-chromebook/](https://www.dignited.com/93195/what-is-auto-update-expiration-aue-date-chromebook/)

**Update Schedule**

Alright, next time you’re in the market for a new Chromebook, be sure to first check on its AUE date. This is particularly true for seemingly cheap too-good-to-be-true details. The vendor might be giving you a “good deal” just because the Chromebook is about to reach its AUE date.
Digital Wellness

Saint John the Beloved is known for its partnership and engagement with a strong HSA and supportive community. We ask you to mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 16, 2023**. SJB has contracted with Protect Young Eyes to bring nationally recognized speaker, **Chris McKenna**, to our community to speak with our parents at an evening meeting about digital wellness. We believe the time investment of 90 minutes will strengthen our efforts to keep all of our children safe.

Mr. McKenna led SJB staff in professional development in the 2022-2023 school year and teachers and staff overwhelmingly agreed that it was important to bring him back to speak with parents and students. On Friday, November 17, after the parent presentation, Mr. McKenna will be speaking with our students in grade level groups.

In the parent session, Mr. McKenna will share the latest digital trends and how today’s technology can impact your family. He will also preview the content of the student sessions. Protect Young Eyes is unique in that the organization takes a faith based approach to teaching children how to use technology with age-appropriate language, engaging conversation, interactive activities, and videos. These presentations talk about screens, confusing pics and videos, predators, privacy, secrets, and the power of our words.

If you’re ready to move from confused to confident, the Protect App can help you unlock your digital parenting superpowers in 5 minutes a day! Parents, we encourage you right now to opt-into the Digital Drips emails for over the summer! [https://protectyoungeyes.ck.page/39a1729e0b](https://protectyoungeyes.ck.page/39a1729e0b)

SJB Carnival

A huge thank you to everyone who directed and supported our 55th Annual Carnival. It was a great success because of the many people who pulled together to create this parish event. A special thank you to the Carnival’s leaders and ALL workers, various committees and volunteers. Your many efforts made this year’s Carnival a memorable one.
Congratulations to the Class of 2023.

Best of luck in High School!