ST. JOHN THE BELOVED SCHOOL

The Mission of St. John the Beloved School is to teach and model the Gospel of Jesus Christ, foster academic excellence and encourage service to others.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.” 1 John 4:7

August 9, 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope this message finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. As we embark on a new academic year, we extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt blessings. It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you and your children back to St. John the Beloved School!

Our dedicated faculty and staff have been diligently preparing for the upcoming year, and we are excited to continue our journey of faith, learning, and growth together. At St. John the Beloved School, we strive to create an environment where academic excellence is coupled with spiritual and moral development. We are committed to nurturing the minds and hearts of our students, guiding them to become compassionate, responsible, and well-rounded individuals.

We recognize the vital role that parents play in a child's education and character formation. Your partnership is invaluable, and we look forward to collaborating closely with you throughout this school year. Open communication between school and home is key to fostering a successful educational experience for your child.

Throughout the year, we will offer various opportunities for parent involvement, including parent-teacher conferences, workshops, and school events. We encourage you to actively participate and engage with the St. John the Beloved School community. Your presence and support contribute significantly to our vibrant and close-knit school family.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school administration or your child's teachers. We are here to ensure that your child receives the best possible education and spiritual guidance.
Once again, welcome back to St. John the Beloved School! May this school year be filled with joy, growth, and memorable moments for your child and your family. We are truly blessed to have you as a part of our St. John the Beloved family.

Yours in St. Francis,

Mr. Richard D. Hart

Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, August 28  
  First Day of School (K-8); EC 3 & EC 4 Orientation
- Tuesday, August 29  
  EC 3 & EC 4 Orientation
- Wednesday, August 30  
  First Day of School for EC 3 & EC 4
- Friday, September 1  
  11:35 am Dismissal
- Monday, September 4  
  No School

FOND FAREWELL

As we look ahead to the new school year, we must say goodbye to those faculty members that have left St. John the Beloved. We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Coffield, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Stinchcombe, and Ms. Weatherlow. While their journeys are taking them away from our school, they will always have a home in our community. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

TECHNOLOGY CLASS

As of today, we have not secured a teacher for technology for the 2023 - 2024 school year. We are actively seeking a teacher for this position and exploring options to integrate STEM. As you know, there is a national teacher shortage so please reach out if you know of anyone that has an expertise in technology and STEM education. Teachers will continue to integrate tech skills into the daily classroom so that students receive the foundation for future success.

STUDENT ABSENCES

For the coming school year, parents and guardians should continue to email a student’s teacher(s) when absent. In addition, parents and guardians should include the email address absences@sjbdel.org on the email to teachers. There is no need to create a second email. Thank you for helping to maintain accurate attendance records for our students.
**SUMMER WORK**

Please make sure your children are working on their summer work. All information was emailed home prior to the end of the school year. Work can also be found on the school website here: [2023 Summer Work](#)

**STATIONERY AND SUPPLY LIST**

For your convenience as a buying guide, St. John the Beloved teachers have compiled the following list of stationery and supply needs. The items listed below may be purchased in any store.

[2023-2024 Stationary & Supply List](#)

**EAGLES CLUB (AFTERCARE) HELP**

Our Eagles Club aftercare program is in need of adult help for the 2023-2024 school year. Employees must be 18 years or older and out of high school. A background check is required. Hours are 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please call Anne Plourde at (302) 998-5525, x 230 or email [tec@sjbdel.org](mailto:tec@sjbdel.org) for more information or to be part of this experience.

**UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

When we begin the 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.

All students in grades Pre-K through eight must be in uniform every day. The uniform should be clean and neat with all buttons attached and hems intact. All shirts and blouses are to be tucked in at all times. Clothing needs to be the appropriate size and length regardless of the time of year. Oversized and undersized clothing is unacceptable.

**Hair:**

All students’ hair should be kept neat and trimmed. Student’s hair must be his/her natural color. If hair is colored during the summer vacation, it must be a reversed before returning for the first day of the new school year and remain natural throughout the school year. For boys, an acceptable cut is hair above the shirt collar, above the eyebrows, and earlobes showing, no sideburns. Faddish haircuts are unacceptable; razor-design cuts or shaved heads are not
permitted. No facial hair is allowed. Hair coloring, highlights and bleached hair are not permitted during the school year. Scarves, beads and bandanas may not be worn in the hair.

Make-up:
In grades K to eight, make-up, nail polish and artificial nails are not permitted. This includes visible tattoos of any kind.

Jewelry:
The only jewelry permitted will be a watch, a simple ring, or a small religious cross or medal on a fine chain that may be worn on or under a shirt or blouse. No jewelry is permitted on PE day. Students may wear one pair of post earrings not larger than a dime and without hoops or dangling – only one earring per earlobe. No earrings are permitted on PE day. Watches that beep during school hours will be taken away and may be claimed by a parent. Absolutely no bracelets or wristbands are permitted. Smart watches are considered electronic devices and fall under the AUP code.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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, Fall Fun Night, 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.

SNEAK PEEK WALKTHROUGH

Grades 1-8 students and families are welcome to visit the school on Friday, August 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please enter through the front door of the school. Supplies may be dropped off during this time as well.

MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS!

Alison Albert (8th Grade)

My name is Alison Albert and I am thrilled to announce I will be returning to SJB. I will be one of the 8th grade homeroom teachers. I have taught EC4, 2nd grade, 3rd grade and 5th grade. I also have my masters degree in Reading Instruction. I had the opportunity to use my degree and spent time as a Reading Specialist. I am honored to have the opportunity to return to my love of reading and specialize in the 8th and 7th grade ELA. I love spending time with my husband and three sons. You can find me in the ice rink cheering the boys on. I look forward to returning to the Saint John the Beloved Family, "there is no place like home!"
Sharon Anderson (EC3)

Hello! My Name is Sharon Anderson. After graduating from the Early Childhood Education program at Hodgson Vo-Tech, I earned my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Delaware. I worked as a Kindergarten teacher at St. Peter Cathedral School for five years. I am excited to join St. John the Beloved as the new PreK-3 teacher!

Josephine Fedena (3rd Grade)

Hello, my name is Josephine Fedena and I will be one of the third grade teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. I have my Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Gwynedd-Mercy College. I previously taught Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I am very excited to be joining the St. John the Beloved family. My daughter, Giovanna will also be attending the EC3 program at SJB. I look forward to meeting everyone and have a wonderful summer.

Elizabeth Gallagher (3rd Grade)

My name is Elizabeth Gallagher and I am very excited to be teaching 3rd grade at St. John the Beloved Catholic School! I have been an educator for many years. My experience has been with a wide range of ages and subjects. I taught self-contained classrooms for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. I also taught sixth grade social studies. I was a Title I reading and math support teacher servicing various Catholic schools throughout Delaware. I taught Spanish to grades Pre-k through 8. My last teaching experience was as a STEM teacher and coordinator servicing a Catholic school through a grant with the Chester County Intermediate Unit. I am a Dean’s List graduate from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, PA with a degree in Elementary Education. I am certified in the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware. On a personal note, I am a mother to four children. My oldest son is a biomedical engineer. My next oldest son is an economist. My daughter is entering Parsons School of Design in New York City. My youngest son is entering tenth grade. My favorite thing to do in my free time is to go to the beach with my family and Yorkie. His name is Ebenezer!
Maureen O’Keefe (EC4 Para)

My name is Ms. O’Keefe and I am so excited to be joining the staff at St. John’s as a Pre-K paraprofessional. I am a Delaware native and have been involved in the SJB community since baptism as a parishioner, alumni and parent. I graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelors in Nursing and have been blessed to be able to serve others as a nurse in both the hospital and home care settings. I have always felt a vocational calling to caregiving in all its forms and mothering my own three children has been the joy of my life. SJB has always been a second home to me and I feel grateful for the opportunity to help our preschoolers feel that too, while nurturing a love for God, for others and for learning.

Geralyn Spagnolo (Middle School Math)

I am a native Delawarean, educated in the Diocese of Wilmington at Holy Angels and St. Mark’s. I went on to graduate from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a minor in Middle School Math. I spent my first 4 years teaching at St. Mary Magdalen School then moved on to the Appoquinimink School District after getting married and moving south. All of my 27 years in education have been at the middle school math level. My husband and I have raised 4 sons who are now adults. Now that my spare time is my own, I enjoy fitness, gardening, traveling, cooking and spending time at the beach. I am looking forward to being in the Catholic school environment again and working with middle school students at St. John the Beloved.

Tina Wecht (Para)

My name is Tina Wecht and I am so excited to be joining the St. John the Beloved community! I have been actively committed to Catholic education in the Diocese of Wilmington for the past 32 years as an educator and a parent. After graduating from West Chester University, with a degree in Special Education, I taught first and second grade. I also spent ten years as an elementary school administrator before stepping back into the classroom as a Kindergarten teacher. I enjoy cooking, shopping, walking my dogs, reading, summers at the beach, and most of all spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to getting to know you and your children!
FROM THE NURSE

All incoming students (EC3-8) need to provide the most up to date wellness physical from their students’ primary care physician. A copy of their immunizations needs to be included. All kindergarten students and up are required to have the following:

- At least 4 doses of DTap
- At least 3 doses of Polio
- At least one dose of MMR
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- Varicella
- Lead blood test
- Mantoux (PPD) skin test with results OR Tuberculosis Risk Assessment

Please reach out to Mrs. Perrine with any questions or concerns at nurse@sjbdel.org.

BAND AND EAGLES CLUB REGISTRATION

If your student will be participating in Band or attending Eagles Club this year, please make sure that they have been registered. This is important for scheduling and staffing purposes. To register for Band, please contact Mr. DiVirgilio at rdivirgilio@sjbdel.org. To register for Eagles Club, please complete the following form and email to tec@sjbdel.org.

TEC Registration Form