



# St. John

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



1 8 2 9

Dear SJRCS Families,

We are about halfway through the month of May, the month of Mary our Blessed Mother. We continue to pray for all of our SJRCS school community. I know we hoped to have an opportunity to be together at the end of the year. But we now know that that will not be possible in our usual definition of "being together." Our "normal" lives have certainly taken on a new way of achieving normalcy and we have all had to adapt.

This is usually such an exciting time of year in our school. Filled with field trips, celebrations, and end of the year activities. Even though we are not all together, there is still so much to be thankful for. We have gotten to witness first hand your support of our efforts. We have seen your resiliency and your appreciation of all the hard work the teachers are putting into insure that your students will be ready for next school year.



We understand that some of you might be frustrated. We understand that this is not what you signed up for. But it is not what we signed up for either. I know our teachers would much rather have their students in front of them every day. We were not given much of a notice that this was going to be happening. As we continue to navigate this journey together, let us be reminded of the families who have been directly impacted by this virus. Let us continue to pray for our doctors, nurses, and first responders for all they are doing to keep Marylanders healthy and strong. Especially those who are a part of our SJRCS family - we are so proud to have you among our school community.

Even as we look ahead to the 20-21 school year, it is a time of uncertainty. But we have to keep in mind what are we certain of? We know that teachers will return to school on August 24th. We know that our first day of school will be August 31st. We know when our Christmas and Easter breaks will be. We know what curriculum we will be following. We know that teachers are completing curriculum checklists to make the transition to the next grade one without gaps or redundancies. We also know that whatever next year looks like, it will be done within the parameters of Governor Hogan's recommendations.

And we know we have our faith which tells us that Christ is with us and walking with us. And I know that there is no one I would rather have in my corner than Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace and all good things!  
Mrs. Karen Smith

Issue 14, May 15, 2020

## MAY

22nd and 25th were scheduled days off for Memorial Weekend. There will be **NO DISTANCE LEARNING** on these 2 days. Enjoy your Memorial Day Weekend!!

26 8th Grade Retreat  
(Virtual)

## JUNE

9 Virtual Field Day

10 School Parade

11 End of the year liturgy  
(Virtual)

After 14th = Students pick up personal items when scheduled.



Remember to "friend" SJRCS on Facebook to keep up with Mrs. Smith's daily prayers, announcements, and birthdays. The Pledge of Allegiance is lead by SJRCS families. Graduating 8th graders are highlighted daily. It's a good place to check in daily!

While the school offices are "open" Monday-Thursday, 8-1, a special thanks goes out to Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Buls, Mr. Burrier, and Mr. Price, who are here EVERY day, keeping the school running smoothly.



**Silver Knights** is offering **chess online** this spring and it's going great! They're running [small group classes](#), broadcast classes, and tournaments every weekday, and we're ready to open up to more kids!

The registration page is [chess.skenrichment.com](http://chess.skenrichment.com). We're making member in the online club (including tournaments, broadcast lessons, and a gold membership on Chesskid.com), 100% free for any student on free or reduced price lunch, or in a family who has lost a job as a result of coronavirus. Their parents can sign them up using the coupon code "covid" at checkout.



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## CONGRATULATIONS

to this year's Catholic Daughters Education contest winners. (Awards will be sent in mail)

|                   |               |           |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 5A William Adams  | Div. II Essay | 1st Place |
| 5A Miller Rouse   | Div. II Essay | 2nd Place |
| 5A Lizzie Watkins | Div. II Essay | 3rd Place |
| 4B Sofia Evans    | Div. I Art    | 1st Place |
| 4B Miles Gregory  | Div. I Art    | 3rd Place |

## Wildcats Never Stop Learning

During the Family Fun Night, we as a community didn't forget our current reality of the social & economic impact from the Coronavirus. Many of St. John families have been hit hard economically by this pandemic. We started a Heart to Hand Fund to make sure all Wildcats will stay Wildcats this fall. While our Administration has been working around the clock seeking funds from private and federal grant programs, to help families in need, the reality is our entire country will see fall out from this pandemic. We are no exemption! Some SJRCS families are experiencing furloughs, layoffs, and reduced income in these uncertain times. Our community is strong and we need to come together to support those members who have been most affected by this global crisis.



We are so lucky as a school community that our children are still learning, teachers are still teaching, even if it is from a distance. We have worked through distance learning trials and tribulations and are light years ahead of many other schools in our area. As a community, we came together to support our students, this is what makes us SJRCS PROUD. We will overcome this crisis together.

A special thank you, to The Home School Association that generously donated \$1,000 to this important cause.

If you are able help the Wildcats that need it the most, we ask you to make a gift in any amount at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/catalog/getproduct?requestAction=&clientKey=ZZHN21AU9M05WZW&productGroupKey=ZZHN225NFD055GM&view=&productKey=ZZHN23CZNO04F8O>. For more information or questions, please contact Sheila Evers, at [severs@sjrcs.org](mailto:severs@sjrcs.org).

**We are all in this together.**  
**Stay Safe and**  
**Stay SJRCS PROUD!**



**THANK YOU** to the James Family for taking our 7th grade trout to Dobbs Park and releasing them in the Creek! Thank you to Mr. Burrier for keeping them alive in school!

## Secure Our School



As you know for the last several years, SJRCS has been raising money through the Fund for St. John to upgrade and increase school security. Through donations from our parents, and larger community, plus grants that were secured through FEMA and the State of Maryland, our project is almost complete. The goal is to target harden our school, to deter hate bias crimes, or any other type of disaster. These grants were thoughtfully planned out using the National Preparedness Goal set by FEMA. The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The goal itself is succinct: “A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

With the help of Dave Johnston, Protective Security Advisor, with Homeland Security, Captain Dwight Sommers, Officer Scott Shepardson, and Sargent Carrado, from The Frederick Police Department, a Risk Assessment was conducted, and a comprehensive security plan was put in place.

While most of us have been ordered to stay at home, security contractors are deemed essential, and have been working around the clock to upgrade our school’s security. As usual, Lonnie Burrier has been working right alongside them to ensure the quality of this project. Thank you, Lonnie!

Interior and Exterior LED lights have been installed throughout the school. Additional exterior lights were added to brighten ill lit areas around the school at night.

A new phone system has been implemented. Our old system was antiquated with many service interruptions, and costly.

Our security system has been upgraded allowing us to better monitor inside and around our school campus. This new state of the art technology far surpasses our dated system.

Strike locks have been installed on all exterior doors so we can control who is coming in and out of our building. The benefit of the new system is the doors will not unlock if the power goes out and every door not just some have the technology.

3M window film will be installed on all windows and doors on the lower level later this month to strengthen the glass against an intruder or a severe storm.

An updated Fiber internet connection is being installed. This will drastically help with our connect ability to make sure there is not a break in our security. This will also enhance the student experience with our 1:1 program.

Lastly, a playground fence will be added soon. Thank you to parent, Mike Walters, with Tranquility in Stone, for his help with this large endeavor.

Thank you again, to all of you that have helped this project to become a reality. Although, we cannot put a price on our student’s safety, the project cost was upwards of \$350,000. We are able to pay the balance in full because of your support, and the generous grants we received. SJRCS will benefit moving forward with less expenses due to cheaper utilities including electric and phone bills.