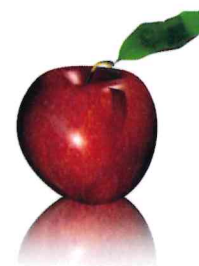




SAINT JOHN
SCHOOL

Parent Newsletter August 2025



MISSION STATEMENT

As Heralds of the Gospel, Saint John School seeks to bring light and truth to PK-12 students in Ashtabula County and beyond through its commitment to educating the whole person by developing scholarship, deepening faith and inspiring leadership in the Catholic tradition.

A Note from the President

The doors swing open at the start of every school year, but this year we also swing open the doors to the new student center. Soon, the hallways will echo once more with laughter, curiosity and the energy of new beginnings. As we welcome a fresh school year, we also welcome a shared journey that will bring us down new pathways and explore new tributaries.

This year, our guiding theme is more than a phrase—**“Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose”** is a call to action. In a world that competes for our attention, we are choosing focus. In a culture that sometimes rewards shortcuts, we are choosing purpose. We are teaching our students that leadership is not about being first—it’s about being faithful, thoughtful and guided by values that endure.

A focused mind sees beyond the surface. It listens before it speaks. It leads with heart and within the word heart is a reminder (ear) to listen. A focused mind is honest, empathetic, responsible and authentic. A focused Christian mind heeds the call to be a disciple, to be a servant leader. Our alma mater reminds us that “bright our light must shine.”

Whether your child is learning to read, exploring science, solving math problems, creating art or serving others, we want each step they take this year to be intentional. We want them to ask not only *What am I learning?* but *Why does it matter? How can I use it to serve?* This intentional purpose filled approach extends beyond the classroom to clubs, activities and sports. At Saint John School, our purpose is clear: to nurture disciples, thinkers, and compassionate leaders. (Scholarship, Faith and Leadership).

We are deeply grateful for your partnership, your trust and your prayers. Let’s walk forward together—with open hearts, focused minds and the courage to lead with purpose.

I look forward to seeing you at either the Mass on August 16 celebrating the opening of the Student Center or on August 18 at our Back to School Night.

Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose.

Principal's Message

We are excited to welcome all of our Saint John families back for what promises to be a wonderful year! As we begin, we are guided by our school-wide theme: "Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose." This theme challenges all of us - students, teachers and families to be intentional in how we approach each day, both in the classroom and beyond.

At the heart of this theme is the idea of time on task. When students give their full attention to the work at hand, they are not only maximizing their learning, but they are also developing the discipline and focus needed to lead with purpose. Every lesson, every discussion and every assignment is an opportunity to build skills that will serve them in academics, leadership and life.

We believe that purposeful leaders are not born, they are formed through consistent effort, deep reflection and a commitment to living out Gospel values. This year, we will guide our students to stay engaged, to work diligently and to lead with the love and compassion that Christ modeled for us.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, with Christ at the center of all we do, we will help our students grow into thoughtful leaders who think deeply, act purposefully and live out their faith in service to others.

Here's to a great year of learning, growth, and leading with purpose!

7th Grade Orientation

We invite all 7th graders to an orientation session on Tuesday, August 12 from 8:30 am – noon. This will give students an opportunity to go through schedules and to have time with their classmates.

Students New to Saint John Grades 8-12

We welcome our new students in grades 8-12 to participate in an orientation session on Thursday, August 7 at 12:30 pm. This will be an opportunity for students to go through the building and receive their schedules as well as get an overview of expectations. More details will be sent to students prior to the day.

Kindergarten Parent Orientation

We will host Kindergarten Orientation on Monday, August 11 at 6:00 pm. We will begin in the cafeteria. This meeting is for parents only.

PK Parent Orientation

Orientation for PK parents will take place on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:00 pm. We will begin in the cafeteria. This meeting is for parents only.

PK Student Orientation

PK Orientation for students will take place on Friday, August 22 at 8:30 am. First full day of PK will be on Monday, August 25.

Parent Orientation for Families New to Saint John

On Wednesday, September 10 at 6 pm we will have a meeting for families new to Saint John in grades 1-12. The purpose of this meeting is to answer questions and address any concerns. This meeting will be with administrators, not individual teachers. We will send a form to RSVP closer to the date.

Back to School Night

We will have a back to school night on Monday, August 18th. The schedule will be as follows:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5:00 pm | Teachers will be in their classrooms.
Families may drop off supplies etc.
Pride Shop will be open |
| 5:45 pm | Hot dog picnic outside. School will provide hot dog, chips, water and ice cream treat. |

We encourage you to bring your own chairs.

Interested in Band?

Stop by the Music Room: If your child is interested in joining after-school band, be sure to stop by the Music/Band Room for more information! This is a great opportunity to learn about the program, meet the instructor and even try out different instruments to see what might be the perfect fit. Whether your child is a beginner or has some experience, all are welcome to explore the joy of making music together!

First Days of School

August 19th is the first day for all students. Regular school times - 7:50 am – 2:20 pm.

Parents may drop off students at the cafeteria entrance at 7:00 am in the morning. Students are supervised in the cafeteria from 7:00-7:30 am. At that time they are dismissed to their classroom.

Student Schedules and Class Lists

PowerSchool will be turned back on by Tuesday, August 5. Please log in to view your child's class schedule and home-room lists for the upcoming school year.

School Picture Day

School pictures will be taken by **Ripcho Studios on Tuesday, August 26**. Order forms will be sent home with students and additional details will be shared in the Weekly Enews.

Grades PK-6: Students may wear either their school uniform or dress clothes.

Grades 7-12: Students should be in their regular school uniforms.

We look forward to seeing everyone's smiles!

Pride Shop

The Pride Shop will have school uniform items for sale including polos and approved school sweatshirts.
August 5: 9:00 am – 12 noon – Gently Worn Uniform Sale
August 7: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
August 12: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
August 18: 10:00 am - noon
August 18: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Starting August 19, the shop hours are Mon-Fri 8:15-12:00 & 12:30-2:30.

Dress Code Reminders

As we get ready to return from summer break, this is a friendly reminder to make sure hairstyles and hair color align with our school handbook. Hair should be neat, well-groomed, and of a natural color. For gentleman, hair cannot go past the collar. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us start the year looking sharp and ready to learn!

Athletic News

Team Pictures

Athletic Pictures will be taken on Tuesday, August 5th. Mr. Nick Iarocci will be in contact with coaches to assign times. Senior pictures will be taken first at 9:00 am.

Athletic Raffle

The athletic department is sponsoring a monthly progressive raffle. Tickets are \$25. A winner will be drawn the first Tuesday of every month from September thru May with an early bird drawing in September. You can win more than once. Contact any Saint John athlete to purchase one or email [Nick Iarocci](mailto:Nick.Iarocci@sjheralds.org) at nickiarocci@sjheralds.org. This is the mandatory fundraiser for all student athletes. Tickets must be sold before a student participates in first athletic contest of the season.

Mark Your Calendars

The Athletic Reverse Raffle is scheduled for September 20, 2025. Tickets are \$95 per couple and can be purchased from Nick Iarocci.

OHSAA Mandatory Parent Meetings

The OHSAA mandatory parent meeting took place in July. The makeup meeting will be on Monday, August 4 at 6 pm. Students are not permitted to participate in any OHSAA sanctioned games/matches until a parent has attended one of these two meetings.

Fall Sports Rally

We will have our fall sports rally for grades 6-12 on Friday, August 22 at 1:30 pm. All fall athletes will be introduced at the rally. **This is an All School Spirit Dress Down Day.**

Cafeteria

For 2025-2026, all students are eligible to receive free lunch and breakfast. This will be funded through government funds and the student service fee. We are grateful to Mrs. Jones and her staff for all they do to provide nutritious and appealing meal options.

PIKMYKID UPDATE

Reminder: Dismissal Procedures

As a safe and efficient method of helping families pick up students after school, Saint John uses an app called **PikMyKid**. All students in grades PK through 6 must be registered on **PikMyKid** in order to ensure a safe and efficient dismissal process. Please review the instructions provided for new families regarding how to register, set delegations and schedule pickups. To get information about the app, to register and learn how it works, please visit the following: <https://www.sjheralds.org/student-experience/drop-off-pick-up.cfm> or scan the QR code below.

Important: All individuals picking up a student must either check in through the PIKMYKID app **or** present a valid name tag at dismissal. If neither of these steps has been completed, the individual will be directed to the main office to present identification and verify authorization through delegation records.

Saint John Teachers and Staff WILL follow the schedule set on PikMyKid from the first day of school. So please double check this is correct.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our dismissal process secure and orderly.



Smartphone Policy Expanded for the 2025-2026 School Year

In alignment with Ohio's new state law requiring schools to ban student smartphone use during the school day, we are expanding our smartphone policy to include all grades:

□ **Grades K–6:** Smartphones and smartwatches are not permitted on students during the day. Devices must be turned in to the homeroom teacher if brought to school.

□ **Grades 7–12:** Students will secure their smartphones, in a school-issued Yondr pouch from the start to the end of the school day to minimize distractions and support a focused learning environment.

Violations (Grades 5–12): Any policy violation will result in the device being confiscated, a parent must pick it up by 3:30 pm, and the student will serve an after-school detention.

This policy helps us comply with Ohio law while promoting student engagement, academic focus, and positive social interactions. Thank you for your support!

Website

The Saint John Website is a source of a great deal of information. Although we send a monthly newsletter and a weekly ENEWS, many questions can also be answered via the school website. These include:

- Athletic Sports Calendars
- Master Activities Calendar
- Order Forms for School Polos
- Information on Extended Care
- Request for Medical needs
- Monthly Cafeteria Menus
- Monthly Newsletters
- Link to final Forms

Extended Day - After Care Program

We provide after school extended learning program from 2:20-5:30 pm. It is important for families to register for this program to ensure we have proper supervision. The cost for the after school extended learning program is \$7 per hour and is billed in 30 minute increments with a minimum of one (1) hour.

If you are interested in signing up for Extended Day- After Care Program, please go to your final forms account and complete the form.

After School Program begins on Wednesday, August 20.

State Scholarships

Award letters are now being mailed from the state. Please sign and send to the school on or before the first day of school.

Saint John School
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Join our LinkedIN:
[Ashtabula/St.John/Sts.John & Paul High School](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sjheralds)
And keep up to date by visiting our website:
www.sjheralds.org
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

Open School Liturgy

We will have our Opening School Liturgy on Friday, August 29 at 9:45 am. All are welcome to join.

This is a dress uniform day for all students.

Student Mass Minister Training

There will be a Mass and Minister training for students in grades 7-12 on Monday, August 11 from 9:00 am until Noon in the Chapel. Younger grades to be announced.

2025-2026 Class Service Days and Retreats

Thursday, September 25 and Friday, September 26—10th Grade—Honesty/Authenticity

Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24—11th Grade—Leadership

Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15—12th Grade—Discipleship

Thursday, February 19 and Friday, February 20—7th Grade—Spirituality

Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27—9th Grade—Responsibility

Thursday, April 23 and Friday, April 24—8th Grade—Empathy

Kairos 1 Retreat

Saint John students will be attending a Kairos Retreat from Sunday, March 8 through Tuesday, March 10 at the Loyola Retreat House.

March for Life

Student will be participating in the March for Life in Columbus Ohio on Friday, October 3, 2025.

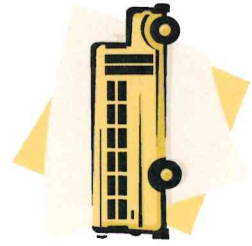
Volunteers Needed

It's coming down to the wire – the Student Center will be ready for the start of school! We could use some help to dust, wipe down tables etc. Construction “kicks up” quite a bit of dust.

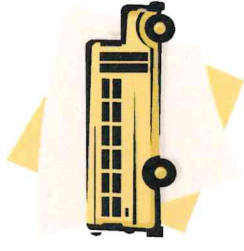
We can use help from 9:00 -11:30 am, 1:00-3:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm on Monday, August 11 and Tuesday August 12. It is listed in Mobile Serve for students in grades 7-12, but if you want to come as a family that would be great too. Just show up and we will put you to good use.


We also need volunteers for a reception for donors on Friday, August 15 and for the opening Liturgy on Saturday, August 16. These are opportunities for high school students. They are listed on Mobile Serve.

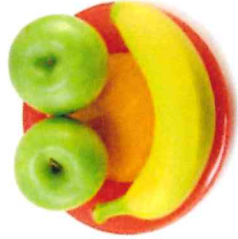
JOURNEY
OF
Faith



Activity Calendar August 2025

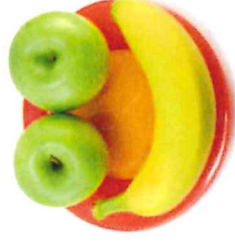


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Mandatory OHSA Parent Make-up Mtg 6:00 pm Grades K-3 Reading/Math Camp	5 PTO Meeting - 6pm Fall Sports Pictures Used Uniform Sale	6 Cheer Camp - 11am Grade 7 & 8 Social 6:00 pm	7 New Student Orientation -12:30pm Grades 8-12	8 Student Council Leadership—9:00 am	9 Adams Angels Cornhole Tournament 
10	11 Liturgical Ministers Training—9:00 am Kindergarten Parent Orientation—6:00 pm	12 7th Grade Orientation—8:30 am PK Parent Orientation 6:00 pm	13	14	15	16 Dedication of the Student Center
17	18 Back to School Night - 5:00 pm Grades 4-6 Band Open House	19 First Day of School - K-12 7:50am—2:20 pm	20 After School Care Begins	21	22 Fall Sports Rally Grades 6-12 All School Spirit Down Day PK Orientation —8:30	23
24	25 First Day of PK	26 School Picture Day	27	28	29 Opening School Liturgy—9:45 am Dress Uniform Day	30
31						



Lunch Menu

August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider