

Parent Newsletter

February 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

If you have ever read *The Velveteen Rabbit*, you probably know that although it was written as a children's book, it has many life long lessons.

Many of the passages in the book deal with the process of becoming real. **"What is REAL?"** asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. **"Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"**

Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept."

To be real is to be authentic which is one of our HERALD CORE Values. The opposite of authentic people are people who seem false or phony. We generally do not want to be around these type of people. We generally want to be around people who don't promote themselves for their own sake. To be authentic or real means: TO BE accepting of themselves and other people, able to express their emotions, open to learning from their mistakes, willing to speak the truth even when it is difficult or unpopular, self reflective, and giving thought to what they are doing.

The month of February allows us to celebrate moments of the heart. To live authentic lives is to be heart-filled people, who are real and authentic. It might be a good time to talk with our family and friends about what does it mean to want someone to be a true Valentine? And more importantly do we "walk the talk" and act like authentic Valentines.

HERALDS LEAD

PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria.

Parent Conferences

Second semester parent conferences for students in grades PK-12 will be held virtually on Thursday, February 6 from 2:45-7:45 pm. The purpose of parent conferences is for teachers to share academic progress and growth based on classroom observations, testing data, assessments, portfolios and assignments, as well as for teachers to learn from parents about the students' strengths, needs, behaviors, and learning styles. Conferences are brief, but, if an extended conference is needed that can be arranged.

On Friday, February 7 teachers of students in grades PK-6 will also be available for conferences. There will be no school for students in grades PK—6 on that day.

A signup link will be available and information on how to schedule will be in the weekly enews.

Father Daughter Dance

This year's father daughter dance will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 5:00 –7:00 pm for all PK-6th grade daughters and their special person. A flyer was sent home with your child to RSVP. Please rsvp online by February 3.

Valentine's Day Parties

This year, St. Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Thursday, February 13. Students in grades PK-6 may dress down in red or pink colors. Homeroom parents will be in touch with parents to plan the details for Grades PK-6 parties. Similar to Christmas parties, we will ask all party attendees to pre-register so that badges are ready when you arrive.

Students in grades 7-12 may dress down in red or pink attire for a donation of \$2.00

Winter Break

We will have an extended break from February 14-February 17. This is President's Day weekend. On Friday, the faculty will participate in a Diocesan in-service with teachers from throughout the Diocese. Monday is the federal holiday.

Blood Drive

Key Club is sponsoring a blood donation drive on Thursday, February 20 at 2:00 pm. Red Cross is in need of blood, please consider donating and saving a life.

Athletic News

The Ohio Athletic Association mandatory meeting for parents will take place on February 27 at 6 pm. This is a mandatory meeting and this is a OHAA mandate. Students are not permitted to participate in a scrimmage or a game unless a parent is present at this meeting. If you have a conflict, please contact Athletic Director, Mr. Nick Iarocci.

Ed Choice & Jon Peterson State Scholarships

The opportunity to re-apply or apply for a state of Ohio scholarship opens on February 1st. An individual letter specific to your scholarship will be sent via US mail the week of February 3rd. We encourage families to send in applications and a **current full page utility bill**. Please fill out your forms as soon as possible. Applications and renewals can take time to be approved sometimes for no apparent reasons. Our staff is more than happy to assist, but we need families to start the application process.

This is not a time to procrastinate!

Saint Patrick's Day Raffle

Our annual Saint Patrick's Day Raffle will be held **VIRTUALLY ON MARCH 15**. We are asking families to donate gift cards or a cash donation that the committee can use to provide raffle items. Students who make a donation of \$10 or more in February or March will be eligible for a dress down day. More information on the raffle will be in the weekly enews.

Respect Life Week

During the week of February 10-14, we will host a drive for the Ashtabula Mya Center. The Mya center assists women who are in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy and supports the young mothers after the birth of the child. In the last five years the Ashtabula Mya program has helped 691 mothers choose life. We are collecting items to help support the new mothers. In order to focus our collection efforts, we are assigning items by grade level. However, if you would prefer to send in an item that isn't assigned to your grade level that is also an option. It is also possible to donate cash (each classroom will have a baby bottle for change) and other needed items include outlet plug covers and \$10 Walmart Gift Card to cover the cost of a Parenting Class.

"Respect Life" Mya Supply-Drive Schedule

- Pre-K= Baby Burp Cloths
 - Kindergarten= Baby Wipes
 - First Grade= Diaper Cream
 - Second Grade= Baby Blankets (handmade or new).
 - Third Grade= Baby Hats & Bibs
 - Fourth Grade= Baby Sleepers & Outfits
 - Fifth Grade= any Newborn to 12 months clothing
 - Sixth Grade= Baby Socks & Shoes
 - Seventh Grade= Baby Body Wash, Lotion,
or Shampoo
 - Eighth Grade= Baby Teethers & Rattles
 - Freshmen= Baby Toys.
 - Sophomores= Baby Brush & Comb Sets.
 - Juniors= Baby Spoons, Sippy Cups &
Plates.
 - Seniors= New Small Stuffed Animals.
- Each grade will also have a Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle to donate spare change.

Other Items to consider: Outlet Plug Covers,
\$10 Walmart Gift Cards (for Parenting Class)

Saint John Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)

Receive a 2024 Ohio income tax credit when contributing to the Saint John SGO before filing your 2024 tax return. It's like a boomerang...what you give comes back to YOU! It takes less than five minutes from start to finish. Please contact your tax preparer to learn more. You can also visit www.sjheralds.org or contact Kristen at 440-997-5531x236 or email kkitchen@sjheralds.org for more information.

New ACT Dates...

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	<u>Standby Deadline</u> (Photo Upload Deadline)
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025	
<u>FEES</u>			
ACT (No Writing)	\$69.00	Standby Testing	ADD \$69.00
ACT Plus Writing	\$94.00	Test Option Change	ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$38.00	Change Fee	ADD \$44.00

Visit www.actstudent.org for online registration and practice resources.

Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.

SAT TESTING DATES

<u>Test Date</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
<u>FEES</u>		
SAT Test	\$68.00	Cancel Registration
Late Registration	ADD \$34.00	Late Cancel Registration
Change Registration	ADD \$30.00	

Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration.

Visit www.collegeboard.org for online registration and practice resources.

For all ACT & SAT dates, please check the school website.

Looking Ahead:

****ACT** Testing for **Juniors** will be given on **February 25, 2025**. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

****Pre-ACT** Testing for **Sophomores** will be given on **February 25, 2025**. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

IOWA Test of Basic Skills - All 9th graders, 10th graders who have not completed all sections of the IOWAs, and Juniors who have not completed the IOWAS will be taking the IOWA Test of Basic Skills the week of **February 10th** - this test is a graduation **requirement** for Saint John School students. To graduate, students **must pass all sections** of the test.

Scheduling for Grades 6-11

Students in Grades 6-11 will begin the process of course selections in late January and early February. Students will have the opportunity to choose courses and receive information on the required courses for graduation in grades 9-11. Please note, students are **not** guaranteed to have the courses they select on the course selection sheets. Course placement may depend on the master schedule and the requirements needed for graduation. Please contact the Guidance Department with any questions.

Learning About Business

Thinking of one day owning your own business, possibly majoring in business or just want to know more about how businesses are run? If so, check out this amazing opportunity.

Learning About Business (LAB) is a nonprofit organization that runs a week-long summer camp for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to learn the basics of running a business from both the corporate and entrepreneurial perspectives. This total immersion, interactive business experience will be held on the campus of *Lake Erie College* in Painesville, from **Sunday, June 8th through Friday, June 13th, 2025**.

Local business leaders and professionals act as presenters and resources, guiding the students through six days of intense hands-on learning, competition and personal growth. Students are grouped into teams to develop and run a virtual online company - applying the lessons learned throughout the day to executive level decisions that impact their company's market share.

Students of LAB Week 2025 will earn *THREE college credits* for their participation in the program. Learning About Business and Lake Erie College (LEC) have partnered to offer credit for LEC's Fundamentals of the Enterprise as transferable credits to any college or university. Students who successfully complete LAB Week are also eligible for a \$4,000 scholarship should they decide to attend Lake Erie College.

Additionally, students have the opportunity to improve soft skills like interpersonal communications, strategic thinking, creative problem solving, and leadership. By the end of the week, students learn not only the basics of running a business, but also gain valuable employability skills which will give them an advantage during future job interviews.

The cost of the camp for students is only \$350 that includes room, board and materials. No qualified student is turned away, full scholarships are available for those with financial need. And new this year, we will be offering an opportunity for students to apply for a merit scholarship.

There are applications in the Guidance Office.

Please reach out to Marie Graf with any questions at 216-543-0071 or marie@learningaboutbusiness.org The website: <https://www.learningaboutbusiness.org/>

****Stay tuned for Buckeye Boys State Information**

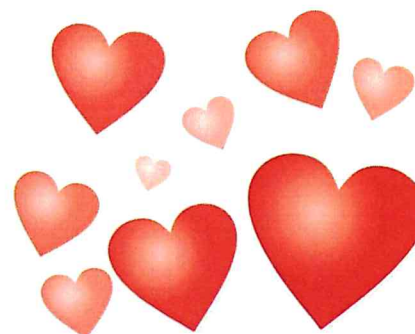
Summer 2025: June 8-15, 2025 at Miami University of Ohio

Website: <https://www.ohiobuckeyeboysstate.com/>

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And keep up to date by visiting our website:
www.sjheralds.org
Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

Grades PK-2 will be joining Father Hetzel in the chapel to familiarize students with the Mass. Father will explain the Mass and the various items used in the service. Each group will get question and answer time, and leave more confidence in attending worship services in the future.

Classes for students who are interested in joining the Catholic Church, or need to “make up” missed Sacraments, have begun. Classes are held during the school day at various times for grade level. Anyone interested in having a student participate may contact Dr. Wilson at awilson@sjheralds.org.

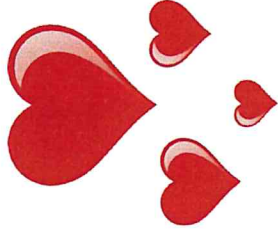
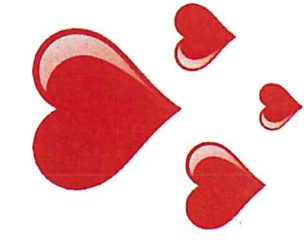
Respect Life Week will take place from February 10-14. Various activities and presentations will revolve around Respect Life themes as found in Catholic Social Teaching.




If you are not receiving text messages, please text 67587. In the message type “Y” and hit send. You should get a confirmation text.

Activity Calendar

February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 PTO Meeting 6:00 pm	5	6 Parent/Teacher Conferences PK-12 2:45—7:30 pm	7 Parent/Teacher Conferences PK-6 NO SCHOOL PK-6	8 Father/Daughter Dance 5:00—7:00pm
9	10 High School Iowa Testing	11	12	13 PK-6 Valentine Parties—1:30 pm	14 NO SCHOOL 	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL	18	19	20 Blood Drive 2:00 pm	21	22 TWIRP Dance
23	24	25 Grade 10 Pre-Act Testing Grade 11 ACT Testing	26	27 Spring OHSAA Mandatory Parent Meeting—6:00 pm	28 Lottery Dress Down Day	

Calendar Subject to Change