



SAINT JOHN  
SCHOOL

# Parent Newsletter January 2024

## 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 green and red are the colors of December and Christmas, what is the color of January? I read recently that it was caramel. I do not remember the full explanation, but what struck me was that the color of caramel represents being grounded.

I think this is a good reminder for the start of a new year. The holidays are over. It's time to put away the decorations, make resolutions, look back on all the things we put off until after Christmas, and figure out what project we want to take on first.

All of these require us to be grounded. If we look at large trees we can admire the lush foliage but the strength of the tree, what grounds it, are the roots.

What does it mean for us and for our students to be grounded:

- We don't become grounded by accident. Tree roots need to be watered and tended to. Do we take time to be intentional about how we are leaders? Do we talk with our children about being leaders? Do we use the language of 7 Habits of Leadership?
- How do we assure that we have the energy and stamina to grow deep roots. Many of our new year resolutions revolve around taking better care of our physical well being, but are these resolutions grounded in reality or are they fairy tales?
- Are we curious? Willing to think outside of our comfort zone? Do we help our children understand that in order to be well grounded we need to be able to withstand the storms of society. Can we be optimistic in the midst of the many crisis's that we see in the news? Are we willing to create networks that create synergy?
- Do we have vocational and spiritual roots? Advent is over and Lent is a few weeks away. Do we ever talk about how what we do can be more than a job? Does what we do Drive who we are or is Who we are what Drives what we do?

These roots are critical to true leadership. Grounded leaders are needed now more than ever. Only grounded leaders will be up to the challenges of today's society. Grounded leaders inspire us to do good work, not just work harder. Grounded leaders make it possible for good to happen and for good to be sustained.

May 2024 find us grounded in love and in faith.

Dear Families,

As we joyfully enter Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month, we embark on a week-long celebration of the values that define our Saint John Family — scholarship, faith, and leadership.

**Scholarship:** At Saint John School we take pride in fostering a culture of academic excellence. Catholic education empowers our students to pursue knowledge with diligence and curiosity.

Catholic Schools week will be a celebration of the achievements of our scholars and recognizing the dedication of our teachers who inspire a love for learning.

**Faith:** Grounded in our Catholic identity, faith is the cornerstone of our community. During Catholic Schools Week, we come together in prayer and reflection, reinforcing the spiritual foundation that guides our journey. As we celebrate the richness of our faith, may it continue to be a source of strength, compassion, and unity.

**Leadership:** Leadership is not just a position; it's a mindset cultivated through service and example. Our students are encouraged to lead with integrity and compassion. This week, we applaud the leadership initiatives within our school, recognizing the positive impact our students have on their peers and the broader community.

Catholic Schools Week is a time to reflect on the profound influence of scholarship, faith, and leadership within our community. As we join in the festivities, let's take a moment to appreciate the extraordinary tapestry we are weaving together—a tapestry woven with threads of knowledge, faith, and a commitment to shaping leaders of tomorrow.

Wishing you a week filled with joy, reflection, and a deepened sense of living in a faith-filled community.

God's Peace,  
Mr. Plescia

## Midterms and Incomplete Grades

Students who have not yet completed their midterms must contact their teachers. They will receive an Incomplete (I) on their report cards until the exams have been completed. Students must schedule makeup exams with their teachers.

According to the Handbook: Incomplete Grades

If special circumstances exist, e.g., extended illness, a teacher may assign temporarily a grade of "Incomplete" (I) at the end of a half-term or term. A student may make up the necessary work within a time period equal to the number of days absent or two weeks, whichever is shorter. Otherwise the "Incomplete" grade becomes an "F," a failing grade.

The administration reserves the right to extend the time allowed for make-up work.

## Testing

NWEA MAPs will be given in January for all students. More information will follow on specific test day instructions for students and accommodations.

## Welcome

Mrs. Kristin Kitchen will be joining our Advancement team on January 16. Kristin will be working with Christy Garrod to secure ongoing support for our mission and inviting others to lend their financial support for our students. Mrs. Kitchen will be reaching out to families to become acquainted with our most important supporters.

## Athletics

### Intramural Basketball

Intramurals will begin with skill camp on Sunday, January 7th from 11:00 am—1:00 pm. Students in grades K-2 will attend from 11:00-Noon and students in grades 3-6 will attend from 12:00—1:00 pm.

If you have not yet registered, please do so now so we can plan for teams.

You can find the link to the flyer in the Sunday enews.

## Concessions

Additional volunteers are needed for the concession stand. Please use sign up genius to volunteer. Link can be found in the Sunday enews.

## PTO

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 pm.

## No School

There will be no school on Monday, January 15 due to the celebration of Martin Luther King.

## Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair from January 22-January 26. More details will be provided via enews. This is a good opportunity to help your children recognize the importance of reading outside of school.

## Blood Drive

Key club is sponsoring a blood donation drive on January 25 at 1:00 pm. Red Cross is in need of blood, please consider donating and saving a life.

## New Opportunity to

Ohioans can now receive a 100% **TAX CREDIT** of up to \$750 (\$1500 if filing jointly) for cash donations to the Saint John Scholarship Granting Organization.

**Donor Wins:** You Save On Your Taxes!

**Saint John Wins:** Donation is an Investment in Future Heralds! Here's how it works:

- ◆ Make a donation to the Saint John SGO
- ◆ Receive a tax credit receipt to use when filing your Ohio income tax.
- ◆ Your donation qualifies you for a 100% tax credit (\$750 for individuals or \$1,500 for filing jointly).

Saint John SGO will receive scholarship dollars equal to your donation



## New ACT Dates...

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)
<b>February 10, 2024</b>	<b>January 5, 2024</b>	<b>January 19, 2024</b>
ACT (No Writing)	\$68.00	Standby Testing ADD \$68.00
ACT Plus Writing	\$93.00	Test Option Change ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$36.00	Change Fee: ADD \$42.00

Visit [www.actstudent.org](http://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>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u> (Late Registration Fee Required)
<b>March 9, 2024</b>	<b>February 23, 2024</b>	<b>February 27, 2024</b>
SAT Test	\$60.00	Cancel Registration ADD \$25.00
Late Registration	ADD \$30.00	Late Cancel Registration ADD \$35.00
Change Registration	ADD \$30.00	

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

Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for online registration and practice resources.

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

## SAVE THE DATE

**\*\*Reservations required:** Please RSVP to Nicole Steele ([nsteele@sjheralds.org](mailto:nsteele@sjheralds.org)), Guidance Administrative Assistant, by Wednesday, January 5, 2024 for the January 9th date. If you prefer, you can call-in your reservation: 440-997-5531 x256.

## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) WORKSHOP FOR SENIOR PARENTS

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00pm

Room: TBD

Senior parent(s) and students are encouraged to attend the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) interactive workshop in which you will be completing the FAFSA form online. This will be the only college financial aid workshop scheduled at Saint John. FAFSA information is changing and will not open until December 31st this year. If you are a family who has previously filled out FAFSA, the application process is changing. We will do our best to keep you updated on the changes.

To assist in the completion of the FAFSA, the following information should be brought to the meeting for the parent and the student....

1. Student's social security number
2. Parents' social security numbers if parent information will be provided
3. Driver's license number (if you have one)
4. Alien registration or permanent resident card if not a United States citizen
5. Information on savings, investments and business and farm assets for student and parent(s)
6. Federal tax information or tax return including (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ) IRS W-2 information for student and parents if providing parent information. Use the 2022 tax information.
7. Foreign tax return and/or tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the US Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or Palau.
8. Records of your untaxed income such as child support received, interest income and veterans' non-education benefits
9. Information (parent/student) on cash, savings and checking account balances; investments including stocks and bonds and real estate but not including the home in which you live; business and farm assets.

Prior to that evening we will be working with the seniors to create a FAFSA ID. We are also asking that if both parents are contributing information to the FAFSA that both parent create their FAFSA ID's prior to the Financial Aid night as this will allow for enough time to hopefully complete the FAFSA on the evening of the 6th. We will continue to keep families updated as we receive information regarding FAFSA.

A FAFSA ID can be created by visiting <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. Social security number is needed. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Steele at (440) 997-5531 ext.256 or e-mail at [nsteele@sjheralds.org](mailto:nsteele@sjheralds.org)

## COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP)

Students in grades 7 - 11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) or other higher education institutions for the first time in the 2023 - 2024 school year please contact Melissa Nooney [mnooney@sjheralds.org](mailto:mnooney@sjheralds.org). This will enable you to meet deadlines for financial and entrance applications.

Saint John School  
7911 Depot Road  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Geneva, Ohio  
44041  
Permit No. 9

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**On Twitter:**

@StJohnHeralds

**On Instagram**

@stjohnheralds

**Join our LinkedIn:**

Ashtabula/St.John/Sts.John & Paul High School

**And keep up to date by visiting our website:**

[www.sjheralds.org](http://www.sjheralds.org)

Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



## CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

January 11th, 10:50 am; Sophomore Class Mass, in the chapel

January 12th, All Day, 8th Grade Retreat w/ Mass in the chapel at 1:30 pm

Catholic Schools Week: January 29th - February 2nd

Student Council and Campus Ministry are planning activities that help celebrate Catholic Schools Week. These activities are meant to celebrate community, service and faith.

**Monday 1/29:** Excursion Day, Peak-n-Peak, Skyzone, Roller Den, Big Bounce House

All of the activities are paid for through Student Service Fees. One major cost that continues to increase is transportation. Due to shortage of drivers and their own schedules, it is almost impossible to use area school buses.

**Tuesday 1/30:** All School Liturgy in the gym at 9:30 am (Dress Uniform Day)

**Wednesday 1/31:** Volunteer & Community Day

**Thursday 2/1:** Trivia & Flag Football

**Friday 2/2:** Movie Day

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly enews.

Thank you to all who donated items for our HALO project with Catholic Charities.  
They were overwhelmed by your generosity.

JOURNEY  
OF  
Faith

# I See The Leader In You!