



SAINT JOHN  
SCHOOL

# Parent Newsletter October 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

Halloween is a time for wearing masks, dressing in costumes and pretending to be some famous character. It is done in good fun and reminds us that even as adults, we can enjoy the simple pleasures of our childhood.

But perhaps it can also give us pause to remember that while it is perfectly fine to put on a mask or pretend to be something, this is not how we want to live our daily lives.

Honesty is one of our Herald Core Values. Honesty is more than telling the truth, it is also about living the truth. Being honest involves:

- **Speaking the Truth:** Speaking genuinely without deception or exaggeration.
- **Acting with Integrity:** Ensuring that our actions match our stated values and beliefs.
- **Facing Reality:** Accepting situations as they are, not as we wish them to be, and being open about mistakes or challenges.
- **Avoiding Pretense:** Not pretending to be someone else in order to impress or please others.
- **Emotional Honesty:** Sharing genuine emotions, whether positive or negative, rather than suppressing or masking them to avoid conflict or discomfort.
- **Making Real Connection:** Relationships thrive on trust and authenticity. Not wearing masks creates an environment where people feel safe to be their real selves.

Perhaps we remember a time as a child that we told a lie and our parents told us how important it was for us to admit that we were not telling the truth. Sometimes, even if we knew better, we insisted that we were telling the truth. As children it is hard to discover that honesty is the better policy it is even more difficult as we grow into adulthood because it is not just our words, but also our actions that we need to examine. It's about living consistently in accordance with what is real, even when it's difficult. Honesty as a core value is not always appreciated or respected, but it is needed now more than ever.

God Bless,  
Sr. Maureen Burke, SND  
President

HERALDS LEAD

## PTO NEWS

The next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 1 at 6:00 pm. Mumkin pick-up will be on Wednesday, October 2. Trunk or Treat will be at Saint John School on Friday, October 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

## ATHLETIC NEWS

### Athletic Reverse Raffle

The Herald Booster Club is sponsoring their annual Reverse Raffle on Saturday, October 12.

The event is a great evening of fun, food and raffles. Cost for a couple is \$90 and includes 2 dinners and 1 chance on the main board. Individual tickets are \$50. Evening includes a buffet dinner, beer and wine. For tickets or additional information, contact Nick Iarocci at [niarocci@sjheralds.org](mailto:niarocci@sjheralds.org).

### Youth Sports

On October 2 at 7:00 pm there will be a meeting for youth sports regarding Travel Basketball. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact [willanderson@sjheralds.org](mailto:willanderson@sjheralds.org).

### Winter OHSAA Sports Meeting

The mandatory meeting for student athletes involved in basketball, bowling, cheerleading and wrestling is on Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 pm. Students are not permitted to participate in practice or games until they have attended this meeting.

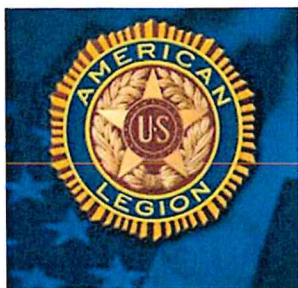
**Thank you to our Platinum Student Activities Sponsors: Arthur Louis Steel, VFW Post 943, American Legion Post 103, Edward Jones and Cragon Automotive: This month we give a shout out to:**

**VFW Post 943**



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 103**  
**1804 West 19th Street PO Box 22**  
**Ashtabula, Ohio 44004**

**440-964-7185**



## October Assemblies

### Presentation on Preventing Sexual Abuse

A survivor of sexual abuse and a detective from the Ohio Attorney General's Office will be speaking to grade 9 students on October 11 (please note that grades 10-12 were present at last year's presentation). Their presentation will inform students about keeping safe from sexual grooming and steps to take if they are in an unsafe relationship. Counselors will be available for students during and after the presentation. Parents who wish to opt their child out of the presentation, or need more information, should contact the guidance department.

### Stand Strong Presentation

On July 3, 2009, Scott Fedor dove into a lake, broke his neck, and instantly altered the course of his life—forever. A driven individual, with a thirst for adventure who thought he had his life planned out, Fedor was left paralyzed and subsequently drowned. Given little hope by doctors for a productive life, Scott refused to give up and instead made it his mission to embark upon a new adventure and defy the odds. Scott is a native of the Cleveland area and a Saint Ignatius graduate. Scott will be at Saint John School on Tuesday, October 22 at 1:00 pm to share his story with students in grades 7-12. All are welcome to join us.

Scott Fedor is a vibrant speaker who makes his faith and courage come alive to each group he meets. His humor, personal stories, and continuing dreams for the future resonate with audiences young and old. He speaks with passion and purpose as he tells the story of his fast-paced life nearly halted by a diving accident, and his continual progress in getting back up. Scott's wit, humor and faith will have a huge impact.

### Halloween Parties

Our Halloween parties for students in Grades PK-6 will take place on Thursday, October 31. Homeroom Parents will be in contact with regards to how parents can assist.

On that same day, we will have students in PK-6 enjoy a Halloween parade. Students will parade around outside the school. Parents and families are welcome to watch the parade beginning at 1:00 pm.

We are implementing a new check-in system this school year. If you plan to attend one of the elementary parties and enter the building, please pre-register before the event. Pre-registration includes a screening of attendees against the FBI sex offender registry. Once registered, you will receive a QR code, which can be scanned from your smartphone or a printed copy at the main entrance. Following these steps will help ensure a quick check-in process. Details about registration will be shared in our weekly Enews closer to the event dates.

Students in Grades 7-12 may wear a Halloween costume on 10/31 if they choose by donating \$5.00.

### Professional In-Service Day

On Monday, October 14, all faculty will be involved in a professional learning day regarding Assessment and the NEWA testing protocols. This is a required diocesan in-service day and **there are no classes for students that day.**

### No School Grades PK-6

Due to parent conferences for students in Grades PK-6 on **Friday, October 4, there will be no classes for PK-6 students that day.**

## 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)
<b>December 14, 2024</b>	<b>November 8</b>	<b>November 22</b>	
<b>FEES</b>			
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
Additional Score Reports ADD \$19.00			
Visit <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> 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>November 2, 2024</b>	<b>October 18, 2024</b>	<b>October 22, 2024</b>
<b>FEES</b>		
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](http://www.collegeboard.org) for online registration and practice resources.

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

## Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences for students in grades PK-12 will be held virtually on Thursday, October 3 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, October 4 teachers of students in grades PK-6 will also be available for conferences.

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

## SAVE THE DATES

### October Test - October 8th

**11<sup>th</sup> grade students** are signed up to take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) will be testing on a Tuesday in October. The test will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end approximately 11:30 a.m. Students are expected to report to school in uniform. All Juniors will be required to take the test, no makeup exam will be provided. Juniors will be able to leave after completing testing.

## College Visits

College visits are being scheduled with Mrs. Steele's College and Career Readiness class. Seniors who would like information for a certain college will need to speak with Mrs. Steele before the visit.

Monday, October 7th **The University of Akron** will be visiting during 4th and 5th period College and Career Readiness.

Wednesday, October 9th **The University of Mount Union** will be visiting during 4th period College and Career Readiness.

Tuesday, October 22nd **Walsh University** will be visiting during 4th period College and Career Readiness.

Wednesday, October 30th **Youngstown State University** will be visiting during 4th and 5th period College and Career Readiness.

**Any Jr. or Sr. interested in attending or receiving information, please see Mrs. Steele.**

## Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus (ATECH)

Orientation/Visitation - Current 10th Grade Students

All 10th Grade students may attend an orientation of the technical and career programs offered at ATECH in a small group setting on **Thursday, November 21st**. If a sophomore student is interested in attending ATECH in his/her junior or senior year, he/she must visit the program of interest to him/her before applying. ATECH is offering a number of ways in which an interested student can visit or become familiar with each program. The include: \* "Live Looks" of each program which is our visitation day on **Thursday, November 21st**.

\* Individual visits for students to see programs on Fridays can be done through ATECH by calling 440-567-6015, x1115.

Saint John School  
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Ashtabula, OH 44004

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**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

We will celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on Friday, October 4 with the celebration of the liturgy for students in Grades 7-12 at 9:45 am. We will pray in a special way for peace in our country and in our world.

Looking ahead...on Friday, November 1 at 9:45 am we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints Day with Mass. At the liturgy, we will commemorate those who have died. Please look for information in the weekly e-newsletter for how to have your loved one remembered in the litany of remembrance.

### Faith Formation Inquiry Evening

For families who wish to learn more about the process of having children receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Penance, Eucharist and/or Confirmation, we will hold an evening session on Thursday, October 17 at 6:00 pm. Mr. Nick Perkoski, pastoral associate for the parishes in Ashtabula, will join us. We will discuss the importance of having a faith home and processes for having children formed in the Catholic faith tradition. This meeting would be for:

Students of any age who have not yet been Baptized.

Students in Grades 3 and above who have been baptized but have not experienced the Sacraments of Reconciliation or Eucharist.

Students in grades 9-12 who have not been Confirmed.

We can also discuss any questions you as a family might have about the Catholic Church. There will be a form in the weekly enews to indicate if you are interested in coming to the meeting.

JOURNEY  
OF  
*Faith*

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Happy October! As we enter this month, I'd like to remind everyone that October is recognized as School Safety Month. At Saint John School, we are dedicated to creating a safe and secure environment where every student can thrive, and this month, we will be focusing on reinforcing our safety protocols and educating our students on various safety topics.

### Here's What We're Focusing On:

1. **Emergency Drills:** Throughout the month, we will conduct our monthly emergency evacuation drill (fire drill) as well as a lockdown drill to ensure that students and staff are familiar with the procedures and can respond quickly in an emergency. Please note that all teachers are trained in delivering age-appropriate safety information that avoids traumatizing students.
2. **Bully Prevention:** We are committed to fostering a respectful and supportive school culture. Our staff will be working with students on anti-bullying initiatives (speaker circuit), emphasizing the importance of kindness, inclusion, and standing up for others.
3. **Visitor Procedures:** We are implementing updated visitor check-in procedures to ensure that everyone who enters our building is accounted for and has a reason to be here. Your cooperation in following these procedures is greatly appreciated.

### How You Can Help:

- **Reinforce Safety at Home:** Please discuss these topics with your child and reinforce the importance of following safety rules, both at school and at home.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye out for safety tips and resources in our weekly Enews. We will be sharing valuable information on how to keep our school community safe.

Our goal is to empower our students with the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe in all situations. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in keeping Saint John School a safe place for everyone.

If you have any questions or suggestions about how we can continue to improve school safety, please don't hesitate to reach out.

God's Peace,

Scott Plescia, Principal

## **Save the Date!**

November 13, 2024

Herald Double Day

November 16 – 30, 2024

Twelve Days of Christmas

An online extravaganza supporting the education of our over 600 students!

November 30, 2024

31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of Trees

An in-person evening celebrating the holiday season & Saint John School

December 14, 2024

Breakfast with Santa

## **Calling All Holiday Helpers**



Maybe you like to bake, decorate, greet guests or sell tickets? Or maybe you just like to help your child's school? Whatever the reason, we need **YOU** as a Festival of Trees volunteer! With opportunities of all types, we graciously welcome you to join us for some holiday cheer before, and during, the in-person event on November 30, 2024. Please contact Kristen Kitchen with your interest at [kkitchen@sjheralds.org](mailto:kkitchen@sjheralds.org) or 440-997-5531 x236.

## **Dress Down Day #2 for Festival of Trees**

With the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of Trees just around the corner, we are kindly asking each family to participate by donating \$10 by October 30<sup>th</sup> to assist us in purchasing gift cards and raffle prizes for our class sponsored items. As a special thank-you, your student will have a dress down day in November. Please send to your homeroom teacher marked with your child's name. Many thanks to those who donated in September for Dress Down Day #1!

# Activity Calendar October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Hospice Memorial Service—5:00 pm PTO Meeting 6:00 pm	2 Mumkin Pick-up Youth Athletic Travel Basketball Meeting 7:00 pm	3 PK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:45– 7:45 pm	4 PK-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00—2:00 pm <b>No School—PK-6</b> Mass —Grades 7-12 Dress Uniform Day	5
6	7	8 PSAT—Grade 11 Festival of Trees Meeting - 6 pm	9 Title 1 Parent Engagement Night - 6:00 pm	10	11 Lottery Dress Down Day Assembly Grade 9	12 Athletic Booster Reverse Raffle 
13	14 NO SCHOOL PK-12	15	16	17 Faith Formation Inquiry Meeting 6:00 pm	18 Grade 8 Retreat Trunk or Treat 6:00—8:00 pm Saint John School	19
20	21 ATECH Visitation Grade 10	22 Assembly Grades 7-12 1:00 pm	23	24 Winter Parent OHSA Meeting - 6:00 pm	25 End of Quarter 1 Grade 10 Retreat Festival of Trees Dress Down Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween Parade/ Parties - PK-6 1:00 pm <b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b>	<b>Happy Halloween!</b> 	

Calendar Subject to Change



# Lunch Menu

## October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Taco Salad		1 Turkey Slider Mac & Cheese Broccoli Fruit Milk	2 Penne Pasta Breadstick Salad Fruit Milk	3 Chicken Nuggets Potato Wedges Green Beans Fruit Milk	4 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	5
6 Grilled Chicken Salad	7 Pepperoni Ball Pasta Salad Corn Fruit Milk	8 Hot Dogs Potato Wedges Baked Beans Fruit Milk	9 Rigatoni Breadstick Salad Fruit Milk	10 Chicken Quesadilla Rice Corn Fruit Milk	11 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	12
13 Chicken BLT Salad	14 NO SCHOOL	15 Taco Salad OR PB&J Chips & Salsa Refried Beans Fruit Milk	16 Shells Roll Salad Fruit Milk	17 Chicken Pattie Sandwich Carrots & Celery Tator Tots Fruit Milk	18 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	19
20 Chef Salad	21 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Fruit Milk	22 Creamed Chicken over Biscuit Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Milk	23 Lasagna Bread Salad Fruit Milk	24 Hamburgers French Fries Baked Beans Fruit Milk	25 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	26
27 Cobb Salad	28 Chili Breadstick Salad Fruit Milk	29 Hot Ham & Cheese Waffle Fries Carrots Fruit Milk	30 Rotini Roll Salad Fruit Milk	31 Sweet & Sour Chicken over Rice Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Cookie Milk	<b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b>	

Calendar Subject to Change