



Parent Newsletter

September/October 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

As autumn surrounds us with beauty and change, we are reminded of the values that help our children grow not only in knowledge, but in character. Just as the season invites us to reflect with gratitude, it also calls us to deepen the qualities of honesty and empathy (2 of Saint John Core Values). Honesty helps our children walk in truth, while empathy teaches them to see and serve Christ in one another.

These virtues guide our learning and our relationships each day. Together, as parents and educators, we can nurture a community where truth is spoken with love and compassion is lived out in action.

Last year, when we asked for input regarding how we can communicate with you most effectively, there were a variety of responses. Certainly, text messages are most appreciated because they are immediate reminders about what is taking place in the present. Yet, many rely on the monthly newsletter, so they can plan ahead. The cost of postage is ever increasing and it takes "people power" to gather information, print, assemble, etc. Thus, we will publish newsletters every other month: September/October; November/December; January/February; March/April, May/June.

Another request last year was to hold parent meetings/coffee chats for parents and administrators on a regular basis. We will hold the first one in September for parents of students in grades PK-4. Information about this is inside the newsletter.

We will continue the weekly e-news and we will publish a parent pulse survey later in the fall and a second one in spring. Please continue to offer your suggestions.

May this fall be a season of gratitude, growth and grace for your family.

Focused Minds; Lead with Purpose.

Parent Meetings

On September 10, we will host a meeting for families new to Saint John in grades 1-12. This will be an opportunity to meet other families, ask questions and address any concerns. We will have a light dinner for families. There will be an RSVP form in the upcoming enews.

Last year a number of parents requested parent meetings. We will host parent meetings by grade levels throughout the year. The first one will be for parents of students in grades PK-4. Topics on the agenda will be: PikMyKid, Dress Code, curriculum. If you have other suggestions for topics, please email them to mburke@sjheralds.org. There is no need to RSVP. The meeting will be on September 23, at 7:45 in the Kanicki Cafeteria.

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences for students in grades PK-12 will be held on Thursday, October 2 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, assignments and for teachers to learn from parents about students' strengths, needs, behaviors and learning styles. Conferences are brief, but if an extended conference is needed, that can be arranged.

On Friday, October 3 teachers of students in grades PK-6 will also be available for conferences. There will be NO SCHOOL for grades PK-6 on this day.

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

Cafeteria

A few reminders about our Cafeteria program for 2025-26. All students are eligible to receive free lunch and breakfast. Breakfast is served from 7:00-7:45. If you wish to eat breakfast at school; please arrive in time to finish your breakfast and move to class by 7:50. **Students who ride Ashtabula bus and our dropped off at Ashtabula to catch the bus to Saint John are not allowed to go into the Ashtabula cafeteria to get breakfast.**

Students in grades 7-12 may purchase additional ala cart items. The cafeteria is **cashless**. Families may load money onto their account through Payschools. If students want additional items, they must have money on their payschool account. To load money, families should go to <http://www.payschoolscentral.com/> to create an account, then load funds on it.

State of Ohio Scholarships

A reminder that when you receive your award letter from the state regarding your state scholarship (Jon Peterson or EdChoice), these need to be returned to the office so that you can be accepted into the program.

PTO NEWS

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, September 2 and Tuesday, October 7 both at 6:00 pm.

Support Saint John School PTO while brightening up your porch or garden! We've partnered with **Ohio Heritage Farm** to bring you beautiful single, bicolor, and tricolor mum pots, plus new metal Halloween signage. Orders are open **August 18 – September 20**, with pickup available through **October 16**. Gift certificates are also available and make the perfect fall gift! A portion of all sales benefits the Saint John PTO. The link to order is in the enews.

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 29, 2025. Please contact Kristen Kitchen with your interest at kkitchen@sjheralds.org or 440-997-5531 x236.

Dress Down Day for Festival of Trees

With the 32nd Annual Festival of Trees just around the corner, we are kindly asking each family to participate by donating \$10 by October 30th to assist us in purchasing gift cards and raffle prizes for our class sponsored items. Please send to your homeroom teacher marked with your child's name. If you contribute in September, your child will have a dress down day in October. If you contribute in October for the first time (or a second additional gift), there will be a dress down day in November.

Halloween Parties

Our Halloween parties for students in Grades PK-6 will take place on Friday, 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 12:45 pm.

If you are coming into the building after the parade we ask that you enter through the cafeteria so that we can scan all visitors into the building.

Students in Grades 7-12 may wear a Halloween costume if they choose by donating \$ 5

Spirit Week

Spirit Week will take place the week of October 5. More details regarding activities will come in the weekly enews. Some items to note:

Monday, October 6 we will celebrate with grandparents of students in Grades PK-6. The grandparent program will be at 1:30 pm. It will begin with an assembly in the gym and then families will be divided into groups by grade levels for activities. There is no school for students in Grades 7-12 on that day.

Thursday, October 9 will be the homecoming parade and bonfire. All are welcome to the parade which will begin at 6:30. Students in PK-8 must be accompanied by parents/guardians. Bonfire and other activities are for students in grades 9-12. We would ask that younger students leave by 7:00 at the conclusion of the parade.

Friday, October 10 will be the Homecoming Football game and the presentation of the Homecoming Court at Lakeside football Stadium.

Presentation of the Court will take place at 6:30 pm. Saturday, October 11 will be the Homecoming Dance at the school.

Please check the weekly e-news for spirit week dress down guidelines.

Athletic News

Athletic Reverse Raffle

The Herald Booster Club is sponsoring their annual Reverse Raffle on Saturday, September 20.

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 – niarocci@sjheralds.org

Senior Nights

Senior night for Football, Golf, Cross Country and Tennis will be on Friday, Sept 12, before the football game.

Senior night for Volleyball will be on Monday, October 6.

Homecoming Game

Our homecoming game is on Friday October 10 at Lakeside Stadium vs. Matthews. Homecoming festivities begin at 6:30 pm with the game at 7:00 pm.

Paint the Gym Pink

The volleyball team will again sponsor a paint the gym Pink volleyball game on September 22 vs. Chalker. Profits from the various activities will be donated to our local cancer research centers.

Yearly/Season Passes for Sports Activities

If you are interested in purchasing a yearly or season pass, they are for sale. Yearly Pass is \$150 and is good for all home football, volleyball and basketball games.

Season Pass is \$100 and is good for either volleyball & football or basketball season. You can purchase in main office, at a game or online [Athletic Season passes](#).

Flag Football 2025

For students in grades K-3 interested in Flag Football this is the information for the 2025 season:

Ask Jeremy for the information

Questions contact Jeremy Brown jbrown@sjheralds.org

Winter OHSAA Sports Meeting

The mandatory meeting for student-athletes involved in basketball, bowling, cheerleading and wrestling is on October 23 at 6:00 pm. Students are not permitted to participate in practice or games until they have attended this meeting. All student service fees must also be paid by November 1 for students to participate in interscholastic sports.

Golf Outing

The MEK Charity Golf Outing sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will take place on Saturday, September 20. Proceeds from the golf outing are used to support Saint John School. It's a 4 person scramble held at the Geneva-on-the-Lake Municipal Golf course. To register a team, go to [MEK Golf Outing](#).

Thank you to our Platinum Student Activities Sponsors: Arthur Louis Steel, VFW Post 943, Montrose Auto Group, Edward Jones and Sons of Italy: This month we give a shout out to:

VFW Post 943



NWEA Assessments

Students in grades K-11 will be participating in NWEA Assessments the week of September 7. These important assessments help us measure academic growth and guide instruction throughout the year.

Please note: since seniors are not involved in NWEA testing, they will have a late start on Monday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 10. Seniors do not need to report to school until 9:20 a.m. on those two days.

We encourage all students to get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast so they can show their best effort during testing. Thank you for your support in helping all students approach these assessments with focus and confidence!

Senior Retreat – Parent Involvement

Our Senior Retreat will be held the weekend of November 14. While the retreat itself is still a few months away, we are beginning preparations now. Parents play an important role in this special tradition by helping to create care packages for their child. Please look for more information soon from Dr. Wilson regarding how you can take part in supporting this meaningful experience. The Senior Retreat is a cherished tradition at Saint John and an important milestone in the life of every senior. All seniors are required to participate in this overnight retreat experience.

Guidance News

There will be a **Senior Guidance Meeting** on Thursday, September 11 during 1st period. Guidance will meet with the Seniors to go over folders, post-secondary plans, senior day, letter of recommendations and review meeting dates for one-on-one meeting with Guidance.

The **Junior Class** will be going to **Walsh University** on Friday, October 17 with the Guidance Department on a campus visit. Students will be able to experience a day on campus.

John Carroll University will be at Saint John School on Wednesday, October 29 during 4th and 5th period.

College Credit Plus (CCP) information meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5 at 6:00 pm, room TBD. This meeting is for parent (s) and students in grades 7-11 who are interested in taking classes at Kent State University (Ashtabula) for the **2026-2027 school year**.

ACT Testing Dates

September 6, 2025 & October 18, 2025

SAT Testing Dates

September 13, 2025 & October 4, 2025

Visit www.actstudent.org for ACT online registration and practice resources and for SAT www.collegeboard.org. Students who need to borrow a device from College Board will need to register and request their device earlier than the registration deadline— at least 30 days before test day. **Students are required to upload a photo at time of registration for either test.**

Saint John School
7911 Depot Road
Ashtabula, OH 44004

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www.facebook.com/groups.HeraldsFriendsAndAlumni

On Twitter:

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Join our LinkedIN:

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

And keep up to date by visiting our website:

www.sjheralds.org

Monthly Newsletter can be viewed on website



Liturgical Life

Beginning on Monday, September 8, we will have weekly Mass on Monday's at 8:00 am in our school chapel. Members of the area parishes are also being invited to join us. Each week, one section of a grade level will be attending the Mass. We will begin with the 6th grade class of Mrs. Fuhrmann. Then on September 15, the 6th grade class of Mrs. Dunn will attend.

On Sunday, October 5, Campus Ministry is sponsoring an outreach day: Project Grow. Project Grow is an outreach to the elderly in the area who might need assistance with fall cleanup projects. Students in grades 7-12 will meet for 10:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Peace and then attend a pancake breakfast at the school. After that we will spread out to assigned places. More details will be shared with high school students in theology classes and will be in the Mobile Serve App. For questions, please contact Dr. Aaron Wilson at awilson@sjheralds.org.

On Thursday, October 16 we will have an All-School Mass. October 16 is the feast day of Saint Margaret Mary. St. Margaret Mary was a Catholic nun who had a great devotion to the Heart of Jesus. She wanted all people to know that Jesus' love was boundless and without conditions. Bishop Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown, has written a letter to all about the importance of the Heart of Christ. Entering into the heart of Christ, we feel loved by a human heart filled with affections and emotions like our own. Jesus' human heart will freely choose to love us. Take Heart! Do Not Lose Heart! Behold the Sacred Heart! Christ. For broken, torn, tattered and lost hearts, the Sacred Heart of Jesus demonstrates a saving and lifegiving way forward. The Sacred Heart exudes a divine presence of love that is always awaiting us no matter our condition or state. He loves us! Always! Anywhere! Forever! May God forgive us for the times when we dismiss this eternal love or look for it in all the wrong places. Our prayer at the Mass will be to re-dedicate ourselves to accepting God's love into our lives. **Students are to be in dress uniform this day.**

Campus Ministry – Retreat Programs– Grades 7-12

As a means of weaving the importance of service and prayer together, we are changing the approach to school wide service day. In the past, this was held in January during Catholic Schools Week. January is not a prime time to be sending students out to service agencies. Also, sending nearly 200 students at one time makes it challenging to find agencies that are able to handle that many at one time.

For 2025-2026, each grade level will have an opportunity for a service project the day before their class retreat. Then on the retreat day, they will be able to reflect and discuss their service experience. The first retreat is for the 10th grade on September 26. Details will be sent home via theology class.

Saint John School ANNUAL MUM SALE

WE HAVE PARTNERED TO SUPPORT LOCAL!
OUR GROWER : OHIO HERITAGE FARM - 8150 DEPOT RD

PLACE YOUR ORDER: AUG 18-SEPT 20

A link will be sent home to families and posted on our Saint John PTO Facebook page.

PICK UP WINDOW: AUG 18-OCT 16

Not ready to let go of those summer flowers yet?

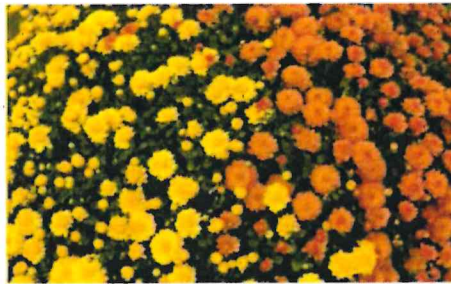
*No problem! Secure your order now and pick up when you are
ready to transition to fall!*

NEW

**BICOLOR & TRICOLOR MUM POTS
METAL HALLOWEEN SIGNAGE**



9" Single Color Refill Pot \$15



10" Bicolor Refill Pot \$20



12" Tricolor Refill Pot \$30



**Don't know quite what you want or
need a gift?**

BUY A GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Gift certificates are good for anything at Ohio
Heritage Farm! Use your certificate to buy flowers,
cornstalks, pumpkins, metal art, etc.

Excludes Fertilizer and Soil

Gift Certificates Expire October 16, 2025

**A portion of the sale of the gift certificate is donated by Ohio
Heritage Farm to Saint John School PTO.**



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER



MUM FLOWER SALE

The Annual Mum Flower Sale is Here!

We're excited to announce that this year we've partnered locally with Ohio Heritage Farm to bring you the very best fall blooms and décor!

What's Available:

- 9" Single Color Mum Pots
- 10" Bicolor Mum Pots
- 12" Tricolor Mum Pots
- Festive Metal Yard Signs
- Gift Certificates - perfect if you're undecided—use them on any fall décor in the store: hay, cornstalks, pumpkins, flowers, and more!
(Excludes fertilizer and soil)

****Saint John School PTO receives a percentage of each flower, sign, and gift certificate purchased.**

Order Deadline: September 16th

Pick-Up: No need to wait until October—pick up your flowers when you're ready!

Why It Matters:

This fundraiser is the heart of the PTO's support for our students and staff. Your participation helps make possible:

- Trunk-or-Treat Event
- Santa Shoppe
- Cinderella Dance
- Mother/Son Breakfast
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Fun Day & Field Day

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 9: PTO Meeting 8AM
- September 20: Flower Orders Due
- October 14: PTO Meeting 8AM
- October 16: Last Day to Pick Up Flowers
- October 17: Trunk-or-Treat 6-8PM
- November 11: PTO Meeting 8AM



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Trunk-or-Treat will take place on Friday, October 17th from 6:00-8:00 PM in the main parking lot. Families are invited to join us for a safe and fun Halloween celebration filled with decorated cars, candy, and festive activities. We will be sending out sign-ups for the car decorating contest, so start planning your spooky or creative theme now. We hope to make this the biggest Trunk-or-Treat yet!

DONATION DRIVE





We are thrilled to share that our recent donation drive, in partnership with Goodwill Industries, was a **HUGE success!** Together, we filled 100 bins, raising a total of **\$5,000** for our new elementary library. THANK YOU to everyone who donated and helped make this possible! We're excited to announce that we will hold another donation drive—so be sure to save your unwanted items and join us in making the next one even bigger!

FOLLOW US

Facebook: Saint John School Ashtabula PTO
Facebook: Herald's Parent Hub
Email: sjpto@sjheralds.org

Activity Calendar September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day NO SCHOOL 	Parent Ambassador Meeting 8:00-9:00 am	3	4	5 Summer Birthday Dress Down Day	6 ACT Testing
7	8 NWEA Testing Mass in Chapel 8:00am	9 PTO Meeting 8:00 am	10 New Parent Dinner 6:00 pm	11	12 Senior Night for Football, Golf Cross County & Tennis	13 SAT Testing
14	15 Mass in Chapel 8:00am	16	17	18	19 Kindergarten Field Trip to Pumpkin Patch	20 Athletic Booster Reverse Raffle  MEK Golf Outing
21	22 Mass in Chapel 8:00am Paint the Gym Pink Night	23 PK-4 Parent Meeting 7:45 am in the Kanicki Cafeteria	24	25 10th Grade Service Day	26 10th Grade Retreat	27
28	29 Mass in Chapel 8:00am	30				

Activity Calendar October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Spirit Week Project Grow	6 Grandparents Day 1:30 pm NO SCHOOL 7-12 Volleyball-Sr, Night Mass in Chapel -8am	7 Parent Ambassador Meeting 8:00-9:00 am	8	9 Parade & Bonfire 6:30 pm	10 Homecoming Game & Crowning 6:30 pm	11 Homecoming Dance
12	13 Mass in Chapel 8:00am	14 PTO Meeting 8:00 am	15	16 All School Liturgy 9:45 am Dress Uniform Day	17 End of Quarter I Trunk or Treat 6:00—8:00 pm	18 ACT Testing
19	20 Mass in Chapel 8:00am	21 PSAT—Grade 11	22	23 11th Grade Day of Service OHSA Winter Parent Meeting-6 pm	24 11th Grade Retreat	25
26	27 Mass in Chapel 8:00am	28	29	30	31 Halloween Parade 12:45 pm Halloween Parties 1:30 pm Grades PK-6	HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Lunch Menu

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Romaine Salad with Berries	1 NO SCHOOL	2 Tacos Quesadillas Corn Applesauce Milk	3 Rigatoni Bread Salad Grapes Milk	4 Hot Ham & Cheese Broccoli Potato Wedges Pineapple Milk	5 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	6
7 Chef Salad	8 Chicken Parmesan Roll Salad Banana Milk	9 Hot Italian Subs Tator Tots Celery & Carrots Peaches Milk	10 Shells Breadstick Salad Oranges Milk	11 Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Cup Milk	12 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	13
14 Grilled Chicken Salad	15 Pepperoni Ball Pasta Salad Corn Apple Wedges Milk	16 Chef Salad Potato Wedges Baked Beans Pineapple Milk	17 Lasagna Roll Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	18 Popcorn Chicken Mac & Cheese Green Beans Sliced Pears Milk	19 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	20
21 Cranberry/Chicken Salad	22 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Mixed Fruit Milk	23 Chicken Fajita Wrap OR PB&J Refried Beans Chips & Salsa Diced Peaches Milk	24 Rotini Bread Salad Applesauce Cup Milk	25 Hamburgers French Fries Cole Slaw Strawberries Milk	26 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	27
28 Chef Salad	29 Pizzaburgers Salad Fruit Cup Cookie Milk	30 Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Cookie Milk				

Calendar Subject to Change



Lunch Menu

October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Chef Salad			1 Penne Pasta Roll Salad Diced Peaches Milk	2 Chicken Patties Mashed Potatoes Corn Fruit Cup Milk	3 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	4
5 Cobb Salad	6 Chicken Nuggets Pasta Salad Carrots Pears Milk	7 Hot Dogs French Fries Green Beans Applesauce Milk	8 Shells Breadstick Salad Pineapple Milk	9 Hot Ham & Cheese Potato Wedges Broccoli Banana Milk	10 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	11
12 Chicken BLT Salad	13 NO SCHOOL	14 Taco Salad Quesadilla Corn Oranges Milk	15 Rigatoni Bread Salad Grapes Milk	16 Fajita Wraps OR PB&J Spanish Rice Chips & Salsa Mixed Fruit Milk	17 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	18
19 Taco Salad	20 Sloppy Joes Tator Tots Corn Apple Crisp Milk	21 Cheese Omelet Sausage Toast Potatoes O.J. Milk	22 Lasagna Roll Salad Apple Wedges Milk	23 Chili Breadstick California Blend Pineapple Milk	24 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	25
26 Chef Salad	27 Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup Salad Diced Peaches Milk	28 Chicken Quesadilla Refried Beans Chips & Salsa Sliced Pears Milk	29 Rotini Breadstick Salad Fruit Cocktail Milk	30 Pepperoni Ball Pasta Salad Corn Mandarin Oranges Milk	31 Pizza Salad Fruit Cookie Milk	HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Calendar Subject to Change