



September
2016

St. Joseph School

A BIG welcome to the families of our kindergarteners as well as our transfer students. I am confident our returning families will assist you in feeling at home here at St. Joseph School.

We have been busy over the summer vacation cleaning the school and making repairs and improvements in the classrooms as well as the rest of the buildings. Due to a generous donation, we were able to purchase new 21st Century Classroom furniture for our classrooms including yoga balls and mats, hokki stools, stand up desks, flip top tables, stand-up desks, sensory tables, and much more. The new furniture will allow for flexible grouping arrangements and will promote collaboration during the learning process. Additionally, an opening between 2 classrooms in the annex building is now providing a much larger space for Miss Zambito's 1st grade classroom. A big thanks to Justin Murray (Gage, Kindergarten) for making

this all happen in one day! Our cleaning crew spent much of the summer painting in the annex building. Bright new colors welcomed back our Pre-K 4 and Wrap Around students, and the hallway on the first floor annex building was freshly painted also.

We are extremely excited to continue our STREAM Academy this year! Grades Pre-K-8 will be involved in a variety of activities each Monday from 1:30-2:30 PM. The faculty and staff attended a training at the end of August and will be introducing their projects to the students in the weeks ahead. Be watching for pictures on our website as our students begin to create robots, perform experiments, become engineers and inventors, create with Legos, create a product and market it, collaborate, and have a lot of fun!

In our family envelope each family will receive a copy of our Parent/Student Handbook. Please read this

carefully and return the Parent/Student Signature Page that is included by September 16, 2016.

We are refreshed and excited about the year ahead and hope all of you are too! As always, we thank you for choosing St. Joseph School. We are looking forward to another successful school year.

Blessings,
Mrs. Green



St. Joseph School
2 Summit Street
Batavia, NY 14020
585-343-6154
585-343-8911(fax)
www.sjsbatavia.org

Dates to Remember in

September:

- 6th: 1st Day of School
- 7th: Pre-K Orientation
- 8th: Pre-K begins
Magazine/gift wrap Fund-raiser begins
- 9th: Opening Mass @ 8:30
- 13th: SOS Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- 16th: Mass @ 8:30
Subway Day
- 18th: Family Mass and Picnic @ 11:30
- 23rd: Mass @ 8:30
- 27th: Meet the Teacher Night @ 7:00 p.m.
- 28th: Grandparent's Day Celebration- Grades K-2 from 9:00-10:30
- 28th: Pre-K classes to Roanoke Apple Farm
- 30th: NO SCHOOL
Staff Development Day

Absences and Appointments

When your child is absent from school, please follow this procedure:

1. Call the school office between 7:45- 8:30 a.m. on the day your child is absent.
2. On the day your child returns, send in a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian.
3. When your child will

need to be released early from school, please send in with them a written explanation of the nature of the appointment to the classroom teacher. The teacher will forward this note to the office. Please pick up your child at the office and sign him/her out. Please do not stop-in at your child's classroom to pick them up, as this

disturbs instruction.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Lunch

The lunch menu for September is posted on our website. Lunches for all grades are \$2.50. Extras servings are \$1.00. Milk is \$0.50. If your child buys lunch or milk regularly, please purchase a ticket through the main office. Tickets cost \$50.00 for 20 lunches and \$10.50 for 21 milks. Checks should be made out to "Notre Dame Nutritional Services".



Lunch Schedule

10:50: Grade K
 10:55: Grade 1
 11:00: Grade 2
 11:30: Grade 3, 4, 5
 12:00: Grades 6,7,8



variety of snacks and ice cream will be sold daily in the cafeteria.

Alternate lunches are still available each day:

- *hot dogs
- *peanut butter & jelly
- *tuna sandwich
- *egg salad sandwich
- *turkey deli sandwiches
- *salads
- *chicken finger wraps



SOS Dues

Our SOS (Supporters of St. Joseph School) Group is asking each family to send in \$5.00 for SOS dues. This can be sent in anytime during the month of September or bring your dues to "Meet the Teacher Night" on Tuesday, September 27th.



Ties

We have navy blue ties available in the main office for the boys in grades K-5. These may be purchased for \$8.00 each.



Conferences

Parents please do not plan on "popping in" for a mini-conference with a teacher during the school day. **If you would like a conference, please make an appointment with the teacher.** We appreciate your understanding!

Protecting God's Children Workshop

St. Joseph School will be hosting a Protecting God's Children Workshop on Tuesday evening, October 25th from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. It is Diocesan policy that anyone who works with children in any capacity must attend one of these workshops. If you plan to volunteer in your child's classroom, work in the cafeteria, coach basketball, or even accompany your child's

class on a field trip, **this workshop is mandatory.** Those who participated in the workshop previously need not attend again, however, you need to update your status by reading the monthly bulletins online. Pre-registration is required. You can register online at www.virtus.org or by calling 716-847-5532.

If you are unavailable to attend

the October 25th workshop, there are other listings on the Virtus website, www.Virtus.org.

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

VIRTUS Online

Parking Lot

Please do not drive up to the school building to leave children or pick them up during school hours. Please share this with anyone else that you may ask to drive your children to and from school so that everyone is aware of this policy.

Please do not park west of the annex building, as this area is part of the morning bus drop-off route. Park in the two rows near Summit Street. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe each day.



Morning Attendance

Each morning students should be in their homerooms by 8:00 a.m. Teachers in grades K-8 will officially take attendance at 8:10 a.m. **Any student not in their homeroom by 8:10 will be marked "tardy."** This must be followed by a signed written excuse by the parent as to the reason for being late. Late students must first report to the office.

*Being on time
is a sign of self-discipline
as well as respect for others!*

School Safety Plan



St. Joseph School's Safety Plan has been updated for the 2016-2017 school year. Copies of this plan are kept in the main office and are available for review.

Arrival and Dismissal

Students who arrive before 7:45 AM should report to the cafeteria. Students should not stand at the annex door. Students arriving after this time should report directly to their classrooms. Please note: The main entrance door is not unlocked until 7:30 AM each day and there is no one to supervise your child(ren) until this time. Please adhere to our dismissal procedure which will allow us to

make the very hectic time of the day as safe and efficient as possible:

1. Bus students are released as their buses arrive beginning at 2:20 p.m.
2. Students in grades K-8 who are being picked up are escorted by the teacher to the parking lot at approximately 2:35 p.m. Parents should not come to the classrooms to pick up

children. Please wait for them in the parking lot.

3. For the safety of the children, please do not request walkers/riders be dismissed prior to 2:40 p.m. when buses are entering and leaving the parking lot.

Please note: All students who are regularly scheduled to ride the bus will be put on UNLESS they have a note from home.

Mass

Children in grades 2-8 will attend the 8:30AM Mass on Friday. Grades K and 1 will join the other grades and attend the First Friday Mass each month. We encourage family members to join us each week. Be sure to mark your calendar!



SCRIPS

Our Srips Program, also known as TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) is continuing again this year. Please send in orders by noon on Monday for pick-up on Friday. We currently have Tops, Walmart, Target, Pizza Hut, KFC, Arby's, Wendy's, Burger King, and many more in stock. Order forms are available in the main office.

CTGP

The CTGP (Catholic Tuition Grant Program) of the Diocese of Buffalo is \$1350 for the 2106-2017 school year. In order to receive this tuition subsidy, a completed form signed by your parish pastor must be on file in the main office.



Report Cards

St. Joseph School follows the guidelines established by the Diocese of Buffalo. Grades 1 and 2 use letter grades (A, B, C...) in all subject areas. A numerical grade is calculated in all subject areas for grades 3-8. The passing grade for students in these grades is 70%. Quarterly averages are calculated using a weighted formula based on the number of days a student spends on a subject per week. First quarter report cards will be distributed on Friday, November 18th prior to Parent/Teacher conferences. Kindergarten students receive their first report card in February.

Envelope Policy

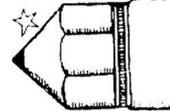


Monthly information will be sent home in a family envelope with the youngest child of each family. Please **sign and return the envelope** to the homeroom teacher the next day. If any family needs more than 1 copy of our monthly envelope, please let the office know. We can either send home a duplicate envelope or mail one.

Information Sheet

Enclosed in this month's family envelope is a yellow family contact sheet. Please fill it out completely and return it to the school office by September 16th. Thank you for your cooperation!

PARENTS:



★
**PLEASE SIGN
& RETURN**

Asbestos Notification

We are notifying you that according to AHERA regulations, we are in compliance of all laws regarding asbestos. The asbestos management report for our school is always on file in our office.



Not a Bad Idea??

It might be a good idea to put labels on all clothing, backpacks, lunchboxes, ties, etc... to avoid loss of any student's belongings.



Accident Insurance



COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

St. Joseph School students are covered by Commercial Travelers Mutual Insurance Company. Should it become necessary to submit a claim, we will give you the necessary information.

After School Program

It's not too late to sign up for our daily After School Program that began on Tuesday, September 6th from 2:45-5:15 p.m. This program is intended to be flexible, so that your child can participate on a daily or weekly basis. Registration forms are available on our website at sjsbatavia.org.



Uniforms

The school uniforms lending closet is located outside of the girls' restroom in the cafeteria. We encourage you to check them out, most are in good shape and are free for the taking. If anyone has used uniforms to donate, please drop them off in the green basket outside of the girls' bathroom.

Thank you to Mrs. Carol Piechowiak and Mrs. Mary Case for all the time and effort you gave organizing our lending closet!

School Nurse

Our School nurse, Mrs. Ange will be in the school Monday-Thursday from 8:30 -1:30 and Friday from 9:00-1:00.

Please review the school policy which incorporates the Health Laws of New York State that is found in the Handbook in regards to medication. Over-the-counter medicine is not allowed in school with the children unless they have a doctor's note.

PLEASE NOTE:

If your **child** is to receive **medication at school**, whether it is **prescribed** by your

physician **or is over-the-counter medicine, a form is required** to be filled out completely and **signed by your physician** before the medication may be dispensed at school. Forms are available at your doctor's office or in the nurse's office.

Please contact Mrs. Ange with questions: sange@sjsbatavia.org

Counselor



We are pleased to announce Mrs. Shelia Harding will be our Student Screening Referral Prevention Educator through GCASA this year. She will be in her office on the 2nd floor of the annex building on Mondays, Thursdays and every other Wednesday. This position was made possible through a partial grant from the Jerome Foundation. We thank this foundation for their continued support of our school.

Gym Reminders

Please remind your child of the importance of proper footwear required for their physical education class. St. Joseph School rules require sneakers to be worn in all PE classes. The sneaker requirement serves two purposes. Most importantly, sneakers protect the student's feet and legs during the wide variety of activities they participate in. Secondly, sneakers with non-marking

rubber soles also protect the gym floor from unnecessary damage. Sandals, slip-on shoes and sneakers with elevated heels and midsoles are inappropriate.

Please remind your child to bring their sneakers on scheduled gym days. Students in grades 3-8 are required to bring a change of clothes as well. Grades K-2 may begin to wear their gym

uniform starting on Tuesday, September 6th. We wouldn't want your child to miss out on all the fun!



BOX TOPS for Education

We recently received a check for \$590.00 from Box Tops for Education. Thank you for your continued support of this program!



Piano Lessons

Once again, Mr. Geoff Clough will be teaching piano and keyboard at St. Joseph School on Wednesdays starting on September 14th. He is currently accepting new students at any level, preferably 2nd grade and above. Lessons are $\frac{1}{2}$ hour once a week with a rotating schedule, so no student misses the same class each week. There are two recitals, one in December and one in May. Lesson commitment runs from

September through May. For fees or further information, you may contact Mr. Clough at 721-6732.



Our school uses a family-contact system called  SCHOOLMESSENGER®. This system allows us to send email, text and voice messages.

In order to receive these messages please pay particular attention to the section entitled

"Sending You Voice & E-mail Messages"

on the

"St. Joseph School Family Contact Form"

sent home in the family envelopes. Note the form is green for Pre-K students and yellow for K-8 students.

Please note that not all messages are sent in all formats. That is, a time-sensitive message might be sent via text while a routine message might be sent via e-mail. For this reason we encourage families to register all forms of

contact with us. Once you have registered a cell phone number with us and that number is entered into our database you will "opt-in" or "subscribe" to begin receiving text messages by texting "subscribe" to 68453.



In order to make the best and most accurate use of SchoolMessenger, we ask that you notify the office if you change your phone number or email address.

If you have any questions please contact Nora O'Neill at noneill@sjsbatavia.org.

We are in need of some parents or grandparents that could volunteer some time in the cafeteria each week. If you can donate some of your time between 10:45-12:45 each day, please call the main office. We would appreciate any help you could give us!

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

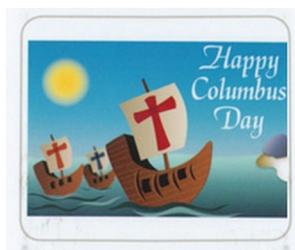
Family Mass/Picnic

Columbus Day

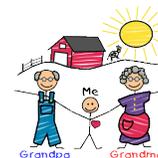
Grandparent's Day

Our Family Mass and Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 18th. We will begin by celebrating mass together at St. Joseph Church at 11:30AM with a picnic lunch to follow at St. Joseph School. There will be hotdogs, drinks and paper products available and each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. Please complete the form provided in the family envelope and return it to the main office by September 16th.

There will be no school on Monday, October 10th in Observance of Columbus Day



Our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms will be hosting a Grandparents' Day on Wednesday, September 28th beginning at 9:00 a.m. An invitation will be coming home in the near future. We hope you can spread the word to your family members to save the date for this fun-filled and special morning.



A Good Start

Keys to Success

Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of your child's day? It provides the nutrients and energy he/she needs to concentrate at school. Research even shows that kids who eat breakfast get better grades, pay more attention in class, and behave better. Help your child begin on the right foot each day!

You can also set your children up for success this school year with some basic pointers. Suggest that he/she

try to follow this checklist:

- ◇ I attend school every day unless I'm sick and I get there on time.
- ◇ I get 8-10 hours of sleep each night.
- ◇ I eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.
- ◇ I pay attention in class.



- ◇ I write down my assignments for each subject.
- ◇ I start my projects when I get them.
- ◇ I complete my homework on time.
- ◇ I read for pleasure each day.

The Board of Regents has announced the schedule for the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests and the Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests for the 2016-2017 school year. Please note the following dates on this year's school calendar and make every effort not to schedule time away from school on these dates.

Thank you!

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8

ELA: March 28, 29, 30

Math: May 2, 3, 4

Grade 4

Science Performance: May 30

Grade 8

Science Performance: June 1

Grades 4 and 8

Science Written: June 5

Please check our school website for quarterly updates from the teachers, as well as postings of the monthly newsletters, menus and other useful information.



- * To Mrs. Case for her continued efforts maintaining the landscaping at our school. The grounds continue to look beautiful all summer long because of her efforts.
- * To our custodial staff for all of their extra efforts cleaning the building this summer.

- * To Mr. Matt Dispenza for his help in preparing the school for our opening day.
- * To the SOS committee for their work on our fundraisers, and in particular the upcoming Popcorn Ball. Please be sure to save the date- October 15th- and join us for our 57th Celebration!
- * To our Co-Chairs Kathie Goras and Trisa Nickerson and their Bingo teams who continue to work each Friday night.

- * To our SJS Board who spend countless hours at St. Joseph School. Our school would not be what it is without your continued support and efforts!
- * To our Super Sale Team for their weekly efforts in picking up and preparing items for our Super Sale to be held on Saturday, April 22nd!!

Meet the Teacher Night

All parents are invited to our annual Meet the Teacher Night on Tuesday, September 27th beginning at 7:00 P.M. Parents will have a chance to sign-up for fundraising events, pay their SOS dues, meet their child's teacher(s), hear about our STREAM programs and learn about classroom procedures. We look forward to seeing you!



IOWA/CogAT Testing

Our school will not be administering the "IOWA Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)" this year. The New York State Common Core structure and associated testing is providing the objective data necessary to assess student development as well as curricula and instructional effectiveness.

Subway Day

We will be having monthly Subway Days again this year. Order forms will be sent home to be filled out and returned with payment prior to the deadline each month. Our first Subway Day will be on Friday, September 16th. Remember, there is no regular lunch that day. If your child(ren) does not wish to order a sub, they will need to pack a lunch.



Welcome to our New Faculty!

We welcome Mrs. Carolyn Fisher as our new 6/7/8 English Language Arts (ELA) grade teacher. Mrs. Fisher is a graduate of The University of Toledo and has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, Pre-K through 6, Middle School 6-8 English, as well as Middle School 6-8 Mathematics. She has many years of experience primarily as a middle school teacher.

We also welcome Mrs. Patricia Sands our 6/7/8 Grade Math Teacher for Course 1, 2 and 3. Mrs. Sands earned a B.S. from SUNY Brockport as a Mathematics major, with a History minor; and a education concentration. She has a NYS certification in N-6 with math 7-9 extension. She also has a M.S. from SUNY Brockport in Mathematics Education. She maintains NYS certification for 7-12 grades in Mathematics.

Note that Mrs. Amy Cifelli remains with us teaching our Pre-Algebra and Algebra courses to our 7th and 8th grade students.

We are excited to welcome back Mrs. Kimberly Ellis as our Art Teacher, as well as a 3-year-old Pre-K teacher.

We are happy to have all of you as a part of our school family!



Volunteer Questionnaire/ Code of Conduct

These two forms are included in this month's envelope. We must have these on file in order for you to volunteer in any capacity. **Only families that are new to St. Joe's need to complete these forms, one for each parent.** If you previously filled out these forms you do not need to do so again unless information has changed.



Security System

All doors to both buildings will be locked at 8:15 a.m. daily. After that time, any visitor must press the intercom button and stand back away from the door to be "buzzed in" once a staff member has verified identity via security cameras. Please be patient with us and realize that there may be times when you may have a brief wait for admittance if the office staff are on the phone or otherwise occupied. Anyone entering the school building must check in at the school office so we know at all times who is in the building. Thank you for your cooperation!

Spanish School Supplies

Please note the following supplies needed in Spanish Class this year:

Students in **Grades 3-8** need a folder with pockets

Students in **Grades 6-8** need a one-subject notebook

Students in **Grade 8** need a Spanish/English Dictionary

