



St. John's School

Eagle Newsletter

Back to School Edition

August 2021

Important Dates

08/23	First Day of School: K-8th
08/23	August Tuition Due
08/23	Before and After Care Begins
08/25	First Day of School: Preschool
08/27	Lunch Forms Due
08/30	Hot Lunch Begins ☺
09/01	Back to School Night, 6:30
09/06	No School - Labor Day

Hello St. John's Families,

Summer is coming to a close and school is right around the corner! We have been busy here at school getting ready for our students to arrive. In this edition of the Eagle Newsletter you will find lots of important information about what's coming up in the next few weeks here at St. John's. Future Eagle Newsletters will be sent home via email and will also be available on our website - www.sjocs.org

For those of you new to St. John's School, we are a very close-knit community with parents frequently popping into the office for a quick chat and a cup of coffee or visiting with one another after school in the parking lot as the kids play on the playground. Sadly, at this time we can't offer you that kind of hospitality. We ask that if you need to stop by the office, please wear a mask. And for now, students will be asked to go home at the end of the day unless they are enrolled in After Care. God willing these changes will be able to be relaxed as we progress through the school year. Now, read on for all of the latest news.

See you soon,

Mrs. Streff

A Few Notes About Important Dates

Meet and Greet with Teachers: On Tuesday, August 17th our K-8th and Preschool teachers were in their classrooms. Students and parents had the opportunity to drop off their school supplies and meet their teachers. The night was a great success!! It was wonderful to see so many of you! If you were unable to stop by, please don't worry! I know many students already know their teachers and will feel comfortable on the first day of school.

First Day of School K-8th Gr.: The first day of school is on Monday, August 23rd. **The church bells will ring at 8:15; this is your student's signal to proceed to their designated line-up location.** Students will meet their teachers in their designated spots in the parking lot and will then proceed into the school. If you plan to accompany your students on the first day, please park down by the dumpsters and garage. If this area fills up, you may park along Monastery Drive parallel to the church lawn and walk up the sidewalk to the back door. ☺

- **Kindergarten:** Parents of Kindergarteners, please walk your kiddos to the back door located in the upper parking lot. You may feel free to wait until they walk inside with Mrs. Dunaway, but we kindly ask that you not follow them into the classroom during this important transition time. I promise that they will be fine.
- **1st Grade:** 1st grade students should also plan to line up at the back door. Mrs. Dougherty and Miss Kelley will meet them there when the bells ring.
- **2nd/3rd Grade:** 2nd/3rd Grade students will line up at the front door. Mrs. Hawi and Mrs. Mellor will meet them at the front door and provide them with their "marching orders".
- **4th/5th Grade:** 4th/5th Grade students will line up at the farthest re-locatable. Mrs. K and Mrs. Justus will be there to meet up with their students and let them know what to do next.
- **6th Grade:** Our 6th grade students will line up at the re-locatable with the double doors. Mr. Ritchey and Mr. Dunham will be waiting there to greet their students.
- **7th/8th Grade:** 7th/8th grade students will gather by the fence at the east end of the parking lot. Mrs. Raso will be waiting for them there. They will then make their way to their classroom.

Rinse, Wash, and Repeat on Tuesday and so on.... Using these same locations for the start of the school day!

Before and After Care Program: Our Before and After Care Program will begin on the first day of school, Aug. 23rd. Before Care will be available from 7:00-8:00 am each morning to students in our elementary school program. After Care will be available Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:00 and will also be available to our Preschool students. We will have 10 spots for each of these timeframes. They are filling up fast, so if you want to participate in this program please let us know soon.

On Monday, our Before Care attendant, Kim Medders, will be waiting in the parking lot to greet and receive your students. Student will be sent outside at 8:00 am to wait until the church bells ring at 8:15 am. As we finalize school plans and locations, I will let you know where to pick up your students from After Care by the first day of school. If you have any questions about this program, please let me know. We look forward to providing snacks and a loving and friendly environment for your students to begin and end their school days!

Payments: Please plan to pay your tuition and fees on (or before!) **August 23rd**. You may stop by the school to make your payments or just put them in the mail. If you plan to stop by on the 1st day we ask you to remember the part about masks and social distancing being mandatory when entering the school. For the remainder of the school year, tuition and lunch fees are considered late if not received by the 10th of the month and late fees will be applied.

First Day of Preschool: The first day of Preschool will begin on **Wednesday, August 25th at 8:30**. Preschool families should plan to follow the drop-off instructions listed below. Preschool I is located in the main school building and Preschool II is located in the St. James House. **This year you are welcome to walk your Preschooler to their classroom, but we ask that all parents, even those who are vaccinated, wear a mask when entering the school.** Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Rasic will be so happy to receive them into their classrooms, and please rest assured they will be in good hands.

Preschool I with Mrs. Rasic: **In the morning**, you may park in the lower school parking lot and walk your Preschooler to their class. **In the afternoon**, we ask that you pick up your Preschooler on Monastery Drive parking parallel to the church lawn and the sidewalk that is there. Preschool staff will walk your kiddo to your car.

Preschool II with Mrs. Reynolds: We ask that families with Preschoolers in Mrs. Reynolds class use the Monastery Drive location for both AM drop-off and PM pick-up. Parents will need to walk their kids to the classroom in the morning. In the afternoon, Preschool staff will walk your kiddo to car.

Monastery Drive Pick-up Location: Just a reminder that Monastery Drive is a cul de sac so please go to the top of the road and turn around to get in line for dropping off and picking up your Preschoolers. **If you have students in both the K-8 program and Preschool, your K-8 student will be walked to the Monastery Drive pick-up location for your convenience.**

Parking Lot Protocol: K-8th and Preschool:

Teachers and staff will be in the parking lot each morning and afternoon as we work to establish the drop-off and pick-up routine that will keep everyone safe. Traffic cones will be set-up to show you where to go. Please drive slowly, DON'T BACK UP, pay attention to our parking lot monitors, and be patient during these two very important times of our school day. Please see the Preschool drop-off and pick-up routines that are explained in the previous two paragraphs. ☺

Lunch: As you will have noticed, our normal hot lunch program is BACK!! Hot lunch will be available Monday-Thursday. Lunch forms were recently emailed to School families and they can be turned in during the first week of school. Our first hot lunch day will be on August 30th. Students will be eating lunch with their classmates, but not in the more restrictive cohorts of last year. We will hope and pray that it will remain this way for the entire school year. Again, at the beginning of the school year, eating lunch outside may be an option as we work to enjoy the good weather and fresh air while it lasts. Students are welcome to bring a bag lunch. A microwave will be available for students to heat up their lunches, if necessary.

K-8 Back to School Night: Our Back to School Night is scheduled for Wed., Sept. 1st. We will meet in the church basement at 6:30 for some general school news and then parents will be dismissed to visit their students' classrooms. There will be two 20 min. sessions, so if you have more than one student enrolled, you can visit each classroom. Tisha Jones from Mat-Su Central will also be joining us in the basement this evening. She will share the wonderful opportunities for educational enrichment that are available from Mat-Su Central.

Labor Day Holiday: In observance of Labor Day weekend, there will be **NO SCHOOL on Monday, Sept. 6th.**

Other Important News

Schedules: PE will begin the first week of school, and Art will begin a bit later in the school year. Students in K-8 will participate in Prayers each morning in the Nave beginning on Aug. 30th. Christian Ed. once a week will begin towards the end of September. The finalized schedule for Lunch, recess and our other pullouts will be sent home soon by your student's teacher. We are still making a few tweaks and adjustments to this schedule. Thanks for your patience. ☺

PE: At St. John's we believe in the importance of getting our kids moving! Whether at recess or in PE, student participation is strongly encouraged. Because we don't yet have a gym, please ensure that your students are prepared to be outside during their PE time. Before the snow flies that means having a pair of shoes at school and any appropriate outerwear that will let them participate in the planned games and activities. During the wintertime it means having a pair of boots, and the rest of their winter gear at school. If the weather is super crummy, we will have PE in the church basement.

Field Trips: This year we will do our best to let you know about upcoming field trips far enough in advance that you may plan your student's hot lunches around these trips. Please send all field trip money and permission slips to your student's teacher, not to the office. This will help the teachers know which students still need to turn in their paperwork and \$\$.

Dress Code: A few reminders about appropriate attire for school...

- Shorts **may** be worn from the first day of school until the **last day of September**.
- Only **closed toe** shoes may be worn to school – safety over fashion! **No flip flops.** ☺
- No leggings may be worn without an appropriate dress or tunic top.
- No strapless, or spaghetti strap tops.
- No sweatpants.
- Ripped jeans – I know this is fashionable at the moment, so if you do wear them, please don't show too much skin.
- T-Shirts and sweatshirts should not have any inappropriate slogans or advertisements

Note: We understand that these are comfortable options and expect that students will occasionally slip up. That's okay, but we appreciate your attention to this detail. We hope to give our students the tools to learn to dress discreetly and appropriately for school.

- Hats may not be worn in the school building during the school day.
- St. John's Spirit wear is encouraged on Wed. and Fri., but is welcome any day of the week! If you need more information about our Lands End Spirit Wear please email the school and I will send you that information.

VSP Opportunities: A list of VSP opportunities will be available at our Back to School Night on Sept. 1st. Please note that the number of hours that a family is typically required to commit to (20 hrs.) may have to be again adjusted due to Covid concerns. A portion of a family's required volunteer hours is normally dedicated to our fundraisers which we hope to bring back this year, God willing.

St. John's School Staff for 2021-2022

I am very excited about our staff this year. St. John's School has once again been blessed with a fantastic group of dedicated educators and a supportive community eager to see us succeed. I know I speak for all of us when I say that we feel privileged that you have chosen St. John's School to teach and mentor your children during the coming school year.

Keep our school staff, students, teachers and our Anchorage community in your prayers as we strive to do our best,

Mrs. Streff

Administrator	Lynn Streff
Academic Administrator	Betsy Dunaway
Office Manager	Kali Macalino
Preschool	Melissa Reynolds, Rachel Rasic, Kathleen Sorensen, Hailey Williams
Kindergarten	Betsy Dunaway, Genevieve Maurits
1 st Gr.	Doreen Dougherty, Allison Kelley
2 nd /3 rd Gr.	Janet Hawi, Lori Mellor
4 th /5 th Gr.	Khafani Abel, Allison Justus
6 th Gr.	Ryan Ritchey, Joe Dunhan
7 th /8 th Gr.	Rebecca Raso,
Auxiliary Staff	Kim Medders, Josh Boneta