



# SJB NEWS & NOTES

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SJB-SCHOOL.ORG

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Do you know the number one indicator of student reading comprehension? It is surprisingly simple. Reading volume is the best guide to how well students will do on reading comprehension assessments. Reading volume of course is not about how loud you read but rather how much you read. Students who read more do better on reading comprehension tests. I am sure no one is surprised to learn this.

I love the simplicity of this fact. It makes me think of all the ways we can increase reading volume. If you want your child to improve and do better in reading, I encourage you to increase their reading volume too. All of our students will spend about the same time reading at school. Those who read more out of school will likely read better than those who read less. This makes sense. Our students who practice gymnastics are better gymnasts after all.

Can you set aside fifteen minutes each night for your child to read to you or to their sibling? Can you make this thirty minutes during summer? These would both be a great start to increasing reading volume. Encourage them to read signs on the road, items at the grocery checkout, and words everywhere you see them.

One of the best ways to increase reading volume is to find a topic or series that your child is interested in. Some students won't read often when they aren't interested in the book but will read voraciously once they find a series they like. Our teachers, librarian, and myself would all be happy to talk to you about options if you reach out. This is time we are happy to take because we want to see our students thrive as readers.

## CPR AND FIRST AID POLICIES

We have added a CPR and first aid training policy and an allergy prevention policy to our faculty and parent handbooks. These policies have been reviewed by the school advisory committee. The parent handbook on our website has been updated. Click [here](#) to see the handbook. The new policies are on page 30.

## NOW ACCEPTING ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR RAFFLE TICKETS

We are now accepting online payments for raffle tickets. If someone wants to pay for tickets online, please share [this link](#) with them. They must list which family they are buying tickets from and you will need to deliver their tickets.

## RAFFLE PRIZE OF THE WEEK

Fifteen students who had turned in at least \$30 worth of tickets had their names drawn for ice cream treats. Next week on we will do our fourth drawing. We will draw twelve students to get a muffin with Mrs. Allen. We collect tickets on Tuesdays and do our drawings on Thursdays.

**SUMMER PROGRAM SIGN UP NOW AVAILABLE. [CLICK HERE FOR THE FORM.](#) PLEASE RETURN TO THE OFFICE. EARLY BIRD PRICING AVAILABLE UNTIL 5/1. CHECK OUT OUR SUMMER SCHOOL DAILY EVENTS [CALENDAR HERE.](#)**

**PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO FILL OUT OUR PRINCIPAL SEARCH SURVEY**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**Cassidy 2.5, Cooper T 2.6**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

[Click here to help out at Hot Lunch](#)

## COMING UP

February 2nd - Family Picnic - Mass at 10am -

Classroom visits and lunch 11-12:20

Art show open 11-1

Book Fair open - 12-4

February 5th - No Bus

February 5th - SAC 6pm

February 7th - Mass 9am

February 8th - 100th day of school

February 8th - Lego and Spanish Clubs 3:30-4:30

February 9th - Faith Families

February 9th - Library

February 13th - Class Valentines Parties

PK 10:15-11:15

K-4 2:20-3:20

February 13th - Free Dress - Red and Pink V-Day

February 14th - Ash Wednesday - 2pm Mass

[Full Calendar Here](#)

## GROVES TIP OF THE WEEK

### Reading is NOT Memorizing

Many early age books have very predictable patterns and encourage students to memorize the text or use the pictures to help them solve words.

This can lead adults to believe their children are engaging in more skilled reading than they might actually be doing. We want students to focus on the letters and sounds in words because the pictures eventually go away and not all texts are patterned.

Words are stored in your child's brain through hearing them and sounding them out multiple times. This can give the impression that a child is just "memorizing" the words when much deeper work is going on in the brain.

## NEW DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION CONNECTION

Welcome to Jill Petersen who is our new Special Education connection with Hastings District 200. Any St. John's student who qualifies for speech or special education services is eligible for those services as a St. John's student and is entitled to the same services they would receive if they attended public school. Most of our students receiving services do so before school and do not miss class. Please let your teacher or Mr. Dieltz know if you are interested in learning more about these services. Here is Ms. Petersen's introduction.

Hello St. John's families! My name is Jill Petersen, and I am the Assistant Director of Special Services for the Hastings School District. I started in this role at the end of July 2023 and am taking over administrative support for special education services that are provided to students attending St. John the Baptist Catholic School.

I was born and raised in Byron, MN, a small town just west of Rochester. I attended college at UW-Eau Claire and UW-Madison for my degrees to become a Speech-Language Pathologist. I later attended Bethel University to complete my administrative coursework for my Special Education Director license.

I have most recently worked in the Pine Island School District as the Director of Special Education for the past six years. Before that time, I was a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Kasson-Mantorville School District, the Northwest IA Area Education Agency, and the Birth to 3 program in Outagamie County (Appleton area) in WI.

If you have questions or need to contact me, my email address is [jpetersen@isd200.org](mailto:jpetersen@isd200.org) and my direct office number is 651-480-7008. I look forward to working with all of you in supporting your students!

## NOW ENROLLING 2024-2025



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL - 4TH GRADE  
VALUES DRIVEN EDUCATION  
STUDENT SERVICE  
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
8:1 STUDENT TO ADULT RATIO  
SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY  
HANDS ON SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

[OFFICE@SJB-SCHOOL.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@SJB-SCHOOL.ORG)

[WWW.SJB-SCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.SJB-SCHOOL.ORG)

Be Known, Be True, Be You