

New Parent Welcome Packet



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**OUR MISSION: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS AN ENDURING
COMMUNITY WELCOMING STUDENTS TO
BE KNOWN AND LOVED, TO EXCEL
ACADEMICALLY, THRIVE SPIRITUALLY,
AND TO LEAD WITH GENEROSITY AND JOY.**

Be Known, Be True, Be You

On behalf of the SJB community, I would like to welcome you to St. John the Baptist Catholic School! This packet will help to answer any questions you have before the school year starts in August. There is a lot of information! Please take time to read through it, and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

We're so glad you're here!

~ Pam McSweeney, Principal



SJB DAILY LIVING PRINCIPLES

TODAY I WILL DO MORE THAN I HAVE TO DO

I WILL TREAT OTHERS AS I WANT TO BE TREATED

I WILL DEDICATE MYSELF TO LEARNING

I WILL KEEP MYSELF AND OTHERS SAFE

AND I WILL MAKE GOD'S WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

FROM OUR SCHOOL ADVISORY CHAIR

Welcome to St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Vermillion!

We are truly blessed to have you and your child join our St. John's family. Our school has a rich tradition of providing a faith-filled education rooted in community, academic excellence, and spiritual growth. At St. John the Baptist, every child is known, loved, and supported as they grow into the person God created them to be.

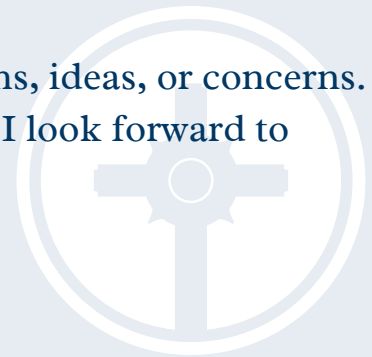
My husband, Matt, and I have loved watching our three children thrive at St. John the Baptist Catholic School, and I pray your family experiences the same joy as your child begins their journey here.

Our dedicated teachers and staff are the heart of our school. They are ready to welcome your child into their joyful and engaging classrooms, where learning is hands-on, faith-centered, and full of discovery. They work hard to ensure each student is seen, valued, and challenged to grow academically and spiritually. Beyond academics, they nurture faith, character, and compassion.

We invite you to become an active part of our school community. From attending weekly all-school Mass, volunteering with the Home and School Association, joining in events like the Blue and White Gala, Grandparents' Day, Catholic Schools Week Parent Lunch, or participating in our family fun nights, there are many ways to connect and be involved. We hope you will quickly feel at home and see firsthand what makes St. John the Baptist Catholic School so special.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, ideas, or concerns. I can be reached by email at jessmattb2010@outlook.com. I look forward to getting to know you!

Warmly,
Jessica Beissel
School Advisory Council Chair
St. John the Baptist Catholic School – Vermillion



NEW PARENT TIPS

Read your Thursday email every week! Principal McSweeney will send you an email on Thursday morning each week. This is your best source of information and happenings.

Connect with your child's teacher. Communication is a two-way street. Please connect with your teachers early and let them know how you best like to receive information, and that you look forward to partnering with them this school year

Get involved with the HSA! Our Home and School Association meets four times throughout the year to work on fundraising events and other volunteer-led activities. It's a great way to meet parents!

Attend fall and spring conferences with your child's teachers. This is an opportunity to discuss your student's progress and address any areas needing growth and reading.

Go to the Gala! The Blue and White Gala is SJB's top fundraising event and the social highlight of the year. It's a great opportunity to enjoy a night out, celebrating Catholic education.

Watch for the date of the annual Blue and White Gala, as well as our other favorite events: the St. Mathias Autumnfest, SJB Parish Festival, SJB School Marathon, and St. Mary's Sausage Supper.



Connect with us on social media.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @sjb-vermillion

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOW DOES THE LUNCH PROCESS WORK?

CKC Good Foods will be providing hot lunch. The state of MN does not provide free lunches to licensed Preschool programs unless it reaches a threshold for students who qualify for Free and Reduced lunch.

- Preschool Pricing:
 - Breakfast: \$2.85
 - Lunch: \$4.95
 - Allergen-free/gluten-free lunch: \$5.75

Our breakfast and lunch are preordered from a specific menu. The office will email out a month in advance the breakfast and lunch options, and parents will indicate if their child will be having breakfast and/or hot lunch. Students are also welcome to bring a cold lunch from home.

K-4 breakfast and lunch are free through the MN Free Lunch program.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS SICK?

If your child is ill and cannot attend school, including fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, parents should call (651-437-2644) or email the office (office@sjb-school.org) before 9:00 am. When in doubt, please keep them home and keep everyone at school healthy.

HOW DO I GET HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS FROM MISSED DAYS?

Parents should request homework missed due to illness when the student's absence is called into the school office. Homework will be gathered and available for pickup in the school office. Check with your student's teacher to discuss the timeline for completion. Homework missed due to vacation will not be provided until the student returns. (See Parent/Student Handbook for reference)

HOW DO I LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR A STUDENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

Parents can call the school office (651-437-2644) and leave a message with the office staff. Your message will then be delivered to your child. Student cell phones are not allowed at school and will be confiscated for you to pick up at the end of the day.

WHERE SHOULD I ENTER THE BUILDING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

If you need to drop something off or pick up your child during the school day, please park in the small lot by the playground and enter through the main front door. You will need to buzz in as the doors are locked. The front office staff will assist you.

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONTINUED...

HOW MANY UNIFORMS SHOULD I BUY?

The number of uniforms you purchase depends on many factors. The younger children tend to be harder on their clothes. The girls can wear pants, jumpers, skirts, shorts, or a skirt; bike shorts or leggings must be worn under jumpers and skirts. We recommend starting with 2-3 outfits and seeing what your child prefers to wear before you buy more, as they often change their mind after school starts.

WHERE DO I BUY UNIFORMS?

Uniform pieces with the school logo must be purchased through Donald's. All polos, navy polo dresses, sweatshirts, and quarter zip fleeces must have the school logo. Any uniform clothing that does not require a school logo can be purchased anywhere. Review the handbook to ensure that proper lengths and colors are purchased. Remember, students must be in uniform each week for Mass, regardless of when it is.

WHAT IS MORNING PRAYER?

Every morning at 8:55, our school day begins with prayer, and then we recite the Pledge of Allegiance and our Daily Living Practices, share announcements, and celebrate accomplishments. Our 4th-grade students lead Morning Prayer and Announcements.

HOW OFTEN AND WHEN DO STUDENTS GO TO MASS?

K-4 students attend and assist with Mass every Wednesday at 9:00 am. Preschoolers will begin attending Mass in October, on the first Wednesday of the month. In addition, there will be Holy Day Masses, Stations of the Cross, and prayer services throughout the year. Remember, the students must be in uniform each week for Mass, regardless of which day of the week. Parents and grandparents are always invited to attend.

WHAT IS VIRTUS?

All volunteers are required to complete the Enhanced Essential 3 (E3), including VIRTUS training. Anyone who wants to attend field trips, help with in-class volunteering, or complete their Recess Duty must complete the E3. Training includes Code of Conduct, a background check, and Safety and Environment training related to Protecting God's Children as required by the Archdiocese. You can complete the training at www.virtus.org.

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONTINUED...

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The best way to get involved is by joining the HSA! The Home and School Association meets four times throughout the year to work on fundraising events and other volunteer-led activities. A complete list of volunteer opportunities will be available in August, and the HSA will also send out a newsletter that highlights upcoming volunteer opportunities.

WHAT IS THE MARATHON?

The annual school Marathon is a service-based fundraiser in which the students gather sponsorships to walk the Vermillion community and complete service projects for those in our local community. This is an all-school event, and all parents are invited to join their children on Friday, October 2. We walk in mixed-age teams and bond through service, joy, and hard work. Students are asked to raise the fundraising goal of \$250 per student.

HOW DO I FIND ANSWERS?

Your first resource should be the Parent Student Handbook. We suggest you take time to thoroughly review it as a new parent. Pay special attention to the attendance and uniform policies. If you have any additional questions, call the school office, your child's teacher, or Mrs. McSweeney. If you have a question regarding your child during the school year, we encourage you to contact your teacher first. They should be your first point of contact.

WHAT IS THE ACTIVITY FEE?

We have an Activity Fee to streamline our funding requests and reduce the number of "asks" during the school year. This includes daytime field trips and other school-day activities. The Activity fee will automatically be added to your TADS account's first invoice. This fee includes: in-school field trips, classroom holiday parties, and classroom basket donations. It does not include family fun events.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY AT SJB.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES LISTED BELOW. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU PASS ANY CARS LOADING OR UNLOADING THEIR CHILDREN.

A staff member will be outside to greet students at 8:30 am. School starts at 8:50 am. Families dropping off children by car should pull into the parking lot by the school entrance and form a line on the north side of the parking lot. Please have your children exit the car once you are close enough to the entrance. If your child needs assistance out of the car or their car seat, please find a designated parking spot and walk them to the sidewalk. The carline is for quick unloading. Buses arrive and drop off students in the playground parking lot on the south side of the building.

If children are dropped off before doors are open, they will go to BASE, and your family will be charged the drop-in rate.

School ends at 3:30 pm. Please park in a designated parking spot and walk to pick up your child.

BASE drop off and pick up:

If your child will be spending time with us before or after school, please park and walk your child to the main office door. Ring the doorbell, and someone will greet you.



VOLUNTEERING

WHO:

All families, preschool through 4th grade, are asked to volunteer. We require a minimum of 20 volunteer hours throughout the school year.

HOW:

The best way to get involved is through our Home and School Association (HSA). The HSA meets four times throughout the year - in September, November, January, and March. Together, we have fun working on fundraising events and other volunteer-led activities that benefit our school community. We invite all families to participate in some way, as this will help make our events successful.

WHAT:

The main fundraiser led by the HSA is the Marathon. In addition, there are many other ways to contribute, such as being a Classroom Representative, helping with the Fall Festival, or planning Teacher Appreciation Week. You can volunteer to help at lunch and recess, or with our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

WHY:

Because it's FUN! Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents, and our HSA meetings double as a fun way to socialize AND earn an hour towards your volunteer commitment, while ensuring the success of our fundraisers. We support our school while strengthening our community. At SJB, we teach our children to be the hands and feet of Jesus; there is no better way to do this than leading by example.

Come be stewards of Christ with us, *"for God loves a cheerful giver!"* 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE:

Volunteer opportunities and descriptions are shared throughout the school year in the Weekly News and Notes. These will be available for sign-up starting in August. We also invite you to join us for our HSA Kick-Off Meeting on September 16.

SCHOOL EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- St. John the Baptist Church Festival - Our annual church festival is on September 27th, with Mass at 10 am and the festival beginning right after at 11 am.
- SJB Marathon is a fundraising event where students raise pledges and walk around Vermillion with families, friends, and staff on Oct. 2nd in the afternoon.
- Veterans Day - Students in K-4 grades will host our annual Veterans Day celebration on November 11th in our Community Room to thank and honor our local Veterans.
- Christmas Caroling & Hot Cocoa - On Friday, December 18th, our whole school goes Christmas caroling to the businesses in Vermillion and enjoys hot cocoa and cookies afterwards in the church basement. Parents are encouraged to join for both events.
- Catholic Schools Week is January 31 - February 6, 2027, which is a week of celebration and reflection on the benefits of Catholic education. Students and faculty participate in special events throughout the week. Events include Sunday kick-off Mass, all-school Bingo, field trip to Skateville for grades K-4, all-school Mass, book fair, and our annual family picnic.
- Science Fair - We will hold our annual science fair on Thursday, February 25, 2027, in which all of our 2nd-4th graders participate. Each year, we send several finalists on to the Mankato Regional Science Fair.
- Grandparents & Special Friends Day will be held on Friday, April 30, 2027. Students invite their grandparents or special friends to attend Mass, enjoy lunch together, and view our amazing art show.
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week is Monday, May 3rd - Friday, May 7th, 2027. Teacher Appreciation Week is sponsored by SJB parents. A SignUp Genius is created and filled with ways to contribute, whether it's picking up food and dropping it off at school, bringing beverages or grab-and-go snacks, donating gift cards, or sponsoring a lunch. We have a unique theme each year, which makes it very special for teachers & staff.
- Field Day takes place on Tuesday, June 1st, 2027, and is a fun-filled day for all students to participate in outdoor games.
- Daily Lunch & Recess Volunteer for K-4
- Classroom Holiday Parties - Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day

NOTES, NUMBERS AND EMAIL
ADDRESSES TO REMEMBER