



CARDINAL WEEKLY

News for the Week of August 31

All School

Annual SJES Golf Tournament: Tickets Now on Sale!

St. John's annual Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, October 2, at the Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club. Tickets are on sale now! Funds raised through the Golf Tournament support SJES's athletics and physical education programs.

[Click here](#) to purchase your foursome, twosome, or single golf ticket today.

Meet the Counselors

This year, our counseling team has expanded! We now have two counselors who will be working with grade-specific students. Please [click here](#) to learn more about your student's counselor and our counseling team's services.

Register Now for After-School Extended Care

Need after-school care for your kiddo(s)? To register for Extended Care, [log in to the Parent Gateway](#) and click on the "Extended Care" link.

Place Your Order for Our First Spirit Lunch

Welcome back, Cardinals! Our first Spirit Lunch will take place on Thursday, September 21. This year, K-8 Parent Lunches will take place alongside Spirit Lunch.

- We are kicking off the year by welcoming TK Burgers back to campus.
- All orders must be purchased in advance by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 7.
- To purchase your child's burger and for more information, please [click here](#).

Welcome Back Coffee and Volunteer Fair Is September 8

Save the date for the annual Welcome Back Coffee and Volunteer Fair on Friday, September 8, at 8:00 a.m.

- Stop by to enjoy gourmet coffee and tea from MoonGoat Coffee, hear a few words from Head of School Steve Lovejoy and the current Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) President, and learn more about events hosted by the PTF throughout the year.
- The PTF is in search of parent volunteers for various events during the 2023–24 school year. To preview the list of opportunities, please [click here](#) and enter your information to indicate interest.

Important Upcoming Dates

Early Childhood Division

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday:* School closed

Thursday, September 7

- *Order Deadline for September 21 Spirit Lunch:* [Click here](#) to place order

Friday, September 8

- *Welcome Back Coffee and Volunteer Fair:* 8:00 a.m.; preview volunteer opportunities [here](#)

Tuesday, September 12

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting (All Are Welcome):* 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

- *School Pictures:* 3-Day and 5-Day students

Thursday, September 14

- *School Pictures: 2-Day students*

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch and K-8 Parent Lunches: No Choice lunch today*

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy your tickets here](#)*

Elementary Division

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday: School closed*

Thursday, September 7

- *Order Deadline for September 21 Spirit Lunch: [Click here](#) to place order*
- *Elementary Play Parent Information Meeting: 2:15-2:45 p.m. on the Learning Commons Patio*

Friday, September 8

- *Welcome Back Coffee and Volunteer Fair: 8:00 a.m.; preview volunteer opportunities [here](#)*

Monday, September 11

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Tuesday, September 12

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting (All Are Welcome): 8:00 a.m.*

Wednesday, September 13

- *School Pictures*

Thursday, September 14

- *School Pictures*
- *Grades 3–5 Choir Rehearsal: 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Naulls*
- *Elementary Play Auditions: 2:45 p.m.*
- *Elementary Division Back-to-School Night: 5:30–7:00 p.m.*

Monday, September 18

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch and K–8 Parent Lunches: No Choice lunch today*
- *Elementary Play Practice*

Monday, September 25

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony: 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome*

Thursday, September 28

- *Elementary Play Practice: 3:00–4:40 p.m.*

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy your tickets here](#)*

- *Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony:* 8:00 a.m. by the flagpole; parents and guardians welcome

Middle Division

Monday, September 4

- *Labor Day Holiday:* School closed

Tuesday, September 5

- *Middle Division Fall Play Parent and Student Information Meeting:* 3:15 p.m. in Room 23

Thursday, September 7

- *Order Deadline for September 21 Spirit Lunch:* [Click here](#) to place order

Friday, September 8

- *Welcome Back Coffee and Volunteer Fair:* 8:00 a.m.; preview volunteer opportunities [here](#)
- *Middle Division Fall Play Auditions:* 3:15–4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12

- *Parent Teacher Fellowship Meeting (All Are Welcome):* 8:00 a.m.
- *Middle Division Back-to-School Night*

Wednesday, September 13

- *School Pictures*

Thursday, September 14

- *School Pictures*

Friday, September 15

- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal:* 3:15–4:45 p.m.

Thursday, September 21

- *Spirit Lunch and K-8 Parent Lunches: No Choice lunch today*
- *Grade 8 Meeting for Washington, DC, Field Studies Trip: 6:00 p.m.*

Friday, September 22

- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal: 3:15-4:45 p.m.*

Friday, September 29

- *Middle Division Fall Play Rehearsal: 3:15-4:45 p.m.*

Sunday, October 1

- *Episcopal School Sunday*

Monday, October 2

- *Annual SJES Golf Tournament: [Buy your tickets here](#)*

Early Childhood Division

From the Division Principal

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! Our Early Childhood teachers have done an excellent job of preparing their classrooms and creating a space where children will feel safe and welcome.

We had a successful first day yesterday, and we look forward to fueling the wonder of each young child in our program. We treasure their friendships, their ideas, their art, their curiosity, and their discoveries. We join you in celebrating and supporting every child's growth and development.

Warmly,

Carole Magaldi
Interim Early Childhood Division Principal

Remember to Place Your Child's Choicelunch Order

Choicelunch began on August 30 and is now available to students in Early Preschool, Preschool, and Pre-K. Please order in advance to ensure your child has a lunch at school.

School Pictures Are September 13-14

Early Childhood Division students will have their pictures taken soon. Please mark your calendar:

- **Wednesday, September 13:** 3-Day and 5-Day students
- **Thursday, September 14:** 2-Day students

The Learning Commons Is Open After School

Our school's library, the Learning Commons, opens at 2:45 p.m. every full school day (except on Wednesdays) so our families may visit and check out books.

- During this time, you and your Early Childhood Division student(s) may come to the Learning Commons to read, check out books to take home, or wait for an older sibling to be dismissed. Thank you for understanding that our Early Childhood students are only allowed in the Learning Commons with an adult from home.
- Please [email Tiffany Adair](#), Library and Digital Media Specialist, with questions.

New Procedure for Extended Care Registration

Extended Care is offered until 5:00 p.m. Parents interested in Extended Care (daily or occasionally) will need to register via the "Extended Care" link on the Parent Gateway to secure the discounted hourly rate. Please note that there will be no Extended Care on minimum days, inservice days, or parent-teacher conference days, as many of these days involve all SJES faculty in collaborative meetings.

Elementary Division

From the Division Principal

What an exciting beginning to the new school year! Congrats to all students for

successfully completing their first day! We are so glad to have our Cardinals back on campus. From the classrooms to the field to the lunch tables to the Johnson STEAM Center, St. John's Episcopal School once again feels like a school. The energy is palpable!

I remember how important the first day of each school year was to me as a child. These days were filled with unknowns: *What will my teacher be like? Will I make new friends? Is the new grade going to be too challenging for me?* They were also filled with discovery, new experiences, and a sense of confidence. After only a few days, any reservations I had about school disappeared. Ultimately, those first days taught me that no matter how nerve-racking new experiences might be, I could overcome the challenge and thrive.

Here at St. John's, we are committed to supporting every student in his or her elementary school journey. No matter what, we'll ensure that every student can confidently face challenges head-on. I hope that your child came home yesterday with many stories to share, and that you now have a sense of the exciting adventure this year is sure to hold.

Please read on for a few important updates. I also encourage everyone to review the past *Cardinal Weekly* publications, which can be found below in the "Cardinal Weekly Archives" section of this web page. There is always so much going on, and we want you all to be informed of everything.

Here's to a great start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Ryan Bourke
Elementary Division Principal

Important: New Think Sheets in Elementary Division

This year, St. John's will be implementing a new behavioral management system in our Elementary Division. This process has been detailed on pages 24–25 of our *Parent and Student Handbook*, which is available via our Parent Gateway. Thank you!

Weekly Flag-Raising Ceremony Starts September 11

ABOUT THE WEEKLY CEREMONY

The first Monday Flag-Raising Ceremony for the 2023–24 school year will be held on September 11 at 8:00 a.m.

- During this weekly event, elementary students will meet with their classmates each Monday morning by the flagpole.
- A prayer, announcements, and—on select dates—character recognition will occur during our time together. (If your child is selected to receive character recognition, you will be notified in advance.)
- The Monday Flag-Raising Ceremony is expected to last 15 minutes, and parents and guardians are encouraged to join us.

FIFTH GRADERS TO LEAD

Each week throughout the school year, a small team of fifth-grade students will be selected to lead the Monday Flag-Raising Ceremony. This team will also be responsible for raising the flag each day of the week from Tuesday through Friday.

- Each month, families will receive a communication outlining which students will have the honor of raising the flag in the weeks to follow.
- Prior to each Monday Flag-Raising Ceremony, the students responsible for that week should meet in Mr. Bourke's office at 7:45 a.m. to review the process.

Grades 3-5: SJES Choir Practices Begin on September 18

Does your child like to sing and perform? If so, please encourage him or her to join the optional third- through fifth-grade SJES Choir! This choir will provide children with the opportunity to perform at special school events throughout the year.

- Starting on Monday, September 18, choir members will meet with Ms. Naulls every Monday during recess at 10:30 a.m.
- **Contact Ms. Naulls** if you have any questions.

Let's make music!

Back-to-School Night Is September 14

Mark your calendar for the Elementary Division Back-to-School Night on Thursday,

September 14, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. At this informative event, our teachers will share important details about the wonderful year they have planned for your child.

Register Now for Extended Care

Extended Care is available from 2:45 to 5:00 p.m.

- Please note that there is no Extended Care offered on minimum days, inservice days, or parent-teacher conference days.
- For more information, including details on purchasing hours, visit the Parent Gateway and click on "Extended Care" or refer to the *Parent and Student Handbook*.
- Parents interested in Extended Care (daily or occasionally) will need to register via the "Extended Care" link on the Parent Gateway to secure the discounted hourly rate.

The Learning Commons Is Open After School

Our school's library, the Learning Commons, opens at 2:45 p.m. every full school day (except on Wednesdays) so our families may visit and check out books.

- During this time, you and your Elementary Division student(s) may come to the Learning Commons to read, check out books to take home, or wait for an older sibling to be dismissed. Thank you for understanding that our Elementary students are only allowed in the Learning Commons with an adult from home.
- Please [email Tiffany Adair](mailto:tadair@msd.k12.in.us), Library and Digital Media Specialist, with questions.

Elementary Division Play: Parent Information Meeting Is September 7

This year's Elementary Division Play for grades 1–5 will be *Cinderella*! Please join us for a parent information meeting on Thursday, September 7, from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. on the Learning Commons Patio. If you would like to register your child in advance, you may do so [here](#).

Middle Division

From the Division Principal

The first full day of the Middle Division school year began with an atmosphere of enthusiasm and promise. As we embark on this new academic journey, I am aware that there may be some apprehension alongside the excitement. I want you to know that we are here to support every MD student through the various transitions that come with a new school year—whether students need support adjusting to different teachers, navigating lockers, building friendships, adapting to unfamiliar classes, or more.

Our students are already engaged in Advisory, a cornerstone of the Middle Division experience. They will participate in heartfelt conversations and share moments of laughter and seriousness. Through these interactions, the students will begin to see their advisors not only as mentors, but also as role models—individuals who can provide guidance, lend an empathetic ear, and support their academic, social, and emotional journey. With the anticipation of Field Studies Week in mid-October, Advisory meetings will also be dedicated to ensuring that every student is well-prepared for remarkable adventures at Pali, SEACAMP, and Washington, DC.

The entire Advisory year will be filled with experiences designed to nurture growth and maturity. I encourage our Cardinals to embrace responsibility, seek answers, communicate openly, self-advocate, and express concerns in ways that empower every member of the community to thrive. Cardinal Community Time is a culminating weekly activity that provides an invaluable and fun space for the entire Middle Division to strengthen the bonds that tie us together.

Best,

Sheryll Grogan
Middle Division Principal

Eighth Graders: High School Application Process and Recommendation Requests

The high school application season is beginning, and with it comes excitement, anxiety, and anticipation! We are here to support the process and to help in any way we can. As we prepare for this journey together, please note the following:

- **Individual high school visits will begin in the first trimester** during the Road to High School portion of the World Ahead class, which is taught by School Chaplain and Religion Teacher Patti Peebles. During this time, students will gather essential information to help guide their high school decision-making process.
- **It is never too early** to access the individual high school websites and begin the application process.
- Area high schools often ask for email addresses where they can send **requests for middle school recommendation letters**.
 - All high-school requests for transcripts, report cards, or discipline records should be emailed to MD Division Administrator **Rhiannon Overmire**.
 - All requests for principal recommendations should be sent to Middle Division Principal **Sheryll Grogan**.
 - All requests for math teacher recommendations should be sent to your child's **eighth-grade math teacher**—either **Holly Galus** or **Carla Dyquiangco**.
 - All requests for English teacher recommendations should be sent to your child's **eighth-grade English teacher**, **Beth Sarachman**.
- The best recommendations provide information about the applicant as both a student and an individual. **So that our teachers have time to get to know our eighth graders, including those who may be new to St. John's, we wait to send recommendation letters and other documentation until mid-November.** Please rest assured that we are in constant communication with area high schools, are aware of deadlines, and will submit all recommendations prior to the required dates.
- If you have any further questions about the process, please feel free to email **Mrs. Grogan** or **Mrs. Peebles** directly.

Fall Play: Informational Meeting Is September 5 + Rehearsals Start September 8

We are pleased to announce that the Middle Division Fall Play will be **The Greatest Showman!**

- Mr. Tiatia-Garaud will be hosting an informational meeting about the play on **Tuesday, September 5, at 3:15 p.m. in Room 23**. Parents and students are invited to attend for more information about rehearsals and expectations for this new performance opportunity.

- Please note that you will only have 48 hours to register after the meeting, as **rehearsals start on Friday, September 8** (audition day).

The Learning Commons Is Open After School

Our school's library, the Learning Commons, is open after school every full school day (except on Wednesdays) until 4:00 p.m. and provides a study hall-like environment.

- During this time, Middle Division students are welcome to work on homework, read, or quietly unwind after their school day. They do not need to be accompanied by an adult from home.
- Should your student need to stay on campus past 4:00 p.m., they will join Extended Care when the Learning Commons closes.
- Please **email Tiffany Adair**, Library and Digital Media Specialist, with questions.

Middle Division Field Studies: Final Payments Due

Final payments for sixth- and seventh-grade Field Studies trips were due August 30. If you have not yet submitted the final payment for your student, please do so ASAP using the links below:

- **Sixth Grade:** **[Click here to submit your final payment.](#)**
- **Seventh Grade:** **[Click here to submit your final payment.](#)**