



## **CARDINAL WEEKLY**

*News for the Week of August 8, 2024*



*Our Faculty and Staff will gather on campus next week for Orientation Week. This time is always brimming with excitement and anticipation as we prepare the year for our St. John's students. Teachers are excited and eager to freshen up their classrooms, prepare lesson plans, collaborate with colleagues, and so much more!*

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## **All School**

### **Welcome to the St. John's Family**

St. John's excitedly welcomes our new Teaching Faculty members to its dedicated team! Please join us in welcoming:

#### **Early Childhood Division**

- Pre-kindergarten Teacher: Lori Lumpkin

#### **Elementary Division**

- 1st Grade Teacher: Elise Ramos
- 4th Grade Teacher: Elizabeth Bouldin
- 4th Grade Teacher: Abigail Casey
- 5th Grade Teacher: Joey Fatoure

#### **Middle Division**

- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> History Teacher: Kassandra Hawkins
- 6<sup>th</sup> Math/8<sup>th</sup> Science Teacher: Nick Kelly
- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Math Teacher: Jessica Carlson
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Robotics/Engineering Teacher: Dr. Sean Li
- Director of Athletics/MD Physical Education Teacher: John Roland

### **Veracross Parent Portal is Coming This Monday**

Earlier this morning, you received an email from Acting Head of School, Sheryll Grogan, announcing the launch of our NEW Parent Portal System, *Veracross*. This email contains important information that impacts how you will retrieve important information and updates pertaining to your child(ren)'s school year. You can reference a copy of this important email by [clicking here](#).

### **Back to School Information and Supply Lists**

There's still time to shop! All the information you need to prepare to return back to school can be found on our easy-to-use [Back to School Webpage](#). Questions? Please reach out to your respective Division Administrative Assistants:

**Early Childhood & Elementary Division - [Susan Gomez](#)**

**Middle Division - [Rhiannon Overmire](#)**

### **IMPORTANT: Message from the Health Office to Begin School on 8/21**

If your child requires an Emergency Rescue medication(s) (Epinephrine/AuviQ or an inhaler) these medications, along with a Doctor's order, **MUST be submitted to the Health Office by Tuesday, August 20 at 12:00 p.m.** Your child may NOT START SCHOOL without these items. Please refer to emails sent on May 29 and July 22 and email [nurses@stjohns-es.org](mailto:nurses@stjohns-es.org) with any questions.

### **Morning and Afternoon Extended Care: Confirm Your Interest**

Morning and Afternoon Extended Care will be available for the 2024-25 school year and will be staffed by SJES. Please complete this [\*\*Extended Care Interest Form\*\*](#) if you plan to use any Extended Care this year for your child(ren). Thank you!

### **Onboarding Days: Monday & Tuesday, August 19-20**

Onboarding Days will take place on Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 20. Onboarding appointments are 1:1 time for you and your student to visit with their teacher and obtain important information for the school year. You will be able to book your onboarding appointment via the NEW Parent Portal system, Veracross later this month.

### **Join Us for our annual Summer Social Event on August 14!**

Get ready for some fun and excitement at this year's Summer Social! Our faculty and staff will gather as we welcome our current and new Cardinal families and kick off the 2024-25 school year. The event will take place **Wednesday, August 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Please note: *Early Childhood Division (ECD) families are invited to arrive at 4:30 p.m. so that they can have a play date with other families on the ECD playground from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. and then join the K-8 families beginning at 5:00 p.m. for pizza out on the back playground.* [\*\*Please RSVP using this form\*\*](#), as we can't wait to see you!

### **New Family Chapel Before Summer Social at 4:30 p.m.**

We are excited to invite our new families to see what their students can expect in Chapel Service at St. John's and get to know our Interim Priest-in-Charge, Father Jerry Sather. This chapel service will be around twenty-minutes long and will feature members of the St. John's School Choir, led by music teacher, Mrs. Naulls. Following the service the Summer Social will begin at 5:00 pm.

### **Uniform Fitting Appointments are Still Available**

For anyone who hasn't yet had their child try on new uniform sizing, we recommend you do so at your earliest convenience to ensure it fits properly, as the new uniforms are sized

differently than the old ones. Book your fitting appointment: [www.sjesstudentstore.com](http://www.sjesstudentstore.com).

### **Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee**

Please join us for complimentary gourmet coffee and pastries from Haute Cafe on **Friday, August 30th at 8:00 a.m.** on the SJES Learning Commons Patio. Learn about various volunteer opportunities, hear from our acting Head of School and PTF president and meet some new parents. If you are unable to attend the Volunteer Fair or wish to preview and sign-up for these opportunities ahead of time, [CLICK HERE](#)!

We look forward to seeing you as we kick off the 2024-25 school year, and make it best one yet!

### **SAVE THE DATE: September 18 is St. John's annual Golf Tournament**

Coming soon! St. John's annual Golf Tournament will take place on Wednesday, September 18. Tickets will go on sale NEXT WEEK. We are currently looking for sponsorships for this fellowship event and would love your support! Proceeds go to supporting the Athletics Department. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available now. [Click here](#) to support!

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

**Wednesday, August 14**

- *Summer Social*

**Thursday, August 15**

- *ECD Back to School Night*

**Monday, August 19**

- *Onboarding Day*

**Tuesday, August 20**

- *Onboarding Day*

**Wednesday, August 21**

- *First Day of School for 3 & 5 Day Students*

**Thursday, August 22**

- *First Day of School for 2-Day Students*

**Friday, August 30**

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*

### **Elementary Division**

**Wednesday, August 14**

- *Summer Social*

**Monday, August 19**

- *Onboarding Day*

**Tuesday, August 20**

- *Onboarding Day*

**Wednesday, August 21**

- *First Day of School*

**Friday, August 30**

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*

**Middle Division**

**Wednesday, August 14**

- *Summer Social*

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- *Onboarding Day*

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## **Early Childhood Division**



*Our Early Childhood Division students have been enjoying lots of fun in the sun this summer. Our little creative Cardinals have made a wide variety of uses of our outdoor space for imaginary play, role-play, outdoor art, and more.*

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### **Back to School Night Next Week: Thursday, August 15**

Early Childhood Division Back to School Night is on Thursday, August 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is a parent-only event. Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher and hear about important information for the upcoming school year.

### **A Note from Admissions for New Early Childhood Families**

New Early Childhood Division students should already have all the required licensing paperwork completed and turned into **Susan Gomez**, the Early Childhood Division Administrative Assistant. You may visit the **[Back to School Webpage](#)** if you need the required forms.



## **Elementary Division**



*Our Elementary Teachers are excited to welcome students back to the Classroom. Teachers have been trickling onto campus for some class prep cleaning, organization, and decorating in anticipation of seeing their Cardinals soon!*

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Dear St. John's Families,

As the first day of school draws near, we both recall the fond memories of preparing for a return to school. The excitement of moving up a grade level, back-to-school supply shopping that always included a box of fresh Crayola crayons, colorful markers, and fancy gel pens, and the anticipation of who our next teacher will be! These childhood memories are not unlike what our teachers experience at the beginning of each school year.

We are looking forward to welcoming our fabulous St. John's teachers back to campus on Monday, August 12th. Monday will kick-off our Orientation Week that will be filled with preparations for a fresh, new and exciting school year. Orientation Week is always brimming with excitement and anticipation as we prepare the year for our St. John's



students. Teachers are excited and eager to freshen up their classrooms, prepare lesson plans, collaborate with colleagues, and so much more!

Students, teachers, staff, and faculty alike are hopeful and excited, combined with a dash of nerves, for what's to come in the new school year. We are eagerly awaiting August 21st, when we can welcome our St. John's Cardinals back on campus!

As always, our doors are open, and we welcome your input. If you want to meet or talk, please reach out.

Warmly,

**Ryan Bourke** and **Danielle McLennan**

### **Request for Class Changes**

Parents will receive information about child's classroom teacher when they are invited to sign up through the Veracross Parent Portal for their Onboarding Appointment. St. John's kindly asks that parents do not make requests for their child to be changed to another class. The process of building classes, and for assigning students to particular teachers, is an incredibly challenging and complex process. Last spring, teachers – in collaboration with specialists and administration – began the work to ensure that each student is placed appropriately. We ask that you have good faith in our work in ensuring a successful year for your child.

### **First Day of Kindergarten Parent Gathering: Join Us After Drop-Off**

Please join us at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, in the Multipurpose Room (MPR) for a brief gathering of Kindergarten parents after you have dropped your child off in the classroom. Our Acting Head of School, Mrs. Grogan, and Elementary Division Principals, Mr. Bourke and Mrs. McLennan, will introduce themselves to those whom they have not yet met. They will share a few thoughts with you about the Kindergarten year and listen to any of your reflections.

### **Attention Kindergarten Parents: Important Information from Health Office**

The California Department of Public Health and Orange County Department of Education mandates that your child meet the immunization requirements in order to attend Kindergarten.

Please submit a current copy of one of the following documents:

- A copy of your child's yellow California Immunization Card OR

- A copy of the immunization record from your doctor's office

These mandatory documents are due to the Health Office on or before Friday, August 16, 2024. California law requires that all immunizations be up to date in order for a child to attend the first day of Kindergarten. There are NO exceptions to this rule. Updated copies of immunization records must be submitted for all incoming Kindergarten students regardless of whether or not they attended St. John's Early Childhood Center. For your convenience, you may fax a copy of your child's immunization records to the Health Office at (949) 858-1403. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns at 858-5144 ext. 223 or email us at [nurses@stjohns-es.org](mailto:nurses@stjohns-es.org).

## **Middle Division**



*What can you expect now that you are a Middle schooler? Sixth Grade Cardinal Camp students spent the week getting ready for the big move up to the second floor. Rising sixth graders practiced opening a locker, checking out the middle school classrooms, and exploring how middle school teachers use Teams, and much more!*

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As always, our doors are open, and we welcome your input. If you want to meet or talk, please reach out.

Warmly,

**Ryan Bourke** and **Danielle McLennan**

### **Request for Course/Advisor Changes**

Parents will receive information about their Middle Division's child's Advisor when they are invited to sign up through the Veracross Parent Portal for their Onboarding Appointment. St. John's kindly asks that parents do not make requests for their child to be changed to another course or advisor. The Middle Division master schedule is intricate and cannot accommodate requests for changes to courses or advisors.

### **Middle Division Technology Interruptions**

Over the next two weeks, our Technology Team is hard at work updating all of our systems to get them ready for this coming school year. Because of that, your students may notice an interruption to some of their services including: Microsoft Teams, IXL, McGraw-Hill (ConnectEd), Membean, and more. We will have updates to logins, passwords and all of that to share with students and parents during your onboarding meetings on August 19-20,

when full access should be restored. Thank you for your patience during this time as we implement some wonderful new solutions!

## **Church**

### **Youth Group Retreat: Saturday, August 24**

SJEC RESET Youth Group is having a one-day retreat for Middle and High School students on Saturday August 24 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. It will be a time of fellowship, fun, and service. Service hours provided. Email [ca@stjohns-es.org](mailto:ca@stjohns-es.org) with questions or sign up [here](#).

### **Welcome Back Lunch**

St. John's Church is hosting a "Welcome Back From Summer" lunch on Sunday, September 8, for Church and School families following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please plan to join us for this gathering of adults and children as we greet old friends returning home from vacation travels and make new friends as we head into the new school year. Email [ca@stjohns-es.org](mailto:ca@stjohns-es.org) with questions or get more information [here](#).