



## CARDINAL WEEKLY

*News for the Week of August 15, 2024*



*Our hardworking SJES Faculty and Staff can't wait to welcome you back to campus in six more days! But who's counting? Make sure to thoroughly read through this week's Cardinal Weekly, so as not to miss any important information about returning to campus. Don't forget: Cardinal Weekly archives from prior weeks can be found at the bottom of this page.*

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## **All School**

### **Welcome to the St. John's Family: NEW Hires**

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
- Assistant Teacher: Kimberly Argue- Whitson (Miss. Kim)
- Assistant Teacher: Max Vasabhuti (Mr. Max)

#### **Elementary Division**

- 1st Grade Teacher: Elise Ramos
- 1st Grade Instructional Aide: Audrey Eagan
- 2nd Grade Instructional Aide: Michelle Hardin
- 4th Grade Teacher: Elizabeth Bouldin
- 4th Grade Teacher: Abigail Casey
- 4th Grade Instructional Aide: Monica McLean
- 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

#### **New Positions**

- Design & Innovation Teacher: Matthew Morrell
- Curriculum & Instructional Practices Specialist: Vickie Walsh
- Dean of Students, 3rd-8th Grade: Bryan Winn
- Director of Athletics: John Roland
- Resource Teacher: Connie Girolamo
- Admissions Associate: Crystal McNamara

### **Veracross Parent Portal is NOW LIVE**

On Monday, you received a system email from Veracross with instructions on how to access the NEW **Parent Portal**. This portal is where you will find Back to School information, book your Onboarding appointment, update your information, and more. If

you did not receive this email, please reach out to [Taylor Diaz](#). Questions about the Parent Portal? Please visit our [Veracross Help webpage](#).

### **Must Complete Before You Return next Wednesday, August 21**

There are several mandatory steps that you will need to complete on the Parent Portal before returning to school next week. A review of this checklist can be found on the [Parent Portal](#), or by [clicking here](#).

- Update Information
- Review School Policies - [Student Parent Handbook](#)
- Book Onboarding Appointment
- [Magnus Health Information](#)

### **Request for Class Changes**

Earlier this week, you received your child(ren)'s classroom teacher assignment upon signing up for their Onboarding appointment via the [Parent Portal](#). 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. **St. John's kindly asks that parents do not make requests for their child to be changed to another class.** We appreciate your cooperation and good faith in our work to ensure a successful year for your child.

### **IMPORTANT! Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures**

Please take a look and review our [Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures](#) for the 2024-25 school year. It is important that all parents in each division follow these guidelines to ensure an easy and efficient process of receiving students and sending them home.

### **Extended Care Update**

Following the launch of our new Extended Care Program, we have temporarily suspended registrations on the Veracross Parent Portal as we are further enhancing the registration and billing process. The registration pages will be up again shortly but in the meantime, if you need to register for the first week of School or need any further information, please email [Fatima Ozcelik](#).

### **Onboarding Days are Next Week**

Onboarding Days will take place on Monday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 20. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your child to have some one-on-one time with your classroom teacher/advisor. ECD - 5th Grade students should bring their school supplies at this time to drop-off to their classroom(s). You will need to arrange an appointment for your Onboarding Day through Veracross. A link was shared with families on Monday, August 12. Please contact the appropriate Division office if you did not receive the link, or if you're having trouble signing up.

### **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 the best one yet!

### **Golf Tournament Tickets are ON SALE NOW!**

St. John's annual Golf Tournament will take place on Wednesday, September 18th. **[Tickets are ON SALE NOW](#)**. 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!

### **Tommy Hilfiger Uniform Sale**

10% Off Orders up to \$149.99

15% Off Orders up to \$249.99

20% Off Orders \$250+

#### **PROMO CODE REQUIRED: BM082419SM**

Offer starts at 12 AM CT on 08/12/2024 and ends 08/18/24 at 11:59 p.m. CT. The Promotion Code is required during checkout.

Enter it in the Promo Code box of the shopping cart to apply the discount (discount does not apply to tax or shipping).

This offer is not valid on any previous orders, not valid with other offers, and has no cash value. Excludes custom sized items. **[www.globalschoolwear.com](http://www.globalschoolwear.com)**

## Uniform Reminders

- **Students are to wear their Formal Uniform on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 21st.**
- Formal sweaters are still required to be embroidered with the student's last name. Sweaters can be taken to either Monogram Magic or The Shirt Cannery to have the embroidery completed. Vendor information can be found [here](#) or on our Student Store [website](#).
- Tommy Hilfiger uniform orders are currently taking 2-3 weeks to receive as we are in the busy back to school season. If you need uniforms immediately, please visit our Student Store on campus to view our selection of used uniforms. Dennis used uniforms can be purchased in person or [online](#). Dennis uniforms can be worn for the 2024-25 school year.
- Formal uniforms are only required one day a week (Mondays). Formal sweaters are required on both Chapel days for Elementary Division and Middle Division.
- P.E. uniforms are no longer required for Elementary Division students. All K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will now wear their Everyday Uniform on their P.E. days.
- Students transitioning from Elementary Division to Middle Division are required to wear the Middle Division uniform. This can be either the Tommy Hilfiger Middle Division Uniform or The Dennis Middle Division uniform for the 2024-25 school year. Uniform Guides can be found [here](#) or contact [Cheryl Boesch](#) in The Student Store if you have questions.

## 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.

## Attention SJES Athletes: Sports Physical Policy

Attention SJES Families: As an ongoing effort to always provide the best and safest environment for our student athletes, we are updating our best practices. Starting with Fall Athletics Season, we are requiring every student participating in a sport to complete an updated [Sports Physical Exam form](#). This must be completed prior to their sport's first competition each year of participation.

Please note: a completed physical must have the stamp from the doctor on it to be accepted. Upon completion, the form can be uploaded into Magnus Health directly via the Parent Portal. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Early Childhood Division**

#### **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*

#### **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

### **Elementary Division**

#### **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*

### **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

## **Middle Division**

### **Monday, August 19**

- *Onboarding Day*

### **Tuesday, August 20**

- *Onboarding Day*

### **Wednesday, August 21**

- *First Day of School*

### **Friday, August 23**

- *7th Grade SEACAMP Final Payments Due: [Click here](#)*

### **Friday, August 30**

- *PTF Volunteer Fair & Welcome Back Coffee*
- *6th Grade Pali Field Trip Final Payments Due: [Click here](#)*

### **Monday, September 2**

- *Labor Day: NO SCHOOL*

### **Tuesday, September 3**

- *Middle Division Back to School Night*



## Early Childhood Division



*Our Early Childhood families had the opportunity to participate in a playdate prior to Summer Social this week. Parents and students were so excited to see their favorite teachers, meet their teacher's for the following school year, and reunite with school friends on the ECD playground.*

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### **Back to School Night is TONIGHT!**

We are excited to see our parents this evening at Back to School Night! The evening will begin in the courtyard (by the fountain) with a few words from our Acting Head of School, Sheryll Grogan, and the Early Childhood Division Principal, Allix Bosanko. Afterwards, please make your way to your child's classroom. Doors will open for this parent-only event (no children, please) at 6:00 p.m. The evening concludes at 7:00 p.m.



## **Elementary Division**



*Our Elementary Teachers have been collaborating with one another all week. Excited for a fresh start, Elementary Teachers gathered for meetings in between classroom preparation to brainstorm new ideas, discuss across-grade level ideas with grades above and below them, and to coordinate lessons with Enrichment teachers.*

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From the Division Principals:

The SJES Summer Social was a wonderful event that brought together our Cardinal family. Creating opportunities for everyone to connect builds a sense of community and belonging. As we quickly approach the beginning of the year, we are aware that some of our Cardinals may be experiencing a combination of excitement and nervousness! Please reassure them that it is normal to be a little uneasy about new situations. Our teachers are prepared to make students' entry to the new school year seamless. You'll see, after no time at all, that our Cardinals—no matter the grade level—will feel right at home.

The upcoming Onboarding sessions will be crucial for introducing students to campus, new teachers, and helping them feel comfortable in their environment. The first day of school for students begins at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, with new class

assignments, smiling Cardinals in formal uniform, and welcoming teachers excited to begin a new year. All of us in the Elementary and Middle Division are here to welcome the students and ease their transition back to school.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year!

Warmly,

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

### **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.

### **Monday Flag Ceremony**

Elementary students will meet with their classmates each Monday morning by the flagpole. Prayers, the Pledge, announcements – and on select dates Cardinal Character Recognition Ceremonies – will occur during our time together. Parents and guardians are encouraged to join us. Flag is expected to last no more than 15 minutes. If your child is selected to receive character recognition or lead (5th Grade), you will receive notice in advance.

### **Come Sing with the Upper Elementary Choir**

Come sing with the UE Choir—no audition necessary. All 3rd-5th graders are welcome to join us during recess (10:30 a.m.) on Thursdays! We meet in Ms. Naulls' Choir room. Be sure to bring a snack and let's make some music! View **[this flyer](#)** for more details.

## **Middle Division**



*This summer, several teachers raised their hands to support the process of building out the NEW Faculty Portal in Veracruz. These teachers poured extra time, effort, and attention to detail into ensuring the roll out of the portal was seamless and intuitive. Teachers then led groups in training and instruction on how to utilize the portal to serve students.*

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We're looking forward to a fantastic year!

Warmly,

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

### **Final Payments are Due for 6th & 7th Grade Field Studies**

Sixth-grade students will enjoy their first outdoor field studies trip to Pali Institute in Running Springs. Deposits in the amount of \$100 were submitted this past spring. **Final payments are due by Friday, August 30th.** So that we may secure our reservation, please [click here](#) to submit final payment by Friday, August 30th.

Seventh-grade students will travel to SEACAMP San Diego for their outdoor field studies trip. Your \$100 deposit was submitted this past spring. **Final payments are due by Friday, August 23rd.** So that we may secure our reservation, please [click here](#) to submit your final payment by Friday, August 23rd.

### **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](#).