



St. John's Area School

God in all things.

June 2021

Below is a summary of the 2020 - 2021 school year and a preview into some things for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Most of this information may be familiar to you from the weekly newsletters, however, we want to be sure we keep you, our stakeholders, informed.

2021-2022 School Year – We continue to get questions regarding what the next school year will look like regarding face coverings, etc. At this time, it is too early to know what will be required or suggested. Currently, Benton County's positivity rate number is very low, 1.2. This is a great sign, and we are very hopeful that this number will stay low throughout the summer and into the Fall. We will abide by our Diocesan Superintendent and Bishop's requirements as we did this last school year. The plan at SJAS is to resume education and activities as normal as possible in the Fall until more specific information is shared with us.

Enrollment - SJAS enrollment decreased in the 2020-2021 school year, mainly due to the pandemic. For the 2021-2022 school year, there are approximately 70 children enrolled in grades K-6, with an additional 14 children in Pre-K. It is very important that we all work together to help increase enrollment!! Please spread the word, encourage friends and relatives to consider SJAS for their children's education!

Staff Changes - We have had one staff change for next year, Mrs. Braegelmann will not be returning to teach at SJAS. We have hired and welcome to our teaching staff a new 6th grade teacher, Mr. Will Corbett. There is one other small change for next year, Mrs. Dombrovski will be teaching Grade 3. All other teachers will remain teaching at their current grade level.

Summer Projects at SJAS – We have a few small updates and repairs this summer.

Carpet - We have been blessed with some wonderful donors who have helped us with the cost of repairs due to wear and tear along seams in grades 4, 5, and 6. In addition, new carpet will be installed in the 1st grade classroom.

Pumps, vents, fans, heaters – All pumps in our heating system will be inspected and some will be replaced. Other items such as fans, vents, and heaters will also be inspected, fixed, and replaced as needed.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) – Through a generous donation of \$1200, we were able to purchase an AED for SJAS. The AED box is located on the wall next to the gym. In addition, four staff members were trained and certified in CPR/AED last Fall.

Accreditation – As you may remember, SJAS had an on-site visit by the Minnesota Non-Public School Accreditation Association (MNSAA) last November 2020. As a result of the on-site visit and the Team Report that was submitted to MNSAA, the seven-year accreditation eligibility status for the K-6 school program at St. John's Area School was renewed and extended through June 30th, 2027. Our Self Study, Team Report, and the updated School's Strategic Plan are available electronically or in hard copy in the office at your request.

School's Strategic Plan – The updated School's Strategic Plan, with objectives, strategies, and actions steps will be posted on the SJAS website. Throughout the school year, portions of our School's Strategic Plan, such as accomplishments, progress, and/or areas needing our attention, will be shared with all stakeholders (parents, staff, students, board members, parishioners, and the community).

Finances - The cost to educate each child at SJAS has increased to \$5700 per child. The school is funded through the following means: parish subsidy, tuition, fundraisers, grants, and generous donations.

Budget - The operating budget for this school year was \$502,246.63 and we are operating within that budget. The budget planned and approved by the School Board for the 2021-2022 school year is \$531,342.12. The increase is due to providing just/fair wages to hire and retain our teaching staff as well as health insurance.

Parish Subsidy – This is the sum that each pastor/parish agrees to pay per child attending SJAS who's family is a participating member of one of the 7 area parishes. Currently that amount is \$2500 per child and has been increased to \$2600 per child for the 2021-2022 school year. Please help by supporting our area parishes!

Parent Tuition – Tuition for grades K-6 is currently \$2000 for the first child, with small breakdowns for succeeding children. Tuition will increase to \$2100 next year for the first child, \$2000 for the second, \$1750 for the third, and the fourth or more are free.

Fundraisers – The fundraisers for St. John's Area School are: the Walk-a-thon, Cookie Bake, Catholic School Raffle and Spring Breakfast/Silent Auction. Your participation is extremely important and appreciated at these events! *Please note, about \$1,000 needs to be earned per child at the fundraisers to help keep tuition affordable!*

Fundraising amounts raised in 2020 – 2021 (all amounts are net unless specified)

- Walk-a-thon: \$25,637.48 + an additional \$15,000 donation
- Cookie Bake: \$8,682.12
- Catholic Schools Raffle \$16,018.52
- Spring Breakfast \$5,321.41
- In-person and Virtual Silent Auction: \$3,625.33
- Amazon Smile: \$249.69
- Box Tops: \$214.00
- Coborn's More Rewards: \$875.13
- Coca Cola Products: \$402.94

- Charity Mobile, Mighty Cause and other company donations: \$95.76
- Loaves for Learning: \$115.00

We earned a total of **\$1952.52** from Amazon Smile, Box Tops, More Rewards, Coca Cola, Loves for Learning, and the company donations. **Thank you** for clipping, saving, and digitally recording these items for SJAS! Please remember to keep using Amazon Smile, saving Coke products and other items over the summer!! Also, be sure to scan your grocery receipts on the Box Tops for Education app! It is easy and generates cash for SJAS! Every little bit helps! If you have questions on how to get started or set up the electronic giving, please give the school a call.

Grants - We received three grants from the Catholic Foundation: \$1,750 from the Living the Promise Campaign for curriculum needs, and \$1,000 + \$1,059.10 for tuition assistance. In addition, due to COVID-19 and the C.A.R.E.S. Relief Act funding, we applied for and received one grant from Benton County for \$26,718 for ongoing COVID relief measures, and a SHIP grant of \$1760 from Benton County Public Health to purchase and install a water bottle filling station. We were nominated and received \$2500 from the American's Farmers Grow Communities program that we put toward carpet repairs and new carpet in Grade 1. And lastly, we received a \$1,000 grant from the Central Minnesota Library Exchange for new library books.

Awards – We are extremely fortunate to have a talented staff that helped create another award-winning video for the Great Technology Give-a-Way contest! The SJAS video received one of eight 1st place awards receiving \$1,400. The award money was put towards replacing outdated teacher laptops.

iPads and Chromebooks – Through the CARES Relief Act grants, we were able to purchase 15 Chromebooks (6th Grade) and 20 iPads (Pre-K – Grade 5), along with cases. In addition, classroom projectors, speakers, and some teacher laptops were also purchased. Devices were replaced that were no longer working or able to update/download needed programs. We will continue to monitor and replace electronic devices/items as needed. Children at SJAS have a one-to-one device ratio for classwork, projects, and distance learning as designated by grade level and teacher needs.

Faith, Family, and Fun Group (Home and School) - Along with doing fun things for the students and staff at SJAS, FFF holds fundraisers each year to help pay for field trip busing, student/staff equipment, library books, fun activities, and Sixth Grade Graduation.

The fundraisers this year:

- Garage and Bake Sale - \$6,633.95 (gross) + \$590.91 in Menards Gift Cards

STAR Student Testing Results – One of our goals has been to design a set of school wide graphs to show the STAR test results for the current year and how the students are performing compared to the MN State guidelines and National Percentages. We have compiled the 2020-2021 test results and have the following performance graphs (below or next page):