



St. John's Area School

God in all things.

July 2022

Below is a summary of the 2021 - 2022 school year and a preview into some things for the 2022 - 2023 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.

2022-2023 School Year – SJAS is planning to be “back to normal” and resume education and activities in the Fall as we normally have done pre-pandemic. Currently, Benton County’s positivity rate number is very low, and has stayed consistently low over the spring and early summer months. At this time, it is looking good, but as you already know, things can change very quickly! We will abide by our Diocesan Superintendent and Bishop’s requirements as we have done this past school year.

Enrollment - SJAS enrollment increased slightly in the 2021-2022 school year, and we are seeing another small increase for the 2022-2023 school year. Our total enrollment this past school year in Pre-K – Grade 6 was 87 students. We currently have 89 students enrolled for next year, with only 4 spots open in Pre-K. Thank you for spreading the word and encouraging friends and relatives to consider SJAS for their children’s education! It is very important that we all work together to help increase enrollment and grow our school!!

Staff Changes - All our current teachers will be returning next year. There will be a few teaching staff changes; Mrs. Amy Scott will be subbing for Mrs. Dombrovski in Grade 3 from September – December with Mrs. Dombrovski returning from maternity leave in January. Mrs. Ratz will be teaching Grade 4 next year, and all other teachers will remain teaching at their current grade level. We have some staff changes; Mr. Novak and Mrs. Stuckmayer are leaving SJAS, they will be missed, and we wish them both the best!

Summer Projects at SJAS – We have two large projects and a small repair scheduled for the summer months.

Fire Safety System – Summit Fire and Design Electric will be installing a new fire safety system throughout the school and the portable building. We are presently waiting for an installation date from both companies.

Asbestos Removal – A team from Resource Training will be removing asbestos on pipes in the custodian and boiler room areas. The removal is scheduled for July 18th.

Pumps – Some of the pumps in our heating system will be replaced in the custodian and boiler room area.

School's Strategic Plan –The School's Strategic Plan, a seven-year guideline, covers four key areas for growth at St. John's Area School: Catholic Identity, Instructional/Academic, Operational Vitality, and Safe Environment. Each of the key area's objectives, strategies, and actions steps are 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, are shared with all stakeholders (parents, staff, students, board members, parishioners, and the community) through the Family Newsletter, and at staff and board meetings. All are welcome to view a hard copy of the School's Strategic Plan upon request.

Finances - The total cost to educate each child at SJAS for the 2022-2023 school year will be \$6,100 per child. Tuition and subsidy increases were made to provide just and fair wages for teachers and staff. The school is funded through the following means: parent tuition, parish subsidy, fundraisers, grants, and generous donations.

Parent Tuition – Tuition for grades K-6 is currently \$2100 for the first child, with small breakdowns for succeeding children. Tuition for the 2022-2023 school year will increase to \$2400 for the first child, \$2300 for the second, \$2050 for the third, and the fourth child (or more) are free.

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 \$2600 per child and has been increased to \$2700 per child for the 2022-2023 school year. Please help by supporting our area parishes!

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!*

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 2022-2023 school year is \$542,906.46. The increase is due to the rising cost of electricity/gas/water and presenting just/fair wages to hire and retain our teaching staff.

Fundraising amounts raised in 2021 – 2022 (all amounts are net unless specified)

- Walk-a-thon: \$33,278.24
- Cookie Bake: \$14,256.85
- Catholic Schools Raffle \$16,372.17
- Spring Breakfast and Silent Auction \$17,184.78
- Book Fair: \$563.02
- Amazon Smile: \$202.43
- Box Tops: \$69.70
- Coborn's More Rewards: \$795.82
- Coca Cola Products: \$417.70
- Charity Mobile, Mighty Cause and other company donations: \$0
- Loaves for Learning: Not received yet

We earned a total of **\$689.83** from Amazon Smile, Box Tops, and Coca Cola. This amount is down about \$1,500 from previous years. Please consider helping SJAS earn this easy **“free money”** by using Amazon Smile, saving Coke products, Loaves for Learning and other items over the summer!! Also, be sure to scan your grocery receipts on the Box Tops for Education app! Electronic giving (Box Tops for Education app and Amazon Smile) is easy to use 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 two grants from the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of St. Cloud: \$1,700 from the Living the Promise Campaign for curriculum needs and \$2,800 from the Scholarship Fund for tuition assistance. We received additional scholarship grants from the Kremer Foundation for \$10,000 and from Catholic United Financial for \$5,000. We participated in the Schulze Family Foundation Challenge Grant and received \$25,000 for our new fire safety system. Lastly, we were nominated by a former SJAS family and will receive \$5,000 from the American’s Farmers Grow Communities program that will be put toward the fire safety system.

Covid Testing Grant Funds – SJAS received \$40,000 in credit towards Covid Testing materials, test kits, and other qualifying items. Utilizing the entire \$40,00 has proven to be very challenging. The state has stringent guidelines for qualifying our purchases and a limited time frame. The funding is only available through July 2022, and to date, we have managed to spend about half the amount. Items that we have been able to purchase are Covid test kits, various qualifying electronic items, classroom air purifiers, and cleaning supplies.

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:

- Soup Fest - \$2,004 (gross)
- Garage and Bake Sale - \$6,410.26 (gross)

STAR Student Testing Results – One of our goals on our School Strategic Plan is to design a user-friendly school wide graph to show the STAR test results for the current year and how the students are performing compared to the STAR MN State guidelines and the STAR National Percentiles. We have compiled the 2021-2022 STAR test results and have the results on the following performance graphs (attached). If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

THANK YOU! – Thank you for a great school year! We appreciate all your efforts to support the teachers and staff, volunteer for events, and help raise funds for SJAS! We pray that God continues to bless all our families, friends, and donors as they continue to bless our school!