



St. John the Baptist  
School  
September 22, 2021

Where small can make a BIG difference

# Opening Prayer

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Dear God,

Thank you for this amazing opportunity for parents and teachers to come together. Thank you for the blessing of the children that unite us in our common mission to educate them in your loving image. We ask for your guidance and your protection as we embark on a school year of challenges. We are reminded that You are with us always, and we must encourage ourselves and our children to draw strength from you.

Amen

# Agenda

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## **Session 1 - In Person**

5:30pm - Gym Welcome & H.S.A

6pm - Middle School ( Cafeteria) and 1st classroom rotation

6:30pm - 2nd classroom rotation

## **Session 2 - ( In Person and Virtual Option)**

6:30pm - Gym) Welcome & H.S.A

7pm - Middle School ( Cafeteria) and 1st classroom rotation

7:30pm - 2nd Classroom Rotation

8pm - 8th Grade Parent Meeting - Mrs. McNutt's Room

# Arrival

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-Morning drop off beginnings at 7:45 am - Please wait until you are at the cement walkway to drop off children. **Be patient with our younger students.** ( K- 8th are on the side lot) PreK 4 park in the church parking lot and enter through the front door.

-Students should arrive no later than 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:10am are considered tardy and need to sign in at the office.

-Home to School Notes - Available in the office and online - you can use this for when students are absent or require an early dismissal.

-When your child is absent please call the office. You may leave a message since we may not be able to answer the phone until 8:30 am.

# Dismissal:

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- Afternoon announcements begin at 2:00pm.
- We dismiss all busses first. Please do not park in the bus lane in the side lot or in front of the school.
- After school care is provided by LE3.
- Private car pick up students are dismissed after all buses. Students in grades PreK - 2nd grade are dismissed from the side door. Students in 3rd - 8th will be picked up in the church parking lot.
- DO NOT email your child's teacher with changes to dismissal. A written note should be sent in. Only call the office in an emergency situation. Miss. Sarah may not be able to answer the phone after 1:30pm.

# Early Dismissal

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- If your child needs to be picked up early, please make arrangements to get them by 1:30pm. This may be earlier than you need but it will prevent interference with our dismissal procedures.
- Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside of school hours.

# Lunch:

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- We participate in the NYS Free and Reduced lunch program. Lunch is FREE for all students.
- Students have the choice of a grilled cheese sandwich, a PB& J, a turkey sub, or salad every day. The main lunch rotates and a menu can be found online and is also sent home at the start of each month.
- Students may also purchase snacks: ice cream or chips for an additional cost.
- You should start a lunch or snack account with our cafeteria manager.

# Communication:

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- **The Blue Family Folder** - This is sent home every Wednesday via email. Please read the newsletter and all other forms. If you need a form printed out, please contact Miss. Sarah.
- **The Website**- Forms, notices, and general information can be found on the school website.
- **Facebook** - All current families are welcome and encouraged to join the closed group for H.S.A.
- **School Reach** - Automated phone calls are sent out on as needed basis. These calls highlight important information.
- **Snow Days** - We close when Alden Public Schools close. You can check all news stations, as well as, Facebook.

# STREAM Academies:

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-STREAM is every Friday afternoon for students in PreK 4- 8th grade. At this time all students and staff participate in a variety of hands on activities and investigations.

-STREAM will definitely look a lot different this year but we still want to engage students in this wonderful way of hands on learning.

# Birthdays and Celebrations

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- We are very mindful of the fact that birthdays and holiday celebrations are fun for everyone. We do want to find ways to acknowledge and celebrate fun things.
- Your child's teacher will go over the classroom policies regarding celebrations.
- If you would like to purchase an ice cream treat for the class, you can do so 1 week prior to your child's birthday. Contact your child's teacher if you are interested in this option.

# The SPECIALS...

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Students participate in Music, Art, Computers, Library, and Physical Education on a weekly basis.

Many of our STREAM Academies integrate these specialized areas and this reinforces learning within the classroom.



# Specials:

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- A weekly schedule will be sent home at the start of school to make you aware of the student's daily specials.
- PE uniforms are required for students in K- 8th. All students need to have sneakers in order to participate. Students have PE on Monday and Tuesday.
- Special area teachers work with classroom teachers to find instructional overlaps that reinforce student learning.

# The FAITH...

We are thrilled to welcome Father Dan and Father Patrick to our St. John the Baptist Community!

Students participate in direct religion instruction during the school day. We attend weekly mass and all classes take turns participating. We observe the Holy seasons of Advent and Lent by holding school-wide activities, as well as, special classroom activities. We encourage our older students to be leaders and models for our younger students. You are always welcome to attend school masses in person or virtually.



# COVID - 19 Updates

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The most current updates, policies, and procedures related to our COVID-19 policies are posted on the school website.

If any changes occur throughout the year, those updates will be shared via the weekly email.

In the September 29th email I will share information regarding the options available to families for surveillance and proximal testing.

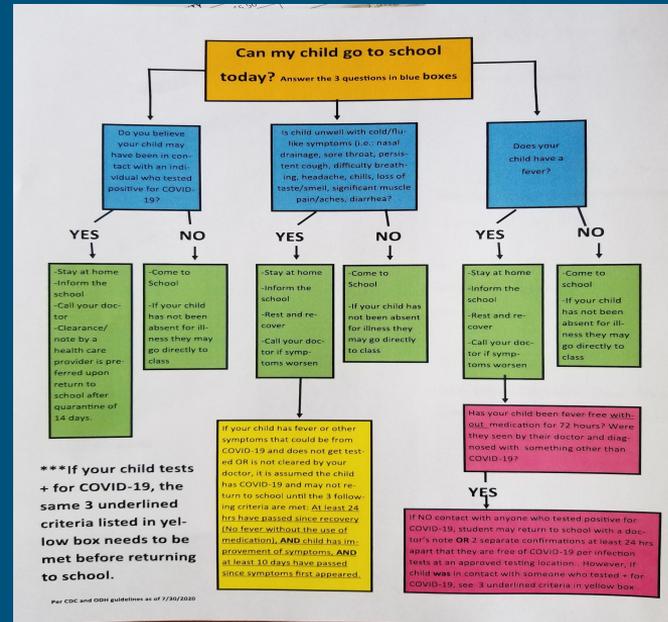
# Screenings and Sick Kids

Remember to screen your children each morning and do not send them to school if they are symptomatic.

**SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19**

**FACTS OVER FEAR**  
COVID-19

- FEVER OVER 100.4 DEGREES
- COUGH OR SORE THROAT
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING
- CHILLS
- MUSCLE PAIN
- NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL
- NAUSEA/VOMITING
- DIARRHEA
- HEADACHE/FATIGUE



# When to return to school

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Symptomatic children can return to school when the following conditions have been met:

- 48 hours symptom free
- With a negative PCR test or a note from the doctor clearing the student for return

In the absence of a negative COVID test students may also return to school after 10 days and the resolution of symptoms

Rapid tests are considered to be less effective than PCR tests, but can be accepted if specific criteria are met.

# We want you here:

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-The Home School Association ( H.S.A) is the parent group that organizes many of our activities and fundraisers. They meet each month and the meeting is also live streamed. Participation in this group not only connects you to the school, but allows your child to develop and refine social skills.

# Ways to volunteer and support the school!

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- Participation in Fundraisers
- Volunteer for Parish and School Events
- Basket, baked goods, and other items needed for events.
- Room parent ( always appreciate that supportive parent to help communication between teachers and families)
- Come to the meetings! First one is September 29th at 6:30pm. It will be in person and virtual.

We invite you to explore, ask questions, and  
— tour the school.

Please join your child's session

Middle School Students will meet during  
the first classroom presentation and will  
meet in the cafeteria.

Thank you for joining us tonight!