

St. John the Baptist School

*"We honestly had never
intended to send our
children to Catholic
School, but in her 2 years
of preschool we **fell in
love with St. John's.**
This school is so much
more than just a school.
It's more like a family!"*

-ST. JOHN'S ALDEN PARENT

The SCHOOL...

St. John the Baptist is a Pre-K - 8th grade Catholic school. St. John's School is committed to the education of all our students. High academic standards, a hallmark of Catholic education, mean that our students are challenged intellectually. We expect our students to work their personal best and strive for excellence in all they do.



Dress Code

- Students in K - 8th grade have PE on Monday and Tuesday and should be dressed in their PE uniform. Order forms are available or you may select gently used items at the Welcome Back Picnic.
- Students in K-8th will follow the uniform guidelines listed in the Parent/Student handbook and on our website.
- Students may wear sneakers every day. We do not require separate dress shoes on non-PE days.
- Dress Down Days - Students are able to dress out of uniform on specific days throughout the year. Refer to monthly calendars for these dates.
- There is no uniform for our Pre K students. We encourage dress that is comfortable, allows for easy use of toileting, and includes sneakers.

Arrival

- Students should arrive no later than 7:45 am. Students arriving after 8am 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.

Arrival

Kindergarten - 8th grade students:

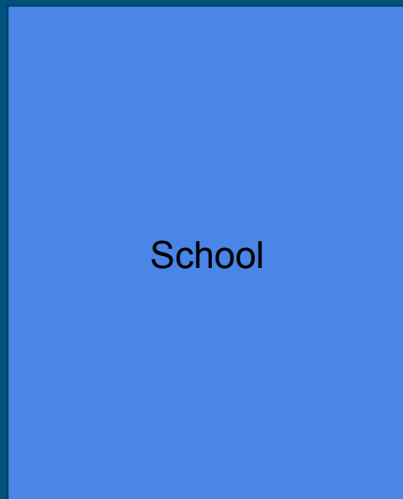
Students that arrive by bus will be dropped off at the cafeteria entrance. Students will be in the cafeteria and then sent to their classrooms/homerooms. Students that arrive by parent drop off will use the side parking lot and come in through the side entrance. A staff member will be posted at the door to ensure that students enter the building and are directed to their classroom/homeroom.

We ask that students arrive between 7:45 - 7:55am. We will direct parents in a circular path around the parking lot.

PreK 3 students have their first day on Thursday, September 8th. Students have class every Tuesday and Thursday. Students will arrive through the side doors at 9am and will be greeted by a staff member and will be brought up to their classroom. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to walk students to the classroom after the first full week of school.

PreK 4 students will have their first day on Wednesday, September 7th. Students may begin arriving at 7:45 am. We ask that families park in the church parking lot and walk their child to the front door where they will be greeted by a staff member. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to walk students to their classrooms after the first full week of school. If there are older siblings in the family we ask that you follow the dismissal/arrival procedures outlined for our K-8 students. All students need to be here no later than 7:55am, so that they are ready to begin the school day promptly at 8am.

Arrival Cont.

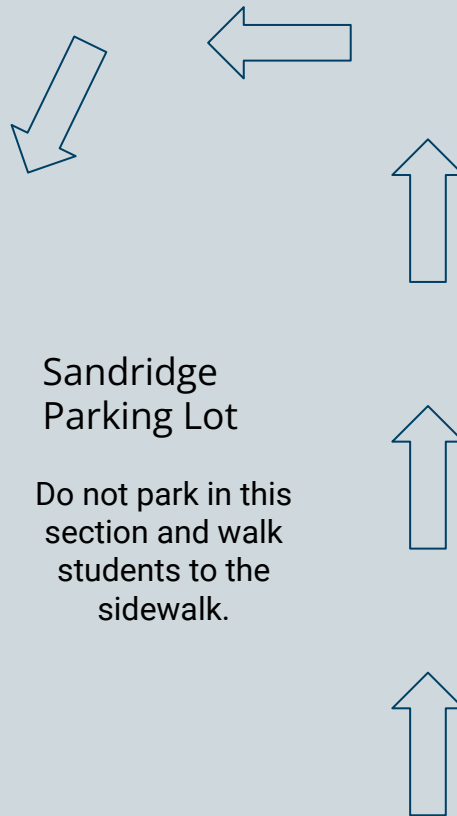


Bus
Students

Student enter

PreK 4 students will park in the church parking lot and use the front entrance.

Bus
Drop
off



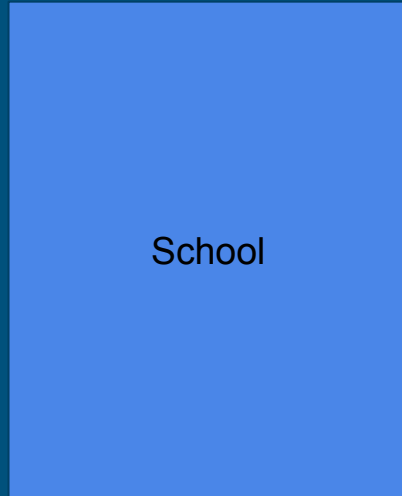
Drop off in the Sandridge lot is for students in K - 8th grade.

PreK students may come in this way if they have older siblings to walk them in the building.

Dismissal:

- Afternoon announcements begin at 2 pm.
- 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.

Dismissal



Student exit

Students in 3rd - 8th will be walked across the street to the church parking lot by a staff member.

Bus
Pick
up

Bus
Pick
Up

Bus
Pick
UP

Sandridge
Parking Lot

Parent
parking for
PreK - 2nd
grade pick up

Dismissal Order:

1. Busses
Do not park in the bus lane.
2. After School care
3. Private Car pick up

Students will be brought to families. We will dismiss in smaller groups and by families.

Please come out of your car to the sidewalk.

After School Care

After school care is provided by LE3. Those interested should contact LE3 directly and enroll their child.

There is a link on our website.

[LE3@ St. John The Baptist-Alden](#)

Program Hours:

After School: dismissal-6:00pm.



Arrival/ Dismissal Reminders

At no time during arrival or dismissal are parents permitted to park in front of the school.

If there is a change to the way your child is normally dismissed, you must send written notice to your child's teacher.

Parents/Guardians/Visitors are not permitted in the building during arrival. Since we will be utilizing additional staff members to facilitate an orderly and safe arrival/dismissal, it is possible that we will be unable to answer the phone between 7:45 am - 8:30 am and 1:30 - 2:00 pm.

We ask that parents avoid the buses that are pulling in and out to drop off students. We realize that this will take a little longer, and we appreciate everyone's patience with the process.

Late arrivals/Early Dismissals:

Any student that arrives after 8:00 am is considered tardy. Parents/Guardians will park in the side parking lot and escort their child to the main office.

Students that require an early dismissal must have a written note that indicates the time and reason that they are leaving early. We will not dismiss students without a written note. Parents/Guardians will park in the side lot and call the office at 937-9483. A staff member will meet the parents/guardians at the side door. Students must be signed out prior to leaving.

No students will be permitted early dismissals after 1:30pm. We want to ensure that all of our students are safely dismissed and allowing dismissals between 1:30 - 2pm will interfere with regular dismissal.

Lunch:

- We participate in the NYS Free and Reduced lunch program. Applications will be sent home on the first day of school.
- Lunch is \$2.50. 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 \$1.00.
- It is recommended that you may start a lunch or snack account with our cafeteria manager by sending in money via check or cash.

Snacks

- Every class has a set time for snacks. You may send in a daily snack or send in a supply ahead of time.
- If there is an allergy in your child's class, you will receive notification from your child's teacher. We appreciate you taking this notification seriously.
- We strongly encourage healthy snacks.

Communication:

- **The Blue Family Folder** - This is sent home every other Wednesday. Please read the newsletter and all other forms. This needs to be returned to the school by Friday so that we can refill it in a timely manner.
- **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.

The PROGRAM...



Our Early Childhood program (Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4) is designed to give children the necessary skills for success at the Elementary level. We focus on developing positive peer interactions, a foundational basis of the Faith, and introducing foundational math and reading skills.

In Kindergarten, we continue to develop the social, emotional, and academic aspects of our children. We use benchmark assessments to tailor instruction that meet our students' needs, but do so with the understanding that all children develop and grow according to God's plan, and may not all be at the same level of instruction.



PreK Information:

Tips for Success:

Even positive transitions can be stressful on young children. It is normal for your child to cry, have trouble sleeping/eating, be moody, or act out. These behaviors should lesson as your child becomes more comfortable with their routine. Our staff is here to support your child, and you, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We expect a few tears (from parents and children) during the first few days of school.

1. All of our Pre K students are expected to be fully potty trained by the start of school. Even those that are doing great can sometimes be overwhelmed when school starts. Prior to the start of school allow your child to use a public restroom, or your home bathroom, independently. You may wish to stand outside the stall and offer encouragement, but allow your child to be independent. Accidents do happen so please send in a full change of clothes including socks and under clothes and shoes for us to keep at school.
2. Young children need lots of sleep. Begin to establish a nighttime routine that allows children to be in bed and asleep at a reasonable time. For children ages 3-5 years it is recommended that they get between 9 to 11 hours of sleep.
3. Morning routines can be difficult, as young children are not good at "rushing". Establish a morning routine that allows your child to dress, groom, and eat prior to arriving at school.

The LEARNING...

Students learn through interactive tasks and experiences using standard-based curriculum. Our Students are active participants in their learning.



STREAM Academies

Students engage in fun and meaningful learning on a weekly basis, resulting in culminating projects and field trips that reinforce learning.



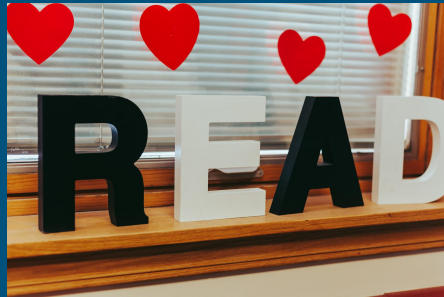
STREAM Academies:

- 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.
- The X-STREAM games are held in May to showcase student learning from the Diocese.
- Exhibition Night is in the Spring to showcase school wide learning.

The SPECIALS...

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:

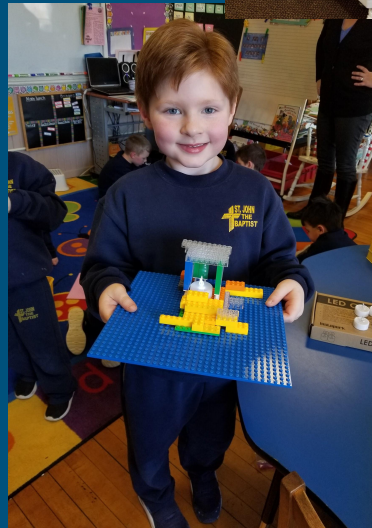
- A weekly schedule will be sent home at the start of school to make you aware of the student's daily specials.
- PE uniforms are required for students in K- 8th. All students need to have sneakers in order to participate.
- Special area teachers work with classroom teachers to find instructional overlaps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

The FAITH...

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 partner them with our younger classes. You are always welcome to attend school masses.



The FUN...



We want you here:

-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.

-If you plan on volunteering or attending field trips you must be Virtus Certified. This is free AND is good in all Catholic schools, as long as you remain current on the training bulletins.

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

Thank you for joining us tonight!