

September, 2017



Hello St. John's parents –

There's a lot happening at St. John's! The year is filled with opportunities and activities for participation.

The purpose of this paper is to give you, as parents, information that you may need to participate in or simply to become more familiar with a school activity. We ask that you look for other correspondence from the office or the teachers that will give further instructions or information as an activity approaches.

Did we miss an activity? Do you have more questions? Let us know what we can add!

Thanks!

Hot Lunch tickets (ongoing)

Lunch tickets are sold through the school office. The cost for a student lunch is \$2.40; adult meals are \$3.65. You may pay for meals by sending a check payable to St. John's School with Hot Lunch tickets written on the memo line. Cash may also be brought to the school office, however, please have it in a marked envelope with the amount of cash and its purpose on the envelope. Another good option for purchasing tickets is to use Paypal through our website – just click on the link!



Sporting events / schedules

Sports seasons at SJS consist of 5-8 football and 5-8 volleyball (Sep-Oct), 7-8 boys' and girls' basketball (Dec-Feb), and gr 5-6 boys' and girls' basketball (Feb-Mar). Practice and game schedules are published on our website (Sports Schedules) as well as passed out to team members at the beginning of the seasons. Home games typically begin at 3:30.

St. John's Library

Our school library is available for use by any classroom throughout the day. In addition to special uses, each class has a scheduled time during the week to check out books. These times are staffed by volunteers, usually parents of our students or congregational members. If you would like to find out more about how you can volunteer, please call the school office. We get you in contact with our library coordinator.

Singing at Church (various Sundays throughout the year)



St. John's School students have opportunities to enhance the worship of its members as they sing as a children's choir at various times throughout the year.

Preschool – grade 4 and 5th-8th make up the two groups of students that sing. Parents will be notified as to the date and time that their children are asked to sing. During National Lutheran Schools Week, all students in K-grade 8 will sing as a mass choir.

Fund raisers

St. John's School families participate in three major fundraisers each year; Walkathon (October 6), Chili feed and auctions (January 28), and plant sale (early spring). Descriptions are listed by date. See each event for more details.

Paper drives – (Various dates)

Paper drives happen during the third weekend of the months of September, November, January, March, May, and July. Our first one is scheduled for September 15-17. Watch office emails and church bulletins for the exact dates as they draw closer. Each paper drive is sponsored by families of one or two classrooms. Profits from the sales is deposited into those classroom accounts to be used to defray the cost of field trips or transportation, or to purpose things that can be used for that classroom.



PTL (Typically meet on Thursday evenings)

Parent Teacher League meets the first Thursday of most months. Check the school calendar for specific dates. All parents and teachers are automatically members of this organization. We need everyone's participation! Meetings begin at 6:30 and usually last approximately one hour. Events such as fine arts and fairs are quite often a part of PTL. Be sure to check the calendar for specific dates.



Fundraiser #1 - Walkathon – October 6, 2017

On the first Friday in October, students head to Baylor Park for our annual walkathon. Prior to this day, students are asked to get pledges from friends, family members, congregational members, etc. On walkathon day, students get to school by their normal mode of transportation. Around 10:20, we head to Baylor by public school bussing to participate in the walkathon. Kids have options as to the length of their hike. This has been a great opportunity for parents and children to join together and exercise while enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Parental participation is encouraged! Once lunch has been served, students are dismissed to their parents or their arranged ride

home. Bussing is provided for those students who need to head back to school to walk home, get picked up from school, or to attend our extended day program (if registered). Money from this fundraiser goes to the technology fund and is used to update and maintain computers, pads, projectors, white boards, and other technology-related items.

Harvest Party- October 28, 2017

The harvest party is a PTL-sponsored event held on October 28. This party began a number of years ago as an alternative to trick-or-treating and has grown into a community event, with attendance exceeding 300 in the past years. We invite the surrounding communities to attend the festivities. St. John's volunteers are key to its success! Please watch for how you can help, as we get closer to the event. Invite your friends and neighbors and come and enjoy some safe family fun!

Grandparents'/VIP Day - November 8, 2017

This is an opportunity for grandparents or folks special to our students to visit our school. This date, which is usually in early November, is noted on the school calendar. A form will be sent home with your child to provide us with an estimate of how many guests we should plan for in our preparations.



If a grandparent has more grandkids than the length of event provides, they can feel free to let us know. They are welcome to spend a bit more time at the beginning of the event.

Christmas service - December 17, 2017



Our PK-8th grade Christmas service is usually scheduled for the Sunday prior to Christmas. Check the calendar for the exact date each year. The service begins at 6:30 P.M.

NLSW events – January 21-28, 2018

National Lutheran Schools Week is celebrated the last full week of January. Any events or activities in which the students participate will be highlighted for parents after Christmas break. Events vary, but quite often include something special at Mayer Lutheran.

Fundraiser #2 - The **chili feed and auction** (January 28) is the major fundraiser of our school year. This event, which takes place the last Sunday of January, is one that needs many volunteers in a variety of positions in order to be successful. Expect to begin hearing about ways that you can help during the early part of December – and please volunteer your help!

Fundraiser #3 – For the past two years, this fundraiser has been a plant sale. Orders are generally placed by the early part of April, with the plants arriving before Mother’s Day. Years prior to the plant sale, cookie dough, pizza, and other items have been sold. This fundraiser is decided by PTL at one of the earlier meetings of the year.

Fair Night (March 1, 2018)

SJS provides our K-8 students with the opportunity to concentrate on one subject to explore at a fair night, usually during the month in conjunction with a PTL meeting.

A lower grade classroom may do a class project instead of each individual student doing a project. Classroom teachers will be informing parents regarding how their child’s class will be handling this activity. Types of fairs include science, social studies, and invention fairs.

Information as to which type of fair will be hosted each year is indicated on the school calendar, published on our website. Students will receive information in late October regarding project requirements and timelines so that the work can be spread over a couple of months. This year we will be having an invention fair!



Play Day – May 23, 2018

For over 40 years, this Preschool-8 event has been a competition between our school, Emanuel – Hamburg, and Zion – Benton. Each school takes their turn hosting this event. This year, it will be hosted by Zion - Benton. Playday is the Wednesday before Memorial Day. There is no bussing to or from school on this day. Students are to be at the host school by 8:15 or so for devotions. After devotions, the running events kick off the grades 1-8 portion of the day. Preschool and kindergarten students participate in events during the morning hours. More specific information will be sent home as we near the event.



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Banquet (TBD) Over the past years, St. John’s kindergarten-8 students have been asked to sing for the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon banquet, held sometime during the month of May. Those that can should meet at the school at 6:50 on the evening of the event. We will walk to the pavilion by around 6:55, sing for the banquet-goers for about 10 minutes beginning at 7:00. Your child is free to go once we are finished singing. We have had comments that this is the highlight of the night for many people that attend. Parents are invited to step in the pavilion to listen.



Graduation – May 23, 2018

8th grade graduation is the Wednesday before school dismisses for the year. The ceremony takes place during St. John’s mid-week service. Our

7th grade parents are in charge of providing refreshments after the service.

Musical – 2017-18

Some years, SJS students are involved with a school-wide musical every other year. The play, which may have a religious, patriotic, or other theme, is usually performed during the 4th quarter of the year. The date will be listed on the website calendar. This is a great opportunity for kids to get in front of people and perform!

