PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

September 10, 2026

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From the Principal

Dear SJB Families,

Greetings from the Principal's Office! Happy 3rd Day of School!

What a JOY it has been to welcome our students back to St. John the Baptist Catholic School! These first few days have been filled with excitement, energy, and so many smiles throughout our building.

It has been a wonderful week of getting into routines, building classroom communities, and settling into the rhythm of a new school year. We have loved welcoming our new students and families to SJB, while also enjoying the excitement of seeing so many familiar faces back in our hallways. As I have walked through classrooms this week, I have seen students learning, laughing, making new connections, and beginning to find their place in their classrooms. There is truly something special about the first week of school!

Our Catholic faith has also been at the heart of our beginning. We have started each day in prayer, remembering that Jesus is at the center of all we do. This week, Father Paul and Father Domonic visited classrooms to bless our students, teachers, and learning spaces. It was a beautiful reminder that we are not simply beginning another school year, we are beginning it together as a faith-filled Catholic community.

I hope your children are coming home with smiles on their faces and talking about all the fun things they did this week. Those little stories about a new friend, a favorite activity, something funny that happened in class, or something they learned are some of the best parts of the first week of school!

Thank you:

It was wonderful to connect with so many of our parents at the BooHoo YaHoo Breakfast this week! Thank you to our PTO for putting on such a fun event and creating an opportunity for our parents to gather, connect, and celebrate the beginning of another school year. We are so grateful for the ways our PTO and families help make SJB such a welcoming community.

I also want to take a moment to recognize our incredible teachers and staff. So much time, energy, and heart goes into preparing for the first days of school, and our staff has worked incredibly hard to make this week a successful one for our students. Thank you for welcoming each child with care, patience, and JOY and for creating classrooms where our students feel known, valued, and loved.

Upcoming Events

Grade 5 Information Night for parents	**Sept 10**
First Marathon Turn-In Day	**Sept 16**
No District Busing Day	**Sept 21**
Grades K-4 Information Night for parents	**Sept 22**
Grade 5 Eagle Bluff Trip	**Sept 21-23**
SJB Parish FallFest	**Sept 25-27**
Marathon for Non-Public Education	**Oct 3**

Quick Links

- 2026-2027 District Bus Registration
- 2026-2027 School Calendar
- Preschool Page
- Virtus Information
- SJB Spirit Wear Store

School Safe Environment Coordinator (Virtus): Alison Wacek waceka@stjohnnyb.org | 651-633-1522 x1127

And to our parents and families, thank you for entrusting your children to us. Your partnership is such an important part of what makes our school community strong. We are excited to work alongside you throughout the year as we help your children grow in faith, academics, character, and confidence.

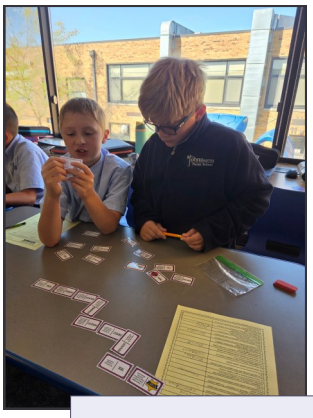
Most importantly, to our students: thank you for bringing your smiles, energy, laughter, and JOY through our doors this week! You are the reason we are here, and we can't wait to see all that you will learn, accomplish, and become this year.

What a wonderful beginning we have had! As we continue into the school year, let us remember our theme of JOY, Jesus, Others, You, and continue to put Jesus at the center, care for one another, and find joy in the many blessings God has given us.

We will wrap up our first week of the school year with our SJB Spirit Friday and Feed Your Neighbor Day. We invite our students to wear their SJB spirit wear tomorrow - spirit wear shirts and spirit wear or uniform bottoms. With every Spirit Wear Friday, we ask our students to bring at least one item for our SJB Food Shelf. This can be a non-perishable food item or a personal care item. The food shelf stocks are low after the summer months, so we encourage your generosity. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend, SJB families! We are so grateful for this community and are looking forward to all that God has in store for us this year.

God bless,
Anna Nagle
Principal



A couple of pictures from 6th grade Science this week

Welcome to Ms. Aemah Iqbal, School Counselor

Hello SJB families!

My name is Aemah Iqbal, and I am so happy to be part of the SJB community as your school counselor. I am here to support students as they navigate the many parts of growing up, whether that means working through big feelings, friendships, changes at home or school, worries, confidence, behavior, or simply having a safe person to talk to. Families know their children best, and your insight is an important part of how we support them at school. If there is something you have noticed, something your child is going through, or you feel they could benefit from a little extra support, please use the Parent/Guardian Counseling Referral Form below to connect with me. You do not need to know exactly what kind of support your child needs before submitting a referral. The form is simply a way to share your concerns with me so we can determine how I can best support your child at SJB. I look forward to getting to know you and your children this school year!

My hours are 7:45-2:45 every Thursday

Link to the referral form: School counselor Referral form – Fill out form

Friday - School Spirit Day + Feed Your Neighbor

Tomorrow, Friday, September 11th is our first School Spirit Day Friday. We invite students to come to school wearing a SJB spirit wear shirt with either SJB spirit wear bottoms or their uniform bottoms. All new students should have received a spirit wear t-shirt.

In combination with our Spirit Wear Fridays, we ask all students to bring at least one item for the St. John's Food Shelf each Friday. This item can be a non-perishable food item or a personal care item. You may also send money (cash or check to St. John's) that will be used by the food shelf coordinators to purchase items for the food shelf that are most needed. Thank you for your generosity as we Feed our Neighbors and help those in need in our community. **PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK EXPIRATION DATES!**

Click the link to go to the online store to order any spirit wear items for your student or yourself.

SJB School Spirit Wear Ordering Link

School Pictures are Ready!

You can view and order photos of your students at: https://shop.jostenspix.com/login

JostensPIX

School Name: **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Event Code: **FE226026**

One email address per family will receive an email with this information, however, you may request additional access for your student's photos using the event code above.

School Lunches and Food Allergies

If your student has any food allergies or special diet restrictions and he/she would like to eat a school lunch, we **MUST have a Special Diet Form signed by your child's doctor on file before any accommodations can be made**. Those students who have known allergies or diet restrictions were given a form at our back-to-school night. If you did not receive a form or need a new one, please stop in to the school office or contact Mrs. Abby Ash at asha@stjohnnyb.org.

Want to be a Substitute Teacher at SJB?

Are you or someone you know interested in being a substitute teacher at SJB? We are looking for substitute teachers for the upcoming school year for all grades.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the following interest form: Substitute Application or contact Mrs. Anna Nagle at naglea@stjohnnyb.org

Volunteering at SJB and Virtus

As part of the tuition agreement, each SJB family with students in grades K-8 are asked to volunteer for a minimum of 25 hours throughout the school year. These hours can be completed through school and/or parish activities as our hope is that you find ways to be involved in our entire SJB community.

Volunteer Tracking: Please keep track of the hours you volunteer throughout the school year. You may use the Volunteer Tracking Form or any other way that makes sense for you and your family. We will ask for hours to be submitted in the spring of 2027, but if you complete your hours early, they may be turned in to the school office at any time.

Virtus: Please note that any volunteer activities that involve our school students require the completion of VIRTUS. Virtus is an Archdiocesan requirement for all employees and volunteers who interact with minors. Volunteers are required to complete the **"Essential Three"** requirements (which must be renewed every three years), The E3 This includes completion of the VIRTUS training as well as submission of the Volunteer Application and a Background Check.

Contact Alison Wacek with any questions: waceka@stjohnnyb.org or 651-633-1522 x 1127

Volunteer Opportunities

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children that is rooted in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. The program operates from the philosophy that the child is already in a relationship with God and seeks to nurture that relationship through the proclamation and pondering of God's Word by utilizing a carefully prepared environment called an "atrium." The atrium is full of beautiful hand-made child-sized materials that help the child and their catechist to prayerfully enter deeply into the essential mysteries of the Catholic faith.

As we prepare for the year ahead, we are seeking assistants for the kindergarten sections of CGS. Assistants aid the catechist in providing a calm, prayerful, and loving environment. The kindergarten sessions run from 1:15-2:15pm each day of the week. The ideal assistant would be able to commit to coming on the same day each week from late September through mid-May. All training for assistants is provided.

Please contact Rachael Wratkowski at wratkowskir@stjohnnyb.org with interest or for more information.

Marathon for Non-Public Education

The Non-public School Marathon is one of our major fundraising events of the school year. All money raised goes to offset the school operating expenses. **This year our school goal is to raise $72,000**. Students are asked to collect a minimum of $175 in pledges from family, friends and neighbors. See below for the incentives for students.

The 2026 Marathon will be held on Saturday, October 3rd at Central Park in Roseville MN. The event begins at 8:00am and runs until 12:00pm. Join us at 9:00am for prayer with Father Paul followed by an SJB lap around the lake with Principal Nagle and other SJB families. Please come at any time and stay as long as you'd like. Students attending will receive a non-uniform pass to be used on Monday, October 5th. Students are encouraged to wear their SJB logo spirit wear! Rain or shine, we want to see you at the Marathon!

Wednesday money collection dates: September 16th, September 23rd, and September 30th

Collection envelopes will be returned to your child each week for additional contributions after each collection date. Be sure to check your child's folder/backpack.

Donations accepted via cash, check, Venmo, or online donation link. Be sure to turn in the weekly contribution form with your child's name and room number. If turning in one envelope for multiple students, note each student's name and room number. Students turning in the required weekly amount will be eligible for rewards. If a student turns in the minimum $175 amount on week one, he/she will be eligible for prizes in the following weeks.

@SJB-NewBrighton

venmo

Online Donation Link

Rewards/Incentives:

- **September 16th, Week 1 Turn-in**: If a student brings in at least $75
  ⇒ Student will be entered into the weekly raffle drawing for non-uniform passes. One winner per grade.
  ⇒ Student will visit the SJB Snack Shack to choose a treat.
- **September 23rd, Week 2 Turn-in**: If a student brings in at least $125
  ⇒ Student will be entered into the weekly raffle drawing for non-uniform passes. One winner per grade.
  ⇒ Student will visit the SJB Snack Shack to choose a treat.
- **September 30th, Week 3 Turn-in**: If a student brings in at least $175
  ⇒ Student will be entered into the weekly raffle drawing for non-uniform passes. One winner per grade.
  ⇒ Student will visit the SJB Snack Shack to choose a treat.

Weekly raffle will be for non-uniform passes - one student per grade will win!

Class with the highest total will participate in a Kickball game with Principal Nagle and Father Paul - date TBD

The top 5 students with the highest donation will participate in the all-school Marathon assembly on October 2nd where they will get to take turns selecting a prize bag.

Students who attend the Marathon on Saturday, October 3rd who check-in at the SJB pavilion will receive a non-uniform pass to be used on Monday, October 5th.

If we make our goal of $72,000, Mrs. Nagle will smooch some farm animals. Plus the whole school will be treated to ice cream treats!

Only One Thing is Necessary

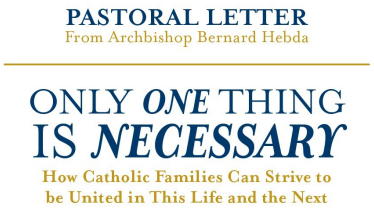
September: Jesus at the Center

Virtue: Hope - Trusting in God's loving plan

Theme: Give Jesus First Place

Focus: Place Christ at the center of your life.

Feast of the Month and Saint: Saints Louis and Zelie Martin



Pastoral Letter Connection: "Nobody journeys alone. No genuine vocation originates simply from out own idea of self-fulfillment or self-determination. It comes from our Creator. If we are able to accept that being a faithful catholic parent or grandparent or son or daughter is a calling from God, and that it originates in His plan, we can be confident that He will both bestow on us the grace that we need to live out that vocation and to empower our cooperation." (6)

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Hebda: Only One Thing is Necessary

Week 2: Build a Daily Prayer Habit

◊ Activity: Pray together for two minutes before bedtime each night.

◊ Car or Dinner Conversation: When do we feel closest to God?

Week 1: Create a Prayer Space

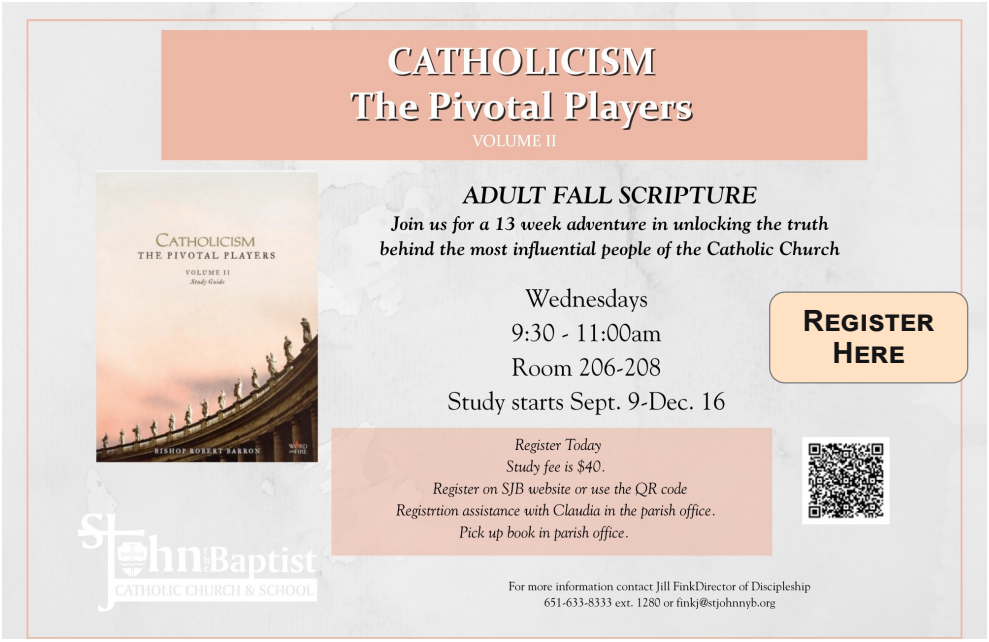
◊ Activity: Set up a small prayer area in our home with a Bible, candle, crucifix or image of a saint.

◊ Prayer: "Jesus, help our family place you at the center of our lives."

Sunday Mass Time Change

Remember, beginning this Sunday, September 13, the evening Holy Mass will be moving back to 5:30 pm.

Please make note of this change on your calendars and remind your family and friends. It is always a terrible feeling coming to Holy Mass late, so please plan accordingly and find the best time for you to come.



St. John's FallFest

September 25, 26, and 27, 2026

THURSDAY
September 24, 2026
Silent Auction Opens ~ 11:30 am

FRIDAY
September 25, 2026
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Pig Roast ~ 5:00 pm
Inflatables for all ages ~ 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Princess Visit ~ 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Kids Games ~ 5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Silent Disco ~ 5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Adult Games ~ 5:00 pm-10:00 pm
Food and drink concessions ~ 5:00 pm-10:00 pm
Grill the Priests ~ 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
The Good, The Bad and The Funky ~ 7:00 pm

SATURDAY
September 26, 2026
2:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Fun Run, 5K & 1 mile ~ 9:00 am
"Bags" Tournament ~ 2:00 pm
Car Show ~ 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
Fire Truck ~ 2:00 pm-5:00 pm
Inflatables for all ages ~ 2:00 pm-7:00 pm
Food and drink concessions ~ 2:00 pm-10:00 pm
Kids Games ~ 2:00 pm-10:00 pm
Silent Disco ~ 2:00 pm-10:00 pm
Adult Games ~ 4:00 pm-10:00 pm
Anticipatory Holy Mass ~ 4:30 pm
Princess Visit ~ 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Fever Pitch ~ 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
BINGO ~ 5:30 pm-8:00 pm
GB Leighton ~ 7:30 pm-10:00 pm
Fireworks ~ 8:30 pm

SUNDAY
September 27, 2026
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Holy Mass ~ 8:30 am
Holy Mass with Polka Music ~ 10:30 am
Booya ~ 11:00 am 'til gone
(Take-out starts at 12:30 pm)
Kids Games ~ 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Food and drink concessions ~ 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Inflatables for all ages ~ 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Silent Disco ~ 11:00 pm-3:00 pm
Silent Auction Closes ~ 1:00 pm
Designer Purse Bingo ~ 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Grand Raffle ~ 3:00 pm

ST. JOHN the BAPTIST FALLFEST
SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 2026

Scan the QR code to learn more!

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

835 2nd Avenue, NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
Website: stjohnnb.com Email: SJB@stjohnnyb.org

Click on a box below to signup!

Donations Needed

Bottles for Bar Games: Bottle donations needed for the FallFest Bar Games! We are once again collecting donations of liquor and wine bottles for FallFest. All bottles must be unopened. Donations should be labeled "FallFest Bar Games" and dropped off at the parish office.

Kids Games: Nonperishable foods (chips, cookies, cereal, pop tarts, pudding), candy, toys under $2.50, Gatorade, Powerade, Prime, and Sparkling Ice bottles. Monetary donations also accepted.

FallFest Silent Auction: Create a basket with your family, ministry group, or commission. Donate single items that can be combined into a basket, or give a financial contribution to be used to complement a basket - ideas include restaurant gift cards, popular electronics, wine/liquor, housewares, or tickets to future theater, music, or sporting events. Use your imagination and get creative! **Please remember that all items must be new.** Contact Rita Arndorfer at arndorferr@stjohnnyb.org for more information.