PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

September 17, 2026

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From the Principal

Dear SJB Families,

Greetings from the Principal's Office!

What a wonderful week it has been at St. John the Baptist! As we settle into the school year, it has been so much fun to see our students growing in their routines, building friendships, and becoming more connected as a school community. There is so much JOY happening throughout our building!

Prayer Partners
Today was our first Prayer Partner gathering of the school year, and what a fun experience it was for our students! Prayer Partners give our students the opportunity to connect with someone in a different grade, building relationships that might not otherwise happen during the school day.

It was so fun to see students playing games together, discovering similar interests, coloring pictures, and even working on words together. I love this connection between our students! More importantly, it is a beautiful way for our older and younger students to learn from one another, care for one another, and grow together as a Catholic community. These relationships remind us that we are all part of one SJB family, with Jesus at the center of how we treat and serve one another.

Emergency Response Drill
We completed our second emergency response drill today, and our students did a wonderful job practicing what to do in different situations. As a reminder, these drills are conducted using announcements rather than alarms so that we can practice our procedures in a calm and purposeful way. We will however have one evacuation drill with the fire alarms sometime this fall. The New Brighton Fire Department will stop in unannounced to conduct this drill. This is something they do each year in every school in the city.

We will work to complete several of our drills while the weather is still comfortable enough to do so. Thank you to our students and staff for taking these practices seriously and helping us build safe and consistent routines.

Monday is a Non-Busing Day
Monday will be our first non-busing day of the school year. For students who ride Mounds View district buses to school, there are days when Mounds View Public Schools is not in session but St. John the Baptist is. We refer to these as non-busing days, and on these days, all students will need to be driven to school. We will use the same path for drop-off as usual. However, instead of dropping students off at the Flagpole

Upcoming Events

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**
School Picture Retake Days	**Oct 5 & 6**
No District Busing Day	**Oct 12**

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

Door, cars will turn right into the North Parking Lot and drop students off at the gym doors. We will have extra staff on hand to help direct students and families.

A few reminders to help these non-busing days run smoothly:

- Please use the entire parking lot to drop off your students so we can keep traffic moving.
- Parents, please do not get out of your vehicle during drop-off.
- If possible, have your children exit from the car doors closest to the school.

Students will walk along the coned-off section of the parking lot to safely enter the building.

Thank you for your help in keeping our drop-off safe and efficient for everyone. We know these mornings may look a little different, and we appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation! Blaine buses run normally on these days and preschool drop-off and pickup routines remain the same.

Prayers for Our 5th Graders

Please keep our 5th graders in your prayers as they head to Eagle Bluff Learning Center next week from Monday, September 21st - Wednesday, September 23rd. This is always such a special experience for our students. They will have the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom, challenge themselves, try new things, work together, and build memories with their classmates and teachers. We hope this experience helps our students grow in confidence, independence, friendship, and appreciation for God's beautiful creation. We pray for safe travels, wonderful experiences, and a trip filled with learning, laughter, and JOY!

School Spirit Fridays

It was so much fun to see so many students showing their SJB school spirit this past Friday on our first School Spirit Day. As a reminder, students may wear school spirit attire on Fridays when they bring an item to donate to the food shelf. This is a wonderful tradition that allows us to give back to those in need while also showing our SJB pride! Please remember that students participating in School Spirit Friday should wear a school spirit top and school spirit pants or shorts. If your child would prefer to remain in uniform, they are always welcome to do so. Thank you for helping us teach our students that JOY is not just about what we receive—it is also about how we can give to and serve others.

Kindergarten–4th Grade Parent Night

Just a reminder that our Kindergarten–4th Grade Parent Night is coming up next week!

Tuesday, September 22
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in your child's classroom

Teachers will offer the same presentation twice, from 6:30–7:00 p.m. and again from 7:00–7:30 p.m. This will allow families with children in multiple grades to attend more than one classroom presentation. If you have more than two children in grades K–4, we recommend attending the presentations for your two oldest children. We look forward to seeing many of you that evening!

Parish Fall Festival

And finally, please join us for our Parish Fall Festival next weekend, September 25-27. Students will be bringing home a flyer good for five Fall Fest tickets next week that can be used towards games, food or drinks. Fall Fest is such a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish communities to come together, enjoy time with one another, and celebrate the wonderful community God has given us. I hope to see all of our SJB families there!

Thank you for another wonderful week at St. John the Baptist. I continue to feel so blessed to walk through our hallways each day and see our students learning, growing, praying, and building relationships with one another. There is so much good happening here, and I am excited for all that is ahead!

Have a wonderful weekend, SJB families, and God bless!

God bless,
Anna Nagle
Principal

Faith, Family and Fellowship Mornings

Throughout the school year, we will host a Faith, Family and Fellowship Morning (FFF Morning) for each grade. On these days, we encourage our students to invite parents, grandparents or other special guests to join us for our all-school Mass at 8:30am. Following Mass, the students will perform a song, poem or reading for their guests and then we end the morning with hospitality in St. Joseph Hall. Our first FFF Morning will be for our 7th grade students and families and will be held next week on Wednesday, September 30th. Seventh-grade parents should have received an email with more information and a link to RSVP for the event.

If you have a 7th grade student and have not sent in your RSVP yet, please click on the following link and let us know if you will be joining us. 7th Grade FFF Morning RSVP

Save the date for your child's FFF Mornings coming up this school year:

Grade 4 - October 28	Grade 6 - January 13	Grade 1 - March 3	Grade 8 - April 30
Grade 5 - November 4	Grade 3 - February 24	Grade KG - April 14	Grade 2 - May 5

No Busing Day - September 21st

Monday, September 21st will be our first No District Busing Day. These days happen on occasion throughout the school year when the schools in the Mounds View district are not in session, but St. John's is. On these "**NO BUSING**" days, all students who ride any of the district buses (to the Mounds View, New Brighton, Arden Hills, etc. areas) will need transportation to/from school. Morning drop off will look a little different on these days and afternoon pickup will be a bit busier. Here are the procedures on these non-busing days:

⇒ For morning drop off: All students should be dropped off in the north parking lot at the gym door (door #7). Please drive north on 2nd Avenue as normal. Drive past the flagpole door (door #6) and make a right into the north lot. Stay in the line and exit the lot on the east side of the lot. For safety reasons, do not park in this lot and do not turn around and exit out the west side of the lot. Drop off begins at 7:30am. Staff will be in the lot to assist with drop off.

⇒ Afternoon pickup will be from the main Church lot as normal. Please be sure to pull into the parking space with your car facing out to make sight lines better when you are leaving. School ending/pickup time is 2:30pm

NOTE: On district no-busing days, the SJB charter buses to the Blaine area will run normally. Preschool drop off/pickup will remain the same.

Parking Lot Closures - Begin Wednesday, Sept 23rd

Setup for the FallFest weekend festivities will begin next week. From Wednesday, September 23rd through Monday, September 28th, the main Church lot (west lot) will be closed for parking. This means that morning drop off and afternoon pickup will be impacted. During these closures, please allow a little extra time and plan to park on the neighborhood streets during the lot closures.

For morning drop off: If you need/want to park, please park on the street and walk your child to the appropriate drop-off area.

For afternoon pickup: We ask that all those who are picking up, park on the streets and walk to the sidewalk in front of the church to get your student(s). We will NOT allow any students onto the street to meet their rides no matter which grade they are in.

Note that portions of the east lot (near the school office) will also be closed for booya kettle set-up and removal during FallFest time. Thank you, in advance, for your flexibility with this parking inconvenience.

Donations Needed for the Health Office!

We all know that between deep-puddle jumping, juice spills, and sudden potty emergencies, accidents happen at school! When they do, our health office swoops in to save the day.

Right now, our health office is running very low on **NEW, unopened boys' underwear** specifically sizes 4-8 (XS and S), but all sizes are needed.
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If you are doing some shopping and want to throw an extra pack into your cart, our nurse (and some very relieved students!) would be incredibly grateful.

You can send packages directly with your student or drop them off at the main office. Prefer to shop online? Check out our SJB Amazon Wish List and send the items directly to school!

Thank you for helping us keep our kids clean, comfortable, and ready to learn!

School Pictures are Ready!

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

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.

Picture Retake days:

Monday, Oct 5 and Tuesday, Oct 6

JostensPIX

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
From Archbishop Bernard Hebda

ONLY *ONE* THING
IS *NECESSARY*
How Catholic Families Can Strive to be United in This Life and the Next

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)

Week 3: Scripture in the Home

◊ Read together in the bible: Luke 10:38 - 42 "Only One Thing is Necessary."

◊ Car or Dinner Conversation: What does it mean to make time for Jesus?

Week 2: Build a Daily Prayer Habit

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

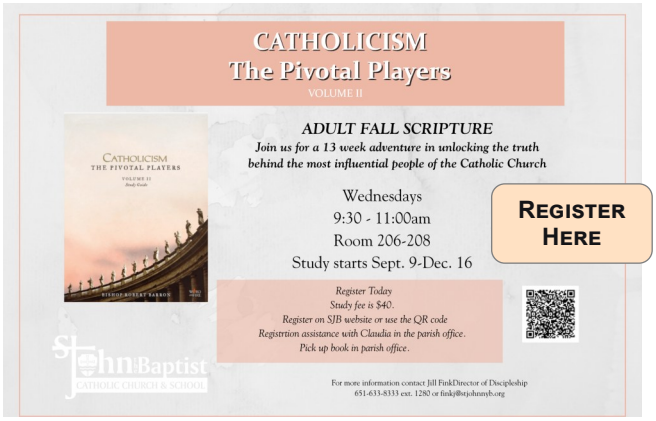
◊ Car or Dinner Conversation: When do we feel closest to God?

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."

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Hebda: Only One Thing is Necessary



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.