PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

September 24, 2026

St John the Baptist CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From the Principal

Dear SJB Families,

Greetings from the Principal's Office!

It has been another busy and wonderful week at St. John the Baptist! Our 5th graders had a delightful week at Eagle Bluff spending three days learning, exploring, challenging themselves, and building community with their classmates. We are so proud of the way our students represented SJB and hope they came home with lots of great memories and stories to share. A big thank you to our teachers and chaperones who made this experience possible! It was also wonderful to welcome so many parents into our building for K-4 Parent Information Night. Thank you for taking the time to join us, meet with your child's teacher, and learn more about the year ahead. Your partnership with our teachers and school is so important, and we are grateful for the support you provide our SJB community. There is lots to celebrate and plenty happening around our school and parish, so here are a few important updates and reminders for our families.

FallFest – We Need You!

Fall Fest is this weekend, September 25–27! Students will be bringing home a flyer good for five free FallFest tickets that can be used toward games, food, or drinks.

We also still have many volunteer opportunities available. As an added thank-you, school families who volunteer at Fall Fest for either inflatables or kid games will receive their volunteer hours plus a non-uniform pass for their child(ren). This is a great way to support our parish community, help make Fall Fest a success, and earn your volunteer hours at the same time! FallFest Volunteer Signup

If you have some time to give, please consider signing up. We would love to see those remaining spots filled! We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Volleyball Site Supervisor Needed

Our SJB volleyball teams have home games on Wednesday, September 30, at 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., and we are looking for a parent volunteer to serve as the site supervisor. Responsibilities include crowd control, assisting the referees and scorer's table if needed, and helping clear the gym at the end of the evening.

Upcoming Events

SJB Parish FallFest	**Sept 25-27**
PTO Non-Uniform Day for Teachers	**Oct 1**
Marathon for Non-Public Education	**Oct 3**
K-2 Grade Level Sunda Mass - 10:30am	**Oct 4**
School Picture Retake Days	**Oct 5 & 6**
Faith & Blue Event	**Oct 12**
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

This can be an easy way to complete some volunteer hours! If you are interested, please contact SJB Athletic Director Cole Van Beusekom at vanbeusekomc@stjohnnyb.org.

Please note: If you have a child playing in the games, you are not eligible to serve as the site supervisor.

Welcome, Rebecca!

We are excited to welcome Ms. Rebecca Schwengber to the St. John the Baptist community as our new Spanish teacher! There has been a staffing change with Language Sprout, the company we partner with for our Spanish program, and Rebecca will be stepping into the role at SJB. Rebecca is the founder and owner of Language Sprout, a Spanish and Mandarin speaker, and has a passion for creating robust language-learning opportunities that help children develop bilingual skills. We are very fortunate to have Rebecca joining us, and she will be responsible for teaching Spanish, grading, and all of the responsibilities that come with her role. If you need to reach Rebecca regarding Spanish, you can contact her at spanish@stjohnnyb.org. A more detailed bio and introduction to Rebecca will be shared with families shortly in the Spanish Newsletter. Please join us in giving Rebecca a warm SJB welcome!

K–2 Grade Level Mass – Sunday, October 4

We are looking forward to celebrating our K–2 Grade Level Mass on Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m.! More information and details about student participation will be shared by classroom teachers in the coming days. This is a wonderful opportunity for our K–2 students to represent St. John the Baptist and showcase our school community to our parishioners. Students will be invited to participate in special parts of the Mass, and we would love to see as many of our K–2 students there as possible. Students in grades K–2 who attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass in uniform that weekend will also receive a non-uniform pass to use at school. We are looking forward to seeing our K–2 students at Mass and celebrating with our parish community!

Appalachia Christmas Mission

Our Family Formation team, Council of Catholic Women, and SJB School are teaming up this year to support the 2026 Archdiocesan CCW Appalachia Christmas Mission. For 50 years, this outreach has brought Christmas gifts and joy to families in some of the most impoverished communities in Kentucky. This year, our gifts will be sent to Holy Family Catholic Church in Booneville, Kentucky, a small mission parish that serves more than 600 families with needs such as home repairs, utility assistance, and other support. We will be collecting new gift items from October 12-23, with collection boxes located at school and under the Harvest Table in the church plaza. There are many ways to help, including donating clothing, toys, blankets, school supplies, hats and mittens, household items, games, and other gifts that would bring joy to a family this Christmas. Together, we can help make Christmas a little brighter for families who have very little. Please see the full list of suggested items and donation information below.

Thank you for another wonderful week at SJB! Even on our busiest weeks, I am reminded of what makes this community so special, the way our students care for one another, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the incredible partnership of our families.

I hope to see many of you at FallFest this weekend! What a great opportunity to come together as a school and parish community, have some fun, and celebrate all that makes SJB such a special place.

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

Parking Lot Closures - Continue through Monday

Setup for the FallFest weekend festivities has begun! The main church lot will be closed for parking through Monday, September 28th. 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 setup and removal during FallFest time. Thank you, in advance, for your flexibility with this parking inconvenience.

Author Visit at SJB - Tuesday, October 6th

We are so excited for author Matt Eicheldinger's upcoming visit to SJB on Tuesday, October 6th!

"Mr. Eich" will be visiting with our k-8 students in groups throughout the afternoon. Our students have the opportunity to purchase Matt's books through Barnes & Noble at a discounted price. You are not obligated to purchase books. Paper copies of the order form have gone home with students today. Please return the form along with payment to your student's homeroom or advisor teacher by Monday, Sept. 28th to guarantee they are ordered and shipped in time to be at school for the visit. Matt will be signing books after each session with students, so filling out the Name for Personalization line will help that go more smoothly.

School Picture Retake Days

Picture retake days are scheduled for Monday, Oct 5th and Tuesday, Oct 6th from 8-10:00am each day. Those students who did not have their photos taken at Meet My Teacher Night or who would like to give picture day another shot, will have the opportunity to have their picture taken or retaken on one of these days. This will be the final photo opportunity for school photos at St. John's this school year. If you have not seen your child's photo, you can take a look by going to www.jostenspix.com Once there, you can either create an account or log into your account. Our school event code is **FE226026**

JostensPIX

Marathon for Non-Public Education

After our first two weeks, we are pleased to report that our school-wide total raised is just over $43,000! Thank you for your generosity! We have one more week to reach our school-wide goal of $72,000. If we make that goal, Principal Nagle will be smooching some animals!

Plan to join us for the 2026 Marathon 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!

We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help at the Marathon on October 3rd. Sign up for a shift below:

@SJB-NewBrighton

MARATHON VOLUNTEERS

venmo

Our final collection date is Wednesday, September 30th!

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.

Online Donation Link

A reminder that as part of the tuition agreement, each student is asked to bring in a minimum of $175 for the marathon. Any student not meeting that goal will be charged the amount through their Tads accounts.

Rewards/Incentives:

- **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!

2026 Appalachia Christmas Mission

Family Formation, Council of Catholic Women, and SJB School are teaming up this year to support the Archdiocesan CCW Appalachia Christmas Mission. This outreach mission has been going on for 50 years, bringing Christmas gifts and joy to some of the most impoverished communities in Kentucky. Our parish will send gifts to Holy Family Catholic Church in Booneville, Kentucky. This is an area with very few Catholics, but many struggling people (35% live beneath the poverty level). These residents have few employment opportunities and poor health. The tiny mission parish now serves over 600 families with home repairs, utility bill relief, and other needs.

We'll be collecting the gift items from Oct. 12 to Oct. 23. Collection boxes will be in the school and under the Harvest Table in the church plaza. We'll transport the gifts to Randolph sometime between Oct. 23 and Oct. 31. There a semi-trailer, generously donated by Terminal Transport Company of Roseville, will be loaded with donations from all over the archdiocese. The volunteer driver will then make the journey to Kentucky, delivering much-needed supplies and holiday cheer to families in need.

Gift suggestions (new items only, please) to donate:

Clothing (large sizes)	Toys	Accessories	Miscellaneous
Socks, Slippers	Pull toys	Watches	Fishing equipment
Shirts	Rattles, teethers	Belts	Sports equipment
Infant or toddler sleepers	Board games or puzzles	Wallets, billfolds	Wrapping paper, ribbons, ornaments
Sweatshirts	Balls or Blocks	Purses	Blankets/ bedding
Sweaters	Dolls	Hats, Scarves	Kitchen items
Coats or Jackets	Cars/trucks	Mittens	Craft kits
Hunting clothes	Crib mobiles	School supplies	Towels

Think about items that would be appreciated in an impoverished area. (However, no food items or canned goods. No high-tech toys. No "war toys.") The community, young and old, have so little, and they truly appreciate these gifts. Adults are able to visit a Free Store and choose Christmas gifts for themselves and their families.

If you'd prefer to mail a check for gifts, please write "Appalachian Christmas" in the memo line and mail to: Sr. Judy Donohue, Holy Family Catholic Church, 1439 KY 11S, Booneville, KY 41314

In the 2026 Spring newsletter, Sister Judy wrote: *"Holy Family's Christmas Sharing helped 100 families have a blessed Christmas. On Dec. 16th, we opened our Yard Sale room for the families to select 15 items. Many families were able to give a bicycle or doll to a grandchild for Christmas. Thank you to the donors who made this possible, and to the volunteers who gave of their time to make this Christmas Sharing happen."*

Let's open our hearts again to these "neighbors" in Appalachia! God bless you and your families.

Only One Thing Is Necessary

HOW CATHOLIC FAMILIES CAN STRIVE TO BE UNITED IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT

SJB Plan 2026-27

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 Hebda: Only One Thing is Necessary

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 4: Family Blessing

- ◊ Activity: Parents bless children at bedtime by tracing the sign of the cross on their forehead and saying, "May God bless you and keep you tonight."
- ◊ Car or Dinner Conversation: What does it mean for Jesus to be at the center of our family?

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."

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

Volunteers Still Needed!

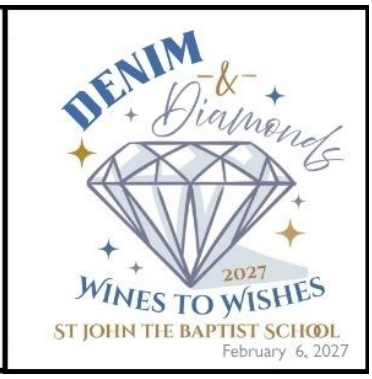
Silent Auction Now Open!

Still Accepting FallFest Donations! Drop any donations at the Parish Office!

Liquor or Wine Bottles for Bar Games
All bottles must be unopened. Donations should be labeled "FallFest Bar Games" and dropped off at the parish office.

Nonperishable Foods for Kids Games
Chips, cookies, cereal, pop tarts, pudding, candy, toys under $2.50, bottles of Gatorade, Powerade, Prime, and Sparkling Ice for our kids' games.

Thank you for your generosity!



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