



# SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# School Bulletin

September 28, 2018

## Upcoming Events



### September 28-29

Oktoberfest

### October 3

NJHS Induction 2:15pm

### October 5

Mass with Rosary

### October 8

Columbus Day-NO School

### October 12

Interims  
Race For Education

### October 17

Dress Down Day for Lions Club

### October 19

Middle School Dance 7-10pm

### October 25

Mass with Student of the Month

### October 26

No School/Professional Development  
Trunk or Treat 5:30-8 pm

### November 1

Mass-All Saints Day

### November 2

Mass with Rosary  
Picture Makeup Day

### November 8

Veterans Day White Table Ceremony  
Early Dismissal 11:30am  
Parent Teacher Conferences

### November 9

Parent Teacher Conferences  
NO School

### November 13

Dress Down Day

### November 14

Hearing & Vision Screening

Please check the school website  
for the complete calendar.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Greetings,

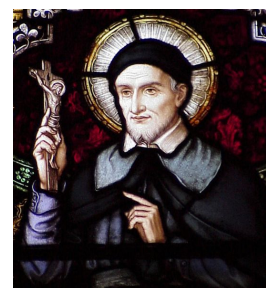
We discussed with our students the feast of St. Vincent recently. In the words I read from Father Hathaway, St. Vincent de Paul was called the Apostle of Charity for his service. Father Hathaway encourages us in the words of our Lord to go out in twos, visiting the needy in their homes, providing them with respect, hope, and dignity as we strive to meet their corporal and spiritual needs.

I have a few reminders regarding our dress code and teacher conferences. Students are not permitted to have decorated socks or shoes. All dress shoes should be solid black without any embellishments. Multiple uniform violations were handed out this week in hopes that we can have our students wearing their uniform each day with purpose and pride. I also ask that before/after school teacher conferences are scheduled in advance before a meeting takes place. Please be mindful of their assigned duties and other commitments to our school. Unscheduled meetings typically result in reactive behaviors and comments and these types of meetings do not serve the intended purpose, strengthening the partnership between parent and educator.

Mrs. Karhoff had her baby last week and we can now officially add another member to our school community. Mom and baby are doing well and she is really enjoying her time at home with her new addition. Prayers continue for her and her wonderful family, Mrs. Warhurst has settled in nicely and we appreciate all she has and will do between now and the middle of November.

Don't underestimate what you, as a parent, can contribute to your child's learning experiences. Getting involved in your child's education can make a tremendous difference in your child's academic success. Research shows a student's academic achievement and self-esteem is closely related to positive parental participation in their education. Parents who help their child learn to read, spell, memorize, or use numbers are expanding their child's opportunities to learn. In today's busy world, it is often difficult to find the "extra" time, but little lessons regularly taught can go a long way. May we continue to grow in God's grace and wisdom.

God bless,  
Mr. Temple Macdonald





## School News

### Background Checks – Policies for School Parent Volunteers

As part of the diocesan initiative to maintain a safe environment for our children, all volunteers with “substantial contact” with children are required to complete a background check prior to working in the school and to complete VIRTUS training. This includes parents who wish to attend field trips or volunteer in support of classroom activities. Parents are encouraged to complete this paperwork promptly and those who have not yet completed the background check process may request a packet of forms from the school office.

- The art room is looking for clean gallon milk containers. If you have any please send them in to school with your child marked for the art room. I am hoping to collect at least 2 per family.



### PTO News

- Race for Education packets have been sent home! Please record your child’s donations if you would like to be eligible for prizes! Our school-wide donation contest will end on Friday, November 16th at 3:00pm. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49AAA722A3F49-race1>
- Give the gift of Education.....St John PTO is sending an African child to Catholic School!!!! Please consider sending in a donation to send a second child to Catholic School in Africa. We would like donations submitted before Christmas break as their school begins in February. Thank you for your generosity!
- We are still in need of a Spirit Night & Trunk or Treat coordinator. Your time is precious & so is SJES!!! Please think about Stepping Up.





## Children need parents & teachers to speak up for the: Education Improvement Scholarship Program

The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC), the public policy agency representing Virginia's bishops and two dioceses, needs your help! The advocacy by parents, children & teachers is vital to the preservation and growth of an important program in Virginia that provides equal educational opportunities for children in Virginia.

The Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit (EISTC) program provides low-income K-12 students with a scholarship to be used for a private school of their choosing, empowering parents to make the best educational choice for their child. The scholarships are funded by private donations to scholarship foundations. Unfortunately, there have been an increasing number of threats to the continuation of the EISTC program which cannot be ignored. Legislators need to hear from you now more than ever!

**You can make a difference in a child's life!**

**Ways to get involved:**

- Testimonials by you — parents, children & teachers — whose lives have been impacted by the EISTC program (letters, video message, blogs).
- Meeting with your legislators in their local district offices — personal stories need to be heard about how EISTC scholarships change lives for the better.
- Attendance/Testimony at Virginia General Assembly Hearings in Richmond.
- Join the VCC Advocacy Network at [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org) where you will receive email action alerts & updates on education legislative issues.
- Parent volunteers to help coordinate advocacy efforts on the school/local/state level, i.e. social media campaigns, phone call drives during key votes, visits to the capital by students & families during session & key hearings.
- Donate to the diocese scholarship foundation, which will provide not only scholarships to at-risk children, but a state tax credit for you.
- Educate your friends & neighbors about the benefits of the EISTC program whether as a scholarship recipient or as a potential donor.

We cannot succeed alone in our efforts to advance the EISTC program in Virginia. Please contact the VCC to become involved. We can walk you through the process. Thank you so much for all you do!

Call or Email ANYTIME to get involved:

Felicia Pricenor, Esq., Associate Director  
Email: [Felicia@vacatholic.org](mailto:Felicia@vacatholic.org)  
Phone: 804-225-8565





## Virginia 529 FAQs

### What is a "529 plan"?

Named for Section 529 of the U.S. tax code, a 529 plan is a tax-advantaged investment plan operated by a state to encourage saving for education expenses. As there is risk when investing in a 529 account, we are required to advise readers talk to a financial advisor.

### What are the qualifying education expenses?

Following the passage of 2017's Tax Cut and Jobs Act, funds in a 529 plan may be used for tuition, books, fees, computer technology, or room and board at a qualifying college and for up to \$10,000 in tuition at a K-12 private or religious school.

### What is the federal tax advantage for using a 529 plan?

The growth of your investment is not subject to federal taxation as long as funds are used for qualifying educational expenses. There is no federal deduction allowed for contributions.

### What are the tax advantages in Virginia of investing in a 529 plan?

In addition to tax-free growth on the investment, taxpayers in Virginia who contribute to the state-run Virginia 529 plan may deduct up to \$4,000 (\$8,000 filing jointly) per beneficiary from their taxable income. At a tax rate of 5.75%, a contribution of \$8,000 could lower taxes owed by \$460.

### Who may donate to a 529 account?

Anyone may contribute to a 529 plan for any beneficiary. Any Virginia taxpayer contributing to a Virginia 529 plan may take a deduction, regardless of who the beneficiary is.

### Can funds in a Virginia 529 account be used for K-12 tuition in another state?

Yes, the funds can be used to pay K-12 tuition expenses in any other state.

### Can the beneficiary on an account be changed?

Yes, a beneficiary may be changed at any time, and changes in beneficiary among family members will not incur a tax liability. However, if the new beneficiary is not a family member of the original beneficiary, there may be a tax due on the growth of the investment.

### Is there an annual limit on how much one person may donate to a 529 plan?

The federal gift tax applies to donations larger than \$15,000 per year. However, 529 accounts may be pre-funded with 5 years' worth of gifts (\$70,000 individually or \$140,000 for a married couple filing jointly) without incurring the tax, so long as no further gifts are made for 5 years.

### Is there an annual limit on using a 529 account for K-12 tuition expenses?

Yes, the maximum amount that can be distributed tax-free per calendar year is \$10,000 per student, regardless of the number of 529 accounts.

### Can an existing 529 account be used for K-12 expenses?

Yes, up to \$10,000 may be spent tax-free annually on K-12 tuition in 2018 and beyond.

### Where can further information be found?

To learn more and to see options for enrolling in Virginia 529 visit [Virginia529.com](https://www.virginia529.com).

### Disclaimer:

This fact sheet is not intended to provide tax or legal advice. If you are considering using a Virginia 529 plan for K-12 purposes and you have specific questions about your impact, please seek guidance from a tax professional and/or an attorney. This document is subject to change.





# HELP US FILL THE BUS



Dear Parents,

To help us get off to a great start and support our PTO, we are holding a back to school Box Tops Drive. The whole school will be working together to collect as many box tops as possible. If every student brings in 20 in 4 weeks, (about 5 per week per student) we will surpass 4,000. At this time there are several products with bonus coupons on them. Get in the habit of taking an extra moment to clip and save those box top tickets. It is important to note that we will continue to collect them all year. However, we have a goal to collect 4,000 before October 31. Box Tops may be turned in to the collection box in the mail office or to your child's teacher.

**Good luck, Saint John School!**

**Collect Box Tops for School**

**Send in Box Tops before Oct. 31**

**Continue Collecting All Year**



# PLEASE GIVE A STUDENT THE GIFT OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*and receive most of your donation back  
through federal and state tax savings!*



The Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation (DASF) is part of the Virginia Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit Program which provides scholarships to low income new students to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school.

- Donors receive 65% of their approved donation in Virginia tax credits
- Donors who itemize also receive federal and Virginia tax deductions
- Donating appreciated stock also avoids capital gains taxes

## What is so great about a tax credit?

A tax credit allows you to subtract the amount of the credit dollar-for-dollar from the total amount you owe the state in taxes, not from taxable income. It is not necessary to itemize in order to use the tax credits!

To qualify for the tax credit, donors must request preauthorization for their donation from the Virginia Dept. of Education prior to making their donation. Preauthorizations are valid for 180 days.

Interested? Go online to download a preauthorization request form:  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation)



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