

# The **EAGLE CONNECTION**

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## **LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE... BECAUSE THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!**

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" – Psalm 98:4*

Dear families,

The halls of St. John's Lutheran School and Preschool won't be quiet much longer—because the countdown to the first day of school has officially begun! We're thrilled to welcome back our K-8 students on Monday, August 25 for a brand-new school year full of learning, laughter, and growing together in Christ (and we can't wait to see our preschoolers on September 2 and 3)!!

This year's theme, "Let's Make a Joyful Noise", is inspired by Psalm 98:4 and serves as a joyful reminder that each day is a gift from God, and we are called to celebrate it with voices and hearts full of praise. Whether it's through music, prayer, classroom learning, chapel, or fellowship with friends, our students and staff will explore what it means to live joyfully as God's baptized children.

There's a lot to look forward to—new friendships, exciting field trips, creative projects, and meaningful faith connections. We can't wait to see the energy and joy that each student brings to our campus as we kick off another incredible year.

So grab your backpacks, sharpen those pencils, and get ready—August 25 is just around the corner, and we're ready to make a joyful noise together!

In Christ,

The St. John's Faculty and Staff

Let's  
Make  
a Joyful  
Noise **2025-26**



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT 2025

- Back-to-School Night is **Wednesday, August 13 from 4:00-7:00pm**. You're welcome to stop by any time, and ideally, we will have 100% participation from all of our preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade school families!
- School pictures through Slow Road Photography will take place in the auxiliary room on this day.
- Information booths will be set up to share all kinds of important information (hot lunch, band, athletics, PTL, and more).
- You may drop off school supplies (lists can be found [HERE](#)) in your child's classroom and pick up textbooks (some of which may need to be covered prior to the start of school).
- The Board of Education will be serving dinner! Enjoy this break from cooking and take a moment or two to connect with other families! We'll be having brats and hot dogs.
- St. John's t-shirts and other STJL swag will be available for purchase. We also hope to have a selection of Spirit Store apparel available for immediate purchase.
- We'll be **collecting school supplies to donate to Trinity First Lutheran School** in Minneapolis. Our goal is to fill our school bus with supplies to assist children in need.
- If you have not already submitted the following paperwork, please be sure to bring them to Back-to-School Night.
  - Tell the Teacher More form - This may be printed and completed at home or you may simply document the information on a separate sheet of paper for each student.
  - Birth Certificate COPY - This is required of all new students or if you haven't already submitted one.
  - Immunization Records - Required of all new students; updated records required for enrolled students. Contact the front office with questions.
  - Any medication and action plans you would like kept at school for your child. This requires a Medication Administration Consent Form which must be signed by a physician.
  - Preschool-specific paperwork, including Admissions and Arrangements, Health Care Summary, Walking Field Trip form, etc.



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAQs & REMINDERS

## **I can't make it to Back-to-School Night.**

### **What do I do?**

- Arrange to submit any outstanding paperwork or student medication to the front office ASAP.
- Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.
- Plan for your child to bring his/her school supplies on the first day of school.
- Make sure your child attends school on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for picture re-take day.

### **How do I log into FACTS?**

- [FACTS Family Portal](#)
- Use SJL-MN for the district code.
- You can always access FACTS by clicking the icon on the last page of each newsletter and from our school website (located under "[Current Families](#)").

### **Where do I find the...**

- Everything from the school supply lists to school handbooks, calendars, and much more can be found on our website by clicking on "[Current Families](#)".
  - The ESP sign up link can also be found here!

### **When is picture re-take day?**

- Picture re-takes are scheduled for Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00am.

## **I've completed everything online, do I still need to come to Back-to-School Night?**

- Yes!! At Back-to-School Night you and your child will
  - Take school pictures
  - Drop off school supplies
  - Meet the teachers and see the classrooms
  - Sign up for sports, band, and other activities
  - Enjoy a delicious meal provided by our Board of Education
  - And much more!

## **DON'T FORGET...**

- All K-8th grade students are encouraged to arrive by 7:45am to allow time to get settled and prepare for the day. Both Preschool children and K-8 students are required to be in their classrooms by 8am.
- For everyone's safety, **all cell phone use by both parents and children is prohibited during arrival and dismissal.**
- No colored drinks are allowed in the building, except in the cafeteria and gym.
- Parents parking in the lot must escort their children into the building using the crosswalk.
- Cell phone and Smart Watch usage require teacher permission.



## 2025/26 SCHOOL HANDBOOKS

The 2025/26 K-8 Parent/Student Handbook and Preschool Family Handbook are available on our school website. Please be sure that you read your applicable handbook(s) thoroughly, as this is required. You will be receiving an email in the near future that requires your acknowledgement of this. In the meantime, here are **some** of the updates included.

### K-8 Parent/Student Handbook

- **Tuition Assistance:** Families seeking tuition assistance must apply each year through FACTS. Applications open in January, and priority is given to those families who apply by May 31. Applications submitted after this date will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. It is strongly recommended that families apply before tuition payment plans are finalized in July. Award amounts are communicated via FACTS and must be approved or declined by families before being finalized. (pg. 16)
- **Field Trips:** Students are required to wear a red St. John's T-shirt (that is fully visible) on all field trips. (pg.20)
- **Attendance:** Please read the entire section on pages 33-34 to familiarize yourself with these new policies and instructions.

## HANDBOOKS CONT.

- **St. John's Wellness Committee:** The Board of Education oversees a Wellness Committee comprised of interested staff, parents, and students. The committee meets once a month to discuss and make recommendations regarding policy and practices impacting student health and well-being. Meeting dates are posted on the school calendar. (pg. 36)
- **Inclement Weather:** If Osseo District #279 schools are closed due to inclement weather, St. John's may either choose to also close or implement a 2-hour delay. Refer to the previously listed resources for more information about school closings or delays. (pg. 42)
- **Visitation Policy:** All visitors to the school are required to 1) sign in at the school office when first entering the building, 2) wear a visitor badge while on school property, and 3) sign out and return their visitor badge upon leaving. (pg. 42)

### Preschool Family Handbook

- **Licensure:** St. John's Lutheran Preschool is licensed through the State of Minnesota's Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). We are licensed to care for a maximum of 40 total children at one time (maximum capacity of 20 children per class), ranging in age from 33 months to entrance to



## HANDBOOKS CONT.

- kindergarten. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families Division of Licensing may be reached by calling 651- 539-8300. (pg. 9)
- **Drinking Water Testing:** St. John's tests its drinking water for lead content every five years in accordance with Minnesota health and safety guidelines. Families are welcome to request a copy of the most recent test results at any time by contacting the preschool director. (pg. 24)
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is encouraged for preschool children. Not only does this provide continuity for children and teachers, it also benefits your child's academic and social progress. Additionally, to best provide a successful start to your child's day and to prevent disruption to the class as a whole, all children are required to arrive and be in their classroom no later than 8:00am. If you know that your child will be out for the day or will be arriving late or leaving early, please notify your child's teacher via their school email and the front office via the attendance email at [attendance@stjlutheralschool.org](mailto:attendance@stjlutheralschool.org). (pg. 24)

## LUNCH COSTS

One serving of hot lunch (which includes one milk) is provided for free for all K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The following fees apply to preschool and additional food for K-8.

- Preschool hot lunch: \$5.50
- Non-student hot lunch: \$5.50
- Second serving: \$2.42
- Milk: \$0.51

## NEW 2-HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

As stated in BOTH handbooks, St. John's has developed a new 2-hour delay schedule which *may* be implemented in lieu of school cancellation due to inclement weather. Read more about this new schedule on page 30 of the Preschool Family Handbook and page 42 of the K-8 Parent/Student Handbook.

## WATER TESTING RESULTS

This summer, St. John's drinking water was tested for lead contamination in accordance with MN health and safety guidelines. Results of this testing show that no remediation is needed. Parents may request a copy of these results by contacting Tori Kuehne at [Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org).

## STJ SPIRIT STORE IS OPEN!!

Be sure to check out our [Spirit Store](#) for everything STJ! This online shop will be open through September 8<sup>th</sup>.



## **UPCOMING 2025/26 SCHOOL EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

According to our school-wide family survey conducted last year, better communication of events would be appreciated. We're taking that to heart, and we've provided a list of all known events at this time. This list offers a bit more detail than our school calendar, but be sure to always refer to our calendar throughout the year.

## **SCIENCE FAIR THIS YEAR!**

Each year we rotate an academic fair that focuses on either Fine Arts, Science, or Social Studies. This year, we're focusing on science!

- The Science Fair will be held Thursday, February 19, 2026 (time is TBA).
- Project ideas are due by Friday, November 7, 2025
- Projects are due to school by Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- See the [info sheet](#) for more information.

## **CHIPOTLE NIGHT**

Join us at Chipotle on Tuesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> anytime from 4:00-8:00pm to help raise money for STJ. See the included flyer for more info.

## **ST. JOHN'S IS HIRING!**

St. John's is hiring for the following positions.

### **Afterschool Preschool Aides**

- 2:45-5:30pm Monday-Friday
- Follows the school year calendar
- Supervise and engage with children ages 3-5 years old
- Must be fingerprinted and pass background check
- Must be/become CPR/1<sup>st</sup> aid certified (all applicable training will be provided)
- Previous childcare experience preferred but not required
- Contact our preschool director, [Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org) for more information or to apply

### **2025/2026 Substitute Teachers**

- Substitutes teachers are needed for grades preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- College degrees are preferred but not required.
- Contact our principal, [Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org) for more information or to apply.

## **DIGITAL SIGN UPDATE**

During the 2023/24 school year, our PTL and school families raised money to purchase and install a new digital school sign to replace our outdated marquee sign. This project is still underway, and we are currently working with the City of Corcoran to pursue a variance. While current ordinances limit digital display size, we're hopeful for a solution that will help us communicate more effectively. Stay tuned for more updates!





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, August 11**

**Tuesday, August 12**

**Wednesday, August 13**

- 4:00-7:00pm Back-to-School Night

**Thursday, August 15**

**Friday, August 16**



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Join us for worship each Sunday at  
St. John's Lutheran Church!

- Divine Service 8:00 & 10:30am
- Adult Bible study 9:30am
- Sunday school 9:30am

## STJL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The St. John's Lutheran School Board of  
Education consists of the the following:

- Chairperson: Bonnie Radintz
- Deacon & Vice Chair: Grant Birznieks
- Deacon: Russ Reznecheck
- Deacon: Gary Volberding
- Secretary: James Beck
- Brenna Koehler
- Jim Peterson
- Jamie Radintz
- Ex officio: Kristen Skura
- Ex officio: Tori Kuehne

Board meetings are typically held the  
third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

BOE agendas and approved minutes are  
available in FACTS.

## WHERE DO I FIND...?

- [FACTS family portal](#) (Use code SJL-MN)
- [School calendars](#)
- [Hot lunch menu](#)
- [ESP sign up](#)
- [Continuous Connection survey](#)



Submit your pictures for use to  
[pictures@stjlutheralschool.org](mailto:pictures@stjlutheralschool.org)

Follow us on





SLOW ROAD

PHOTO



IT'S TIME FOR  
School Picture Day!



August 13th



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

— C O R C O R A N —



Scan here  
for more info!



10% of your Picture Day profits  
will be donated back to your school.  
[slowroadphoto.com](http://slowroadphoto.com) | 612-293-6327



# DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



## CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

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**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD | 4-8PM**  
**18800 70TH WAY NORTH, MAPLE GROVE, MN, 55311**

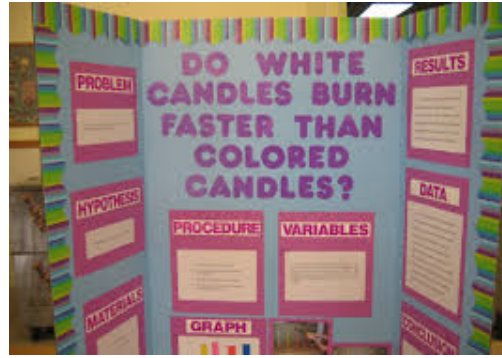
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ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **2D47RK6**  
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

## Examples for Reference



## Resources

Here are a couple of resources  
to get you started!

### Science Buddies

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>

### Science Fair Central

<https://sciencefaircentral.com/>



## St. John's Lutheran School Science Fair

Science Fair:  
Thursday, February 19, 2026

Project Ideas due to  
Classroom Teacher:  
Friday, November 7, 2025

Projects Due to School:  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

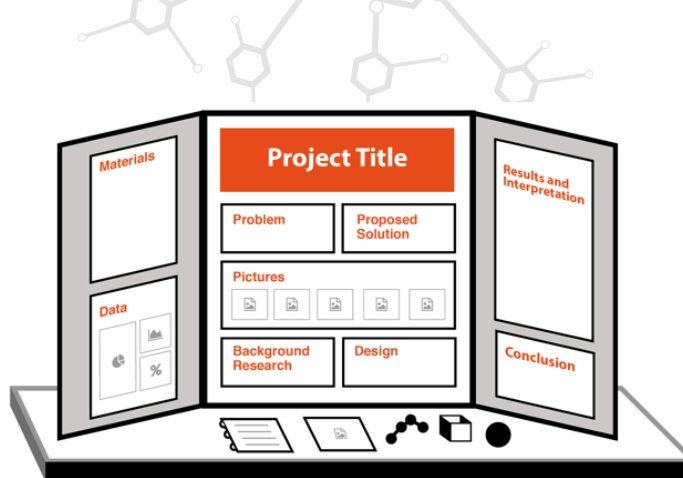
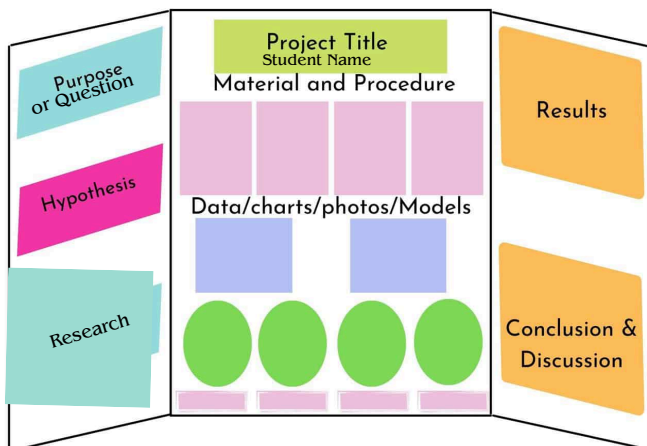


## Option 1

### Experiment Using the Scientific Method Grades 2-8

Do a scientific experiment at home using the steps of the Scientific Method. Communicate results on a tri-fold display board. Prepare a presentation that explains and displays your experiment. Students in grades 5-8 will also have to write a report on their science topic according to teacher guidelines. You may also display items from your experiment on the table with your tri-fold board.

- Ask a Big Question
- Make a guess or a hypothesis
- Conduct research (5-8)
- Plan out your experiment
- Collect Data; use graphs, tables, photos
- Communicate your results on your tri-fold board
- Grades 5-8 need to write a report
- Be prepared to share your results with a short prepared presentation



## Option 2

### Design and Implement an Engineering Plan Grades 2-8

Identify a need in our community. Design an invention at home to solve that problem. Follow the design process for engineers. Communicate results on a tri-fold display board. Students in grades 5-8 will also be required to write a report on their science topic, following teacher guidelines. You may also display items from your invention on the table with your trifold board.

- Define the Problem
- Do Background Research
- Make a Plan
- Specify Requirements
- Brainstorm Solutions
- Choose the Best Solution
- Do Development Work
- Build a Prototype
- Test and Redesign
- Communicate your results on your tri-fold board
- Grades 5-8 need to write a report
- Be prepared to share your results with a short prepared presentation

## Option 3 - 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Only

### Demonstration Grades 2-4 Only

Students in grades 2-4 may choose to do a demonstration at home of some kind of science concept. A tri-fold display board is still needed to share information regarding the demonstration. The display board must include a title, a procedure, graphics, and information regarding the topic of the demonstration. This group of projects will also require students to communicate their results.

- How did you become interested in the topic of the demonstration?
- What question did you ask yourself?
- How does your project work?
- What are you demonstrating?
- List of materials needed/used
- What you learned

Interest in Topic	Project Title Student Name	Materials
Question	How does your project work? What are you demonstrating?	What you learned
	Pictures	