

The EAGLE CONNECTION

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW YEAR AT ST. JOHN'S!

Dear St. John's Families,

There is something exhilarating about this time of year. The quiet hallways of St. John's are once again coming alive with the joyful hum of a community gathering back together. Whether your family is returning for another year or stepping through our doors for the very first time, welcome home!

As we embark on this 2026–2027 school year, we are filled with deep gratitude for the close-knit family God has built here. St. John's has always been a place where every child is known by name, every family is welcomed with open arms, and our days are anchored in the grace of Jesus.

This school year, our focus and guiding prayer center on the words of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 2:6–7:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Think of a strong tree planted near a stream—its roots reach deep into the soil, gathering strength, nourishment, and stability to withstand any storm. That is our prayer for our students. Throughout this coming year, we want our children to do more than just learn facts and master subjects; we want them to take deep root in the unwavering love and grace of Jesus Christ. When a child knows who they are in Christ, they develop a foundation that no test score, bad day, or passing trend can shake.

Our prayer for being "Rooted in Christ" extends far beyond our classroom walls—it belongs in your homes, too. We know that raising children in today's world takes a village, and we consider it a true privilege to partner with you.

Continued on next page

— ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL —
2026–2027

ROOTED
— IN CHRIST —



"Rooted and built up in Him..."

— Colossians 2:6–7 —



WELCOME BACK...cont.

As your children grow in faith and learning, our hope is that your entire family feels the warmth, support, and encouragement of our St. John's community. Through church services, school events, pick-up line conversations, and quiet prayers for one another, may we all draw closer to Christ and rest in His saving love.

Thank you for trusting us with your children. Let's hold tightly to God's promises, support one another with kindness, and step into this new school year with thankful hearts.

Welcome back, St. John's family—let's grow deep roots together!

In His Saving Love,

Dr. Skura



RETURNING FAMILIES, CHECK YOUR EMAIL TODAY

Dr. Skura sent an email earlier today to all returning families regarding needed online forms. Please follow the instructions and complete these requirements before Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 26th.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

If you've been savoring every moment of summer and haven't even thought about school supplies yet, please know that they are available on our website under "Current Families."

SUBSCRIBE TO THE STJ SCHOOL CALENDAR

Want school events to automatically appear on your personal calendar? You can subscribe to the St. John's School Calendar so that dates stay up to date throughout the year.

Google Calendar

1. Open Google Calendar.
2. On the left, click the + next to Other calendars.
3. Select From URL.
4. Paste [THIS LINK](#).
5. Click Add calendar.

Apple Calendar (iPhone/iPad)

1. Open Settings.
2. Go to Apps → Calendar → Calendar Accounts → Add Account → Other.
3. Tap Add Subscribed Calendar.
4. Paste [THIS LINK](#).
5. Tap Next, then Save.

THE SPIRIT STORE IS OPEN!

Start the year off strong with new STJ spirit wear! Our Spirit Store is currently open now through September 6th, and fun, new merchandise has been added. Orders placed by the Sept. 6th closing date will arrive at St. John's a few weeks after the start of school.

In addition to our fabulous online Spirit Store, **we also have merchandise available for purchase now**. Items include a variety of t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies, pants, shirts, hats, and more. Be sure to stop by the merchandise table during Back-to-School Night to purchase a few now!



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

We are excited to welcome several new faces to the St. John's family this school year! Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- Miss Erin Rudolph – 7th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Bree Lindgren – Preschool Teacher
- Mrs. Kayleigh Rather – Classroom Aide
- Mrs. Anna Graves – ESP Aide
- Mrs. Shannon Kay – Lead PS ESP Aide
- Miss Nevaeh Kovar – PS ESP Aide
- Mr. Zeke Borcharding – ESP Aide
- Mr. Josef Johnson – ESP Aide

We are grateful to have each of them joining our team and look forward to the gifts, energy, and care they will bring to our students and school community. Welcome to St. John's—we're so glad you're here!

UNCLAIMED INSTRUMENTS

A number of used, unclaimed band instruments are in the music room. If one of these instruments is yours and you want it back, please **e-mail Katie Moss ASAP** (katie.moss@stjluthेरanschool.org). If you are a new band student interested in trying one of these instruments, please speak with Nelson Penserga at Back-to-School Night regarding their condition.

Unclaimed instruments will be donated at the start of the school year.

- 1 French horn (case locked)
- 2 trombones
- 1 flute
- 2 clarinets
- 3 alto saxophones
- 1 trumpet
- 1 violin (3/4 size)

ONCE AN EAGLE, ALWAYS AN EAGLE

As we begin a new school year at St. John's, we're also thinking of the many Eagles beginning new adventures of their own. We send our very best to **Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Carbone, Miss Preus, Mrs. Hoffarth, Mr. Nauth, Miss Gretchen, Miss Sophia, and Miss Gabby.**

We also keep our **former 8th graders in our hearts and prayers**, as they are now heading off to high school and also the **students and families who have moved on to new schools and locations** this year.

No matter where the next chapter takes you, you'll always be part of the STJ family. We pray God's richest blessings on each of you and wish you a wonderful year ahead.

2026-27 LUNCH PRICES

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

- Preschool hot lunch: \$5.72
- Non-student hot lunch: \$5.72
- Second serving: \$2.52
- Milk: \$0.53

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Back-to-School Night is Wednesday, August 26th from 4-7pm. More info coming in next week's newsletter.



JOIN US IN THE PARADES!

St. John's is participating in the Osseo Lions Roar parades this summer, and we want YOU to join us!

Grab your St. John's gear, put on some comfortable walking shoes, and enjoy a fun evening together as we connect with the community and share a little St. John's spirit. Light snacks and water will be available.

Who: Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, current, future, and former students are all welcome!! Feel free to participate in one or both of the parades!

What: We'll have a decorated trailer pulled by a truck.

When: Sat., Sep. 12 at 12:00pm

Sign up to participate [here](#).

TEE UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Grab your clubs and gather your foursome for the [13th Annual St. John's Charity Golf Tournament](#) on Saturday, September 19, at Rush Creek Golf Club! Enjoy a fun day of golf, friendly competition, dinner, and prizes—all while supporting tuition assistance and school improvement projects at St. John's. Registration is \$150 per golfer.

Register today and join us on the course!

MISS E. TO MRS. B.!

Don't forget—Miss Ellinghuysen is now Mrs. Berg! We congratulate her and her husband and wish them a lifetime of love, joy, and many blessings together!

KEEP READING & FINISH STRONG!

There's still time to finish the STJ Summer Reading Challenge! Incoming K–8 students are encouraged to read and log 1,000 minutes in [Book Taco](#) this summer—and remember, audiobooks count, too! Students who reach the goal will be invited to our Taco Piñata Party during the first week of school. Plus, the top reader in each class will earn a new t-shirt, and our top reader in the entire school will win a GIANT taco prize! Keep reading, keep logging, and finish summer strong!

BIG NEWS FOR ESP MUSIC!

Music lessons during ESP hours have been a great benefit for St. John's students over the years and now we have big news! Starting with the 2026–2027 school year, ESP music is adding another piano teacher for lessons after school. Lessons are given during ESP hours Monday through Thursday.

Interested in getting your family's name on the waiting list? Want more information? Contact either Tiffin Fuhrman (763–228–4210 or fpopmusicstudios@gmail.com) or Sarah Carter at (sarah.carter@stjlutheranschool.org).

NO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 4 & 7

Parents, keep in mind that the first two weeks of the 2026/27 school year are short – only four days long. There will be no school on Friday, September 4th and Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.



2026/27 HANDBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Our 2026-27 handbooks have been updated for the new school year. While most policies and procedures remain unchanged, families should take note of several important updates and clarifications, including the following (this is not a comprehensive list).

K-8 Handbook Changes

- **Attendance – Pages 33–34:** A doctor's note may be requested after three consecutive days of illness. Families must provide at least 24 hours' notice for appointments, late arrivals, or early departures, and any student leaving school early must be signed out through the front office.
- **Technology & AI – Page 27:** The technology policy now specifically addresses the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Students must have teacher permission to use AI and must properly cite its use. Plagiarism may result in academic and/or disciplinary consequences.
- **Medication – Page 37:** Cough drops are now included under the school's medication policy. Students may not carry or self-administer medication (including cough drops) at school; required medication forms and procedures apply.
- **School Visitors – Page 42:** Visitors, including parents joining their child for lunch, should notify both the school office and the teacher at least 24 hours in advance to help minimize disruptions to the school day.

- **Health & Safety – Page 36:** Bus safety procedures now clarify that students crossing in front of the bus must wait for the driver's permission before crossing.

Preschool Handbook Changes

- **Medication & Illness – Pages 22–23:** Cough drops are now specifically included under the medication policy, and children may not carry or self-administer medication. The sick-child policy has also been significantly expanded to clearly outline when children must be excluded from care, when they may return, and how contagious illnesses are handled.
- **Attendance, Late Arrivals & Early Departures – Pages 25–26:** Families should notify both the teacher and front office of planned absences, late arrivals, or early departures at least 24 hours in advance when possible. Children arriving at or after 8:00am must be checked in at the front office, and habitual tardiness may result in a parent conference and review of continued enrollment.
- **Preschool Dismissal – Pages 26–27:** For safety and consistency, parents should remain in their vehicles and use carline for afternoon dismissal rather than parking and walking up to retrieve children.

Again, these are only **some** of the changes. We encourage everyone to thoroughly read through their family's applicable handbook.



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, August 14

August 17-21

- Faculty returns to school

Monday, August 24

- Tell the Teacher More Days
- 7pm Divine Service

Tuesday, August 25

- Last day of Summer ESP
- Tell the Teacher More Days

Wednesday, August 26

- 4pm Back-to-School Night
- Tell the Teacher More Days

Thursday, August 27

- Tell the Teacher More Days

Friday, August 28

- Tell the Teacher More Days

Saturday, August 29

- 10am Preschool Playdate at the Park
 - Heritage Park - Corcoran

Sunday, August 30

- 8 & 10:30am Divine Service

Monday, August 31

- 7am Doors open for K-8th grade
- 7:30am Breakfast served
- 7:30am Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast for parents
- 8am School begins!
- 3pm Dismissal/ESP

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates



- **August 31:** 1st day of school for K-8
- **September 3:** Student Council nominations open
- **September 4:** No school
- **September 7:** Labor Day - No school
- **September 8:** 1st day of school for 5-day preschoolers; Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast
- **September 9:** 1st day of school for 2- and 3-day preschoolers; Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast
- **September 10:** School pictures available online
- **September 11:** Student Council nominations due
- **September 12:** Osseo Lions Roar parade

Mrs. Anderson says...

We're so excited
for this school
year!!





SEPTEMBER 2026



This calendar is meant to be helpful; it is NOT the official school calendar. The [official school calendar](#) is located on our website.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 K-8 1 st day of school	1	2	3 StudentCo nominations open	4 NO SCHOOL	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL	8 5-day preschool 1 st day	9 2- & 3-day preschool 1 st day	10 School pictures available - check your email	11 StuCo nominations due	12 Osseo Lion's Roar Parade
13	14 StuCol campaigning	15 BOE meeting	16 5th/6th LIC trip	17	18	19 13th Annual Golf Tournament
20	21 StuCo voting & elections MAP testing begins	22	23	24	25 New StuCo announced	26
27	28 MAP testing continues	29 Chipotle fundraiser Feast of St. Michael DS	30	1	2	3

Notes

Athletic practices and events may be found [HERE](#).

StuCo = Student Council; DS = Divine Service

Be on the lookout for numerous **October** events, including

- Wellness Month
- PS field trip
- Mid-term
- MEA/Fall break
- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Trunk or Treat
- Picture retake day



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: Gary Volberding
- Deacon: Stu Glock
- Secretary: Brenna Koehler
- Candace Fisher
- Davey Kulberg
- Jim Peterson
- Krista Anderson
- Ex officio: Kristen Skura
- Ex officio: Tori Kuehne

Board meetings are 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](#)
- [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)

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

QUICK REFERENCE

- Report absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals to attendance@stjlutheralschool.org
- Share your STJ pictures for use in the yearbook and social media to pictures@stjlutheralschool.org
- Request library book holds, ask our librarians questions, or request a new book to library@stjlutheran.org
- Volunteer to help in the library by clicking [HERE](#).

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!



OUR MISSION

The mission of St. John's Lutheran School & Preschool is to nurture young people through God's Word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation. Our goal is to equip students to lead their lives as God's baptized children in this world and to carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations."

(Matthew 28:19)

ST. JOHN'S 13TH ANNUAL

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Register
Today**

Contests Steak Dinner Prizes



SATURDAY
September 19th, 2026
RUSH CREEK GOLF CLUB
(Maple Grove)

12:30 pm Check In
& Range Balls

2:00 pm Shotgun
Scramble Start

6:30 pm Dinner & Awards



\$150 Per Golfer
(18 Holes, Golf Cart & Dinner)

**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE!**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT Tuition Assistance
and School Enhancements!**

Contact St. John's PTL with Questions - PTL@stjlutheran.org