



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

8416 Belair Road Baltimore, MD 21236 Phone: 410-256-8026 Fax: 410-529-7234

Monthly Newsletter



May 2018

GREETINGS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

"I can do everything through Christ who give me strength." – Philippians 4:13

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I want to thank each of you for your constant support as we complete another school year. It was great to see so many of you at our Inaugural "State of the School Address." We enjoyed the opportunity to share the wonderful accomplishments we have made this year and our plans for next year. Please know that our doors are always open to new ideas as we strive to provide the best school for our children.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks at the various end of year events that celebrate all of the hard work that our students have put in on a daily basis. Please make sure to check the calendar that was sent home this week, so you can plan to be with us. It truly has been another wonderful year at St. Joseph School, Fullerton. Each moment we have had as a family has made us stronger and closer as a community.

"Spread Love everywhere you go." – Mother Teresa

Blessing and Peace,

Kenneth J. Pipkin

Kenneth J. Pipkin
Principal
St. Joseph School Fullerton
kpipkin@stjoeschool.org



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Holy Communion

On **Saturday, May 5th** our second graders will make their **First Holy Communion**. We want to congratulate all of these students and their families on this journey to build on their relationship with God.

Blessed Mother Month

Our annual **May Crowning and Living Rosary** will be held in the Church on **Thursday, May 10th** at 1:45 pm. A procession of the second graders in their First Communion outfits will bring flowers to Mary as an older student crowns her as our Queen of Heaven. Then students from each grade will recite the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary and pray the decades in honor of our Blessed Mother. Please join us as we sing with joy to Our Lady during her month of May.

School Closed – Faculty Professional Days

School is closed on **Monday, May 7th** and **Friday, May 18th** for Professional Development Days so our teachers can work on **Professional Activities** including planning and preparing for next year.

Band Competition

Our **Advanced Band** will perform and compete against other east coast middle school bands at Hershey Park on **Saturday, May 12th**. We wish them a safe and successful trip.

HASA Spring General Meeting

Don't miss our annual end of the year **Band Concert and Recorder Performance**. Come and hear our award winning band perform and listen to our 3rd graders play their instruments in public for the first time. The program begins after the **HASA General Meeting** on Tuesday, **May 15th** at 7:00.

VOLUNTEER MASS AND BREAKFAST ON MAY 16– HAVE YOU RSVP'D?

On Wednesday, May 16, our **BLUE RIBBON VOLUNTEERS** will be honored and celebrated. After our 8:15 a.m. Volunteer Mass, there will be a reception in our Parish Center with entertainment from our students! We sent home invitations a few weeks ago, but if it's still in your child's backpack, or you forgot, please email Mrs. Enggaard at denggaard@stjoeschool.org as soon as possible so we can plan ahead! All volunteers are welcome! We hope to see you there!

ROBOTICS CAMP AT SJS

We are proud to announce that the Baltimore Robotics Club will be hosting the 2nd annual Robotics Camp this June at Saint Joseph School Fullerton. The camp is available for Grades 3 - 8 and will take place in the Library. Early Bird Pricing ends May 31st. A flyer with more information is attached to the newsletter and one was sent home with your students.

Track Meet

The annual **Youth Bowl Track Meet** is this **Saturday, May 5th** at Archbishop Curley High School. This full day program offers a venue for students from Archdiocesan Catholic elementary schools to show their school pride by doing their best in track and field events. St. Joseph always competes in the 'large school' category with our 60 plus students participating in all the areas of competition. Please join us as we cheer on our students to do their best. Good Luck, boys and girls!!

Annual Awards Assembly

Each year we take time to recognize our students in grades K-8 at our **Awards Assembly**. Parents and guests are welcome to join us in the Church at 12:45 on **Tuesday, May 22nd**. We are so proud of all of the accomplishments and works of service that our students have given to the school and to the community.

Used Uniform Sale

Students will be able to wear different combinations of our school uniform from **May 29th until the end of school**. For these **Mix and Match Uniform Days** children may wear PE clothes with regular uniform, winter with summer, etc. (Please do not mix socks and shoes, they need to continue to match.) Then parents can wash and prepared those gently worn uniforms that won't fit next year to sell at the **Used Uniform Sale on Wednesday, May 30th** in the Parish Center at 6:30. Bring your clean and tagged clothing to the Parish Center in the morning on May 30th between 8:00am and 10:00am.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

2018 – 2019 Kindergarten Orientation for parents will be held at 8:30 am in the Parish Center on **Friday, May 25th**.

So Long and Welcome to our Little Ones

Our Pre- Kindergarten celebrates their last day during their Closing Ceremony at 9:30, Friday, May 25th, immediately following the parent orientation for next year. We wish them a blessed and safe summer until we see them again.

HASA INFORMATION

Please keep a look out for HASA information in the weekly blast.

Commencement Activities

Nothing is more exciting than cheering for our 8th graders as they leave campus on their last school day on **Thursday, May 31st**. The ‘**Drive-Off**’ parade begins at 3:00. The eighth graders and their families will circle once completely then exit at the light after they pass the front door for the second time. I hope the sun shines on them. Regular dismissal from the lot will follow. Please follow the directions of the parking lot helpers prior to dismissal that day. Kindergarten Express Lane will dismiss a little early that day.

This will cause changes and delays to the normal dismissal routine.

- Kindergarten will dismiss at 2:20
- Daycare vans load and depart as usual.
- Cars will need to park much closer together in order to make room for the additional vehicles and to open the lanes needed for the parade.
- Faculty and volunteers will be on the lot directing traffic. PLEASE follow their directions.
- **NO CARS WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE LOT FROM APPROXIMATELY 2:30 – 3:15.**
- Everyone will be “parked in” until the Drive Off has finished.
- 8th grade families not using their vehicle in the Drive Off should park behind church.
- Please inform all carpools, grandparents, siblings, and others that pick up your children of this change in routine.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Field Days and Picnics

Our school-wide Field Day will be taking place on Thursday, June 7th and the school-wide picnic will take place on Friday, June 8th. Information will be coming home soon with details.

Eighth Grade Graduation

Graduation takes place on **Friday, June 1st** beginning with Mass in Church at 6:30. Following the ceremony, families and friends are invited to a light reception in the Parish Center sponsored by the 7th grade class and the HASA.

LOOKING FOR HOMEWORK HELP?

Our school’s **Homework Connection (HWC)** is here to help your child with their homework! Homework Connection is an after school program which runs **Monday through Thursday from 3:00pm until 4:00pm, and is located in our school library. Students will be dismissed from the Library’s back door.** Students have the opportunity to learn good work habits and complete their homework with the support of a teacher. There is a fee involved. Please email Mrs. Loraditch at kloraditch@stjoeschool.org or Mrs. Veise at cveise@stjoeschool.org if you are interested in more information.

HOMEWORK CONNECTION FOR GRADES 1 – 3

Our school's Homework Connection has expanded to Grades 1 – 3. Please read the attached flyer for information and details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOST SCHOLARSHIPS

The State of Maryland is now accepting applications for the BOOST scholarship program for the 2018-2019 school year! Please see flyer and information on eligibility requirements and application instructions at the end of the newsletter. Deadline to apply is May 21, 2018.

Maryland 529

The State of Maryland is allowing the use of Maryland 529 plans to pay for tuition. Please read the attached letter to find out the details.

Personal Information Changes

Should any of your contact information change, please notify school as soon as possible. We appreciate hearing about the changes during the summer as they occur so that we can update your records in a timely manner. Summer office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 to 1:00 but you can email us at any time at office@stjoeschool.org

A Few Openings Remain for 2018-2019

We are still accepting applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year for PreK-4, Kindergarten, and 3rd Grade. If you know someone who is considering a Catholic education for their child, please have them contact Mrs. Troiano at admissions@stjoeschool.org to set up a private tour and get information about the 2018-2019 school year. Remember if your name is listed as a referral source then you will be entered into a \$500 tuition drawing. The drawing will take place on June 1, 2018.

Referral Drawing

Thank you for your referrals this school year. If you have referred someone, your name has been entered into our Referral Drawing for a \$500 tuition credit. We will draw a winner on June 1. Good luck!

LIBRARY CLEAN UP

If you have an hour to spare, we are looking to make sure our school library books are in the right shelves and in the right order. As much as we tell the students to give the books to US if they can't remember where they go, we find lion books with the dog books, and Abraham Lincoln hanging out with George Washington – in the biography section. We would like to take one shelf at a time and make sure everything is where it should be so students can find the books easily next year. You do not have to be an expert in the Dewey Decimal System to do this job. It's all about putting things in numerical or alphabetical order. Please email Mrs. Beres at pberes@stjoeschool.org if you are able to help.

OVERDUE BOOKS

If a Library overdue notice came home with your child, please encourage your child to check their book shelves, bedroom, and backpacks, at home! We don't want to make you purchase and replace the book. Most times the book is found! Thank you for your cooperation.

THIS SUMMER – AN IDEA THAT WILL SAVE TIME FOR YOU IN THE FALL-

If you have some time this summer, it would help if you could TYPE up mailing addresses for our Race for Education donor mailing in October. Your middle school child could help you with this. This way, when that letter comes home in October, you can hit PRINT and be done with it! The post office told us last year that they will not mail any handwritten mailing labels (we get the BULK MAILING RATE, but we must follow their rules!). Save the file and all you have to do is print it out each year.

From the Nurse:

Parents/Guardians of **current 5th grade students**: Upon entering 6th grade in the 2018-2019 school year, all **6th grade students** will need an updated Health Physical. This ensures that I am up to date on any medical concerns or new medications your child may be taking. I sent a notice home on March 6, 2018, advising parents/guardians of this requirement. You can print off the **Maryland School Record of Physical Examination Form** on School Admin or from the school website.

Parents/Guardians of **current 6th grade students**: Upon entering **7th grade**, all 7th grade students are **required** to submit an updated Immunization record in order to enter 7th grade in the Fall. Proof must be provided that 1 dose each of **Tdap** and **MCV (Meningococcal) vaccine** has been administered in order to enter 7th grade for the 2018-2019 school year. I sent a notice home March 3, 2018, advising parents of the immunization requirement, in order to afford parents plenty of time to contact their pediatrician's office to request an updated record and verify that the vaccines have been administered already. Most students have received these vaccines, however, their immunization records on file in my office are from when they first entered school originally and must be updated. You may have an updated record faxed to school, if more convenient: fax # 410-529-7234. I will be sending a reminder notice home again in May to those that have not submitted an updated record, before school concludes for this current year. You may contact me if you have any questions. **Please note: State law requires proof be provided, a child has up to 20 days from the start of the 2018-2019 school year to provide a current immunization record, after which, exclusion from school will be enforced.**

***Please remember, if your child/ren has **ANY** medication(s) in the Nurse's office, they **MUST** be picked up the last week of school or they **WILL** be disposed of accordingly.

Spring is here, along with those dreaded seasonal allergies. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies and you typically treat with OTC allergy medications, please be mindful of needing to treat them before allergies get out of hand. Also, as the weather changes, our climate in school does as well. The classrooms begin to get 'warmer' and students require more hydration. Consider

increasing the amount of fluids your child takes in daily to counteract headaches, dehydration and allergy symptoms. Other ways to counteract allergy symptoms is to wash face and hands when returning in from outside. Simply washing allergens off your skin can greatly reduce exposure and symptoms.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

CONGRATULATIONS

Recognition by Mercy High School Freshmen

Congratulations to several of our current teachers who were recognized and valued by our graduates as having a positive influence on their lives. Mercy Freshman recognized Mrs. Diggs, Mr. D'Adamo and Mr. Pipkin. They were honored at a ceremony at Mercy on May 1st.

THANKS TO...

Tuition Raffle

Thank you for supporting our first annual tuition raffle this Spring. The lucky winner was Brendan Brooks (7th grade). Congratulations! Thank you to everyone for making this fundraiser a huge success.

STUDENT AWARENESS COMMITTEE

The Student Awareness Committee (SAC) would like to thank all students who contributed to our Earth Day fundraiser on Friday, April 20th. We raised \$412 and will be sending a check to the Chesapeake Save the Bay Foundation.

The SAC would like to also thank everyone for their Rice Bowl contributions. We collected \$1,249.02.

Thank you for making these fundraisers so successful! As always, St. Joseph's families, you are the BEST!



Want to choose private school for your child but need financial assistance?

Have you already chosen a private school for your child but need assistance?

The State of Maryland can help!

Apply for a BOOST scholarship!

The State of Maryland is now accepting applications for the third year of its BOOST scholarship program! BOOST scholarships are given to income-eligible K-12 students to be used for attendance an eligible nonpublic school of their parent's choice. This year, there's \$7.6 million available, so please apply!

Visit www.educationmaryland.org/BOOST to learn more about BOOST, find out if your children are eligible for a scholarship and connect to the official application through the State of Maryland

Questions? Call Maryland's nonprofit BOOST Scholarship Coalition at 443-510-4501.



M A R Y L A N D
BOOST
Broadening Options & Opportunities
for Students Today

BOOST is a State of Maryland Program. Since 2016, more than \$11 million in BOOST scholarship awards have been provided to students to help them choose the K-12 education option best suited for them.



Application Information

The State of Maryland is now accepting applications for its BOOST scholarship program for the 2018-19 school year! Now in its third year, the BOOST Program awards scholarships to income-eligible K-12 students to be used for attendance at any eligible nonpublic school. Additionally, a portion of BOOST funding will be directed for higher scholarships to assist students with special needs. This year, there's \$7.6 million available, so please apply!

Who's eligible for BOOST Scholarships?

- Public school students, as well as current nonpublic school students.
- Students whose family incomes are at or below the following (include all members of household in count):
 - Family of 2: \$30,044
 - Family of 3: \$37,777
 - Family of 4: \$45,510
 - Family of 5: \$53,243

Click below to apply for BOOST through the State of Maryland

The 2018-2019 school year application through the State Department of Education is now available.

The application deadline for the 2018-19 school year will be May 21, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

Please visit www.marylandpublicschools.org/boost to apply.

Por favor visite www.marylandpublicschools.org/boost para aplicar.

****PLEASE NOTE** that this website is put forth by the nonprofit BOOST Coalition to direct parents toward the application and other information through the Maryland State Department of Education, which official administers the scholarship program for the State. The link above will take you to the official application.

2018-2019 BOOST Income Eligibility Guidelines

Click here to see if your family meets the income threshold to receive a BOOST scholarship award.

Eligible Participating Schools

A list of eligible participating schools for 2018-2019 through the

February 2018

Dear Account Holder,

Thank you for saving for future education costs with the Maryland College Investment Plan.

The enclosed supplement outlines important changes to the Plan as a result of the recent passing of tax reform measures that were signed into law on December 22, 2017. The information in the supplement updates the Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement, dated December 2017. Please read this information carefully and keep it with your current copy of the Plan Disclosure Statement.

We would like to make you aware of the following updates:

- Qualified higher education expenses have been expanded to include elementary and secondary tuition expenses. Specifically, you are now permitted to distribute not more than ~~\$10,000 (per Beneficiary, per tax year)~~ in expenses for tuition incurred in connection with the enrollment or attendance of the Beneficiary at a public, private or religious elementary or secondary school.
- Rollovers are now permitted from a Qualified Tuition Program to an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account.

Additionally, the supplement provides the expected inception date of March 29, 2018 (with purchase availability on April 3, 2018), for the three new Fixed Portfolios: the Equity Index 500 Portfolio, Extended Equity Market Index Portfolio, and U.S. Bond Enhanced Index Portfolio.

We appreciate your participation in the Maryland College Investment Plan and look forward to continuing to help you reach your education savings goals. If you have any questions regarding these Plan updates, or for assistance with your Account(s), please contact us at **888.4MD.GRAD** (463.4723) or visit **Maryland529.com**.

Sincerely,

Maryland 529 Board

February 2018

IMPORTANT UPDATE TO THE MARYLAND COLLEGE INVESTMENT PLAN

This supplement amends the Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement, dated December 2017. You should review this information carefully and keep it with your current copy of the Plan Disclosure Statement.

Tax Reform Measures

On December 22, 2017, amendments to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") were signed into law and included the following changes that impact Section 529 college savings plans:

Changes to Qualified Higher Education Expenses: Effective January 1, 2018, the definition of "Qualified Higher Education Expenses" under the Code has been expanded to include tuition expenses used for elementary or secondary education. The total amount of elementary and secondary school tuition expenses considered to be Qualified Higher Education Expenses is limited to \$10,000 per year per Beneficiary.

Changes to Rollover Distributions: Rollovers will be permitted from Qualified Tuition Programs to eligible Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts. This change is effective as of December 22, 2017, through at least December 31, 2025. Any rollover from a Qualified Tuition Program to an ABLE account is subject to the ABLE account's annual contribution limit as limited by Section 529A of the Code or the state sponsor of the ABLE account.

Accordingly, the following updates are being made to the Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement.

On page 4, the first sentence of the definition of "Qualified Higher Education Expenses" is replaced with the following:

Qualified Higher Education Expenses as set forth in Section 529 of the Code.

On page 4, the following paragraph is added to the definition of "Qualified Higher Education Expenses":

5) Tuition expenses in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school (up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per Beneficiary).

Also on page 4, the definition of Rollover Distribution is replaced with the following paragraph:

Rollover Distribution: A transfer of assets between Qualified Tuition Programs for the same Beneficiary, provided another rollover or transfer for the same Beneficiary has not occurred in the previous 12 months, or for a different Beneficiary, provided that the receiving Beneficiary is a Member of the Family of the original Beneficiary (as defined in this Plan Disclosure Statement). Rollover Distributions also include a transfer of assets from a Qualified Tuition Program to an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account for the same Beneficiary or for a different beneficiary, provided that the receiving beneficiary is a Member of the Family of the original Beneficiary. Please consult with the receiving ABLE plan to confirm any additional restrictions or requirements imposed by the ABLE plan.

On page 30, "Rollover Distribution" under "How to Take a Distribution" is replaced with the following paragraph:

Rollover Distribution. To qualify as a Rollover Distribution, the amount distributed from your Account must be reinvested into another Qualified Tuition Program or into an ABLE account within 60 days of the distribution date.

Additionally, as indicated in the Plan Disclosure Statement dated December 2017, three new Fixed Portfolios—the Equity Index 500 Portfolio, Extended Equity Market Index Portfolio, and U.S. Bond Enhanced Index Portfolio—are to be introduced in the first quarter of 2018. It is expected that all three portfolios will incept on March 29, 2018, and become available for purchases on April 3, 2018.



Robotics Summer Camp!

St. Joseph School Fullerton
8416 Belair Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21236

Grades 3-5	June 18-22	8:30am-11:30am
Grades 6-8	June 18-22	12:30pm-3:30pm

Learn

Learn basic robot mechanics from expert coaches, while working on Project Team skills in Programming, Teamwork, Competitive Strategy and established curriculum. State and World Champion level Instruction By coaches and league players!

Play

Drive and Program your robots to complete fun challenges and **specific** tasks! Even learn to **fly** a drone

Compete

Prepare and participate in robot competitions!

Awards

T-Shirt & Certificate of Completion



\$220 Early-Bird Pricing!! (Ends 4/15)

Register Now @

[Star-Academy.com/Camps](https://www.star-academy.com/Camps)

Tired of struggling with your child to get their homework done?

Homework Connection Primary!

Dear Parents,

We would like to introduce you to the **Homework Connection Primary (HWCP)** at St. Joseph's! Homework Connection Primary is an after school program which runs for an hour, **Monday through Thursday from Dismissal (3:00PM) until 4:05PM. It is held in Room 2. Students will be dismissed from the Library's back door.** Our purpose is for students to have the opportunity to learn good work habits and complete their homework with the support of a teacher.

Students (Gr. 1-3 only) can:

- Work on written and study homework with the support of Homework Connection staff.
- Enjoy a small snack to get energy to tackle their work.
- Work on their homework after school in a quiet, safe environment so that you can enjoy more family time at home.

Teachers (Ms. James, Mrs. Berg, Mrs. Visalli) will:

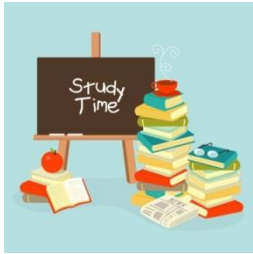
- Be on hand to aid students with any difficulties they might encounter with their work.
- Review homework and offer corrections.
- Actively study with students by quizzing, reviewing (i.e. math facts-flash cards), and asking questions.

NOTE: This is a group setting; therefore teachers cannot be tutoring individuals.

The cost of the Homework Connection would be \$9 per day with a minimum commitment of two days/week per session. Anyone coming less than two days/week per session will be considered as a drop-in and charged \$12 per day. Payment is due by Thursday of the first week of the session. Any payments received after will be assessed a late fee of \$15. Staffing is based on number of students enrolled on any given day of a session. No refunds for students who are absent or don't attend. **Make checks payable to Kathy James.**

Enrollment is open each session. If you would like to drop in, you need to email the teacher as soon as possible to make sure there is enough room for your child. *Unless you have teacher confirmation via email or phone call that there is space available, your child CANNOT drop in.*

Please send in the attached slip c/o HWCP - Ms. James and you will receive confirmation from the Homework Connection Primary staff.



Homework Connection

Upcoming Sessions

Primary!

Session #5	02/05-02/08	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/12-02/15	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/20-02/22	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	02/26-03/01	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Session #6	03/05-03/08	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/12-03/15	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/19-03/22	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	03/26-03/28	Mon, Tues, Wed
Session #7	04/09-04/12	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/17-04/19	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/23-04/26	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	04/30-05/03	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
Session #8	05/08-05/10	Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/14-05/17	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/21-05/24	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
	05/29-05/31	Tues, Wed, Thurs

Child's name: _____ Homeroom: _____

I am registering for session # _____ My child will attend (circle): Mon Tues Wed Thurs

I would like drop-in services only: _____ Any specific day/dates? _____

My child will be picked up by: _____

Parent's name(s): _____

Parent's email: _____ Parent's phone: _____

Is there anything you would like us to know about your child? Is there a particular subject or type of homework (written/study) that you'd like us to have your child focus on while at HWCP?

We encourage you to provide any information in the space below that could help us when working with your child. If you have any additional questions or concerns please email either:

Ms. James: kjames@stjoeschool.org