



**ST. JOAN OF ARC
CATHOLIC PARISH**

The SHIELD

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2019

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SJA READING SCORES WELL ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGES

By: Mrs. Jennifer Guzman, SJA School Principal

In mid-September, our Kindergarten through 8th grade students took the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment. This assessment measures individual academic growth and provides schools with grade level averages. The results offer valuable data on how SJA compares to the Toledo Diocese; all based on the fiftieth percentile national norm.



Each grade ranged from 83-92% above the national average. As you can see our students are doing well! But we can always do better. During our recent professional development days, our team of teachers discussed ways to ensure the reading success of each student. As educators, we believe in a cycle of continuous improvement which includes evaluation of current programs.

Currently, one of the biggest components to our reading program is the Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. The AR program is beneficial for encouraging ongoing reading practice, supporting students at their individual reading level, and collecting data for teachers to plan their instruction. But in and of itself, it is not enough. So we have developed a strong plan to supporting our ultimate goal - improving the students’ reading skills. This is all part of a broader plan to continue improving upon early development of phonics skills, phonemic awareness, and sight word fluency; ensuring all students exceed reading proficiency thresholds; and most importantly building a life-long love of reading!

There will be more leniency with student book selection to encourage a love of reading. While it is a confidence builder for students to work strategically within their reading range, teachers will be less structured about the step-by-step process. Individual classroom incentives will be offered as well as the opportunity for students to earn school-wide prizes and recognition for meeting and exceeding their goals.

One such incentive is Mrs. Shinaberry’s kindergarten class received a challenge from Mr. Witker to read 400 books by the end of the school year. If they succeed, they each give Mr. Witker a pie in the face. The kindergartners enthusiastically said, “Challenge accepted!”

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST,

The purpose of a Catholic school is to raise minds and hearts to God. Recently a dad shared some powerful reflections on faith that came from his son, a student at our parish school. The dad noted, humorously, that these thoughts weren't anything he instilled in the boy, but came from the boy's religious experience at school. As a pastor, such testimony warms my heart—it shows me that we are achieving our goal of helping our children to know and love God. This is the most important gift we can give our students.

For many reasons, I am excited for next year. One reason I am excited is on account of our academic formation. At the start of Catholic Schools Week we unveiled a new educational initiative called "Elevate SJA". Our focus in this initiative is to take our educational formation program—which already produces intelligent, highly motivated students—to a higher level. As Robert Bowers, the chairman of our School Advisory Council, put it, "this initiative is an evolution, not a revolution," meaning that the things we are planning for next year will improve our already successful academic approach, not replace it. More details about "Elevate SJA" can be found on the school website.

An additional reason I am excited for next year is because of our faith formation. Learning and living a virtuous life is essential to discovering happiness and grace. Next year we will more intentionally form our students in the virtues by using an approach developed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. This curriculum will complement our already strong offerings in religious formation: weekly Mass, daily prayer and religious education, weekly bible study, regular works of mercy, and more.

Please pray for all of our young people. They live in a world blessed by God, but also a world which, in many ways, is distant from God and his blessings. As a parish, we seek to work together with families to help raise young hearts and minds to the good things of eternity!

In Christ,

Fr. Adam Hertzfeld



UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Catholic Schools' Week: January 27th– February 2nd

La Soirée Rouge Auction: Saturday, February 16th

Kindergarten Discovery Day: Tuesday, February 19th

Preschool Discovery Days:

Thursday, February 21st & Friday, February 22nd

School Open House:

Sunday, February 24th, 10:30 am– 1:30 pm

Registrations for the 2019-2020 school year will start Monday, February 4th

Contact Sue Welker, SJA Admissions Director at 419-866-6177 for more information

Visit www.joanofarcschool.org for more information.

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

February Universal:

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.



FLEXIBLE SEATING IMPROVES LEARNING

By: Jenna Shinaberry, SJA Kindergarten Teacher

After completing my first year of teaching kindergarten, I found myself looking for ideas and solutions to help solve what seemed like a never ending battle with the wiggles. With the growing popularity of flexible seating, I began digging deeper into the approach and quickly realized this might be the solution I was looking for! Flexible seating is a classroom approach that allows students to move more freely and provides them with opportunities to complete their work in a variety of seating options with varying heights and positions. It looks different in every classroom, but at its core, flexible seating encourages choice and movement for students.



The implementation of flexible seating in my classroom has been a gradual process. At the beginning of the year I offered students three simple choices, sitting in a traditional chair at a table, standing at a raised table, or sitting on the floor at a lowered table. I immediately began to notice the students showing preference for one type of seat over another. As the year has progressed I added bench seats, lap desks, clipboards while working on the floor, standing at the counter, and several comfortable cushion chairs.

Overall, I have loved the difference I have seen in my classroom since I have begun using flexible seating. It is a well known fact that young children need to move! They are active, curious, and full of energy. Kids thrive on choice and opportunities to make decisions for themselves. Flexible seating provides this all throughout our day. Now, when I look around my room, instead of seeing children tipping back on the legs of their chairs, I see them kneeling and wiggling their feet as they read a story. Instead of asking them to sit down so people behind them can see, I see them choosing to stand at the counter. I have seen an increase in engagement and longer attention spans in my students. No one wants to sit in the same place all day long. Now, with flexible seating, my students have the ability to choose a spot that is comfortable for them, enables them to focus and do their best, and provides them with the movement that is developmentally appropriate for their age.



KINDERGARTEN HIGHLIGHTS

SJA KINDERGARTEN TRADITIONS

By: Mrs. Amy Switlick, SJA Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start this 2018-2019 school year. The children have already accomplished so much these first two quarters. Yet they continue to put forth tremendous amounts of effort as we move forward in our studies.



Some of the highlights of our year so far is a field trip to Erie Orchard and Cider Mill in Erie, MI, a celebration of All Saints Day, and a Thanksgiving reenactment of The First Thanksgiving, an SJA tradition.

Our field trip to Erie Orchard culminated a science unit on the life cycle of an apple tree. At the Orchard, the children were able to enjoy a hay ride, pick apples off of the trees in the orchard, watch apple cider being made, and learn how apples go from the tree to the markets.

This year, all students were encouraged to dress as their favorite saint for All Saints Day on November 1st. The kindergarteners enjoyed learning about what made their saint unique and planning their costume accordingly. All students walked away from the day with a new appreciation for all the saints.

To prepare for the reenactment of The First Thanksgiving, the kindergarten classes learned about the events of The First Thanksgiving, made their own Pilgrim costumes, and constructed a Mayflower ship out of a large roll of paper.

We look forward to more exciting events as Kindergarten continues, such as celebrating our 100th Day of School and Dr. Seuss week. We are also looking forward to becoming more advanced readers, writers, mathematicians, theologians, scientists, and most importantly, closer friends of Jesus.



Learn more about SJA's kindergarten program at joanofarcschool.org.

Kindergarten Discovery Day is Tuesday, February 19th.

Call the school office at 419-866-6177 to book your appointment.

 <p>Develop independent thinking & problem-solving skills with our STEAM philosophy</p>			 <p>Your family is the heart of our faith-filled community</p>
<p>Unique advanced learning objectives focused on the individual</p>			<p>Experience innovative curriculum with traditional roots</p>
<p>joanofarcschool.org 5950 Heatherdowns Blvd 419.866.6177</p>	<p>St. Joan of Arc Catholic School PreK-Kindergarten · 1st-3rd grade · 4th-8th grade</p>		<p>Open House February 24th 10:30 am - 1:30 pm</p>

FIRST GRADE STEAM FAIRY TALES

By Becky Gilsdorf and Tina Ponzi, SJA First Grader Teachers

In 1st grade this year we are working on many STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) projects which also involve fairy tales. We have been noticing over the past few years, that there are less and less children who are familiar with the traditional fairy tales we all grew up with.

To bridge that gap in their literary knowledge, we decided to combine both Literacy and STEAM into Fairy Tale STEAM. The STEAM emphasis in our curriculum is an intentional combination of various skills to help reinforce and challenge students to become problem-solvers.

Our first project (after studying simple machines: levers, ramps, and pulleys in science and reading the story of Rapunzel), involved helping Rapunzel escape from her imprisonment in the castle. Each student's castle began with an empty toilet paper roll. The students had to construct an escape for Rapunzel. Using small boxes from grocery items such as pudding boxes, egg cartons, and many types and colors of construction paper, the students engineered elaborate escape systems.

The second project focused on the tale of Beauty and the Beast. Beauty loved to read so much, but also needed to take care of Beast by brushing and grooming him every day. So Beast thought of designing a reading stand for Beauty so that she could do both at the same time. The students worked in pairs using recess toys and objects like Legos and blocks to create sturdy objects that could hold a book at the correct angle. We have found the integration of the fascinating topic of fairy tales with STEAM to really excite and encourage even the most hesitant reader to explore their imagination and comprehend different ideas and endings to the fairy tales.



PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



By: Kim Lach and Sara Kendziora, SJA Preschool Teachers

St. Joan of Arc School features 3 preschool classrooms that group the students by age and ability to provide individual instruction that helps each child grow at their own pace. We teach the "Preschool C" program which is structured for the student who is 4-5 years old and will most likely be attending Kindergarten the following school year. Our program focuses on social, emotional and academic growth that will build a foundation for the student to succeed in kindergarten.

We follow the Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards in combination with using Creative Curriculum. We respect and value the differences in each child as to his/her academic, emotional and social development. Realizing this, we continually evaluate each student to assess strengths and weaknesses to individualize the learning experience. Since children are naturally curious about their environment, play based learning is an essential part of our program. We have a combination of organized or center play, free play and short periods of sit down instructional time.

We strive to establish a safe, nurturing faith-filled environment that will foster a joyful foundation to the start of their education. In collaboration with parents, we encourage students to grow spiritually while learning about Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith.

Learn more about SJA's preschool program at joanofarcschool.org.

Preschool Discovery Days are Thursday, February 21st and Friday, February 22nd.

Call the school office at 419-866-6177 to book your appointment.

BE KIND FIRST

By: Laine Shinaberry, SJA Fourth grader with assistance from Mr. Witker



This year, St. Joan of Arc started teaching a program called “Be Kind First” that was developed by two local women who were tired of seeing too many unkind actions in school. On the first Tuesday of the month, each student shows their support by wearing their red kindness shirt. It is so cool seeing everyone come together for kindness! Every class has a special volunteer to lead the discussion.

Each month, we focus on a different theme. For example, SJA students have learned about being kind, compassionate, generous, and ourselves so far this year. My favorite activity was during the compassionate lesson. We designed a mock- “app” for being kind. My groups app was called “Hurt then Happy” which helps kids in the hospital communicate with their friends. Some future themes are “I will be accepting, I will be courageous, and I will be a leader.” I am most looking forward to the leader lesson!

I feel like this program is working at SJA because I see less excluding and more kids standing up for each other. This is important to me because it makes us believe in ourselves more. I hope with these lessons we will keep getting better like Jesus would want us to!

Finally, I'd like to share the pledge with you that we read every lesson:

“I pledge to be kind on good days, and bad days, and the days in between. I pledge to be kind even when others are mean. My kindness, my example is contagious and I know, that by experiencing my kindness, the kindness from other can grow. So always remember that what you say and do counts, because being a leader of kindness is what it's all about!”

LITURGICAL AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass:

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 - 4:45

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.
 11:30 a.m.

Rosary (1/2 hour before Mass)

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil 7 pm, Morning 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon

Parish Office

(419) 866-6181 Fax: (419) 866-6142
 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday Following morning Mass until 4:00 p.m.
 First Friday Following morning Mass until 8 a.m. on Saturday

School Office

(419) 866-6177 Fax: (419) 866-4107
 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

HOW CAN I BE KIND

By: Dominick Weltin, SJA Eighth grader

There are many lessons to be learned about kindness. On the Kindness Days we've had, Mrs. Guzman has come in and talked to the eighth grade class. During one of the first lessons, she asked us to give words about leadership. One of the words that was mentioned during our discussion was enthusiasm. Enthusiasm means, "intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval." The noun enthusiasm is an amazing quality because somebody with a happy attitude can change an entire group's attitude. Kindness is a powerful tool when getting along with a group and for becoming a leader.



I have been recently inspired to be a leader because of Camp Damascus. At camp, the eighth graders left for three days and stayed in cabins with several of their classmates. The eighth graders completed a series of tasks that required teamwork and leadership. At the end of each day at camp we attended a powerful adoration with a lot of music. This changed me and so many of my classmates.



At Camp Damascus the missionaries performed skits and showed us videos. There was a video about one man dancing alone on a beach. A second person joined the dancer, then a few people came over to dance with them, finally hundreds of people came over to dance with this one man. When I saw the video for the first time I wondered how this could even be applicable to life. It didn't make much sense because people don't just start dancing on a beach. One day at lunch, I sat down next to a fifth grader who was sitting by himself and then the rest of the eighth grade came over to sit with us. This was an amazing moment because it changed his and my day. We also ended up seeing each other that same weekend and he was so grateful that he received attention from so many people. The video I watched at camp became clear at that moment during lunch.

This year our school has picked the motto, "Be Kind First." A way you can be kind first is by including everyone. This is a very popular saying that you hear from people, but it is true. Just simply letting someone be near you can change their life. My best advice for a middle school student to be kind is to have enthusiasm in your daily life and toward everyone. As Winston Churchill says, "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."



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SJA TEACHER BRITTANY CAIN RECEIVES INAUGURAL KINDLE AWARD

Excerpts by Kelechi Okere and Nathan Friesner, SJA Alumni (Class of 2018)

On November 8th, St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy honored area teachers at their teacher awards banquet. This year, they instituted a Kindle Outstanding Teacher Award to celebrate K-8th grade teachers who were nominated by former students for making a difference in the student's life. Nominated by two SJA alumni, Mrs. Brittany Cain, SJA 8th grade science and algebra teacher, was one of just six school teachers to receive this inaugural award. Kelechi Okere and Nathan Friesner share portion of their nomination submissions below:



When I was going from 6th grade to 7th and 8th grade I had not really met any of the new teachers until "Meet the Teacher day". Mrs. Cain seemed like how I thought of most teachers in Saint Joan of Arc were, friendly. When I found out in 7th grade that I would be going to the 8th grade classrooms with the 8th grade teachers for some of my classes I was a bit nervous but it was easy to adjust. Both of the two teachers that taught 8th grade and the 7th grade teachers were fun and tried to ease us into the rising difficulty of the two grades with their friendly attitudes. However, when Mrs. Cain did this, she was comedic in her approach. She made what I thought would be one of the hardest years of this school (and they were) into a year that the whole class admitted felt very short.

Not only was Mrs. Cain fun to be around but she was also very good at teaching and helping people out. Mrs. Cain's religion class was her only class she was a little less harsh with and even then it was not easy. At the time it felt harsh; but now that I'm doing high school versions of these classes they are now super easy and I appreciate the difficulty. Mrs. Cain was very good for the fact that she could help with most things you asked her even if she is not teaching them such as English. When I was struggling in math, her tutoring was amazing and if I didn't understand the math lesson that she was teaching, which happened occasionally, her tutoring would make me question why I was even confused about the lesson she was even teaching as she made it so easy to understand it. She even gave us the chance to do Jeopardy to review in science and make teams, knowing not only would it make the classes bonds with each other stronger but it would also help people out who don't know the answer still get the chance to learn and participate. She made all these lessons we were getting not feel forced with her outgoing nature using whatever time that is not academically required to tell us stories, do small activities, or even just small stretch breaks. I now know that thinking of Mrs. Cain being the same as all the other teachers that I had learned from is completely wrong. Mrs. Cain may be friendly, but she is also funny, helpful, and disciplined, all the traits that gave her the opportunity to be nominated for The Inaugural Kindle Award. -Kelechi Okere



The teacher that has had the most impact on me so far in my life is Mrs. Cain. Mrs. Cain is a 7th and 8th teacher at St. Joan of Arc. She was such a great teacher and definitely deserves recognition. She was very easy to talk to, which made it easier to understand what she was teaching and to learn from her. She always answered all questions and made sure we knew what she was teaching. If we didn't, she would stay after school to help us. Everyone could tell that she greatly cared about all of us and wanted all of us to do well. She found new and fun ways to keep her classes interesting and related it to what we were learning. She never got annoyed at us and never yelled. Mrs. Cain was an amazing teacher and she definitely deserves to win this award. -Nathan Friesner