

stjA AD VITAM PARAMUS



SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ISSUE 1
SUMMER 2026

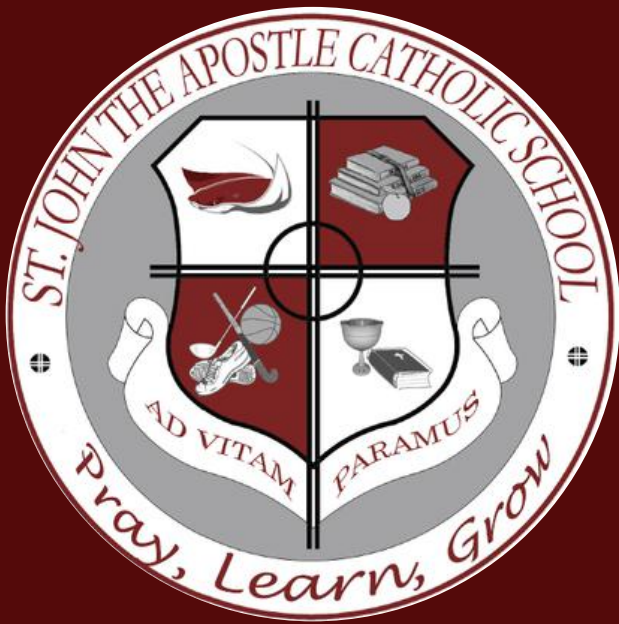
1968 B SANDBRIDGE ROAD
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456

PARAMUS

Saint John the Apostle Catholic School

2026-2027 School Theme

Be a light for all to see!
Mt. 5:16



Our Mission

Saint John the Apostle Catholic School provides a Christ-centered learning environment, where students are challenged academically, supported spiritually, and are encouraged to embody high ethical standards essential to moral development.

Administration

Rev. Dr. Felix Rex Amofa, *Pastor*
Mr. Joseph Branco, *Principal*
Mrs. Heather Krys, *Assistant Principal*
Ms. Maryann Gavin, *Business Manager*
Mrs. Katrina Schluetter, *Admissions Coordinator*
Mr. Bobby Steinburg, *Development Director*

Paramus Contributors

Mrs. Nicole Gardiner
Mrs. Katrina Schluetter

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL:

Welcome!

Thank you for taking a few moments to review our new communication initiative the **Ad Vitam Paramus**! This brochure will be released semi-annually (July and January) as a means of capturing information, pictures, and activities while highlighting events that our 'Stingrays' take part in throughout the school year. It is our desire to share the Saint John the Apostle Catholic School story in a meaningful way. While there are many learning experiences involving our students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators, we seek to show how working together, our children can achieve their fullest potential. When this occurs, we are one step closer to fulfilling God's purpose for each individual, and in sharing a successful year for all children in the finest traditions of Catholic education. It is our sincere hope that you share in the pride we have for our students and school community.



I want to take a moment to acknowledge the "Heroes" that are at the heart of our school community, our faculty and staff. The accomplishments of our students and support of their families are complemented by the tireless efforts of the SJA faculty and staff. This is evident in the dynamic and nurturing learning environment that exists within our school. At every instance our teachers and assistants, administrative and office staff, nurse and health advisors, custodian and facilities crews, team of Beyond the Bell staff – each of these professionals stands ready, through their individual and collective efforts, to help our students learn, grow, and pray each day. I know that you would agree and join me in honoring and praying for these amazing educators and support staff.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to express our deep appreciation for the encouragement and assistance this school community continues to offer our school. We are grateful for all that our families do in support of our school! We pray for your continued kindness and wish you every blessing in the days ahead and in our continued success during our shared time together at Saint John the Apostle Catholic School!

Joseph Branco Ed.S.
Principal



Servite cum corde humili





Noteworthy News



Enrollment

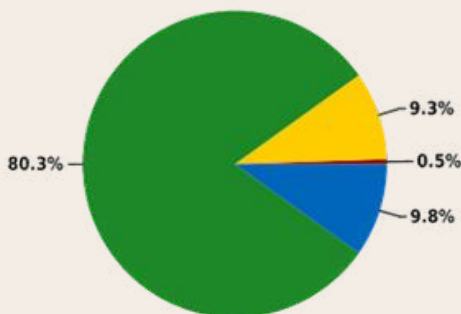
Enrollment continues to remain strong with 85% of families returning in 2026-2027. We are excited to welcome 47 new students to the SJA school community!



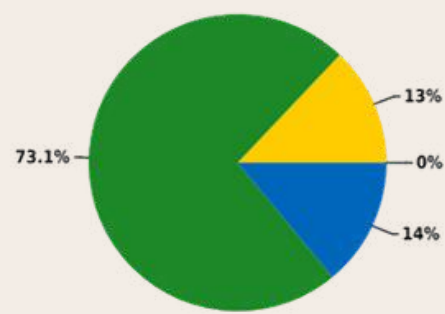
Academics

SJA participates in NWEA MAP Math and Reading standardized assessments three times a year. Our student performance remains above national norms with high achievement and growth recorded from fall to spring administrations. The graphs below represent students' projected performance on the state assessment(s) based on NWEA alignment/linking studies. Performance categories are defined by the state and are specific to each state. The projected performance shows SJA's percentages relative to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) categories.

SJA Math



SJA Reading



Fail/Below Basic		Fail/Basic		Pass/Proficient		Pass/Advanced	
Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent



WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?



SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Saint John the Apostle Catholic School is dedicated to providing an excellent learning environment in which students become life-long learners **empowered by the Gospel message** of Jesus Christ to live a life of virtue, integrity, and service to others.

✝ PRAY
LEARN
GROW

We are committed to supporting all our students, including those with family members serving in the military. We honor, respect, and appreciate the men and women who serve our country, and are proud to be a **distinguished military connected school** with the 2nd Virginia Purple Star Award.

Saint John the Apostle Catholic School is **ranked overall as an A+ school** on Niche. At SJA, we support students not only through academics, but also through **extracurriculars**. Whether it be sports, art, music, or technology, there is a place for each and every student to **grow as individuals** within our walls.

Sports Programs:

- Fall Sports
 - Basketball: 3rd-8th Grade (Tidewater Catholic Basketball League)
 - Cheerleading: 2nd-8th Grade
 - Cross Country: 5th-8th Grade
 - Volleyball: Middle School Girls
- Spring Sports
 - Baseball: Middle School Boys
 - Field Hockey: 2nd-8th Grade Girls (Catholic Field Hockey League)
 - Golf: 5th-8th Grade
 - Track & Field: 5th-8th Grade
 - Soccer: 5th-8th Grade

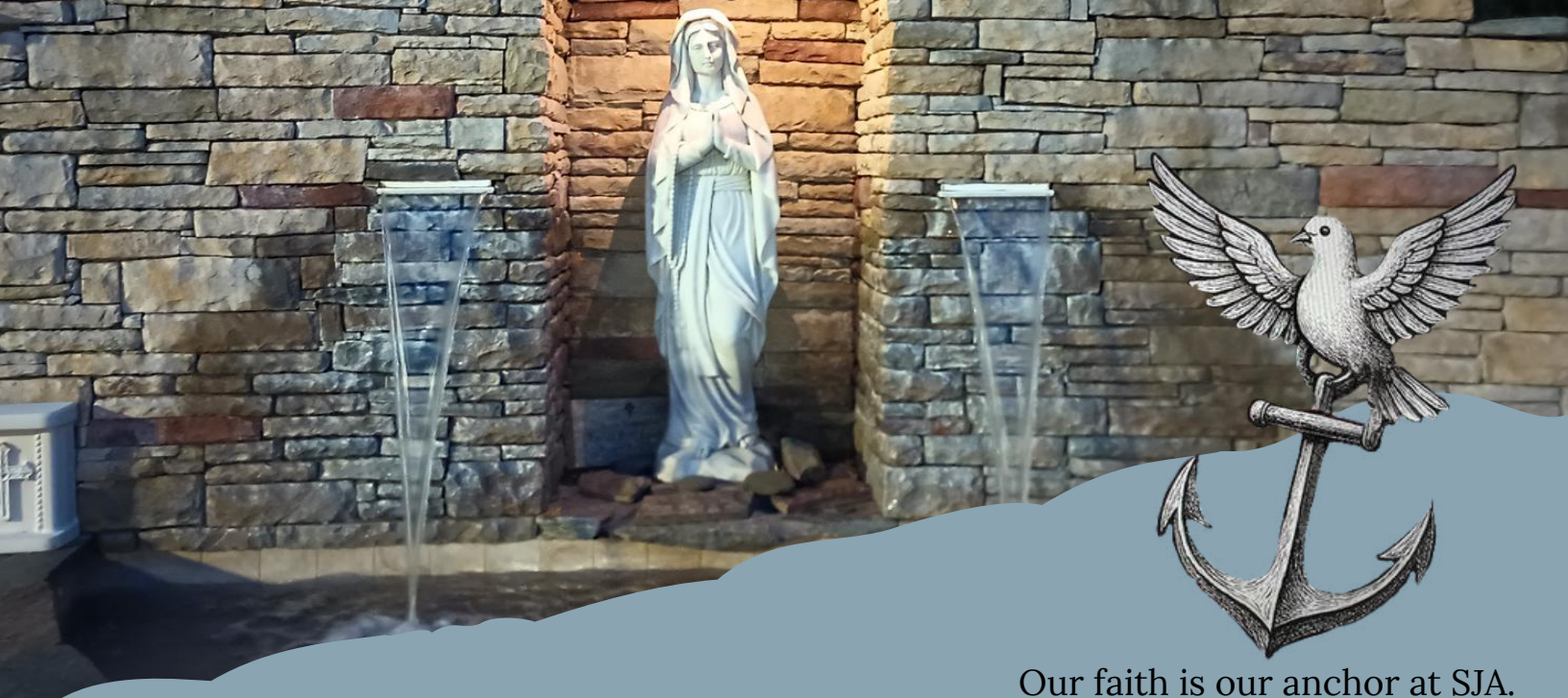
Clubs & After School Activities:

- Aerial Drone Team: Middle School
- Book Club: Middle School
- Choir: 3rd-8th Grade
- Dance Makers: Jr-K-2nd Grade
- Girls Who Code: Middle School Girls
- National Jr. Honors Society: Middle School
- Peer Ministry: 8th Grade
- Student Council Association: 3rd-8th Grade



2025-2026 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Senior Girls Basketball Team is named 2026 Tidewater Catholic Basketball League Champions
- Aerial Drone Team qualifies to compete at Regionals
- Girls 4x100m Relay Team sets a new school record and finishes 1st
- Golf Team is named 1st Place Champions
- 8th grade student sets a new school record and finishes 1st in 1600m race



Our faith is our anchor at SJA.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Christ is at the center of everything we do as a school community.

- Weekly School Mass
 - Once a week, students in Jr-K through 8th grade join together to celebrate the sacrifice of the Holy Mass at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church.
- Faith Families
 - Once a month, groups of students from each grade are led in discussions of our Catholic faith by 8th grade leaders.
- Faith Outside the Classroom
 - Theology lessons extend beyond the classroom as students put their faith into practice through retreats, field trips, and service projects.
- Peer Ministry
 - 8th graders have the opportunity to apply to be Peer Ministers, displaying leadership by helping to prepare for school Masses and assisting with retreats.
- First Holy Communion
 - Each spring, our 2nd grade class prepares to receive their First Holy Communion. Those students then participate in our May Crowning ceremony, to honor our Blessed Mother.
- Adoration
 - Our students often participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sometimes even right in the classroom.
- Celebrations
 - Our students participate in performances such as the Nativity, Living Rosary, and Living Stations. As a Catholic School, we are blessed to be able to celebrate our faith in this way.

The 2025-2026 School Year

- 45 Masses attended together as a school community!
- Middle school field trip to The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception
- 8th grade pilgrimage to St. Benedict's for Latin Mass
- 2nd graders received their First Holy Communion in May



2025-2026 Fundraisers

Fundraising efforts in 2025-2026 led by our staff and supported by a fantastic group of volunteers, achieved donation goals that contributed to SJA closing the funding gap for school resources. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors and community supporters!!

Golf Classic



October 10, 2025

The Annual Golf Classic raised \$20,000! Our 8th grade students benefitted from this event by acting as caddies for our golfers, helping them raise additional funds for their class field trip.

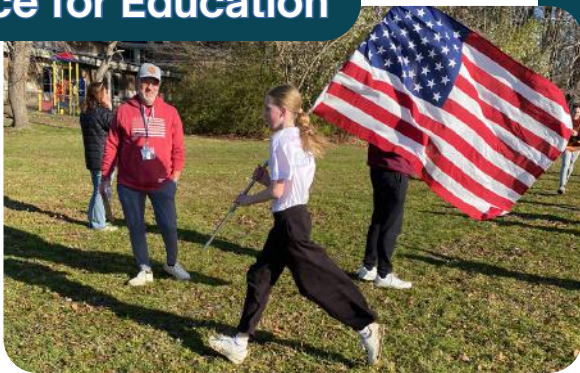
October 17, 2025

Our fabulous SJA PTO put on a wonderful Harvest Fest event, complete with pumpkin painting, a bouncy house, basket raffles, and more fun for the whole family. This event raised \$5,600!



Harvest Fest

Race for Education



March 20, 2026

At our Race for Education, students, faculty, and staff participated by walking, jogging, and running as many laps as possible, securing pledges to our school. The event raised \$21,000 (and resulted in some very tired students)!

April 18, 2026

SJA's Smiles Around the World Soirée was a wonderful night spent celebrating our community. The gala hosted SJA parents, family and community members, teachers, and staff who came together in support of our school, and raised \$20,000!



Spring Gala

'25 Our school year...

December '25

- 3 Living Rosary
- 5 Observe St. Nicholas Day
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 15 Christmas Spirit Week Begins

November '25

- 11 Honoring Veterans
- 14 Mom and Lad Bowling Night
- 17 Discover Catholic Schools Week Begins

October '25

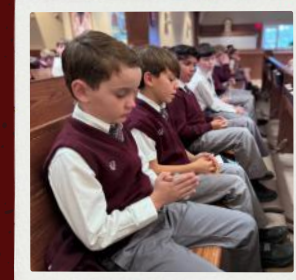
- 10 SJA Golf Classic
- 15 School Wide Rosary
- 17 Harvest Fest

September '25

- 11 Back to School Night

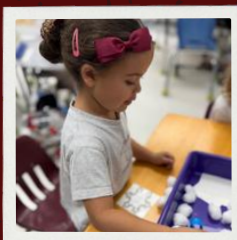
August '25

- 19 First Day of School



...in review!

'26



January '26

- 22** Young Author's Night
- 25** Catholic Schools Week Begins
- 30** Faculty & Staff vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game

February '26

- 6** Daddy and Daughter Dance
- 18** Ash Wednesday
- 25** Lent Reconciliation

March '26

- 12** Great Inventor STREAM Night
- 20** Race for Education
- 27** Live Stations of the Cross

April '26

- 2** Holy Thursday
- 4** Easter Sunday
- 18** Spring Gala

May '26

- 1** Grandparent's Day
- 2** First Holy Communion Weekend Begins
- 4** Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
- 22** Field Day
- 27** 8th Grade Graduation
- 28** Kindergarten Graduation
- 29** Last Day of School

Congratulations, Graduates!

Our school community prays for your continued success as you enter your next chapter.



Matthew



Camdyn



Andrew



Claudia



Melania



Elijah



Preston



Charlotte



Lincoln



Taylor



Ireland



Reese



Arianna



Avery



Dylan



Colton



Harvey



Josefina



Brady



Liam



Lily



Presley



Raye



Gavin

2026-2027 School Theme:

BE A LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE!

Mt. 5:16



A few more things before you go...

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make our 2025-2026 school year amazing!

Interested in getting involved?
Contact SJA's PTO: pto@sjavb.org

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Where are our Stingrays today?

Do you have news about SJA Alumni? We would love to share their success and achievements! Please contact Nicole Gardiner (ngardiner@sjavb.org) with any updates and photographs.

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Enjoyed this issue of *Ad Vitam Paramus*?
Share with family and friends!





SJA

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