



St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. DURKIN
July 7, 2026

The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this takes place through a rich path made up of many ingredients. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life.

— Pope Francis

Dear SJR Families,

I hope you're having a wonderful summer and finding time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends!

While school is out, there's plenty happening at SJR:

- Summer Playgroups: Our schedule for students entering Pre-K through 1st grade is included below. These playgroups are a fun way for children to meet new classmates or reconnect with friends before the school year begins.
- Campus Improvements: Summer cleaning is underway, along with several building projects, including a new cafeteria floor, updated plumbing fixtures, and infrastructure improvements to keep our campus safe and welcoming.
- Used Uniform Sale: Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 6! It's a great opportunity to purchase gently used uniform items inexpensively.

We're also excited to welcome several new members to our school staff:

- Mrs. Lisa Sarachman joins us as our new Advancement Director, where she will help strengthen relationships with our donors, alumni, and local business community.
- Mrs. Julie Spurri joins our middle school faculty, teaching 7th & 8th Grade Math and Science and 7th Grade Religion.
- Mrs. Renee Steinbach who will be assisting in 2nd grade with Ms. Mealia.
- Mrs. Carolyn Armani will serve as the Kindergarten assistant with Mrs. John.
- Mrs. Maryann Outland joins Ms. Darby as the assistant in Pre-K 1.

Mrs. Carolyn Armani and Mrs. Maryann Outland are both longtime members of the SJR community and Mrs. Steinbach taught at SJR in the past. We're delighted they're taking on these new roles.

Enjoy the rest of your summer—I'll post a newsletter in August but, as always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Gratefully,
Mrs. Durkin





School News



Summer Playground Meet-Ups!

Be sure to see the schedule below and join in the fun! It's a great way for kids and their grown ups to meet!

New Family Orientation

If you are new to the SJR Community, please plan to attend our New Family Orientation on Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room. This is an important informational evening for parents/guardians.



Summer Reading Fun Has Begun!

Our SJR Summer Reading Challenge is off to a fantastic start!

There's still plenty of time to join the fun, explore new stories, and help us grow our reading total even more! The best way for students to improve their reading skills and avoid the "summer slide" is to read books that they enjoy!



Want your class to win the GRAND PRIZE? Classes need 100% participation to qualify—so make sure everyone gets involved! Please see the flyer below.



There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at SJR. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Consider how you might want to be involved. There are opportunities to:

- help with Home and School events
- chair a Home and School event
- assist with lunch/recess duty regularly or every once in a while
- monitor the office phones and front door while the staff takes a lunch break
- chaperone a field trip
- share your area of expertise with a class
- Proctor an after-school club

These are just some of the opportunities you might consider. All volunteers are required to have the following clearances:

PA Child Abuse Clearance (updated every five years)

PA Criminal Clearance (updated every five years)

A signed Disclosure Form (updated every five years)

Volunteers who have regular contact with students are also required to take the Safe Environment trainings through the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These can be online or in-person. Please see the flyer below for more details.

Summertime is the perfect opportunity to update your clearances if needed. Please see the informatio below!



How to Obtain Your Clearances

All Volunteers Need:

PA Criminal Clearances, PA Child Abuse Clearances,
Signed Disclosure Form (Available on our School
Website)

PA Criminal Clearance

To obtain a Pennsylvania State
Police (PATCH) Criminal history

Report go to

<https://epatch.pa.gov/home>.

PA Child Abuse Clearance

To obtain a Pennsylvania Child
Abuse History Clearance online,

go to

[https://www.compass.state.pa.us
/cwis/public/home](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home).

Safe Environment

Volunteers, like lunch monitors, coaches, or helpers in classes, who have regular contact with children are required to complete parts one and two of the Safe Environment training within 90 days of beginning their volunteer work.

- Part I: Protecting God's Children, is offered regularly at sites throughout the Archdiocese. The training provides basic facts about child sexual abuse and adults' roles in prevention. Register here or at archphila.org the Office for Youth and Protection.
- Part II: The Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse, is available online at our Training Institute. This training provides an overview of Archdiocesan reporting procedures for suspected child abuse and Pennsylvania Child Welfare Laws. The training should take you approximately one hour to complete. Register here or at archphila.org the Office for Youth and Protection.

Additional Info

If you were living outside of PA any time over the past ten years, you will be required to obtain an FBI/fingerprint clearance. Please reach out to the school office.

When completed, please send all documentation
to the school office.

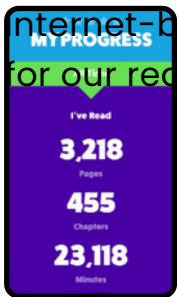


Reader Zone

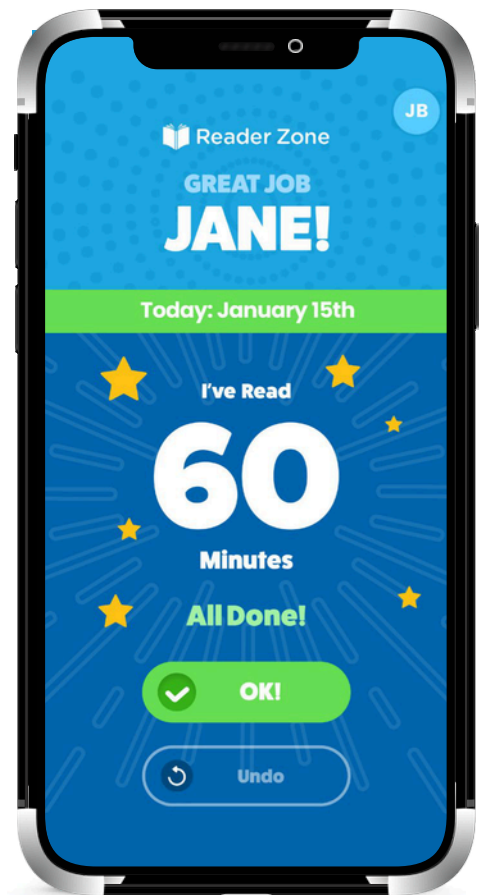


GOAL-BASED READING PROGRAMS

are an important tool to help students build reading skills. We are using an internet-based system called Reader Zone for our reading programs.



- 👍 Use a smart phone app to log reading.
- 👍 See your student's reading progress in real time.



SEARCH FOR "READER ZONE" AT YOUR APP STORE.

Install the Reader Zone app for Android, Apple or Amazon device. Make an account and add your reader(s). Join our reading program with our code: **daf47**

Please let us know what questions you have. **Happy Reading!**
Mrs. Jacobsen (jjacobsen@stjstr.org)

Join Us on The Playground!



Pre-K - 1st Graders

July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Playgroup @ 6:30PM	10	11
12	13	14 Playgroup @ 10AM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Playgroup @ 6:30PM	24	25
26	27	28 Playgroup @ 10AM	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8



Join Us on The Playground!

Pre-K - 1st Graders

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6 Playgroup @ 6:30PM *USED UNIFORM SALE* Location: GYM	7	8
9	10	11 Playgroup @10AM	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Playgroup @6:30PM	21	22
23	24	25 Playgroup @10AM	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

LET'S GROW SPORTS

JOIN COACH MAC!



**BASKETBALL
CAMP**

**AUGUST
11-13**



**MSGR.
MARLEY HALL
ST. ROBERT
BELLARMINÉ
PARISH**

**9:00 AM-
12:00 PM**

 **BOYS & GIRLS (AGES: 6-12)
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME**

REGISTER ON THE HOMEPAGE: WWW.STJSTR.ORG