



St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. DURKIN
August 26, 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,

It's finally here! I welcomed the faculty back to school today for meetings and first aid training. Tomorrow, the full-time faculty and I will join faculty members from other Archdiocesan elementary schools for our annual "Archbishop's Day," a day when we gather with the Archbishop for prayer, reflection, and celebration as we prepare for the coming school year. We will be sure to remember you in prayer.

We met with our new SJR families last week, and while we have many new families joining us in Pre-K and Kindergarten, we also have quite a few new students in grades 1-8. If there is a new student in your child's class, please go out of your way to make both the student and their family feel welcomed and included. A kind word, an invitation to join in, or simply taking the time to introduce yourself can make a big difference to a new family.

Our first unit in our biblically based character development curriculum, *Friendzy*, focuses on the idea that we are "Better Together." What a fitting message as we begin a new school year! The virtue we will be focusing on through the example of our patrons, St. Joseph and St. Robert Bellarmine, is welcoming.

St. Joseph welcomed Mary into his home and embraced the responsibility God entrusted to him. St. Robert Bellarmine welcomed others through his teaching, service, and commitment to helping people grow in their faith. Both remind us that welcoming is more than simply saying hello—it means making others feel that they belong.

Throughout the first weeks of school, our teachers and staff members will be watching for students who demonstrate this virtue in meaningful ways. Students who consistently welcome others, include their classmates, and help new students feel at home will have the opportunity to be nominated for our first Patron Awards of the year, which will be presented on Friday, October 2.

What a wonderful way to begin our year together: welcoming one another, looking out for one another, and remembering that we truly are better together. Welcome back! I've missed you all! - Mrs. Durkin





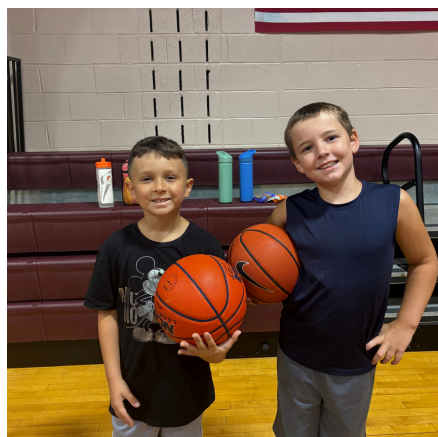
School News



Robotics Club: Students in grades 6th - 8th can participate in our Robotics Club. Mr. Mandes will be the lead coach again this year. Meetings will be held on Fridays after school beginning in September and continuing until January. Please see the flyer below. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do that here: <https://forms.gle/44xWaaCXZZoZFetT8>

Music Lessons at SJR

Mr. Miller will be back this year but on Fridays! Music is a great way to learn a host of skills and have a great time doing it. Please see our letter from Northeastern Music, our partner in providing a band opportunity, below. The children in grades three to sixth will have a demonstration on September 8th. There's a parent meeting (virtual) on Sept. 10th at 6:30p.m. for you to get more information. The link for that is



Young Rembrandt's

Session 1- Thursdays - 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm. 8 week session 9/17-11/12. Look for registration information for this very popular after-school art club soon!

EITC Update

The updated income limit is \$122,322 plus \$21,531 for each dependent. The new limits are as follows:

- 1 dependent: \$143,853
- 2 dependents: \$165,384
- 3 dependents: \$186,915
- 4 dependents: \$208,446

Please apply through FACTS!





HSA News

Volunteer Opportunity

The HSA will be selling pretzels at St. Joseph's Church once a month after Mass, and we're looking for volunteer families to help!

The parishioners at St. Joe's love seeing our students and are always so generous in supporting our school. This is a wonderful, simple way for families to get involved and help strengthen the connection between our school and the St. Joe's parish community.

We'd love to have you join us! Please contact Mrs. Gordon at aponte234@comcast.net to volunteer.



Get Organized!!

Let's celebrate the new year and a fresh start with a giveaway!

The SJR Home & School Association is currently selling raffle tickets to win a 15" Skylight 2 Calendar

This back to school bundle includes a \$20 Instacart giftcard, 6 months PLUS membership, interchangeable frames, + stylus, and an SJR water bottle

This raffle is perfect for families, work, and daily planning

Raffle tickets can be purchased thru the HSA Venmo: 1 chance for \$5.00, 5 chances for \$20.00.



All proceeds directly benefit the events and activities sponsored by the SJR HSA throughout the year

Cherry Dale Fundraiser

Our Cherry Dale Fundraiser will begin on September 8th....look for information to come!

Family Movie Night - Hoppers!

Join us for an outdoor movie in our school parking lot on Friday, September 11th! Set up begins at 7:00p.m. and the movie will begin at 7:30p.m. Please note that the school playground will close at dusk. See 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 information below!

Please note that Mrs. Thom is currently putting the volunteer lunch monitor schedule together. It takes a lot of volunteers - If you could please contact Mrs. Melissa Thom at mnichlas@gmail.com to let her know your availability. Thank you!



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.

SJR ROBOTICS CLUB

DESIGN. BUILD. CODE. MAKE AN IMPACT.



WHO

6th, 7th, & 8th Graders



WHEN

September – January
Fridays After School
until 5:30pm



WHERE

St. Joseph/St. Robert School
Warrington, PA

WE COMPETE IN THE

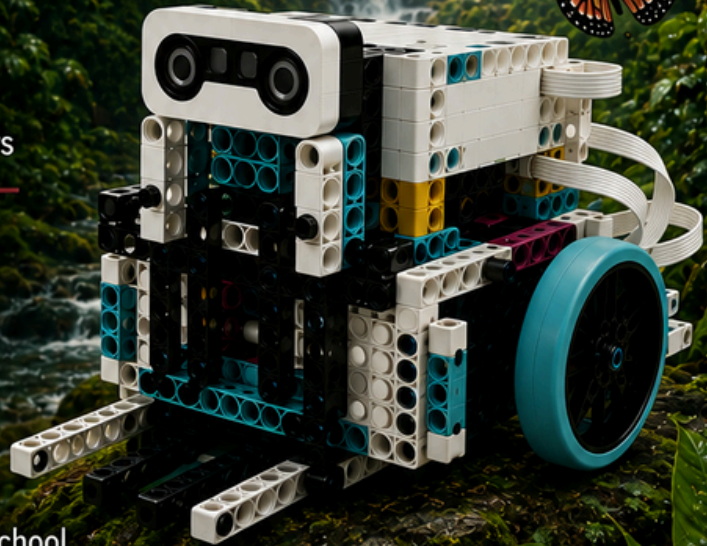


FIRST

BIOGLOW

CANOPY
FOUNDERS EDITION

The **FIRST**® **LEGO**® League
BioGlow Canopy Challenge
is all about exploring how
biodiversity thrives when
nature and technology
connect!



BUILD ROBOTS.
MAKE FRIENDS.
HAVE FUN.



SJR *Family* MOVIE NIGHT

AN
OUTDOOR
MOVIE
UNDER THE
STARS!

★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 ★

FEATURING

Disney • PIXAR

Hoppers

Small animal.
Big adventure.



SET UP BEGINS
AT 7PM



BRING
CHAIRS



BRING
SNACKS



BRING
BLANKETS

to enjoy an outdoor movie!



PARK IN THE RECESS LOT



SET UP IN THE LOT
IN FRONT OF SCHOOL





Dear Parents:

It is with great excitement that we extend an invitation to join the instrumental music program at your school. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of making music!

Each year students eagerly await their turn to join/rejoin our instrumental music program. The study of music could be one of the most valuable steps in your child's education. Some of the benefits your child can receive from it are responsibility, mental discipline, teamwork, self-esteem, and above all an enjoyment and lifelong appreciation of music. They will also be participating with a positive peer group that can influence their success in other academic and social areas. Our experience as music teachers has convinced us that any child willing to put in a reasonable amount of effort can succeed.

Parents and students often wonder if the time required in music will hinder other studies. The National Association of Elementary School Principals reports that children who participate in music often excel in academic areas. Their study shows that music can enhance reading, writing, math, history, art, eye-hand coordination, memory, self-discipline, and the ability to follow directions.

Attached to this letter is a list of frequently asked questions about the program, including grade eligibility.

HOW TO JOIN

- **To enroll, please visit <https://nemusicprograms.com>**
 - o Instrument rental options are available for those needing a musical instrument
- Questions? – Please contact us at 888-636-2439

We are passionate about growing a new generation of musicians, music lovers, and future patrons of the arts. Please join us in 2026-27 in what we know will be a transformative experience for your child.

Sincerely,

Miguel Hidalgo
Program Director
Northeastern Music Programs

SAVE NOW!
Tuition discounts on all
annual plans through the
end of September



Learn to play a musical instrument!

Each year, students have the opportunity to join their school band and learn a musical instrument. Learning a musical instrument is one of the best decisions you will ever make! Enroll your child in band today and begin a musical journey that can last a lifetime!

Lessons and Rehearsals

- e Students attend weekly small group lessons during the school day. Daytime lesson times rotate each week so students do not miss the same class.
- e There are also weekly full band rehearsals before or after school.
- e The band will play a minimum of 2 concerts - holiday and spring.

Lesson Tuition Costs

- e The current tuition rate is **\$95.00** per month, paid in 9 monthly installments.
- e Multiple payment plans and family discounts are available.
- e Discounts on annual plans for all customers that enroll in before the end of September.

Musical Instrument Costs

- e If needed, students can rent an instrument directly from our parent company, Menchey Music Service.
- e Instruments and materials are delivered directly to your school.
- e Rental prices vary by instrument.
- e Instrument purchase options are available.



First lesson date:
Varies by school

Start dates are determined on a by school basis. First lesson dates can

be found on the enrollment page on our company website. Please contact your school's music for more information.

ENROLL TODAY!



Why Northeastern Music?

- e We have 40+ years experience providing music programs to schools.
- e We believe that every child deserves the gift of music!
- e No commitment. You can cancel at anytime.



**ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN**

nemusicprograms.com

Phone: 888-636-2439
info@nemusicprograms.com

Save the Date



FLEA *Market*



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - 9AM - 2PM

Sponsored by the faculty/staff and proceeds will benefit the

ArchbishopWood ScholarshipFund

~~Vendor Spots Available - \$25~~

Join us for a day of unique finds,
handmade crafts, and unbeatable deals!



Archbishop Wood High School
655 York Road, Warmister, PA 18974



215 - 672 - 5050



**Martha - mdugan@archwood.org
Donna - dellis@archwood.org**



GOOD STUFF THRIFT
♥ HELPING KIDS ♥



Fall Donation Drive

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00AM - 10:00AM

(RAIN OR SHINE)

PLEASE DROP OFF DONATIONS AT
GIUSEPPE'S PIZZA & FAMILY RESTAURANT'S PARKING LOT
1380 W. STREET ROAD, WARMINSTER, PA 18974

Sponsored by

Rotary



Warrington, PA

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ACCEPTED ITEMS, VISIT GOODSTUFFTHRIFT.ORG/DONATE