



Cougar Connection

In Fide et Lenitate
(In faith and gentleness)

Weekly Newsletter for the
St. John the Baptist School Community

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August 17, 2025

A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!

Dear St. John the Baptist School Community,

The countdown has begun! In just a few short weeks, our halls will once again be filled with the sound of footsteps, laughter, and the joyful energy that comes with a new school year. Already, our campus is buzzing with preparations - classrooms are being arranged, lockers are being assigned, and teachers are putting the finishing touches on lessons that will inspire, challenge, and shape young hearts and minds. We are thrilled to welcome back our returning students and families and are equally excited to greet the newest members of our community. This year holds so much promise, and we can't wait to discover all the ways our students will RISE to the Challenge.

Prayers for a New Chapter

This week, our thoughts and prayers are especially with the Class of 2025 as they set out on their next great adventure - college! These graduates leave behind an incredible legacy at St. John's, and now they step into a world full of new possibilities. We pray that they find joy in learning, courage in facing new challenges, and friendship in unexpected places. May they always carry with them the faith, values, and perseverance they built here.

At the same time, we joyfully prepare to welcome the Class of 2029! Their first official experience as high school students begins next week at Freshman Forerunner Days. These days are more than just an introduction to schedules and classrooms—they are the start of a journey where classmates become lifelong friends, mentors inspire new dreams, and moments turn into cherished memories. Our prayer for them is simple: may their time at St. John's be filled with growth, discovery, and the unshakable knowledge that they belong to something bigger than themselves.

Today's Gospel and RISING to the Challenge

Today's Gospel from Luke 12:49-53 can seem at first to be a hard teaching, as Jesus speaks about bringing division rather than peace. But when we look deeper, His words are not a threat - they are an invitation. Jesus reminds us that following Him is a call to wholehearted commitment, even when it means standing apart from the crowd. True peace doesn't come from avoiding challenges or pretending differences don't exist; it comes from aligning our lives with God's truth, even when that path requires courage.

This is a message of hope. It tells us that our convictions matter, that our faith can be a steady light in uncertain times, and that every choice we make to follow Christ draws us closer to the life He promises. As we step into this school year, we are called not just to do what is easy, but to embrace what is good, what is true, and what will help us—and those around us—flourish. That is what it means to truly RISE to the Challenge.

Calling All Creative Parents!

Our beloved school TV Studio is ready for a makeover, and we know that within our parent community there are incredible talents waiting to shine! Originally, we anticipated a donated set upgrade, but those plans have fallen through. Our current set has served us well, but it's showing its age and could use a fresh, dynamic design that will inspire our student broadcasters.

If you have skills in construction, painting, set design, or creative problem-solving, we would love your help! Even better, if you have access to a gently used professional set that's looking for a new home, it could be a game-changer for our program. Mr. Cocivera is ready to collaborate with you to bring this project to life in a way that fits our budget and captures our school spirit. If you can help - or if you know someone who can - please contact Mr. Cocivera at cocivera@sibdhs.org. Your generosity will directly impact our students' learning experience and help us tell the *St. John's story* in a fresh and exciting way.

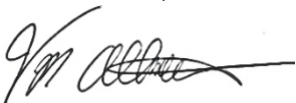
Important Back-to-School Dates & Details

- **Fall Sports Tryouts** – Kick off the season strong!
Beginning this week, Monday, August 18th, tryouts begin. Physicals and all required forms must be completed in advance. Visit our website for schedules and forms.
- **Freshman Forerunner Days - *Mandatory for all incoming Freshmen***
Tuesday, August 26th or Wednesday, August 27th
- **White Cross Shoes** – Reps will be at SJB on Tuesday, August 26th from 8:30-10:00 a.m. for any exchanges.
- **First Day for Freshmen Orientation - Noon Dismissal**
Wednesday, September 3rd
- **Thursday, September 4th**
2nd Day for Freshman Orientation – Noon Dismissal
Transfer/International Student Orientation – Noon Dismissal
Eucharistic Ministers' Training – 10:00 a.m.
Senior BBQ 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- **First Day Full Day of School for Grades 9-12** - Friday, September 5, 2025
- **School Store** - Monday, August 25th through Thursday, August 28th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sweatshirts, pajama pants, hats, other SJB gear is available. Reminder: Polo shirts and gym uniforms are not available in the School Store. They must be purchased through Flynn O'Hara, our official uniform supplier.

Visit the SJB website for additional back to school info - www.stjohnthebaptistdhs.net - Summer Assignments, Interim Calendar, Athletics, etc.

Enjoy these last Summer days—rest, recharge, and get ready. A new school year is about to begin, and together, we will RISE to the Challenge!

God Bless,



Mr. Vincent Albrecht

Principal, St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School