



St. Joseph's Academy

August 2009

Parents Newsletter

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year, the Academy's 141st year of excellence. Guided by this year's charism theme -- *Relationships: Sacred Threads that Connect* -- we will be called to unity and reconciliation as we exhibit hospitality, collaboration and inclusive love.

We will further expand upon the "go green" initiatives we undertook last school year. Being stewards of the earth's resources, we will continue to look for ways to make positive changes to our planet. Among our goals is to reduce the amount of paper used at SJA. As a result, this first newsletter of the academic year is the only one you will receive via traditional mail. Beginning with the September issue, the monthly newsletter will be sent electronically. It is very important that you provide us with your current email address(es). Please complete the Contact Information Request Form included with this mailing and help us in our quest to save paper and reduce postage costs.

Also new this year, we will send a phone/text alert when the newsletter is emailed each month. If you do not have an email address or choose not to provide it to us, you will be asked to go to our website (www.sjabr.org) to read the newsletter posted under the Parent drop-down. We ask that you provide us with your home, cell and/or work phone numbers to which you wish the phone/text alert to be sent. You can provide us with as many phone numbers as you'd like phone/text alerts to be sent. This information should be included on the Contact Information Request Form enclosed. As always, it is our goal to keep you informed of important dates and activities throughout the year.

As president and principal, we work closely to ensure the viability of St. Joseph's Academy. The president supports the leadership of the Academy as she works to sustain the future of the school. The principal works with the administrative team, faculty and staff to maintain the day-to-day excellence of our programs.

Please remember that we need your daughter here each day in order to help her reach her fullest potential. Our library is open until 5:30 p.m. each day and affords opportunities for your daughter to work in groups, study or relax.

For calendar questions, contact Mrs. Cristina Williams at 388-2226 or williamc@sjabr.org. If you have any questions regarding the information in this newsletter, please contact the person listed with each announcement.

Thank you for your commitment to and support of St. Joseph's Academy and the Sisters of St. Joseph. We look forward to collaborating with you as we build on our great foundation and look to the future filled with hope.

Linda Fryoux Harvison
Principal

Sister Adele Lambert, CSJ
President

Attachments to this Newsletter

- Academic Counseling Center News
- Athletic Department News
- Back-to-School Shopping List on Shop SJA
- Contact Information Request Form/Sweatshirt Order Form
- Faculty/Staff Phone Listings
- Health Tips from Dr. Roberta Vicari
- Order Form for School Photos
- School Calendar 2009-2010
- Sizzlin Soiree' Invitation
- SJA Dads' Club Registration Form
- SJA Mothers' Club Registration Form
- SJA Mothers' Club Fall Luncheon Invitation
- Student Accident/Health Insurance Form
- Student Orientation Schedules
- Tablet Computer Insurance Information
- Vehicle Registration Form

Parking at SJA

We began the summer with the hope that we would create a parking lot on three Academy-owned lots on Broussard Street. After receiving a conditional use permit from the Planning and Zoning Commission, we found ourselves confronted with strong opposition from our neighbors, in spite of making what we felt were generous changes to our initial design. Unable to reach a compromise with the civic association, we withdrew our request. Since that time, we have worked to create some additional space on campus, and we will have our first-ever lottery for parking spots for juniors and seniors.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to create additional parking options. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Please follow these steps for registering your daughter's car for a parking permit for the 2009-2010 academic year:

1. Complete the vehicle registration form included with this newsletter. All items must be complete.
2. Return the completed form and check for \$100 to the Main Office by Friday, August 7, at 3 p.m.
3. This is a lottery, not first come/first served, so all students who return the form and check have an equal chance of being assigned a parking spot in a lot.
4. The lots included in the lottery are the Activity

Center, Kleinert, Synagogue and Lawyers lots.

5. If several students will carpool together, only one driver needs to submit the registration form. Carpooling drivers will be entered into a separate lottery to get a spot in a prime location.

6. If you are only interested in an unassigned parking spot on the streets surrounding campus, complete the vehicle registration form and return with a \$25 check.

7. Lot spots will be assigned on the afternoon of August 7. Students must check their email to ensure they park in their correct spot on the first day of school, Monday, August 10.

8. Permits should be picked up at lunch on Monday, August 10.

9. Students who will not be at orientation on Friday, August 7, must mail the registration form to school (3015 Broussard Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808), attn: Stacia Andricain.

Parents, when you come to SJA for a major event, we ask that you not park on the grassy lots on Broussard Street. We also ask that when you park in the neighborhood, please observe all no parking signs and do not block driveways. Whenever possible, please carpool.

Questions and comments about parking can be directed to **Mrs. Stacia B. Andricain** at bordelos@sjabr.org (388-2217).

Back-to-School Information

Student Orientation

- Schedules attached.
- Can't attend scheduled orientation session? Submit the reason in writing to **Mrs. Stacia B. Andricain** at bordelos@sjabr.org (388-2217). Students will be required to make up missed session.

Class Schedules

- Preliminary schedules are posted on NetSJA. Final, official schedules will be distributed at student orientation.
- Electives may not be dropped.
- The deadline for requesting other changes has passed; late requests for schedule changes may not be honored.
- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Kathy Meares** at mearesk@sjabr.org (388-2213).

Transitions Meeting for Parents of All Freshmen

- Wednesday, August 5, 6 p.m., Activity Center.

- Hear important information as your daughter makes the transition from elementary school to high school. Presentations by school administrators, SJA Development and Finance offices, the Academic Counseling Center and I-Care.

Senior Graduation/Junior Ring Orders

- Friday, August 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Activity Center concession area. Second order session: Friday, September 4, during all lunch periods.
- A Balfour representative will take orders for graduation announcements, caps and gowns (seniors) and school rings (juniors). Parents are welcome to attend.

First-Day-of-School Prayer Service/Student Council Induction/Academic Letters and Bars Presentation

- Monday, August 10 (Assembly Schedule 3), 1:49 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Dress uniforms required.

Classes at Catholic High School

- Questions/issues for SJA students taking classes at CHS will be addressed at student orientation.
- CHS starts school on Tuesday, August 11. On Monday, August 10, SJA students scheduled for class at CHS should report to the SJA library instead.
- Students taking classes at CHS have been emailed a list of rules/regulations and a driving/passenger permission form. They should bring the completed form to the library when reporting there on August 10.
- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Sheri Gillio** (curriculum) at gillios@sjabr.org (388-2226) or **Mrs. Jacqueline Labat** (transportation) at labatj@sjabr.org (388-2215).

Back-To-School Night

- Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 p.m., Activity Center.
- Follow your daughter's schedule to visit her classes and meet her teachers. Please print your daughter's schedule from NetSJA.

Financial Overview Presentation for Parents

- Tuesday, September 15, *or* Wednesday, September 16, 6 p.m., SJA Dining Hall.
- For parents of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Parents of freshmen will hear this information at Transitions.
- Please join the SJA Development and Finance offices for an informative, overall financial picture of SJA.

Campus Life

Emergency Procedures

SJA generally follows the same procedures as the East Baton Rouge School Board and Diocese of Baton Rouge. School closures are announced via phone/text messaging system. You may also listen to the radio or TV for instructions.

Please report changes to your telephone numbers to **Mrs. Tommye Galloway** at gallowat@sjabr.org (388-2240).

Cell Phones

Cell phone use by students is prohibited. Please do not send or answer text messages or calls from your daughter during the school day. If your daughter is sick and needs to leave school, she must go to the Student Receptionist's office to call you.

If a student is found using her cell phone during the school day, it will be taken from her. She will retrieve it, along with a check list, at the end of the day from **Mrs. Jacqueline Labat**, associate principal of students.

Outside Food

Because students enjoy the benefit of the federal food lunch program, off-campus food may not be brought to students during the school day.

Required Service Program

Service is an integral part of the SJA curriculum. Important information about this year-long program can be found on the SJA website under the Student and Parent drop-downs. Please read this information so you are aware of requirements and deadlines.

Questions? Contact **Ms. Tori McRoberts**, campus minister, at microbert@sjabr.org (388-2321).

Bus Service

- Morning service only. Parents are responsible for afternoon transportation. Those qualifying for East Baton Rouge Parish busing will receive notice in late July or early August with pick-up time and location. Please do not call the EBR School Board Office. Bus service begins Friday, August 7.

- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Erin McLean** at mcleane@sjabr.org (388-2256) after Monday, August 3.

After-School Library Hours

- Library hours: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Charge for late pickups (after 5:30 p.m.): \$15 for the first 1-15 minutes; an additional \$1 per minute after 5:45 p.m.
- Students waiting to be picked up must report to the library by 3:30 p.m. Quiet study/homework time is 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- After-school library rules can be found in the online handbook under the Parent and Student drop-downs.
- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Rebecca Stagg** at staggr@sjabr.org (388-2235).

Security Upgrades

Over the Easter holiday, we installed thumb latches on 50 doors so teachers can secure their classrooms. Safety wire glass or laminated glass was installed on most doors. These security enhancements were paid for with proceeds from last year's Gala, co-hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph and SJA.

School Handbook

- The 2009-2010 handbook can be found on the SJA website under the Student and Parent drop-downs.
- Please read carefully and sign the acknowledgment form, posted on Moodle, by Friday, August 14. Your

daughter can show you how.

Student Retreats

Participation in retreats is required for graduation.

Please plan accordingly.

<u>Retreat</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Senior	October 25 & 26	Alexandria
Junior	January 19	TBA
Sophomore	October 14	SJA
Freshman	March 18	Activity Center

Calculator Requirements

• Students in Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, Geometry or Geometry Honors must have an inexpensive scientific calculator of their choice.

• Students in Algebra II, Algebra II Honors or any other higher-level math class must have a Texas Instruments TI 83 Plus or TI 84 Plus Graphing Calculator. (If you buy a TI-Nspire, please choose one that comes with the changeable TI-84 keypad.)

• A limited number of calculators are available for rent.

• Label calculators before bringing them to school.

• Questions? Contact **Mrs. Nancy Landi** at landin@sjabr.org (388-2331).

SJA/CHS Trip to Washington, D.C.

• Meeting for juniors, seniors and their parents interested in the annual trip during the Thanksgiving holiday: Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 p.m., Activity Center.

• Trip information will be sent to students via email.

SJA/CHS Back-To-School Dance

• Saturday, August 29, 8-10 p.m., CHS Gym and Courtyard.

• Sponsored by the SJA and CHS Student Councils.

• Student drop-off is the main parking lot on Claycut Drive. Pick-up entails parents parking and walking into the courtyard to escort students to their cars.

SJA Telephone System

• The main number is 383-7207, but you are encouraged to call faculty and staff directly (directory listing included). Faculty members do not have physical phones; rather, their phone numbers connect directly to a voice mail box.

• If you have a Blackberry/Smart Phone and are searching for the person you are calling by his or her name rather than extension, you must use the standard number pad to type the letters in that name.

• A student directory will be available in mid-August.

Students receive a directory at no charge; additional directories are available from **Mrs. Erin McLean** (mcleane@sjabr.org or 388-2256) for \$5.

Tuition Policy 2009-2010

St. Joseph's Academy is committed to providing an environment of excellence for young women in the Baton Rouge community. The SJA Board of Directors has established guidelines for tuition income. They can be found on the SJA website under the Parent drop-down.

Tablet Insurance

Students are responsible for costs of all repairs not covered by the Warranty Against Defective Parts Agreement provided by the school. Students never pay for a hardware malfunction repair. Tablets *are not* insured for accidental damage or theft; it is the student's responsibility for out-of-pocket costs for repairing or replacing a tablet. It is *highly recommended* that individuals provide coverage through their homeowners' or other insurance policy. A brochure for tablet insurance through Student Insurance Partners is included in this newsletter.

The student must report a theft as soon as possible to SJA, the police and her insurance carrier. Students must present the police report and have her parent/guardian contact the Help Desk (helpdesk@sjabr.org) before a replacement tablet will be issued.

Library Notes

• The library is beginning a virtual collection: ebooks. We have now subscribed to five books and will purchase additional titles during the year. Access URL <http://ebooks.infobasepublishing.com/default.aspx?InstID=352>

User name: stjoseph

Password: student

• We will begin cataloging the music in the choir room; that collection will become SJA's music library.

• Students are encouraged to use the East Baton Rouge Parish Library online catalog and especially the free databases provided. Simply type in your EBR library card number to access the free databases.

Extended Programs

Details about the following courses can be found on the Extended Programs pages of the SJA website. To register and pay, go to Shop SJA>Extended Programs.

• ***PSAT Prep Course*** (four-day workshop): Saturday, August 15, August 29, September 12 and September 26, 9 a.m.-noon, Main Building, room M206. Course fee: \$135.

- **PSAT Prep Mini-Course:** Saturday, September 26, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Main Building (room M207). Course fee: \$40.

- **ACT Course 103 (One-Day Workshop):** Saturday, September 19, (repeated on Saturday, January 16), Medaille Hall (room H105), 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Course fee: \$85.

- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Jaime Ward Young**, SJA Extended Programs manager, at wardj@sjabr.org (388-2225).

Spiritual Formation

SJA students can grow in their faith through sharing special times and events such as Eucharist, prayer, reconciliation services, retreats, weekly rosary, guided prayer experiences and missionary and service opportunities. Various ministry clubs are available, including Student Ministry (seniors), Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Choir, Liturgical Dance, Students for Unity, Amnesty International and Respect Life Club. Information will be provided after school starts.

- **Liturgy Workshop:** Sunday, August 23, 2-4 p.m., Activity Center. For students interested in Liturgy Choir, Liturgy Committee or Liturgical Dance; seniors who wish to cantor for school masses or plan to sing at Senior Mass; and students who plan to read, dance, sing, play a musical instrument or altar serve.

- To register, contacting Sister Ily Fernandez, CSJ, at fernandi@sjabr.org (388-2262).

SJA Mothers' and Dads' Clubs

- Registration forms are included with this newsletter. All parents are encouraged to join.

- Questions? Contact **Mrs. Micheline Schutte**, Mothers' Club president, at rmjcasch@earthlink.net (756-2214); or **Mr. Patrick Olinde**, Dads' Club president, at patrick.olinde@capitalonebank.com (766-0008).