

Good afternoon SJS Community,

Another great week of learning down. Can you believe we are now 16 days into the school year and at our first half day? The year is already flying by!

A quick note to start – we missed Canton Public’s last school calendar update in June. There are a few dates to be aware of. There will be NO buses on Monday as Canton is off school. There will be buses on November 1 but not on November 8. See attached for a new school calendar that reflects these changes.

St. John School will be celebrating MASS STEM Week with an SJS Family STEM night on Wednesday, October 19 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Mrs. Zessis will demonstrate some of the awesome STEM activities she is using in class. Every family will also be introduced to and go home with a LEGO Education Personal Learning Kit. Advanced sign up is require – [click here](#) to sign up. See attached for details.

As a reminder, October lunch ordering will close on Thursday, September 29 at noon. We have made one change for October - Wednesday will be Alfredo Pasta rather than Mac n Cheese. This is reflected in FACTS.

Student Council applications are in, and we have an awesome roster of students running – 34 to be exact. We are excited to experience campaigning and speeches next week. Good luck to all our candidates.

Canton buses continue to be problematic, and I encourage parents to keep Canton Public and First Student aware. On Tuesday, new AM routes will start, which will increase our AM buses from 2 to 5. New PM routes will begin sometime after that.

MAP testing is now complete (besides a few makeups and retests that will occur next week). In a few weeks, once the Archdiocese has established some norms, I will send out some high-level data. We will also celebrate our Club 99 members (students who scored in the 99th percentile in achievement and/or growth). I have had a few questions

about MAP scores over the past week, so I will offer a few thoughts. We do not send out parent reports in the fall and have not in the past. Our rationale is that we use the fall MAP scores as a formative assessment (to monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching). We use the spring MAP as a summative assessment (to evaluate student learning at the end of the year by comparing it against a benchmark). In general, fall scores are for us to use for instruction while spring scores are used for larger curricular decisions and to inform parents. Teachers are encouraged and expected to use the fall MAP scores to inform their instruction and make growth plans for individual students and/or classes. The data is also used for grouping, pull out services, and enrichment. At the older grades, teachers may have conversations with students and/or whole classes about the data. I struggle personally and professionally with the fall MAP scores, particularly the growth aspect. It is hard to distinguish whether the scores and growth reflect what was taught last year or reflect summer work and/or summer loss? Truthfully it is both and it is hard to untie them. Please let me know if you have other questions.

SJS Calendar

Thursday, September 29 – Student Council Elections

Tuesday, October 4 (7:00 pm) – SJS Parent Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 5 – No Canton Buses

Friday, October 7 – SJS Parent Group Fall Social

Second Notices

SJS Parent Group Fall Social

The SJS Parent Group Fall Social will take place on Friday, October 7 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm in our back parking lot. Join us for music, charcuterie, and cheer. Pack your own cooler with the beverage of your choice and enjoy great company. Please remember – adults only. [Click here](#) for a flyer.

NJHS Tutoring

National Junior Honor Society will begin after school tutoring for students on October 6. Tutoring occurs every Thursday from 3:15 – 4:15 in the library and is currently open to students in Grades 1 – 3. This is a great way for our younger students to get in extra reading/math support and to get to know an older student. No sign up is needed and pickup will be at the Main Entrance.

Helpful Links

Ebackpack - <https://www.sjscanton.org/e-backpack>

2022-2023 School Calendar - [Click here](#)

Chris