



ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL - COLUMBIA, SC

FAMILY READING NIGHT AT SJN



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A Word From Our Principal

Grandparents' Day

Montana, Virginia, New York, Arizona, what do these, nineteen other states, and Shanghai, China have in common? Those are all of the places that our grandparents came from to be with us on our second annual Grandparents' Day. What a wonderful day – despite the torrential downpours all morning long! The school buzzed with excitement as grandparents and special visitors came to the classrooms. They shared stories and fond memories of their elementary years with the children. It was wonderful to see the bright smiles on all of the children. Many grandparents were gracious enough to “adopt” a few more grandchildren on this day for the grandparents who could not join us. A real treat came when we were able to have the children sing the songs that were going to be shared that evening. The faces glowed during the performance: both the children for sharing these songs with their grandparents (that they could actually see in the audience) and the proud grandparents. We are so blessed to have such wonderful people in our lives! Grandparents are very special!



*Barbara Cole
Principal*

Dedication of Our New Building





A Great Start to a New Year at SJN

James D'Alessio, School Advisory Board President

I hope you had the opportunity to attend the beautiful Mass and dedication ceremony of our school addition in honor of Father Massad. I had an opportunity to speak with the Bishop at the reception following the ceremony, and he had many kind words to say about our school and our children. Most importantly to me, he commented on what a great reflection that is on the strength, vitality and commitment of our parish family as a whole.

As I said last month, now that our vision is complete, it is time to turn our attention to the future. Your School Advisory Board is doing just that. On Saturday, October 1, the board members conducted a retreat at our school. We spent over four hours meticulously reviewing the different committee agendas, and discussing proposals for new 5-year goals in each of these areas.

One thing we all agreed on is that we deeply value input from the entire SJN family. Therefore, we are in the process of finalizing a survey that will go to every SJN parent and parishioner. I ask that you not only commit to completing the survey, but that you give it the prayerful consideration it deserves. Only with thoughtful, honest feedback from across our parish can your Advisory Board develop the right goals and game plan to keep our school the best in South Carolina for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for all you do for our school!

It IS Easy Being Green

LuAnn Aycock, PSA President

Being green is all the buzz. Schools across the country are preserving the environment while educating children on the importance of taking care of Mother Earth. SJN is jumping in to do our part. You've probably heard by now that the teachers have formed a "Green Team" to bring awareness to the school family on environmental issues. The Eco-Friendly Eagles, an after school activity for third through sixth graders was started to support the same mission. How can parents help?

Recycle. Students are recycling juice box containers and paper in classrooms. Icafano's lunch containers are recycled daily. Do you send your empty ink cartridges to school? The office recycles them in exchange for new office supplies. Look for a new aluminum can receptacle we should be getting any day now--courtesy of the fire department. We will collect cans at school and they will pick up and recycle them. Proceeds will go to local burn victims.

Reuse. Beginning this month, SJN will be collecting grocery bags which will be delivered to Harvest Hope Food Bank. Harvest Hope will use these bags to distribute meals --to anywhere from 300 to 500 families in the Midlands each day. Parents have also been asked to send in reusable drink bottles for lunch instead of store bought plastic water bottles. Don't forget the ultimate in reuse, our uniform exchange which the PSA has sponsored for years.

Reduce and Refuse. We have started Trash-less Tuesdays at lunch in an attempt to decrease our input to landfills. An effort is also being made to cut down on paper towels and ziploc bags used in school. Keep an eye on the SJN webpage. All Thursday folder flyers can also be found on the website each week. Test scores and lunch orders are found online this year as well. With the help of our parents we can continue to cut down on the paper sent home. Let's support our children in their efforts to make our school green!



Library Literacy

Our book fair and Reading Night were once again a success! Many thanks to all the volunteers, guests, teachers, parents, and grandparents who made it all possible!



Birthday Books



Marta Tremolada, October 2, from Mom, Dad, and Eddie for her 9th birthday

Jameson Lang, October 3, from Mom, Dad, Hayden & Joseph for his 6th birthday

Alexia Cole, July 17, from her Grandparents Dean & Judy Cole

Memory

Mark & Matthew Vaughn in memory of their Uncle John, the biggest Gator fan in Heaven!

SJN Faculty & Students in memory of Mr. James Cleveland, Grandfather of Owen Ryckebosch

SJN Students & Faculty in memory of Mrs. Mildred Phillips Lambert, mother of Mrs. Chambers



Other

Kylie Miranda in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Zimmerman

Ms. Baughman in honor of Mrs. Zimmerman & Reading Night



St. John Neumann Catholic School Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) November, 2010

Grade Equivalent	SJN 2010 Results	Avg. % of our Diocesan Schools	Top 85% of the Nations Score
Language Arts			
2	3.2	87%	
3	5.1	90%	80%
4	6.4	86%	80%
5	8.1	85%	79%
6	10.0	85%	71%
Reading			
2	3.3	89%	
3	4.8	88%	76% 73%
4	6.0	85%	79% 73%
5	7.2	84%	79% 72%
6	8.7	84%	73% 70%
Math			
2	2.7	82%	70%
3	4.4	89%	69% 72%
4	5.7	86%	70% 71%
5	6.8	83%	68% 72%
6	8.4	81%	64% 69%
SJN Core			
2	3.1	86%	69%
3	4.7	91%	81%
4	5.9	86%	80%
5	7.3	82%	76%
6	9.0	84%	72%

St. John Neumann Catholic School (SJN) is a National Blue Ribbon School and an International Inviting School recipient. Both of these awards were given as a result of the excellence that we strive for in everything we do, including our test results. We are proud to present the results of our Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) testing that was conducted in November, 2010. ITBS is a nationally normed test, which means that it is given across the United States. Our results for the fall are based on 2005 norms.

When the children take the test, it is for the grade that they are in at the time: third graders take the third grade ITBS test. We realize all of the material on the test may not have been taught to the children yet; however, for our interpretation, it is to our benefit. We use this testing as a diagnostic tool for what should be taught/stressed during the year. For example, if a class does extremely well in one area, the teacher would only take the time to review this material and go on to new material.

The test results are given as grade equivalents. For example, in Language Arts, our fifth graders averaged a grade equivalent of beginning eighth grade, thus our fifth grade co achieving at the same level as the average eighth grade student!

We are very proud of how well our students achieve. Under the direction of a wonderfully dedicated faculty and with the help of our parents working together, SJN is a place Where Children Experience Success.

If you should have any further questions, do not hesitate to call the school office (788-1367).

Finger Lickin' Food For Thought

Marti Schottelkotte

So, early this summer I was thinking about creating a colorful and succinct brochure that identified the areas where SJN really differentiates itself from other elementary schools around town. The goal was to give it just to realtors so their clients could see what an exceptional school we have right here in the northeast.

Then I had an epiphany! Was it divine intervention... or an enticing advertisement about fried chicken that had me buying a bucket vs. a box and eating a couple of pieces in the parking lot. Think bigger I said! My idea now, is to have SJN families and our devoted Parishioners help spread the word about the school. If you are a realtor, own a business, or work in an office and would like to have our pamphlets displayed, please either send me an email (schottem5@gmail.com) or contact the school office. We deliver!

We are all so proud of what our Principal, teachers, staff and students are accomplishing. Shouldn't everyone know? Display it with pride!



What's Happening

Differentiated Instruction

Alison Levitt

God has blessed me by allowing me to be apart of the faculty at St. John Neumann School for twelve years. Over those years, I have witnessed the school grow and change to become a stellar place of learning. I have also been fortunate enough to have both of my children attend here. From becoming SJN's first full-time science lab teacher from 1995-1998, to teaching second grade from 2001-2009, to becoming our first Instructional Specialist focusing on teacher training with respect to differentiating instruction from 2009 to now, I have been a part a many growth opportunities. Sure, we have added an addition and added new classes at many grade levels, but more importantly than that, our teachers have added countless new approaches to instruction and our students have progressed academically at a rate at which all of us can be proud. This faculty and its leadership believe in doing what's best for every child providing instruction in meaningful ways to help EVERY child learn and reach his/her own potential.

Although I have decided to leave SJN to pursue my own professional goals, I leave with many fond memories and with pride having been a part of this school family. I have no doubt that the school will continue to grow, and I look forward to hearing all of its accomplishments in the future. Thank you, St. John Neumann School family, for the many wonderful years you have given me to cherish.

Quotes From Our Survey Last May

I have always believed the curriculum at SJN is above average.

With DI, my child is more confident in completing his work.

We LOVED Grandparents' Day. It was special for grandparents and grandkids. Must have been a lot of extra work for the staff, but was so meaningful to us. Can't wait until next year.

I have run into teachers from other schools and have been told SJN has a reputation as a leader in DI.

I set what I thought were hig, academic goals for my son. He has exceeded each one.

I am so pleased that my son is exposed to all of the specials.

A wonderful, welcoming school. We feel very much a part of the SJN family. That atmosphere is one of the great things about our school.

Don't want to be anywhere else

We love how the parents and school work together to nurture and educate our children with core religious and community outreach programs.

We love being a part of the SJN family. Every year gets better and our children are so happy. They love school and that is what truly matters to us!

Very much a sense of communitiy!

It truly is a family atmosphere where everyone strives to provide a high level of education and growth opportunities for our children

Tell Them You Saw Them In EAGLE EVENTS



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