



January 29, 2024

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

As we look forward to a new year, it is time to start making plans for the graduation of the Class of 2024. There will be many special events planned with your student in mind. At this time, we anticipate the graduation fee to be \$135.00. This fee will cover all Graduation expenses, including Cap and Gown, Diplomas and Covers, Class T-shirt, the 8th Grade Retreat and Day of Service lunch/activities, Flowers, and a Yearbook.

This year, we will be collecting graduation fees through your FACTS account. This fee will be added to your FACTS account to process on February 20th.

On January 24th, students had their cap and gown photos taken for the yearbook. If your child missed the photo session, please contact the front office to schedule a makeup.

Regarding diploma name information, [please complete this Google form](#) indicating how you would like your son or daughter's name to appear on the diploma. Students must use their legal last names. It is an option to include a middle name or middle initial. First names can be their legal first name, or the first name your child usually goes by. For example, someone named Charles, who is usually Charlie. Please complete this form no later than February 12th as the diplomas need to be ordered and printed. Forms will not be accepted without a parent's email address.

This is a reminder that 8th graders can wear unique Class of 2024 tees with PE pants on Mondays to show their school pride.

The tradition of the 8th Grade section of the yearbook is to include thank you messages from each student. All submissions are reviewed and approved by the administration. Additionally, the text must be less than 45 words and appropriate. [To submit your message, please follow this link](#). The 8th grade section also includes an optional baby photo collage. If you choose to participate, please send your photo electronically (requirements: 300 dpi saved as a jpeg file) to yearbook@sjrcs.org before **February 16th**.

We look forward to celebrating the students' achievements and special events with your families. These are some important upcoming dates and activities for our 2024 graduates.

May Crowning

- ❖ On **Friday, May 3rd** (10 AM), the eighth-grade students will celebrate Mass and May Crowning in the church. The Mass and May Crowning will be live-streamed so parents and students can participate virtually.

Semi Formal Dance

- ❖ On **Friday, May 3rd**, there will be an 8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Girls should wear appropriate dresses, skirts, or pants, but avoid bare shoulders, plunging necklines, and short hemlines. Boys should wear appropriate pants and dress shirts, and ties are optional.

Financial Obligations

- ❖ Per our tuition contract, in order for your child to participate in any of the graduation activities, all tuition and fees must be paid by **Friday, May 17th**. Additionally, students must be academically eligible to participate in graduation.

Gettysburg Field Trip

- ❖ Our 8th-grade class has a scheduled trip to Gettysburg National Park on Friday, May 17th. This immersive experience serves as a culminating activity that perfectly complements our studies. We are excited to explore the park and its historical significance, creating unforgettable memories that we will cherish.

Last Day of Classes

- ❖ The last day of classes for the 8th grade will be **Wednesday, May 29th**. If your student owes any work, all work must be submitted by this date in order to be graded. Before this date, the Eighth-grade students taking Algebra I will take their cumulative test. Once grades will close for 8th graders on May 31st. Their progress reports will be printed with the whole school. Progress reports will be sent to parents after T-3 ends. Once report cards have been printed, we will send final transcripts to any high schools requesting them.

Day of Reflection and Letters

- ❖ The required Day of Reflection will be the last week of May, and students will participate in the day's activities. Lunch will be provided. Students will wear their class of 2024 t-shirts with gym shorts.
- ❖ As part of the retreat, we would like you to provide the most essential element – YOUR AFFIRMATION, as parents, of your child. We ask for this affirmation to come in the form of a letter addressed to your child that includes proud, fond, funny, poignant moments (particularly any connected to his/her time in school), as well as your hopes and prayers for his/her future, and anything that you believe would be positively meaningful to your child. These letters will be used at the retreat and only be read by your child. No one else will read it, so feel free to be sentimental.
- ❖ The letter should be sealed inside an envelope with your child's name and "DAY OF REFLECTION LETTER" on the front. This sealed envelope should be tucked inside another envelope labeled to the attention of Mrs. Weeks and your child's name. If you think your child might be overly curious about the contents, mail it to the school to Mrs. Kelly Weeks, St. John Regional Catholic School, 8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Maryland 21702. We need to receive the letters **by Wednesday, May 15th**. Thank you for your help with this very important part of our Day of Reflection experience, and remember....IT'S OUR SECRET!!

Day of Service

- ❖ Additionally, in the last week of May, the 8th graders will participate in a required Day of Service. Through special projects and activities, students will be helping and serving the community. Students will wear their gym uniforms. We will be sharing more details about the Day of Service.

Graduation Practice

- ❖ All 8th-grade students are required to attend graduation practice. Following the graduation practice, students will have an opportunity to sign yearbooks in the Mary Garden. Eighth-grade students will be dismissed at noon on **Monday, June 3rd**.

Baccalaureate Graduation Mass and Awards

- ❖ The Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation will occur on **Tuesday, June 4th (2 PM)** in the church.
- ❖ Students need to arrive at 1:15 PM and report to their classrooms. The students will line up in the school hallway before proceeding to the church for Graduation.
 - Girls' Attire: Appropriate dresses, skirts, or pants; No bare shoulders, plunging necklines, short hemlines. For their safety, young ladies should practice walking in heels and on stairs prior to the award ceremony.
 - Boys' Attire: Appropriate pants, dress shirt, and tie
- ❖ The Baccalaureate Awards will follow immediately upon the completion of Mass.

In Christ,

Mrs. Kim Hanner
Principal
St. John Regional Catholic School