



## Pro Tips from Pro Parents

Welcome to St John School! We are so excited to have you join our community. We know it can be overwhelming at first with so much information and so many firsts. We get it; we've been there! Below you'll find some helpful information to guide you as you get acquainted with the community activities.

**Communication:** There are four main places for you to look for electronic communication:

- **School Website,** <https://st-johnschool.org>: The school website has the school calendar for important dates, and there is also detailed information on current news and programs. Each teacher has a page on the school website.
- **NewsViews:** You will receive a weekly e-newsletter (NewsViews) on Thursdays. This newsletter is also available on the website. Please contact Di Tran, [dtran@st-johnschool.org](mailto:dtran@st-johnschool.org), if you are not receiving it.
- **Facebook,** <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschoolsea>: Check out and like our Facebook page; non-essential news, photos, and short videos are posted on Facebook.
- **Instagram,** <https://www.instagram.com/st.johnseattle>: Follow us on Instagram to check out photos and short videos.

**Volunteerism:** Integral to the spirit of community and St. John's Fair Share philosophy, every family is expected to volunteer their time and talent. There are opportunities to volunteer on the playground, in the kitchen, baking for special events or joining the auction or jog-a-thon committees. You'll find no shortage of opportunities to fill your volunteer hours! More information can be found on the Volunteering page, <https://st-johnschool.org/volunteering-and-the-volunteer-pool/>.

**Parent Association (PA):** Every parent/guardian of a St. John student is a member of the Parent Association (PA) which holds monthly meetings. This is a wonderful opportunity to (1) be in the know about upcoming events (2) meet more parents and (3) sign up for volunteer opportunities. This team supports teachers, communicates to parents, organizes events and more. More information can be found online at <https://parentassociation.st-johnschool.org>.

**Uniforms:** . Logo sweatshirts, t-shirts and spirit wear can be ordered through the Online Uniform and Spirit Store, <https://st-johnschool.org/st-john-school-logo-gear>. Plaid jumpers and skirts are purchased through Dennis Uniforms, <https://www.dennisuniform.com/schools/XTJ405>. Other items can be bought at retailers if they are similar in color and style, and many stores in the area carry them. Before you purchase new uniform items, check out the Uniform Exchange which is available throughout the year. With gently worn items, it is a well-stocked resource for filling out the school wardrobe. Look for "Uniform Information" on the New Family Info page, <https://st-johnschool.org/welcome-to-st-john-school>.

**Back to School BBQ:** The Back to School BBQ is a fun celebration for all families to kick off the year! The Parent Association sponsors dinner with a dessert contest for all interested participants. Bring some chairs or blankets and join the fun on the playground. There will be a new family section so join us, meet new friends and have fun!

**Jog-a-thon,** <http://jogathon.st-johnschool.org>: This is the first fundraiser of the year, and information comes out quickly. Each family is asked to secure \$100 in donations, which can either be pledged as flat amounts or per lap. Throughout the day, each grade takes to the playground (PK-3rd) or adjoining block around Egan Hall (4th-8th) and runs for 30 min. It's a fun event that includes raffles, music and free dress

for the kids the day of, including crazy hair and hats! It's a great opportunity for parents to volunteer: help with set-up, hand out snacks, mark off laps or cheer on your kids!

**CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) Athletics:** CYO is a great way to offer children exposure to a variety of sports in a competitive, fair and understanding atmosphere. Our goal is to inspire children to be active and find the sports they can enjoy for a lifetime. Every family with children, regardless of ability to pay, who is a member of the Parish or school can participate in CYO sports. More information about CYO Athletics can be found here: <https://st-johnschool.org/student-activities/athletics-2/>

**Endowment Event:** Each fall, the community hosts a celebration to benefit the school endowment. The venue and details vary from year to year, but it is usually a social hour and dinner with a brief program, followed by dancing and more socializing. Prior venues include Fremont Studios, Tom Douglas' Palace Kitchen, and Ethan Stowell's Cortina Restaurant. The program focuses on recognizing a distinguished graduate or faculty. There is an "ask" for guests to donate directly to the school endowment. This event is open to all and attracts both current families, young adult graduates and alumni parents.

**Catholic Schools Week:** Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States and around the world. St. John School observes CSW with Masses and activities, such as the St. John Open House, 'Dress Like A Teacher Day' and the Grades 3-8 Spelling Bee, to celebrate our community. CSW culminates in the much beloved spirit day - Purple and Gold Day – where our students are the guests of honor!

**Auction:** Held in the spring, the auction is our most important fundraiser of the year and requires everyone's participation. As part of your school commitment, all families are expected to procure \$250 worth of items or cash. It is not recommended that you purchase items but rather solicit businesses for donations or contribute to class items. Your donation can also be something that you do for work or a hobby. Perhaps you are a great baker and will provide a dozen cupcakes every month for a year. All of these options go towards your \$250 contribution, or you may provide cash, which the auction team will put towards a package. Each grade has an auction liaison who will be your contact for information.

The auction has a live and online component. The live auction is a fun, adults-only night with dinner, drinks, dancing and prizes. You must purchase tickets to the live auction, and certain items will only be available that night, including class art projects. If you cannot make it to the live auction, there are great items on which to bid through the online auction. You can take a look at last year's auction [here](#).

**Other Events:** Other events open to both school and parish families throughout the year include Blessing of the Backpacks Mass (September), Coffee & Donuts, and the School's Out-Grill's Out BBQ (June). There are lots of opportunities to socialize with fellow parents and parishioners as well as to volunteer!

**Hot Lunch Program, <https://st-johnschool.org/hot-lunch>:** St. John's has the best hot lunch in Seattle. The Kitchen Team prepares lunches using fresh ingredients Monday through Friday, with one Monday per month served by Emerald City Hot Dogs, and one Monday per month set aside as a fundraiser that supports our mission work in Kenya and Peru. All ordering takes place monthly via an online portal found on the school website. The lunchroom is a great place to volunteer - with the bonus of a free tasty lunch!

Still reading? We know we've covered a lot of information here. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your buddy family or email Jonna Skokan, Director of Admissions and Development at [jskokan@st-johnschool.org](mailto:jskokan@st-johnschool.org).

We look forward to seeing you in and around school!