



St. John

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“2009 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence”

St. John Regional Catholic School Receives Blue Ribbon School Designation



St. John Regional Catholic School has been named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School. The announcement was made this past September by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. St. John is one of 50 private schools from across the country receiving this prestigious honor. A total of 321 schools, including public and private, were named to the 2009 list. The 2009 Blue Ribbon Schools were honored at an awards ceremony on November 3 at the Omni

Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior, or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students. As a high performing school, St. John Regional has demonstrated the achievement of its students, at the highest grade tested, as placing in the top ten percent of schools on nationally normed tests in reading and mathematics.



Left to right: Paul Fer, assistant principal; Bishop Mitch Rozanski; Karen Smith, principal.

According to St. John Principal, Mrs. Karen Smith, “This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff. At St. John, we are constantly striving to ensure that the academic program we deliver meets the needs of our students, while encouraging them to do their best. We use data from our test scores to help improve instruction for all our students.”

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America’s most successful schools. In 2002, the program was renewed to bring it in line with the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act. A total of 413 schools nationwide can be nominated. St. John was nominated by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) who then forwarded the application to the U.S. Department of Education.

St. John Celebrates in Blue Ribbon Style!

It was a day to remember for faculty, staff, students, parents, and guests. A special prayer service and ceremony were held on November 6 in McElroy Hall, just days after the Blue Ribbon award was presented to Mrs. Smith and Mr. Fer in Washington, D.C. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students “planted” blue pinwheels along the school driveway to welcome guests. Balloon archways and hundreds of stars lined the

hallways and ceilings leading to the celebration. Girls dressed in their uniforms processed down the aisle with blue ribbon streamers as a banner signifying students’ dreams followed behind them.

The Ft. Detrick color guard was summoned to post the colors on the stage with much pomp and circumstance. Cearrah Sherman, Student Council president, said the opening prayer. Mr. Paul Fer, assistant principal, provided the welcoming address. Michael Grus, National Junior Honor Society president, read the Gospel passage.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Karen Smith, principal, announced that she knew St. John’s had the potential to be a Blue Ribbon School. She said, “I knew this because of the dedicated faculty, hard-working students, and supportive parents all necessary components for a Blue Ribbon School.” Ms. Maureen Dowling, acting director, Office of Non-Public Schools, U.S. Department of Education, addressed the students. The Blue Ribbon flag was presented by Bishop Mitch Rozanski and the Blue Ribbon plaque by Dr. Ronald Valenti, executive director, Division of Catholic Schools. Also in attendance were Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger, Frederick County Commissioners President, Mrs. Jan Gardner, and State Senator and St. John Distinguished Graduate, Alex Mooney. Reverend Michael Jendrek, pastor, St. Ignatius of Loyola parish in Ijamsville, provided the closing prayer.

After the ceremony, a reception was held for distinguished guests, faculty and staff at St. Timothy’s in Walkersville. The parish hall was the perfect setting for a celebratory luncheon capping off a joyous day for the St. John community.



Left to right: Karen Smith, principal; Aba S. Kumi, director, Blue Ribbon Schools Program, U.S. Dept. of Education; Paul Fer, assistant principal.





Report to Donors

2008-2009 Annual Fund

St. John's Annual Fund raised \$15,898.24 in contributions which benefited tuition assistance. St. John's gratefully acknowledges the following donors who made gifts in support of the Annual Fund between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

(See "Key/Affiliations" legends below for designations)

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The **Roster of Donors** includes annual gifts from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, but mistakes occasionally occur despite our best efforts. If an error has been made, we apologize and ask that you contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 301-695-9358.

Key/Affiliations:

P = Parent F/S = Faculty/Staff RP = Regional Parishioner
GP = Grandparent B = Board Member A = Alumni



**Mrs. Smith's Remarks
Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony
Friday, November 6, 2009**

*Good, Better, Best!
Never let it rest!
Until the good is better,
And the better is best!*

While Mr. Fer and I were in Washington, D.C. to receive the Blue Ribbon Award earlier this week, we were reminded over and over again that St. John Regional Catholic School is now among the best in the country. That is something I have known for a long time, but it is certainly gratifying when the U.S. Department of Education knows it too!

I don't think that I fully realized the magnitude of what we have accomplished until I was actually seated in the ballroom with the representatives of the other 320 schools who were also awarded a Blue Ribbon this year. We were reminded that there are 132,000 schools across this country and that only 321 had been chosen to be members of the "Blue Ribbon Class of 2009!" That is less than half of a percent!

SJRCS not only met but exceeded the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence eligibility guidelines in part because our students scored in the top 10 percent of the U.S. on the Stanford 10 standardized tests that the students in grades 3-8 take each spring. But test scores are only one criterion on which a school is evaluated. Other criteria include: student focus and support; school organization and culture; challenging standards and curriculum; active teaching and learning; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success. Our Blue Ribbon School application had to demonstrate how our school met those criteria comprehensively and how we use them for setting goals for ongoing improvement.

Some might think that the journey to this award started with the application process that began last fall. But, in reality, it started before that. Many years ago I felt that what we do here at SJRCS each and every day was worthy of a Blue Ribbon. During the interview process when I applied to become the principal of SJRCS, I shared with the search committee that my vision for our school was that I knew that one day we could become a Blue Ribbon school. I knew this because of the dedicated faculty, hard-working students, and supportive parents that we have here – all necessary components for a Blue Ribbon school.

St. John first opened its doors on November 3, 1829. Today, we celebrate 180 years of excellence in Catholic education grounded in a curriculum that fosters spiritual growth, intellectual challenge, and service to the community. St. John Regional Catholic School is the first Catholic school in Frederick County to join only twelve other Archdiocesan schools that have received this prestigious award.

This Blue Ribbon is shared by the students, faculty, staff, and parents who all contribute to making our school faith-filled and academically excellent year after year. It is appropriate that we reached this goal during this school year, when we have chosen "Dreams" as our theme. All of the stars that are suspended from our hallway ceilings are reminders of the dreams that all of us possess. They are symbols of what we hold in our hearts as goals and wishes for the future. Henry David Thoreau reminds us to "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!" Today is an example of how moving in the direction of your dreams can lead to accomplishments even more than you ever imagined.

So, boys and girls, where do we go from here? We continue to do what we do every day: we pray and work together, we work hard, we reach out a helping hand to others, and above all, we thank God every day for all that he has bestowed upon us. Thank you!



Ft. Detrick color guard presents colors



Ms. Maureen Dowling, U.S. Dept. of Education



Students in procession with blue ribbons



Dr. Ronald Valenti, Archdiocese of Baltimore



County Commissioners President Mrs. Jan Gardner presents County proclamation to Mr. Fer and Mrs. Smith



"Sticktime" Band



Left to right: Philip Brown, Ann Brown, Mary Drawbaugh and Elizabeth Bracey



Fr. Keith Boisvert, Fr. Lawrence Frazier, Bishop Rozanski, and Fr. Andy Aaron toast the Blue Ribbon award.

As a thank you to parents for all they do for St. John's, a special evening of dancing, food, and fun was given in their honor on November 15. McElroy Hall was decorated in blue and over 100 parents danced to the blues/rock of the Sticktime band. Brewer's Alley supplied the "brews" and Ledo Pizza and Buffalo Wild Wings supplied the appetizers.

Blue Ribbon Sponsors Provide Funding

Achieving Blue Ribbon status requires celebration and recognition for the students, faculty, and parents. Thanks to local businesses and supporters of St. John's, the school has been able to have many events in honor of our Blue Ribbon award. As stated by one Blue Ribbon sponsor, Frederick County Bank President & CEO, Mr. Marty Lopera, "Frederick County Bank is extremely proud to support St. John Regional Catholic School's Blue Ribbon School Award. As a true community bank, we are always pleased to give back to worthy organizations that help make our local community a better place to live and work for everyone." The following individuals/companies have provided monetary and/or in-kind donations to the 2009 Blue Ribbon Fund:

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Plamondon, Sr.
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Thank you to the following 2009 Spring Fair sponsors:

The generous support of the following organizations and individuals, which together have contributed in cash and services, contributes immeasurably to the success of the SJRCS Fair. We thank them and urge school families and friends of SJRCS to support these businesses:

Gold Sponsor

Greentree Homes
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SJRCS 19th Annual Spring Fair "Your Passport to the World"

The weekend of May 30th & 31st, 2009 was a very special one at St. John's as it was the culmination of a year of events that not only raised funds, but also brought together parents, family members, faculty and staff whose combined efforts helped make each event successful and FUN!

We started with the Shopping Social in November, chaired by Barbara Hood and Rani Pellet. It was a great evening of shopping and socializing with proceeds benefitting the Spring Gala and Auction.

Auction chairs Barbara Hood and Cindy & Willie Kaarid enlisted the help of master party planner Karen Maduschke to carry out the Venetian Masquerade theme and she did not disappoint as Martin's Walkersville was transformed by brilliant jewel-toned decorations, festive lighting and unique harlequin mask table centerpieces. The atmosphere was further enhanced by the many guests dressed in style and sporting their own masks. A station was set up for a photo opportunity and Dan Whalen took many great photos to capture the moment. The success of this event was due to the numerous volunteers and the generous donations that were packaged together to produce over one hundred bid items. Our Solicitation Team leader Sherrill Stitz and her amazing group of volunteers went above and beyond and brought in fabulous items donated by our local businesses. The total raised was even more impressive considering the economy; and it again highlights the spirit of giving and generosity that is the hallmark of the St. John's community. We would like to send a huge thank you to all of our donors, especially Greentree Homes, for providing a full tuition for the third consecutive year, and to Mrs. Kelly Esposito for her winning bid. Thank you to Karen Maduschke and her Gala team, to Sherrill and her group of solicitors, to our auctioneers, Bill Ballantyne and Tom Thomas, to Dan Whalen, to the Benedicts for providing a smooth check out and, of course, to every guest who attended. It was a wonderful evening!

Leading up to fair weekend was a series of events including the Preakness, our annual 5K Run and the ever-popular Baskets & Bags Bingo. Thanks to Dave Hood who led a busload of volunteers who served as ushers at the annual running of the Preakness, raising over \$1,600! Lisa Hickman and her team produced another successful 5K event with a record number of participants all sporting custom visors designed for the race. And our Bingo event was another great success, thanks to Molly Crowley, Jean Ballantyne and Karen Breen, and our beautiful Vera Bradley bags and Longaberger baskets that were filled with great items all donated by members of our St. John's family.

The theme for the Spring Fair was "Your Passport to the World" and it was a truly memorable weekend right down to the gorgeous weather! Celebrating the cultural diversity of our community, the theme was carried out through the international decorations, the entertainment (Irish dancers and Scottish drum corps) and transformation of the game booths into different countries sponsored by St. John parents. Each child was given a passport that was stamped as they travelled around the world playing games and learning about life in different cultures. This would not have been possible without the time and efforts of each family that made every booth spectacular. THANK YOU to Liz Kim (South Korea), Ivan and Pilar Taminéz (Columbia), Nektaria Kousoulas (Greece), Elgi Kaarid (Estonia), Gabrielle Penate-Alayza (Peru), Jo Nysten and Anne Brown (U.K.), the Agyako-Wiredu family (Nigeria) and Dan Wagner (Philippines).

Fair chairs Dave & Barbara Hood and Cindy & Willie Kaarid would like to thank everyone involved in each of these events, and for allowing them the opportunity to meet so many of the wonderful families that make up our school community. It was an unforgettable experience.

ST. JOHN'S RECEIVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD

The Frederick County Chamber of Commerce recognized St. John Regional Catholic School as one of seven businesses/organizations to receive their annual SUMMIT Award. The award, which recognizes member businesses and organizations of any size in a variety of categories, was presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting last March. St. John's received the award in the Partner in Business category. The Partner in Business Award is presented to a nonprofit organization that strives to make Frederick County a better place by developing effective partnerships within the business community. St. John's has developed a special partnership with the residents of Homewood at Crumland Farms retirement



community. As part of the Light of Hope Service Group, St. John students, in grades 5-8, visit with residents at the facility and provide entertainment, crafts, and fellowship programs.

Younger students, in 1st and 2nd grades, also participate in

the Sunshine Readers Program, visiting Homewood twice each month to read to residents. In addition to encouraging students to build reading skills and engage in service activities, St. John's also improves the community by forming relationships that bridge generations. According to Mrs. Liz O'Donoghue, teacher and moderator of the Light of Hope Service Group, "The children get a lot out of the visits to Homewood. I see the patients there benefiting from their nurturing and caring attitudes."





Alumni News

What's new with you? Tell us more about yourself since you graduated from St. John's. Visit our new school website www.sjrns.org and click on Alumni Info. Many alumni have indicated an interest in having reunions. Please help us update our records and make contact with you by filling out the on-line form and e-mailing it back to the Development office. It's that easy! We look forward to hearing from you!

Congratulations to the following SJRCS graduates now attending Saint John's Catholic Prep who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society: Marykate O'Donoghue, Chloe Hebrank, Lauren O'Boyle, Matthew Crum, Mason Kersey, Hannah Geerlings, and Kathleen Morrill.

Michael Rempe, Class of '79 Receives Distinguished Graduate Award

It's become an annual tradition at the June graduation ceremony to present an award to a distinguished St. John graduate. This award, sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association, provides recognition to Catholic elementary school alumni who have demonstrated personal and professional achievements in their adult lives.

This year's award was presented to Mr. Michael Rempe, class of 1979, on the 30th anniversary of his graduation from St. John's. He is one of 11 children who attended St. John's from 1967-1982. Mr. Rempe is the president and owner of Clearwater Landscape and Nursery, and a member of St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church in Ijamsville. He has two children who currently attend St. John's and one son, Andrew, who graduated in 2007. His daughter Jessica was one of 58 eighth graders in the 2009 graduating class. Mr. Rempe's generous nature both as a St. John parent and alum, as well as his active involvement in the Frederick community is well-known. In 2001, he contributed to a community revitalization effort, the East Third Street Park project. He has also volunteered his landscaping services for his church, St. Ignatius of Loyola, at St. John's School on Second St., and at the new school. He also serves as a Boy Scout leader and helps with Eagle Scout projects. He and his wife Patty and their children reside in Ijamsville.



Left to right: Michael Rempe, Class of '79; son, John Rempe; Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement



Congratulations Class of 2009

Fifty-eight eighth grade students graduated from St. John's on June 5. A Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated at the school by Rev. Dan Goulet, associate pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church, assisted by the Rev. Dick Murphy, pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Msgr. John Dietzenbach, pastor, St. Peter the Apostle Church, and Fr. Michael Jendrek, pastor, St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. The Mass was followed by a graduation and awards ceremony. Mrs. Karen Smith, principal, presented awards and certificates to the students and was assisted by Mr. Paul Fer, assistant principal, Mrs. Sue Mallak, and Mrs. Ethel Brauer, both eighth grade teachers. The Valedictorian was Victoria Glover and the Salutatorian was Nicholas Leggit. The Principal's Award for School Spirit was presented to Daniel Moore and the Catholic Girl Award was presented to Mary Reich by Eileen Borowski of the Catholic Daughters of America. The 2009 Distinguished Graduate award was presented to Michael Rempe, class of '79, by Jean Wright, director of institutional advancement.

Congratulations to the following students:

Mikaela Bordali, Matthew Breen, Megan Breen, Nicole Bruno*, Brianna Celestina*, Matthew Colket*, Thomas Colket*, Michael Corr, Chandler Davenport, Matthew Erculiani*, Cody Fabiszak, Nicholas Frank, Victoria Glover*, Kile Grant, Christine Hagan, Erin Hayden, Emily Hicken*, Brian Hickman, Christopher Hopkins, Caroline Hyde*, Benjamin Jacks, Olivia Janaskie, Rachel Keenan*, Molly Kelly, Daniella Kim, Kyle Knapp, Nicholas Kyak, Madeline Lawton*, Jane Leberherz, Nicholas Leggit*, Juliana Llop, Marissa Maduschke, Garrett Martin, Daniel Moore*, Jake Morton, Quortney Moulton, Chloe Ossias, Mairead Paxton*, Stephanie Pennington*, Matthew Peters, Ashley Phelan, Christopher Pliszak*, Sean Quigg, Siesar Reeves, Mary Reich*, Jessica Rempe, Joshua Rivera, Julie Rivera, Hope Roberts, Zachary Roskowinski*, Daniel Russo*, Alexander Siegert, Ryan Sonn, Jacob Spessard*, Maria Taminez, Jordan Turnbaugh, Christopher Vargas, Matthew Wright*.

* Indicates National Junior Honor Society Member

2008-2009 Student Awards



Harry Decker Essay Contest

Top winners - Cecilia Brace, Michael Hepburn, Catherine Hyde. Honorable mention: Charlotte Brown.

FSK American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest

1st Place: Kelsey Bealmeear
2nd Place: Chris Hopkins
3rd Place: Mary Charlotte Wasserbach and Molly Kelly.

Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 142, Americanism Patriotism Essay Contest

Kathryn Tighe - 2nd place, National level

Catholic Daughters Education Contest

Abigail Spessard - 2nd place, div. 1 essay
Christoph Berkhausen - 3rd place, div. 1 essay

Victoria Glover - 1st place, div. 1 art
Kailey Rhone - 3rd place, div. II poetry
Dominic Lagana - 1st place, div. II essay; Bobby Brennan - 2nd place, div. II photography

Marissa Maduschke - 2nd place, div. II art
Josh Rivera - 1st place, division II, music
Matthew Brown, 1st place, div. 1, essay

Catholic Daughters Education Contest National Award Winners

Victoria Glover, 2nd Place, div. 1 art
Dominic Lagana, 3rd place, div. II essay

Ladies Auxiliary of the Maryland Ancient Order of Hibernians Essay Contest

1st Place: Emily Hicken
2nd Place: Chloe Ossias
3rd Place: Summer Seeley
Honorable Mention: Megan Breen

Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

State winners
2nd Place - Greta Dylus
3rd Place - Hee Yeon Chang.

Frederick County History Bee

1st Place Alternate - 4th grade: Zachary Kasica.

Optimist Club Oratorical Competition Regional Level

2nd Place: John Curtin, Nicole Cederdahl
3rd Place: Michael Grus

Frederick News Post Design an Ad Contest

Quortney Moulton, Julie Rivera.

Daughters of the American Revolution Frederick Chapter

American History Essay Contest
1st Place: Logan Kamer.

Archdiocese of Baltimore Celebration of the Arts

"A Night at the Meyerhoff":

Art - Matthew Erculiani, Christopher Hopkins, Bobby Brennan
Representation Band - Matthew Wright, Garrett Martin, Nick Pollak, Nathaniel Bowman, Timothy Johnson, Leslie Lewis.

WETA Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest

First Place: Alex Ismael.

Monocacy Youth Basketball Championship

1st Place - U14 boys
1st Place - U12 boys

2009 Maryland Independent Cheerleading Competition - Middle School Division

1st Place: SJRCS Cheerleaders

Presidential Physical Fitness Award

Ryan Turnbaugh, Joseph McNulty, Jamie Stitz, Bryce Johnson, Madeline Cederdahl, Tyson Seeley, Maciah Thomas, Chase Tyler.

Teachers Receive Awards

Three St. John teachers were honored at the Archdiocesan Annual Teachers Banquet. Mrs. Sue Mallak was presented with the Archbishop's Award for Teaching Excellence. Mrs. Mallak has been a middle school Language Arts teacher at St. John's for seven years. She has also been moderator for National Junior Honor Society, member of the Middle States committee, and is the faculty liaison to the Maryland Catholic Conference. She is known to her students for her love of Shakespeare. Whether they are reading and discussing a novel or short story, Mrs. Mallak encourages her students to always dig deeper. Also honored for their service to Catholic education were Mrs. Geri Gramil (20 years), and Mrs. Cathy Ellis (10 years).



Mrs. Geri Gramil, Mrs. Sue Mallak,
Mrs. Cathy Ellis



FOCE President, Al Edwards; Mrs. Lisa Cutchin; FOCE Executive Director, Mrs. Caroline Pugh.

Each year, Friends of Catholic Education (FOCE) sponsors a dinner for the faculty and staffs of all Frederick County Catholic Schools. The highlight of the evening is the recognition of one faculty member from each school who embodies the qualities of an exemplary teacher. The 2009 FOCE St. John Teacher of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Lisa Cutchin. A member of the faculty since 2004, she is the school's art teacher and one of the QUEST enrichment teachers.



St. John Regional Catholic School
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St. John Regional Catholic School
2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Catholic Schools Week	January 31 – February 5
Open House	February 4 - 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Financial Aid Information Night	February 25 - 7 p.m.
School in Action Night (Gr. 4-8)	March 10 - 7 p.m.
Grandparent’s Day	May 7
H.S.A. Auction & Social	May 8
Fair Weekend	June 5-6

Giving to the 2009-2010 Annual Fund

The 2009-2010 Annual Fund campaign is now underway. Please visit our website www.sjracs.org for more information about making a contribution to this year’s fund which benefits tuition assistance. Please consider making an investment in our mission to provide quality education, in the tradition of the Catholic Church, for all who seek it. All contributions, whether large or small, could make a difference for a family who may not otherwise be able to stay at our school or a new family who is considering enrollment. These economic times are challenging and we thank you in advance for your prayers and support. The Annual Fund campaign runs through June 30, 2010 and all contributions are fully tax-deductible.

