

The **EAGLE CONNECTION**

ALL-SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ESP & HOW TO SCHEDULE IT

Dear St. John's Families,

Two ESP options are available, and you may choose the one that best meets your needs.

1. Pay-As-You-Go | \$15 per day

If your ESP needs change from week to week—or you only need care occasionally—Pay-As-You-Go may be your best fit.

If you choose this option, you must schedule your children through Sign Up Genius by each Thursday evening for the upcoming week. Use ESP as often or as little as your family needs.

2. Subscription | \$12 per day for K-8; \$15 per day for Preschool

If you know you'll need ESP on the same days each week, the Subscription option makes scheduling much easier. For example, if you subscribe for Monday, Wednesday, Friday, we'll place your child on the ESP schedule each week for those days, and you get to skip having to use Sign Up Genius. You'll then be billed for those three weekly days for the month automatically through FACTS. You may register for the subscription option [HERE](#).

If your family's needs change during the year (for example, due to athletic schedules), you may request an adjustment to your regular subscription days. Changes will be approved as space and staffing allow. And if you need an occasional extra day, simply use [Sign Up Genius](#) to schedule them for the price of \$15 (be sure you schedule them before the weekly deadline).

Finding the Weekly ESP Sign-Up

ESP Sign Up Genius links are always be available on our website under "Current Families." Simply scroll down to the 2026/27 ESP tile and click on it. There is also a link included in the body of each email that sends The Eagle Connection newsletter each week, giving families another easy way to access the following (and future) week's sign-up.

A Couple Helpful Reminders

- You may choose different ESP options for different children if needed.
- Because ESP staffing is based on the number of children scheduled, a \$5 no-show fee will apply when a child is scheduled for ESP but does not attend.

For more information or for questions, be sure to see the handout included with this newsletter or reach out to our ESP Director Kayla Harken at Kayla.Harken@stjlutheralschool.org.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT 2026

- Back-to-School Night is Wednesday, August 26 from 4:00-7:00pm. You're welcome to stop by any time. This is a very important event, and **we'd love for 100% participation from all Preschool-8th grade families.**
- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Dr. Skura will be presenting on each half-hour (4:30pm, 5:30pm, and 6:30pm) in the cafeteria on important info for the upcoming school year. Please plan to attend one session.
- **ALSO NEW THIS YEAR!** Mr. Peterman will be sharing important Washington D.C. information for all 7th and 8th grade families at 6pm in his classroom.
- The Board of Education will be serving brats and hot dogs for dinner!
- School pictures through Slow Road Photography will take place upstairs in the auxiliary room.
- Info tables will be set up to share all kinds of important information, such as hot lunch, ESP, bus, band, athletics, PTL, the Board of Education, wellness committee, and more. This is also a perfect time to learn about various ways to volunteer!
- You may drop off your child's school supplies in his/her classroom and pick up textbooks (some of which may need to be covered prior to the start of school).
- St. John's t-shirts and other STJ swag will be available for both free and purchase.
- Multiple photo opps will be available throughout the building.

**Back-to-School is a very fun and purposeful event,
and we hope to see all of you NEXT WEEK!**

TELL THE TEACHER MORE - BE SURE YOU SIGN UP

Parents, teachers are sending out their Tell the Teacher More links - be sure to sign up!

OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE

Our opening chapel service will be on Monday, August 31st at 8:30am. All parents and family are welcome to attend!



CHAPEL OFFERING PROJECTS

Each term we adopt a special project to support with our weekly chapel offering. We hope you'll help us support these incredibly worthwhile projects!

- **Term 1:** Supporting Gillette Children's Hospital with the Jared Box Project
- **Term 2:** Hygiene kits and supplies for the homeless encampments
- **Term 3:** Flowers and decorated pots for St. John's homebound members

RETURNING FAMILIES, HAVE YOU COMPLETED THIS?

Dr. Skura sent an email last week to all returning families regarding needed online forms. Please follow the instructions and complete these requirements before Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 26th.

ESP FAMILIES, READ THIS!!

ESP hopes to provide full-day care on many of the days when school is scheduled to be closed. However, there must be at least 12 students scheduled two weeks before the closure *and* there must be sufficient staff available.

Take a moment now to complete this very short form to let Mrs. Harken know if you need ESP while school is closed on October 15 and 16. The deadline to do so is 9am Thursday, October 1st.

FALL ADULT CATECHISM CLASS - ALL WELCOME

Are you looking to become a communicant member of St. John's? Are you a recent LCMS transfer who would like to get to know others here in a small-class environment? Are you a long-time member who would like a Catechism-refresh? Now is your chance! If you or someone you know would like to take Pastor Moss's Adult Catechism Class, please contact him at pastor.moss@stjlutheran.org ASAP so we can schedule and start another ~12 week session.

26/27 STUDENT COUNCIL

Parents, please make sure your 3rd - 8th grade children know that we'll be gearing up for a new Student Council soon after school begins.

Students in grades 3rd-8th may run for class representatives; students in 7th and 8th grade may run for offices.

- **Sept. 14-18:** Campaigning and posters
- **Sept. 21-25:** Voting
- **Sept. 25:** Election results announced

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for St. John's Chipotle Night on Tuesday, September 29, from 4-8 p.m. at the Maple Grove location on 70th Way. Chipotle will donate 25% of qualifying event sales to our school, so plan to give yourself a night off from cooking while supporting St. John's!



PS-8TH GRADE MUSIC PERFORMANCE DATES

All students in preschool-8th grade participate in singing in chapel at school and/or Sunday Divine Service at St. John's Lutheran Church.

- **Friday, Oct. 2: 5th-8th** sing in chapel
- **Sunday, Oct. 4: 5th-8th** sing in the 10:30am Divine Service
- **Friday, Oct. 9: K-4** sing in chapel
- **Sunday, Oct. 11: K-4** sing in the 8am Divine Service
- **Friday, Nov. 6: 8th grade** handbells perform in chapel
- **Sunday, Nov. 8: 8th grade** handbells perform in 10:30am Divine Service
- **Friday, Nov. 13: All students** sing at Grandparents Day program
- **Thursday, Dec. 17: All students** sing in the Christmas Concert (1:30 & 6pm)
- **Sunday, Jan. 24: All students** sing in the 8am or 10:30am Divine Service
- **Friday, Mar. 5: 5th-6th** sings in chapel
- **Sunday, Mar. 7: 5th-6th** sings in the 8am Divine Service
- **Friday, Mar. 12: All students** participate in school musical (1:30 & 6pm)
- **Friday, Apr. 23: K-4** sings in chapel
- **Sunday, Apr. 25: K-4** sings in 10:30am Divine Service
- **Friday, May 21: 8th grade** handbells perform in chapel
- **Sunday, May 23: 8th grade** handbells perform in 8am Divine Service
- **Thursday, May 27: All students** perform at closing service

Students singing on Sundays should be in the music room at 7:45am if singing at 8am or at 10:15am if singing at 10:30am.

If you have any questions you may contact Sarah.Carter@stjlutheran.org if your child is in K-2 or Katie.Moss@stjlutheran.org if your child is in 3-8. Preschool families may reach out to their child's teacher.

IMPORTANT LITTLE UPDATES

- We will NOT be serving lunch at Grandparents Day this year. It will still be a half-day of school, however.
- Small Business Day will take place on Friday, December 4 instead of November as in years past and will be a great opportunity for students to do some Christmas shopping!
- We're going back to paper field trip forms!



JOIN US IN THE PARADES!

St. John's is participating in the Osseo Lions Roar parades this summer, and we want YOU to join us!

Grab your St. John's gear, put on some comfortable walking shoes, and enjoy a fun evening together as we connect with the community and share a little St. John's spirit. Light snacks and water will be available.

Who: Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, current, future, and former students are all welcome!! Feel free to participate in one or both of the parades!

What: We'll have a decorated trailer pulled by a truck.

When: Sat., Sep. 12 at 12:00pm

Sign up to participate [here](#).

TEE UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Grab your clubs and gather your foursome for the 13th Annual St. John's Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 19, at Rush Creek Golf Club! Enjoy a fun day of golf, friendly competition, dinner, and prizes—all while supporting tuition assistance and school improvement projects at St. John's. Registration is \$150 per golfer.

Register today and join us on the course!

THE SPIRIT STORE IS OPEN!

Start the year off strong with new STJ spirit wear! Our Spirit Store is currently open now through September 6th, and fun, new merchandise has been added. Orders placed by the Sept. 6th closing date will arrive at St. John's a few weeks after the start of school.

NO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 4 & 7

Parents, keep in mind that the first two weeks of the 2026/27 school year are short - only four days long. There will be no school on Friday, September 4th and Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

UNCLAIMED INSTRUMENTS

A number of used, unclaimed band instruments are in the music room. If one of these instruments is yours and you want it back, please **e-mail Katie Moss ASAP** (katie.moss@stjlutheranschool.org). If you are a new band student interested in trying one of these instruments, please speak with Nelson Penserga at Back-to-School Night regarding their condition.

Unclaimed instruments will be donated at the start of the school year.

- 1 French horn (case locked)
- 2 trombones
- 1 flute
- 2 clarinets
- 3 alto saxophones
- 1 trumpet
- 1 violin (3/4 size)



NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Friday, August 21

Monday, August 24

- Tell the Teacher More Days
- 7pm Divine Service

Tuesday, August 25

- Last day of Summer ESP
- Tell the Teacher More Days

Wednesday, August 26

- 4pm Back-to-School Night
- Tell the Teacher More Days

Thursday, August 27

- Tell the Teacher More Days

Friday, August 28

- Tell the Teacher More Days

Saturday, August 29

- 10am Preschool Playdate at the Park
 - Heritage Park - Corcoran

Sunday, August 30

- 8 & 10:30am Divine Service

Monday, August 31

- 7am Doors open for K-8th grade
- 7:30am Breakfast served
- 7:30am Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast for parents
- 8am School begins!
- 3pm Dismissal/ESP

COMING SOON

Mark your calendars now with these important dates



- **September 3:** Student Council nominations open
- **September 4:** No school
- **September 7:** Labor Day - No school
- **September 8:** 1st day of school for 5-day preschoolers; Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast
- **September 9:** 1st day of school for 2- and 3-day preschoolers; Boohoo/Yahoo Breakfast
- **September 10:** School pictures available online
- **September 11:** Student Council nominations due
- **September 12:** Osseo Lions Roar parade

Mrs. Anderson says...

Our building is
buzzing with
preparation!





SEPTEMBER 2026



This calendar is meant to be helpful; it is NOT the official school calendar. The [official school calendar](#) is located on our website.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 K-8 1 st day of school	1	2	3 StudentCo nominations open	4 NO SCHOOL	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL	8 5-day preschool 1 st day	9 2- & 3-day preschool 1 st day	10 School pictures available - check your email	11 StuCo nominations due	12 Osseo Lion's Roar Parade
13	14 StuCol campaigning	15 BOE meeting	16 5th/6th LIC trip	17	18	19 13th Annual Golf Tournament
20	21 StuCo voting & elections MAP testing begins	22	23	24	25 New StuCo announced	26
27	28 MAP testing continues	29 Chipotle fundraiser Feast of St. Michael DS	30	1	2	3

Notes

Athletic practices and events may be found [HERE](#).

StuCo = Student Council; DS = Divine Service

Be on the lookout for numerous **October** events, including

- Wellness Month
- PS field trip
- Mid-term
- MEA/Fall break
- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Trunk or Treat
- Picture retake day



STJL BOARD OF EDUCATION

The St. John's Lutheran School Board of Education consists of the the following:

- Chairperson: Bonnie Radintz
- Deacon & Vice Chair: Grant Birznieks
- Deacon: Gary Volberding
- Deacon: Stu Glock
- Secretary: Brenna Koehler
- Candace Fisher
- Davey Kulberg
- Jim Peterson
- Krista Anderson
- Ex officio: Kristen Skura
- Ex officio: Tori Kuehne

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

BOE agendas and approved minutes are available in FACTS.

WHERE DO I FIND...?

- [FACTS family portal](#) (Use code SJL-MN)
- [School calendars](#)
- [Hot lunch menu](#)
- [ESP sign up](#)
- [Continuous Connection survey](#)
- [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Join us for worship each Sunday at St. John's Lutheran Church!

- Divine Service 8:00 & 10:30am
- Adult Bible study 9:30am
- Sunday school 9:30am

QUICK REFERENCE

- Report absences, early dismissals, and late arrivals to attendance@stjlutheralschool.org
- Share your STJ pictures for use in the yearbook and social media to pictures@stjlutheralschool.org
- Request library book holds, ask our librarians questions, or request a new book to library@stjlutheran.org
- Volunteer to help in the library by clicking [HERE](#).

BE SURE TO FOLLOW US!



OUR MISSION

The mission of St. John's Lutheran School & Preschool is to nurture young people through God's Word, sound Lutheran doctrine and worship, and a strong academic foundation. Our goal is to equip students to lead their lives as God's baptized children in this world and to carry out Christ's command to "make disciples of all nations."

(Matthew 28:19)

Extended School Program (ESP) – Frequently Asked Questions

K-8 ACADEMIC YEAR ESP

1. What ESP options are available during the school year?

Families may choose between two options:

Pay-As-You-Go

- \$15 per day
- Sign up only for the days you need – use ESP as much or as little as you please
- Requires parents to schedule their usage via **Sign Up Genius by each Thursday evening** for the upcoming week
- This option works just like our current system and is best for families who do not have a specific need for after school care or only use need ESP occasionally

Subscription / Auto-Bill - (sign up below)

[Subscription Registration 26-27](#)

- \$12 per day
- Families choose specific weekly ESP days at the beginning of the school year
 - For example: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Those days will be billed monthly through FACTS.
 - For example: If you subscribe for three specific days each week, you'll be billed \$36 for each week that month
- No weekly sign-ups are required.
- Best for families who have a set work schedule and rely on ESP

regularly.

2. How does the subscription option work?

Families who select the subscription option will choose their regular, specific ESP days at the start of the school year (for example, every Monday and Wednesday). These days will automatically be scheduled and billed monthly through FACTS.

This option allows families to “set it and forget it” without needing to sign up each week.

3. What if I need ESP on a day that isn't part of my subscription schedule?

You may request an additional drop-in day if space is available. Drop-in days are billed at the \$15/day Pay-As-You-Go rate.

Drop-in days may be scheduled via Sign Up Genius or by emailing the ESP director.

4. Can my subscription days change during the school year?

Yes. If your family's needs change, you may request a subscription adjustment. Changes will be reviewed and approved as space and staffing allow.

Extended School Program (ESP) – Frequently Asked Questions

5. My child participates in athletics and/or afterschool clubs/events. How will this affect my subscription?

If your child's schedule changes significantly during a sports season or activity period, you may request an adjustment to your subscription schedule as needed.

6. What happens if my child doesn't attend on a day he/she has been scheduled for ESP (either subscription or pay-as-you-go option)?

Because staff were scheduled based on the schedules provided by families, a **\$5 no show fee** will apply for any child who does not attend on his/her scheduled days.

7. Do I still need to sign up for ESP if I choose the subscription option?

No. Families using the subscription option will **not need to sign up weekly**. Your child's schedule will already be set.

Families using **Pay-As-You-Go** will continue signing up for the days ESP are needed.

8. What if I have multiple children with different afterschool needs?

You may choose separate plans for separate children. If you have a set schedule for ESP for one child but only need ESP occasionally for the other child, feel free to choose the subscription option for the one and the pay-as-you-go option for the other.

9. What is the deadline to select the subscription option?

Families will be asked to choose their ESP plan before the start of the school year. The exact deadline will be communicated prior to the school year so we can plan staffing appropriately.

PRESCHOOL ACADEMIC YEAR ESP

10. How does ESP work for preschool students?

Preschool ESP is **\$15 per day**, regardless of whether families choose the Pay-As-You-Go or Subscription option. Otherwise, the program operates the same as the K–8 ESP program.

While the subscription option does not reduce the daily rate for preschool families, it still provides the convenience of a consistent weekly schedule without needing to sign up each week through SignUp Genius.

Extended School Program (ESP) – Frequently Asked Questions

11. Why is the subscription price higher for preschool children?

Preschool children require closer supervision and smaller staff-to-student ratios. In addition, preschool ESP must be kept separate from the K-8 ESP in order to meet licensing requirements. Because more staff are needed to safely care for younger children, the cost of preschool ESP is slightly higher.

NO SCHOOL DAY ESP OPTIONS

12. Will ESP be available on school days when school is closed (excluding weather-related closures)?

Our goal is to offer full-day ESP on most scheduled non-school days. However, availability will depend on adequate staffing and a minimum number of students registered in advance. The cost for these days is \$40 per child.

13. What are the minimum enrollment requirements for no-school day ESP?

At least **12 students must be registered two weeks in advance** for ESP to be offered on a no-school day.

If fewer than 12 students register by the deadline, families will be notified immediately and ESP will not be offered.

14. Which no-school days may be offered in ESP for the 2026/27 school year? Please watch for communication soon.

Questions? Please contact our ESP Director -

kayla.harken@stjlutherschool.org