

## **Saint John the Evangelist School - Overview - 2021**

Saint John the Evangelist School is a Roman Catholic PreK through Grade 8 parish school under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In a community of faith and with the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, our faculty and staff work together to develop each child to the best of their ability, spiritually, academically, artistically, socially, and physically in a nurturing environment that promotes living faith, academic excellence, leadership, and service within the Church community and society.

Located on the Broadneck Peninsula in Severna Park, Maryland, the school has a faculty of 55 teachers and staff and a student population of 506. Part of the Saint John the Evangelist Parish, the school along with the church have made an effort to develop a strong Green School culture.

Awarded Maryland Green School Certification in the spring of 2017, we believe it is our responsibility to develop students that are environmentally literate. Through integrated hands-on, inquiry-based instruction, students are empowered at school, home and in their communities to reduce pollution, decrease waste, increase habitat, limit carbon emissions, and create healthy learning and living environments.

Each year we continue to support successful and new initiatives to grow our Green School culture.

- Continuing since 2002, paper and garbage recycling occurs each day along with printer cartridge and cell phone recycling accruing multiple times per year.
- All home communications continue to be delivered electronically. Grade 5 -8 students have migrated to digital notebooks and grade 3-8 science textbooks are now accessed through Discovery Education on-line techbooks, reducing the amount of paper used by the school.
- Completed in 2018 all existing light fixtures in the auditorium, hallways and classrooms were replaced with energy efficient LED lights. This created a 26% savings in energy.
- January 2018 saw the opening of the Saint John the Evangelist Parish Activities Center (PAC). A 14,000 square foot energy efficient facility that includes a full-size gymnasium and gathering space. New green spaces surround the building.
- Two Educational Trails were cleared on the 17 acres of land adjacent to the current property acquired in 2016. The property includes forest, water, and bog areas. The first trail completed in 2018 includes signage and 2 separate gathering areas for instruction. The second completed in 2021 will include a platform along the water's edge to allow for water study.
- In 2019, the Saint John Bird Club was formed for students in grades 5-8 to learn about birds and their habitats. In 2020, a Bird Blind was added, built from recycled fencing, this allows for bird observation.
- Teachers continue to implement lessons that focus on environmental issues and education. Guest speakers and field trips are planned to reinforce these elements.
- Continuing since 2016, the school community participates in a yearly Earth Week Celebration. Each day of the week is given a theme that transcends the classroom. Activities were completed at home, in school at throughout the community. Even though virtual in 2020, the students and families participated in the 50 year anniversary celebration of Earth Day.
- In 2017, 2018 and 2019 Saint John has received a silver award from the Maryland PLANT Community Awards Program for planting and caring for trees.
- In the 2019, the students of Saint John held a Maryland themed dress down day where they collected \$795.00 to donate to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Saint John the Evangelist School takes pride in the initiatives that are initiated each year to expand our environmental education program and to serve as models of environmental sustainability. It is our goal, that the students of Saint John take responsibility for improving their environment and become true stewards of the earth that God has given us.