



THE COUGAR



Welcome Message from Mrs. Gardiner

Dear St. Jude Families,

WELCOME BACK to St. Jude the Apostle School!!!! We are excited to see our students arrive and fill our hallways with the hustle and bustle that has been absent over the summer break. I am happy to share with you the new faculty members that have joined our school community.

- *Megan Higginbotham – Pre-K Teacher
- *Tiffany Bowen – Kindergarten Teacher
- *Hannah Owens – Kindergarten Teacher
- *Maggie Callais – Kindergarten Teacher Assistant
- *Emily Delgado – Kindergarten Teacher Assistant
- *Brittany Thomas – First Grade Assistant
- *Libby Trahan – First Grade Assistant
- *Tanya Toon – Second Grade Assistant
- *Audry Allen – Third Grade Teacher
- *Melissa Dean – Mission Advancement Director
- *Mandy Cushing – Coordinator of Religious Education
- *Katie Turner – Librarian
- *Leigh Anne Wilbanks – Elementary Reading Teacher

Open House: This Sunday, August 13th, we will host our annual Cougar Fan Fair and Open House. **This is a parent only event.** The Cougar Fan Fair begins at 12:30 pm followed by a brief presentation by Mrs. Gardiner beginning at 1:00 pm. Classroom visits will begin after the presentation. Additionally, on Friday, August 11th, your child will bring home a copy of his/her schedule with the teacher's name, subjects, and room numbers as well as a map of the school.

Spring '23 Terra Nova Parent Reports: Parents may pick up their child's 2023 Terra Nova Parent Reports from his/her current homeroom teacher at Sunday's Open House.

Mass: On Tuesday, August 15th, we will celebrate our first school wide mass for grades 1st through 8th. **Due to the extreme heat, students are not required to wear the standard mass uniform.** Girls do not have to wear the white blouse under their jumper, and boys do not have to wear long pants.

Hurricane Season: Hurricane Season is upon us and although there are currently no forecasted storms, I did want to share with you the procedures for school closure in the event of bad weather conditions. Typically, all schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge follow the EBR schools. I will send out a message through email and text to alert our families of any necessary school closing. In the event schools are closed, **St. Jude School will implement our distance learning protocols and procedures. Implementing distance learning will prevent us from having to make up any missed school days.**

- Students in PreK-2nd grade will be given a packet of schoolwork along with directions for completing the work.
- Students in 3rd-8th grade will go into their Google Classroom for daily assignments. If a student has or uses an iPad to do schoolwork, he/she can download from the Apps Store the following apps: Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Sheets, and Google Docs.

General Illness: Students who have flu like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, sore throat, or any other general illness may not return to school until they have been symptom and **fever free (without medicine) for at least 24 hours.** If a student checks out because he/she is not feeling well, he/she must have a note from the physician as to when the student may return.

Labor Day: Monday, September 4th— school will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Child Protection Volunteers: Anyone wishing to volunteer at St. Jude School in ANY CAPACITY (For example, as a Coach, Room Parent, chaperone for party/field trip, cafeteria or library volunteer, etc.) must fulfill the requirements mandated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Volunteer Child Protection packets are located in FACTS under the Resource Documents tab, or on the school website <https://stjudebr.org/about-us/family-community/>. Any questions about this process can be directed to Lori Layman at llyman@stjudebr.org

One in Christ,

Michelle Gardiner, M.ED.

THE COUGAR



School News

Campus Map: at the end of The Cougar, we have included a campus map for you to have to know where everything is located on our campus.

Carpool: be on the lookout for a carpool reminder email!

Come Lord Jesus Volunteers

St. Jude School needs volunteers to serve as small group leaders for the weekly Come Lord Jesus program with 8th graders. This involves 20 Thursdays for about an hour. The program will begin in October and end in April. Discussion guides and activities are provided. If interested, please email Mrs. Sheri Allen at sallen@stjudebr.org.

Important Dates

Sunday, August 13th: Cougar Pride Fair & Open House 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 15th: School Mass (grades 1st-8th **only**)

Wednesday, August 16th: School Pictures

Follow Us on Social Media!

[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

THE COUGAR



Home and School

WELCOME BACK: SJS Home and School Association is excited to be back in action and wishes you an amazing start to the 2022-2023 school year! For our new families, our purpose is to enhance the quality of campus life for our students and faculty through service - we can't wait to share more with you this weekend at Open House. Come early at 1230pm to our Cougar Fan Fair to get a glimpse of what Home and School is all about! Also, see below ways that you can get involved and make a difference for our school community!

VOLUNTEER REQUEST/TIME AND TALENT FORM: There are many ways to get involved and share your time and talent! Please review the Home & School Committee Descriptions emailed along with Monday's Welcome Letter and follow the link below to submit your areas of interest for volunteering. The children love to see you during their day and the faculty and staff truly appreciate your help!

[St. Jude Time and Talent 2023-2024](#)

ROOM PARENT FORM: If you are interested in volunteering to be a Room Parent for your child's homeroom, please complete our [Room Parent Application](#) by **Friday, August 18th**. Please note that this year you will only fill out one form even if you have multiple children. We will select two co-room parents for each homeroom. If you were a Room Parent last year, you may apply again this year. The selection process will only include those that have completed or those that have started the child protection training with plans to complete by August 31st. We are looking forward to a great year in planning and assisting our teachers! If you have any questions, please contact Monica Broggi at monicabroggi@gmail.com or Leah Barbato at leah.barbato@gmail.com.

HOMEROOM VOLUNTEER FORM: If you are interested in volunteering to attend a class party, field trip, or other classroom events for your child's homeroom, please complete our [Homeroom Volunteer Form](#) by **Friday, August 18th**. Please fill out a separate form for each child. This information will be forwarded to your child's room parents so that they assist teachers in planning and organizing the year's events. Room parents will only be able to include those volunteers that have completed their child protection training by August 31st.

If you have any questions, please contact Monica Broggi at monicabroggi@gmail.com or Leah Barbato at leah.barbato@gmail.com.

FUN RUN: Welcome back! The Fun Run is ramping up and will be an exciting time. T-shirt order forms will be collected electronically this year. All students will receive a T-shirt at the start of the Fun Run campaign. Please complete our [T-shirt order form](#) by **Wednesday, August 23**.

We are still looking for corporate sponsors. If you would like to be a corporate sponsor, you can reach out to Rachael Lanus at stjudebrfunrun@gmail.com! We have new ways your business can get involved as a corporate sponsor this year! Thank you in advance to all who support our school!

BACK TO SCHOOL SNOIAL: Home and School hosted the annual back to school "Snoial" last Sunday and we were all so excited to see the students' smiling faces! Despite the heat, everyone enjoyed snow cones from Kona Ice and visiting with friends.

COUGAR FAN GEAR: Visit our Cougar Fan Gear Store for all your adult spirit wear needs as well as spirit shirts, water bottles and more. [Cougar Fan Gear-Home & School](#)

St. Jude navy fleeces are now available all year long at Classic Image Uniforms. You may call them at (225) 929-8989 or visit them at 120 Staring Lane in Baton Rouge to place your order.

THANK YOU: Thanks to Jaclyn Landry and the Hospitality Committee for creating beautiful baskets to welcome our new 1st through 8th grade families!

Thank you to Cat Heard, Ginny Anderson, Kristy Gary, Tiffany Prather, Kate Cook, Amanda Marshall and Ashley Territo for volunteering their time for the Used Uniform sale in July. We appreciate everyone who donated items as well. The sale was a huge success!

Lastly, thanks to Lauren Malek with the Beautification Committee for a refresh of the wreath and planters at the front gate as well as balloon garlands throughout the school. We appreciate all you do to keep our school looking amazing!

BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST: Help us welcome back our faculty and staff with a special Back-To-School Breakfast in the teachers' lounge Wednesday, August 16th. Please see link to the Sign-up Genius for details. Thank you!

[Back-to-School Teachers' Breakfast](#)

THE COUGAR



Athletics

St. Jude Athletics would like to welcome everyone back to school!

Your St. Jude Athletic Board has been busy this summer planning for the 2023-2024 school year. Opportunities exist for all students Pre-K- 8th grades to participate in the athletic program through Intramurals and the CSAA.

We are excited to announce we will have new uniforms for all sports in grades 3rd-8th. Please stop by our table at Open House on Sunday, August 13th to see these uniforms and have your athletics questions answered!

We are looking forward to a great year with St. Jude Athletics. Geaux Cougars!

Angelle C. Saia, Athletic Board President

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED YOUR CHILD UP PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THEM UP AGAIN!

CROSS COUNTRY: The Cougar cross country team wrapped up their June and July summer workouts last week. There was strong attendance all summer long in the sweltering heat, and the team is poised to have a great fall season. They are always looking for more runners to join the team. Practices for August are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings from 6-7 pm and Saturday mornings from 7-8 am. All practices are at Highland Road park. The first cross country meet is less than a month away on September 2nd at Highland Road Park.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Wes Ulrich (wulrich@appleguerin.com), Jude Guerin (judeguerin@gmail.com) or Tim Maynard (maynardtim@hotmail.com).

If you are interested in signing up for **Cross Country** grades 4th-8th please fill out the link below. The deadline to sign up is **Wednesday, August 16th**. [2023-2024 Cross Country Sign Up HERE](#)

GIRLS BASKETBALL: This is a reminder to please sign up using the link in the below email if your daughter would like to play girls basketball this year! If you have already registered, please do not register again. [2023 Girls Basketball Registration](#)

FOOTBALL: If you are interested in signing up for **tackle football** grades 3rd-8th please fill out the link below. The deadline to sign up is **Wednesday, August 16th**. [2023-2024 Football Sign Up HERE](#)

SWIM TEAM: If you are interested in signing up for **Swim Team** grades 5th-8th, please fill out the link below. The deadline to sign up is **Wednesday, August 23rd**. [2023-2024 Swim Team Sign Up HERE](#)

CHEERLEADING: Congrats to the 2023-2024 SJS Cheerleaders for doing an amazing job at summer camp! They walked away with multiple accolades including multiple UCA All American cheerleaders, two blue ribbons and a superior squad award. Way to go girls!

BOOSTER CLUB: Welcome back Cougars! We hope everyone had a nice summer. The Booster Club would love to have your support for the 2023-2024 school year. September 25th is the annual St. Jude Booster Club Golf Classic. Sponsorships and team registrations are available. For membership renewal and golf tournament information, please click here: [Booster Club | St Jude](#)



