



# St. John the Baptist Parish School Board

## Making *A+* Difference: Accountability Assessment Achievement

Clarence Triche  
Board President

Keith Jones  
Vice-President

Kevin R. George  
Superintendent

August 15, 2014

Dear SJB Parent,

### BOARD MEMBERS

Russell Jack  
District No. 1  
P.O. Box 75  
Edgard, LA 70049  
985-497-8395

Albert Burl, III  
District No. 2  
P.O. Box 593  
Garyville, LA 70051  
985-535-2969

Gerald J. Keller, Ph.D.  
District No. 3  
P.O. Box 347  
Reserve, LA 70084  
985-536-6570

Patrick H. Sanders  
District No. 4  
137 E. 31st Street  
Reserve, LA 70084  
985-536-4247

Sherry DeFrancesch  
District No. 5  
28 Holly Drive  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
504-628-2934

Keith Jones  
District No. 6  
P.O. Box 952  
LaPlace, LA 70069  
985-652-5170

Phillip Johnson  
District No. 7  
1117 Cinclair Loop  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
985-651-4290

Russ Wise  
District No. 8  
2131 Marion Drive  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
985-652-7211

Lowell Bacas  
District No. 9  
517 Parlange Loop  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
985-652-6882

Rodney B. Nicholas, MAR  
District No. 10  
2063 Lafitte Drive  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
504-818-8499

Clarence Triche  
District No. 11  
1614 Main Street  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
985-652-6193

The SJB Curriculum Department is eager to welcome your child back for the 2014-2015 school year. The Curriculum team is excited to introduce a new English Language Arts skills-based curriculum focusing on rigorous standards and rich literature.

Kindergarten through third grade students are using Core Knowledge Language Arts, a program that teaches basic foundational skills in reading and writing. Children practice blending (reading) and segmenting (spelling) using the sound spellings they have learned. In kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, stories are 100% decodable – made up entirely of words and sound spellings the students have been taught, or “tricky words” that also have been explicitly taught. By grade 3, students have mastered the code, so they will find any text “decodable.” Handwriting, spelling, and the writing process are all addressed by Core Knowledge Language Arts. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will also be reading, comprehending and discussing stories from the Louisiana Department of Education’s Guidebooks. Students will read and engage in activities to increase reading comprehension and speaking and listening skills.

Grades four through twelve will be following the Louisiana Department of Education’s Guidebooks. These units contain lessons based on classic and modern literature that integrate reading, writing, grammar, speaking and listening skills. Students will read, discuss, and write about complex texts in class on a daily basis. The basic foundational reading skills mastered in lower grades will be utilized here as students build comprehension and analysis skills to support answers and conclusions using evidence found in the texts.

For more information on the SJB English Language Arts curriculum, please go to our district’s curriculum page located at <http://www.stjohn.k12.la.us/pages/SJB/Departments/Curriculum>, and click the “Parent Resources” link. You will find a number of additional resources for parents of children at all grade levels.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in a successful learning experience this school year.

Sincerely,

**Quentina Timoll**  
Asst. Superintendent  
of Curriculum

**Dr. Stephen Zafirau**  
Curriculum Facilitator  
Mathematics

**Jenna Chiasson**  
Curriculum Facilitator  
ELA

**Shanna Beber**  
Curriculum Facilitator  
Science/Soc. Studies