



ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWS & NOTES

Striving to form the MINDS, HEARTS, and SOULS of its students in the likeness of Christ.

From the Desk of the Headmaster

Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

St. Joseph's the Worker Day

On Friday, April 28, 700+ students and faculty, joined by a few parents, will make themselves available to more than 30 charitable organizations and churches during our Annual St. Joseph the Worker Community Day. On this day, our students will be engaged in activities that range from yard work to helping with a Catholic school's team day to visiting with and reading to children and adults who need our company.

The origin of this day goes back nearly two decades and was born from a desire for the school to celebrate the Catholic Church's annual Feast of St. Joseph the Worker which is on May 1. What better way to do so than to get out into the community to serve those in need with our time and effort. We view this day as essential to our educational mission of striving to form the minds, hearts, and souls of our students in the likeness of Christ. Our prayer is that our students will be the legs, feet, arms, and hands of Christ as they reach out to others in a tangible way with the love of Christ. We also hope that our students eyes and hearts will be opened to the needs of others right here in Greenville.

SJCS Selected to Receive the Riley Institute's K-12 Diversity Leadership Award

After hearing a few years ago that some of our students and parents had concerns about not fitting into our school community and recognizing that our students live and will one day work in an increasingly polarizing environment where demonizing one's ideological opponents is the norm, the administration of the school has come to see it as an essential aspect of our educational mission as a Catholic school to foster a culture of dialogue, understanding, and respect for those who are different from us while remaining steadfastly true to the proposal of the Gospel that the fullness of life is found in Christ and His Church.

Our efforts began officially with the formation of a student organization called the Pope Francis Forum for Dialogue and Diversity (PFFDD). Not long thereafter, the school appointed PFFDD's founding moderator, SJCS teacher Jennie Neighbors, as the school's Diversity Coordinator. Very quickly PFFDD has become one of the more active student organizations on campus and has become a source for education, inspiration, and dialogue. In a few short years, the school, mostly under the auspices of PFFDD, has sponsored a number of educational experiences ranging from a presentation by Holocaust survivor, Robbie Waisman, to a book presentation by the authors of *We Are Charleston* to a presentation about the "beauty of human diversity" by NY fashion photographer and founder of the non-profit *Positive Exposure*, Rick Guidotti. Additionally, the school has offered a number of professional development opportunities for its faculty and staff in order to raise awareness and sensitivity to the needs and concerns of others.

Most recently, in February, PFFDD students, teachers, and Father Duncan paid a visit to As-Sabeel Academy, an Islamic K-8 school in Greer, as a gesture of friendship. Our students were treated with kindness, food, and a program introducing our students to Islam. An administrator from As-Sabeel sent the following note of appreciation to me: *"These past few months have been difficult for us Muslims... That your faculty and students reached out to us in support and friendship during this time is truly more meaningful than I can express... I also want to tell you how thoroughly impressed I was with your students. Each one was interested and engaged. They were excellent conversationalists and lovely individuals. Obviously your school community has been very successful at instilling the very important qualities of empathy, understanding, and love for one's neighbor in your students. May you all be rewarded in full measure!"*

In recognition of these and many other efforts, the Riley Institute has selected SJCS for the **"William 'Bill' T. Wylie Valued Lives Award for School Excellence in Diversity"** to be presented at an Awards Banquet Hosted by the Greenville Chamber of Commerce at the Hyatt Regency on May 10. In recognition of her efforts with PFFDD, I have asked Jennie Neighbors to join me to receive the award.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Nicholas Piccuta and his family on the loss of his grandmother; for Daniel Klosowski and his family on the loss of his grandfather; for Emilio Trocha and his family on the loss of his grandfather; and Matt, Luke, and John Bynum and their family on the loss of their grandfather.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

HS Spring Musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, March 30-April 2

Be sure to mark your calendars for the spring musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, an entertaining All-American comedy! Set in the 1950s, the story follows young music manager, Albert, as he tries to find a balance between career, family, and love. When Conrad Birdie, his biggest client and America's Sweetheart, is drafted into the military, Albert and his ever-loyal secretary and girlfriend, Rosie, create an elaborate publicity stunt sending the trio to Sweet Apple, OH. There, Birdie will sing his latest song and give "one last kiss" to Kim MacAfee, the president of his fan club, before he goes off to fight. Filled with vivacious characters and memorable music, *Bye Bye Birdie* shares the struggles involved in growing up and trying to find a place in the world. This show is a must-see this spring! Performances will be March 30-April 2 and the SJCS Spring Art show will be on display in the school Library throughout the production weekend. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) or at the Box Office the night of the show.

Seventh Grade Parent & Student Retreat, Sunday, April 2

All 7th graders and their parents are invited to attend the annual 7th grade "Parent and Student Retreat" from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Sunday, April 2. The retreat will be held at Hartness Pavilion at Furman University. This is a day when both students and parents are together with other families for a time of relaxation, fellowship, and reflection. More information will be sent out to 7th grade parents and students by e-mail. Sunday Mass will be offered for all, as well as childcare for those parents who have younger children. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Monthly Requiem Mass, Monday, April 3

Mass for the Faithful Departed will be offered at 7:15 AM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The Mass will be offered for all those who have died in the past month or whose anniversary of death falls during the month of April.

Student Council Campaign & Elections for 2017-2018, April 3-26

Students wishing to run for an elected position in the 2017-2018 student council may campaign from April 3 until election day on April 26. All campaign materials must be pre-approved by SJCS Dean of Student Life, Andrea Bell. Speeches will be given by video this year. All videos must be approved by Mrs. Bell and should be no longer than 2 minutes. Videos will be shown in the cafeteria and in Households, and all voting will be done electronically by phone or Chromebook on Wednesday, April 26. Information on available positions and requirements for election have been sent to high school students by e-mail.

Trip to Italy, April 6-15

Thirty-three high school students, parents, and faculty chaperones will tour Italy over Easter Break. The group plans to visit Rome, Assisi, Florence, Pompeii, and the Isle of Capri. This trip is sponsored by the Fine Arts Department, and students will have the opportunity to take part in a theater workshop in Arezzo at Accademia dell'Arte, where a former SJCS student is now employed. With visits to the Uffizi gallery, the Sistine Chapel, and the blue Grotto, the trip will probably be most remembered for the group's audience with Pope Francis.

Summer Mission Work Opportunity Informational Meeting, April 6

There will be a brief informational meeting at 7:30 PM on Thursday, April 6 in the Meeting Room to answer questions regarding three upcoming mission opportunities with Home Works of America. We realize families are already making plans for the summer, so we wanted to get this information to you as soon as possible. The three dates are April 29 for a one day Greenville work session; June 11- 17 in Charleston, SC; and July 30-August 5 in Greenville. Home Works is a Columbia, SC-based non-denominational Christian organization that repairs the homes of the needy in the southeast. The missions are for middle and high school students who would like to devote a week to following the Gospel, meeting new people, and learning new skills. This is always a rewarding experience filled with fellowship and accomplishment. We are looking for students and adult chaperones, regardless of your home repair skills and experience. Questions? Contact [Jay Tierney](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

Gala & Prom T-Shirt Sales Ends April 9

Show your spirit for the 2017 Gala and Prom by purchasing this year's Signature T-Shirt. T-shirts are priced at \$14.00 each. The deadline for placing orders is April 9. To order, click [here](#) (enter code 2EZ94).

Easter Break, April 10-17

Easter Break will begin on Monday, April 10. The school and school office will be closed. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 18.

Campus Ministry Downtown Stations of the Cross, April 14

Campus Ministry will lead Stations of the Cross through downtown Greenville from Noon-1:30 PM on Good Friday, April 14. Any high school students and/or middle school students and their parents are invited to attend. More information will be e-mailed to families as the event approaches.

Distribution of Junior Rings & Senior Graduation Supplies, April 18

Class rings and graduation announcement orders will be distributed during the HS lunch period on Tuesday, April 18. Items will be distributed by Herff Jones representatives in the Meeting Room. Note: caps and gowns will be distributed at the April 19 Senior and Parent Graduation Meeting.

Mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting, April 19

There will be a mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting on April 19 at 11:09 AM. Every senior must attend this important meeting, and a parent should attend if possible. Dress code, arrival times, and graduation practice are just some of the topics covered. You will be given your cap and gown at this time.

Student Job Fair, April 20

High school Student Council is sponsoring a job fair for SJCS students to learn about employment opportunities during the summer and upcoming year. The fair will take place from 11:30 AM-12:40 PM on Thursday, April 20. If any parents know of businesses that would be interested in participating in the job fair, contact Student Council President [Christian Gillespy](#).

**For information on the Prom and Gala, please see the sections in this edition of *News & Notes*
"Prom 2017" and Gala "2017."**

Mid-Quarter Progress Update, April 20

An email will be sent at mid-quarter to remind you to check your student's progress through ParentsWeb. You may contact the teacher with any questions or concerns.

New Student Night, Monday, April 24

All newly accepted and enrolled students and their parents are required to attend this informative evening on campus beginning at 7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Center. Attendees should use the side High School entrance door. A "What's Next?" checklist covering a number of important topics will be discussed, along with the opportunity to meet the sixth and ninth grade teaching teams. Questions? Contact [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office.

Spirit Night at Willy Taco, April 25

There will be a senior Spirit Night at Willy Taco on Laurens Road from 5:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25. Make sure you mention St. Joseph's when you get your bill, and help the seniors raise money for the senior class gift!

South Africa Mandatory Meeting, April 25

There is a mandatory meeting for parents and students going on the South Africa trip on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00 PM in Mrs. Berman's room (Room 3 in the HS English wing).

NHS, HS Academic & Fine Arts Honor Society & MS Beta Club Inductions, April 26

On Wednesday, April 26 the NHS, HS Academic and Fine Arts Honor Societies, and the MS Beta Club inductions will take place from 12:30-2:30 PM. Students who are being inducted should be in dress uniform that day at school. Students have received individual letters notifying them of their eligibility and parents will receive an email specifically inviting them to the ceremony if their child is being inducted. Please take note of important times that day: All students (not attending the ceremonies) will be dismissed at 11:57 AM; Beta Club Inductions will take place from 12:30-1:00 PM in the Meeting Room; NHS Inductions will take place from 1:00-1:30 PM in the JP II Center; and the Academic and Fine Arts Honor Society Inductions will take place from 1:30-2:30 PM in the JP II Center. Please note the early dismissal time of 11:57 AM. This

is in order to accommodate the additional parking needed for parents attending the induction ceremony. Due to potential construction, all parents please park in the HS lot.

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker Community Service Day, April 28

On Friday, April 28, all SJCS students will go out to the community to work on various works of charity and service. This is a required day for all SJCS students. More details will be distributed through Household. Late Stay will begin at Noon. Students must bring their own lunch if they will be in Late Stay.

NEW! Admissions Testing Date, Saturday, April 29

An additional testing date for fall 2017 admissions has been added on April 29 to accommodate the interest in sixth and seventh grade openings. If you know any parents who might be interested with children entering these grades, please encourage them to contact [Barbara McGrath](#) in the Admissions Office.

Sophomore Parent & Student Retreat, April 30-May 1

All sophomores and sophomore parents are invited to participate in the (rescheduled) 3rd annual parent & student retreat to be held on Sunday, April 30, from 2:00-8:00 PM at [Kanuga Conference Center](#) in Hendersonville, NC. This retreat is an opportunity for the entire family to hear the gospel message while enjoying some time away together. All parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Students will stay the night and leave the next day when the retreat ends at 2:00 PM. More information has been sent to parents via e-mail. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Fine Arts Events

NOTE: Some of these dates and events represent changes and/or additions to the School Calendar. Additional details will be included in the *May News & Notes*.

- Saturday, May 6: Jubilate Knight for the Arts, Talent Competition and Fundraiser
- Tuesday, May 9: MS & HS Strings and MS Band Concerts
- Thursday, May 11: MS Chorus and HS Band Concerts
- Tuesday, May 16: HS Chorus Concert at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Taylors

AP Exam Preadministration Sessions, late April

All current AP students must attend a 30 minute Preadministration Session in late April. They will be offered at various times during and after school. You can register for one of these sessions by clicking [here](#). Sign-up information will also be emailed to AP students and parents and announced at school. For AP exam times and details, see below.

AP Exams: Monday, May 1–Friday, May 12

- Monday, May 1: 7:30 AM–Chemistry
- Tuesday, May 2: 7:30 AM–Spanish Language and Culture
- Tuesday, May 2: 11:30 AM–Art History and Physics 1
- Wednesday, May 3: 7:30 AM–English Literature and Composition
- Wednesday, May 3: 11:30 AM–Physics 2
- Thursday, May 4: 7:30 AM–U.S. Government and Politics
- Friday, May 5: 7:30 AM–U.S. History
- Monday, May 8: 7:30 AM–Biology
- Tuesday, May 9: 7:30 AM–Calculus AB and Calculus BC
- Wednesday, May 10: 7:30 AM–English Language and Composition
- Thursday, May 11: 11:30 AM–Statistics
- Friday, May 12: 11:30 AM–European History

Students must report to the Meeting Room at the times listed above. Parents are reminded that AP students are excused from all of their classes on any day they have an AP exam and they may arrive later or leave campus early. However, if it is beneficial to attend other classes on that day, they should do so. If AP students stay on campus after an exam, they must check in at the front office before reporting to class or the Library.

WW I & WWII Battlefield Tour during Spring Break 2019 Interest Meeting, May 2

2019 will mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of WWI and the 75th anniversary of the landings on D-Day! Come commemorate these historic events on a WW I & WWII Battlefield Tour over spring break 2019. All current 8th grade through sophomore students are eligible. Come to an interest meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 PM in the Library. For more info, click [here](#). For a limited time, the code **2019earlybird** will take \$200 off the listed price, and the cost is less than \$160 a month! There is also the opportunity to earn half a credit in English or History. Students should see Mrs.

Neighbors or Mrs. Carr for more information or visit the website. You do not have to wait for the meeting to sign up.

Attention Parents of New High School Students: Placement Testing is May 2 & May 4

Newly accepted and enrolled high school students who are entering grades 9-12 and who are currently completing high school courses in math and/or any level of foreign language for high school credit at their current school and wish to advance to the next level at St. Joseph's may need to take SJCS Placement Tests. The tests will be held at SJCS on Tuesday, May 2 (Math) and Thursday, May 4 (Foreign Language) beginning at 3:30 PM. Information regarding these tests was sent home in recent acceptance packets. Students entering our high school from the area Catholic middle schools (Our Lady of the Rosary, Prince of Peace, St. Joseph's Anderson, St. Mary's, and St. Paul's) are not required to take Placement Tests but are required to submit a Teacher Recommendation as noted below. Questions? Contact [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office.

- If your child is a new rising 9th grade student and will have completed a high school level math course in his/her current middle school, he/she must take the St. Joseph's Math Placement Test in order to receive credit for his/her current class/classes as well as secure his/her correct placement at SJCS.
- If your child is a new high school student (entering grades 9-12) and will have completed a high school foreign language course in his/her current school, he/she must take the St. Joseph's Foreign Language Placement Test in order to receive credit for the current class/classes as well as secure his/her correct placement at SJCS.
- Exceptions to the above are granted to students entering our high school from the local Catholic middle schools. These students are not required to take SJCS placement tests provided they submit the appropriate Teacher Recommendation Form(s) from their current math and/or foreign language teacher(s). These forms were included in the acceptance packets and are due back to the SJCS Admissions Office by April 19, 2017 in order to exempt the testing.

Senior Cord Luncheon, May 5

On Friday, May 5, the Senior Cord Lunch will take place in the Gym during HS Lunch. Seniors receiving honor society cords and memorabilia will receive personal invitations to the lunch. The lunch will be charged to the senior's account.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, Saturday, May 6

The Event: The Fine Arts Department's annual "Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition" is a family-friendly fundraiser highlighting our artistically-gifted school community from 6:00-10:00 PM at the school. Patrons can enjoy fabulous entertainment and visit our Giving Gallery to make purchases and donations benefitting our theater, choral, dance, strings, band, and visual arts programs. Plan to attend this joyful evening of creative performances. Visit the school website in April for event and ticketing information.

Auditions: The final round of auditions is **Thursday, April 20 from 3:15-6:30 PM**. Any member of the SJCS community is welcome to audition. Students can earn points for their Household by auditioning. Traditional and non-traditional talents are welcome. Start preparing your performance now. Performances may be up to four minutes long. Go to the Fine Arts tab on the school website for more information and audition forms. Contact [Teresa McGrath](#) to sign up for an audition slot.

To Volunteer or Donate: If you would like to volunteer at Jubilate Knight, please email [Brandi Koontz](#).

Sixth Grade Retreat, May 8

On Monday, May 8, all SJCS 6th Graders will participate in the annual class retreat from 8:00 AM-2:30 PM. Parents should provide transportation to and from Conestee Park at 840 Mauldin Road, Greenville. Students should bring a lunch with them. More information will be sent to 6th grade parents via e-mail in mid-April. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

SALT Retreat, May 12-13

The annual Student Academic Life Team (SALT) retreat has been rescheduled for Friday-Saturday, May 12-13. High School Students interested in attending should contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Rising Ninth Grade Trip, July 24-26

Parents of current 8th graders, mark your calendars for the 9th Grade Freshman Connection Trip to St. Augustine, Florida, which will take place Monday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 26, 2017. These dates are chosen because it is a week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. All new or returning rising 9th grade students are invited to attend. This marks the first experience of the SJCS High School Community, and is always a very enjoyable experience for the students who participate. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of rising senior peer ministers and a group of SJCS teacher chaperones. More details will be e-mailed in the spring. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but is generally between \$350-\$400. Questions? Contact the SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Mandatory ALL SPORTS Parent Meeting, July 27

Fall 2017 Sports begin as early as July 28. Please see below for the date of each fall sport tryouts. If you have a student that plans to play ANY sport during the 2017-2018 school year, there will be a mandatory parent meeting on July 27 at 7:00 PM in the gym. Any student participating in a sport at SJCS must complete the required forms prior to the first practice: Pre-Participation History and Pre-Participation Sports Physical Exam, Parent Consent Form, and Concussion Form. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Fall 2017 Team Tryouts begin July 28

- The following tryouts begin on Friday, July 28: Boys cross country, Girls cross country, JV football, and Varsity football.
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, July 31: JV girls tennis, Varsity girls tennis, boys swimming, girls swimming, JV volleyball, and Varsity volleyball.
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, August 7: Girls golf, MS football, and MS volleyball.

Pep Band Pre-season Camp, August 7-11

All band students, with at least one year of playing experience at SJCS, who are interested in playing for the Pep Band, are invited to attend pre-season band camp. Brass players and percussion are needed especially. The camp will be held at SJCS on August 7-11 AM from 9:00-11:30 AM. We will have a pizza lunch on the last day. The cost for the camp is \$25 and includes a t-shirt, pizza lunch, and music. It is the perfect way to get your "playing chops" back in shape for the start of school. When the school year begins, Pep Band will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 PM. We plan to play for at least three varsity home football games, the fall pep rally, and possibly a JV or Middle School football game. All dates will be available as soon as the 2017 Varsity Football schedule is available. Questions/interested? Contact SJCS Band Director, [Marjorie Malphrus](#).

Looking For Host Family

Rising junior Davide Vetralla (from Italy) spent the week of March 6-11 attending classes at SJCS. He was well received by SJCS teachers, staff, and his host family. Davide is seeking admission here for his junior year (beginning August 2017), and to that end, we are looking for a SJCS family who would be willing to house Davide for the upcoming school year. Ideally, we'd like to have a family with a high school boy (preferably a rising junior) that would be willing to open their home to this young man beginning in August. All of his expenses will be paid. Questions/interested? Contact [Barbara McGrath](#).

Construction & How it May Affect Parking

As you may be aware, we will soon have construction occurring on campus as we begin the addition of the 3-story building between the gym and the high school. The construction may cause changes or disruptions to carpool line as well as parking privileges. We will work to keep these disruptions to a minimum and to give you as much notice as possible of any changes. Since construction will be continuing into next school year, you will receive more information over the summer regarding parking pass eligibility for the 2017-2018 school year.

Thank you for your patience as we alter the campus to help provide the best educational opportunity for our students.

Prom 2017

The Prom Committee is very excited to present *Havana Knights*! For the first time in SJCS history, the Gala Committee and the Prom Committee have worked together planning and organizing this beautiful Cuban inspired event...from a churro bar to an urban graffiti cabana, there is fun to be had by all. We encourage all juniors and seniors to join us as we dance the night away in Havana!

Prom Ticket Sales, March 27-April 6

Tickets for Prom are \$25 each and will be available for purchase from March 27-April 6. Students will be able to purchase tickets during lunch at a table near the cafeteria. Tickets will be charged to the student's account. Students bringing an out-of-school guest must complete the "outside guest form" which can be found [here](#).

Prom, April 22

Prom will take place on Saturday, April 22 from 8:30 PM–Midnight in the Gym. Students must arrive no later than 9:00 PM in order to gain admission to the dance. Parents may take pictures before the dance from 7:30-8:30 PM outside the gym.

Important Reminder of the Dress Code for Prom*

Many juniors and seniors have already begun to think about outfits for Prom. General guidelines outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook apply, but the following are more specific for Prom (pg. 28):

Boys Attire: tuxedo, suit with tie, or sport coat with slacks and a tie

Girls Attire: dress, two-piece dresses, dressy pants outfit

NOT Permitted: excessively tight or baggy pants (male and female), shorts, dresses/skirts shorter than 4 inches above the knees, dresses/tops that show cleavage, under garments (including bralettes) or dresses/tops that plunge below waistline, bare midriffs. Please remember the guidelines when shopping. If you have any specific questions, please speak with your Household Dean.

***Students that are not within dress code will be asked to rectify the issue before entering.**

After-Prom, April 23

After-Prom is a parent sponsored event. Parents organize, plan, and staff this late night party immediately following the SJCS Prom. We hope you will encourage your children to participate for the following reasons: we want our students to enjoy their friends and continue the fun in a safe, chaperoned, alcohol and drug free environment! This year we are hosting the After-Prom at **Sportsclub Five Forks**. We appreciate the generous support of our own SJCS family, the Egans, who have donated the use of the Sportsclub Five Forks for this event! Waffle House will provide late night catering with a delicious breakfast bar and waffles made to order. We hope you will support the event, simply by encouraging your children to attend, or go a step further and get involved! Help us plan and execute a fun and safe late night for the SJCS juniors and seniors. We are collecting donations and gift cards (in any denomination) for student prizes. Suggestions are: QT, Starbucks, Krispy Kreme, Best Buy, Chick-Fil-A, Zaxby's, Amazon, Regal Cinemas, Cold Stone Creamery, etc. Questions/want to help? Contact [Mary Margaret Knight](#) or [Rikke Gillespy](#).

Gala 2017

Havana Knights, April 21

It's hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from our 18th Annual Auction Gala, *Havana Knights: Tradition, Community, Legacy*. Volunteers have been working hard to prepare a vibrant and lively celebration. There are still opportunities to be part of this memorable event:

- **Volunteer:** Want to meet other parents and get involved? Join us on Wednesday, April 5 from 9:00 AM to Noon for our first "Gala Get It Done Day," where we'll work on decorating projects for the Gala. For other opportunities, contact [Abbey Bell](#) or fill out the Volunteer Form, found [here](#).
- **Tickets:** Gala tickets are selling quickly so don't delay in purchasing your tickets online now. Purchase tickets [here](#). Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.
- **Candy Walk-Through:** On April 20, SJCS students will be treated to a bag of sweet treats while taking in the sights of "Havana Knights." Support this fun event by donating your extra candy to the front desk by Wednesday, April 19. Questions? Contact [Jill Murphy](#).

From the Academic Dean

As I type this, I'm considering the odd assortment of things impacting my senses right now. Out of the corner of my eye I can see models of Neanderthal skulls that I use in my upper level class on science and religion that I co-teach with Mr. Lewis. I'm also listening to Aretha Franklin's rendition of *Wholly Holy*, which is about as close to the sublime as I have ever experienced. I can also see a number of books on history and political philosophy on the floor of my office that I never quite find the time to put away. One might say these things are unrelated, a combination of random objects that reflect my own curiosity but nothing more. One could say that, but I'm not convinced. I think they represent different parts of the human experience, and at least for me they point to different aspects of the good, the true, and the beautiful.

The same insight guides our curriculum at St. Joseph's. Math courses can feel very different than literature courses, but one of the great truths about the Christian intellectual tradition is that these different fields of study point, ultimately, in the same direction. That's why we are so committed to a broad curriculum. The insights gained in one class amplify and extend the insights found in another. True, it's not always easy to see how they connect. But those connections are there; they *must* be there. I counsel students every day to look for those connections, and part of that effort is not letting the demands of one course completely overshadow all the others. Of course, time being limited the way it is, sometimes students have to double-down in one class because of workflow issues. We all have to do that at times, but in my experience, it's in those moments when the demands of spreadsheets, course schedules, and grade reports weigh the most heavily that Aretha most connects me back to the larger Truth that guides what we do.

This coming summer, we are once again offering a series of short-term academic camps for rising sixth through tenth grade students, as well as several for-credit classes for high school students looking to create room in their schedule. Approved courses include Computer Applications, Economics, and Government. All three of these courses are one-semester long during the regular school year, and meet for approximately three weeks during the summer. For more information regarding the Student Academic Camps, click [here](#). If you would like more information regarding the summer school for-credit courses, click [here](#).

From the Business Office

Senior Tuition & Flik Accounts

Senior Flik Dining and Student tuition and fees account must be paid prior to graduation in order for students to participate in the ceremonies. All senior student Flik Dining accounts must be paid in full prior to May 1, 2017. After May 1, seniors will be able to purchase lunch only if they have a positive balance in their Flik dining account. Questions? Contact [Chef Shawn Butler](#). Senior tuition and fees must be paid in full, except for the June tuition draft, which will be drafted by May 20, 2017. Questions? Contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you have questions concerning your tuition and fees account.

Tuition Statements

- All families please carefully review your monthly Family Statement. Until all tuition, fees, and other student charges are paid up to date or in full, the school: will not provide a diploma or transcript and reserves the right not to allow a student to enroll in a new grading period, participate in graduation exercises, and receive grades or a report card.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My Backpack portal. You can find the link to your My Backpack account [here](#). Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you need help with your user ID or password.

Tuition Assistance

The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2017-2018 school year was February 15, 2017. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible. Please note that you must use your 2016 tax information (actual or estimated) to complete the tuition assistance forms. The link to the FACTS application is [here](#).

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Course Scheduling

Rising seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen received their course scheduling packets in March. The deadlines for these materials were announced as follows: rising seniors and rising juniors, March 10; rising sophomores, March 17; and rising freshmen, April 3. If your student has not submitted his/her course selection packet to the Registrar and the deadline has passed, please remind them to do so as soon as possible in order to be included in the first scheduling run.

Senior College Applications

Please continue to share your good news and advise your college counselor of college acceptances and scholarship awards. If you have made your final decision on which college you will be attending, you can send in your enrollment deposit confirming your place in the freshman class. When you do this, remember to notify the other colleges that accepted you that you will not be attending their institution. You should send a note, which can be done via email, to the colleges to thank them for their consideration and the time spent on your application. This is very important as it will open up spots for other applicants who may be on the waitlist.

FAFSA Reminder for Seniors

The federal government, along with the colleges to which you applied, requires you to fill out the FAFSA form in order to receive federal aid and financial aid packages. When it comes to financial aid, sending your FAFSA in earlier is always better. There are limited funds for financial aid, which are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wait to apply later there may not be as much money to go around, especially when more and more people today are seeking out financial aid.

Seniors: Finish Your Year Strong

Remember that colleges will receive your final transcripts and that all acceptances are conditional based upon you consistently completing your senior year with the grades that were previously sent to them. If you are struggling in any classes, please stop by to see your college counselor so that you can discuss a plan of action._

SAT & ACT Testing

Juniors, make sure you register to take both the ACT and SAT at least once before the end of your junior year. Visit [The College Board](#) for SAT test dates and [ACT](#) for ACT test dates. Remember to take the ACT and the SAT with Writing as many colleges require it. Also, check to see if your college/university requires SAT Subject Tests and register accordingly. If you have taken an AP course, it is strongly recommended that you take the corresponding SAT Subject Test at the end of the year. Please remember that you cannot take the SAT Test and the SAT Subject Tests on the same day.

Juniors: Individual College Planning Meetings

Don't forget to schedule your individual family college planning meeting with your college counselor. All juniors should meet with their college counselor at least once before the end May.

Juniors: Student Athletes

All students thinking about playing a varsity level sport at the college level (NCAA Division I or II), should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, have your official test scores sent to them (SAT and/or ACT) and request that your transcripts be sent to them at the end of your junior year.

College Visits

Students who would like to visit colleges should register for visits through the colleges' websites or with the admissions offices and then email Mrs. Hawkins to let her know what date(s) you will be attending the college visit. Please remember to bring back the proper documentation to Mrs. Hawkins: College Visit Form and official documentation from the admissions office with the dates of your visit and signed by the college admissions personnel. Juniors and second semester sophomores get two college visit days during the school year.

From the Development Office

Annual Fund

What is the Annual Fund? The Annual Fund is used to pay for budgeted expenses that are not covered by tuition. Approximately 7% of the budget is not covered by tuition payments. The Annual Fund goal for 2016-2017 is \$450,000. This money is raised through the Annual Auction Gala and individual donations to the Annual Fund. Donations to the Annual Fund can be designated for use in the following areas: Tuition Assistance, Academics, Campus Ministries, Student Life, Fine Arts, or Athletics.

Founders Circle

What is the Founders Circle? The Founders Circle is a group of philanthropic leaders at St. Joseph's Catholic School. The Circle was established to honor the selflessness of the school's original Founders, which finds continuing expression through the generosity of those who now sustain the St. Joseph's Annual Fund. The Founders Circle forms the backbone of the Annual Fund and provides our students with the best education possible. Membership in The Founders Circle is for a period of one year and is then renewable with a qualifying gift each year to the St. Joseph's Annual Fund. Annual membership levels begin at \$1,000 of unrestricted giving, with additional recognition at the \$2,500, \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels, respectively. For membership information, please contact [Kevin Meyer](#).

From the Athletic Department

Summer Sports Camps

The 2017 Summer Sports Camps dates and sessions are posted on the SJCS website. Please click on the following link for more information: [SJCS 2017 Summer Camps](#).

Sports Participation Requirements for 2017-2018

In order to participate on a SJCS sports team, two forms must be completed and turned in prior to tryouts, NO EXCEPTIONS! The required forms are: [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form](#) and [Concussion Consent Form](#). Students will not be permitted to try out unless both forms are turned in prior to the first tryout date. All forms should be submitted to SJCS, Attention: Athletic Office. NOTE: the medical form must be dated on or after April 1, 2017 in order for your son or daughter to participate through the 2017-2018 school year. Please make a copy of the completed forms for your records before submitting to the school. Also, we are required to have a copy of your child's Birth Certificate on file in the Athletic Office. We must have this turned in before tryouts begin in order to submit the required eligibility form into the High School League Office. If you have already submitted your son's/daughter's Birth Certificate, you do not need to turn in a copy every year. Questions? Contact [Mary Beth Koetters](#).

Training Consent Form

Greenville Health System will continue to provide SJCS athletes with the services of an athletic trainer. If you would like your child to be treated by our trainer in case of injury, you must also complete the form titled [Athletic Training Services Consent & Authorization Form](#). Please submit form to SJCS, Attention: Kate Abdelnour, SJCS Athletic Trainer.

Knights Athletic Booster Club Officers Needed for 2017-2018

We're looking to fill several positions for next school year: President, Vice-President, Secretary, at-large member. If you are interested in serving on the Knights Athletic Booster Club Committee for the 2017-2018 school year, contact current President [George Shinas](#).

From the Fine Arts Department

Fine Arts Summer Camps

Be on the lookout in mid-April for more information on the Fine Arts summer camps.

Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2017-2018

We are looking to fill several positions for the next school year. The Jubilate Arts Guild is the SJCS Fine Arts booster organization and provides support for all the Fine Arts programming at SJCS. If your child is involved in chorus, dance, visual arts, theatre, band, or strings, then you already know how enriching these programs are. Help us support these programs, become more involved, and have a rewarding experience by becoming an officer. Questions/interested? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#).

Ornaments for Sale

Need a graduation gift? Celebrate our Red Door tradition and the JPll Center by purchasing one of our beautiful commemorative ornaments designed by our very own art teacher, Deborah Pickard. These glass ornaments are a beautiful reminder of the spiritual heart of St. Joseph's Catholic School. [Order soon](#) - we have a limited number of ornaments available. Questions? Contact [Brandi Koontz](#).

From the Parents Guild

After-Prom Help Needed, April 23

After-Prom is a parent-sponsored event. Parents organize, plan, and staff this late night party immediately following the SJCS Prom. We hope you will encourage your children to participate for the following reasons: we want our students to enjoy their friends and continue the fun in a safe, chaperoned, alcohol and drug free environment! This year we are hosting the After-Prom at **Sportsclub Five Forks**. We appreciate the generous support of our own SJCS family, the Egons, who have donated the use of the Sportsclub Five Forks for this event! Waffle House will provide late night catering with a delicious breakfast bar and waffles made to order. We hope you will support the event, simply by encouraging your children to attend, or go a step further and get involved! Help us plan and execute a fun and safe late night for the SJCS juniors and seniors. We are collecting donations and gift cards (in any denomination) for student prizes. Suggestions are QT, Starbucks, Krispy Kreme, Best Buy, Chick Fil A, Zaxby's, Amazon, Regal Cinemas, Cold Stone Creamery etc. Questions/want to help? Contact [Mary Margaret Knight](#) or [Rikke Gillespy](#).

Junior & Senior Luncheons Help Needed

Helpers are needed for the Junior and Senior luncheons on May 19. Questions/want to help? Contact [Mary Margaret Knight](#) or [Paula Bikulege](#).

Graduation Reception Help Needed

The Graduation Reception is in need of a chairperson and volunteers. Questions/want to help? Contact [Mary Margaret Knight](#).

Another Great Fish Fry

Our sincerest thanks to the many volunteers who helped make our annual fish fry a huge success. Many thanks to: Charlie Sutter and our SJCS dads for frying up the delicious fish for us; Betsy Poole for her wonderful decorations; Carol Curry for organizing the kitchen; Chef Shawn for his yummy macaroni and cheese and kitchen expertise; Kevin Meyer and Rachel Neubauer for their leadership and dedication to this event; and all of our bakers, servers, Advancement Reps, and student volunteers who helped make everything run very smoothly!