



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!

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year, which marks the 25th academic year in the school's history. And what an exciting year it is shaping up to be! It is remarkable that the start of this milestone year coincides with a rare celestial event, the total eclipse on Monday, August 21, which the school will view per the information provided in emails you received earlier this summer. Please keep in mind that students and families had to opt-in to this event by turning in a permission form signed by a parent or guardian in order to be on campus that afternoon for the viewing of the eclipse. At last check, we had over 800 students and family members signed up to join us for this rare occurrence!

The annual theme for the year draws its inspiration from the fact that the school is celebrating its 25th anniversary year. With the selection of this theme, I want to call the school community's attention to the founders, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, without whose dedicated efforts, faith, hope, and generosity St. Joseph's would not be the beacon of fine Catholic education that it is today. Thus, for the annual theme, I have chosen the following passage from the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, which incites Christians to live faithfully because of the faith-filled witness of those who have walked before them: **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."**

This theme is taken from the first part of the first verse of the 12th chapter of the book of Hebrews. You might recall that what proceeds this verse is the well-known and so called "Hall of Fame of Faith" in Hebrews chapter 11, in which the author describes the great men and women of faith of the Old Testament, who remained faithful to God's promises despite the difficulties and obstacles they faced. Over the last two and a half decades, St. Joseph's Catholic School has developed its own "Hall of Fame of Faith" of sorts, filled with people who have generously given of themselves and sacrificed time, talent, and treasure so that the Upstate could have the vibrant Catholic school that we all now enjoy. Throughout the school year I will introduce you to many of these women and men via brief video interviews I am conducting this summer, excerpts of which we will post on the school's website throughout the 2017-2018 school year under the banner: "25 Years, 25 Faces."

While the theme itself is only the first part of the verse, it is the entire verse and the next verse that I hope to call to your attention with the selection of this theme, which reads: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2) So more than just admiring those who prepared the way for us at St. Joseph's, the theme exhorts us to "run the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" as guide in all of our dealings with one another. May the example of those who have gone before us inspire us to leave the school even better for those who come after.

As the year progresses, please look to the website for the "25 Years, 25 Faces" interviews and get ready to be inspired. Also, throughout the year, we will have various anniversary celebrations, culminating in a big 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on Saturday, February 3. More details will follow in the months ahead, but please mark your calendars now for the dinner.

It has been a very busy summer on campus. Of course, the other big "event" that corresponds with this anniversary year is the construction of the 3-story UKnight building which will connect the high school building to the gymnasium and provide badly needed science labs, classrooms, locker-rooms, and coaches offices. It was startling (in a great way), for me to walk up onto the high school first floor a few weeks ago and look down the hallway and see the gymnasium through a newly hewn doorway at the end of the hall! With any project of this magnitude, there will be disruption to some well-established routines. For example, as some of you already know, the middle school parking lot will be off limits for the better part of the school year. With this and other inconveniences due to construction, we ask for your patience and cooperation.

Steven Jones, Andrea Bell, and others have been hard at work this summer developing a few new initiatives that we are excited for the students to experience. Most significantly, we have created a SJCS Foundations Program for our 6th graders. See Dr. Jones' article in this edition of *News & Notes* for more details of what's in store for our 6th graders. Moreover, Freshman Connection is getting a make-over thanks to the efforts of Gabe Lewis and Andrea Bell. The aspect of this that I am most excited about is the role that a group of high school seniors will be playing in helping the freshman to make a great transition to high school. And finally, we have tweaked, after a lot of input, Thursdays' bell schedule. While keeping the beginning and end times of the day the same, Dr. Jones, Ms. Bell, and I think that we have found a way to make the day flow better for the students and faculty.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and we will see you soon. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year for your sons and daughters. In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Rick Morris and his family on the loss of his grandmother.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

Mandatory ALL SPORTS Parent Meeting, July 27

If you have a student that plans to play ANY sport during the 2017-2018 school year, there will be a mandatory student and parent meeting on July 27 at 7:00 PM in the JP11 Center. Any rising 7th-12th grade boys and girls interested in participating on ANY sports team during the fall, winter and/or spring for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year must attend this meeting with at least one parent. Important information will be communicated by Athletic Director RJ Beach at this meeting.

Seniors: College Application Workshop, August 1-3

The College Counseling Office will be conducting a free College Application Workshop on August 1 and 2 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM and on August 3 from 10:00 AM-Noon in the Meeting Room. We will be focusing on the Common Application and state applications. Please bring your laptop or electronic device that has internet capability as we will be accessing and completing the actual college application forms during the workshop. We will also have college admission representatives here on the afternoon of August 3 to work with students on their essays. Please sign up for these events using the registration link that was sent to you in July.

Attention New HS Students! Makeup Placement Testing, August 2

Most new high school students completed our placement testing in May. However, if your child is new to our high school for the 2017-2018 school year and enrolled after May 1, he/she may still need to complete this testing. A make-up date has been set for Wednesday, August 2 and more information about the testing was communicated in your child's acceptance packet. Questions? Contact [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office.

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 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](#).

Come Back to Give Back, August 12

It's time to spruce up the campus for our new school year. All families, friends, and alumni are encouraged to volunteer in a variety of outdoor activities from 8:00 AM-Noon on Saturday, August 12. The first 50 to register will receive a free t-shirt, so sign up today! You'll be notified shortly after registration for follow-up information. To register, [click here](#). Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#).

Family Demographic Form, ALL parents must review/complete online by August 15

This online form must be reviewed and completed by all parents (new and returning) each summer through your ParentsWeb

account. We must have verification that you reviewed and/or updated important student, parent, grandparent, medical, transportation, and emergency contact information in RenWeb (our school's online software program). To access the Family Demographic Form: 1) log into your ParentsWeb account with your username and password. 2) The St. Joseph's page will load. Under the "School Information" tab, click "Web Forms." 3) Click on the Family Demographic Form. 4) The required form(s) will load by your child's (children's) name(s). 5) Open each form and verify or provide the information that is needed. Once you have reviewed your page, hit "SAVE" at the bottom of each form. **MOST IMPORTANT:** You must hit SAVE on the form even if you do not make changes in order for the school to receive your information and confirm that you have reviewed your information. This information will then be sent directly to St. Joseph's.

- As a reminder, all SJCS parents must set up a ParentsWeb account. **ParentsWeb Instructions** can be found on the school website at the bottom of the webpage titled Parent Resources: Forms and Links or you may click [here](#). Once you set up your account, this tool helps parents with the following: 1) Completing required forms online, 2) Accessing a Student Directory, and 3) Viewing your child's schedule and grades.

Faculty/Staff Orientation, August 15-18

Faculty/Staff Orientation begins August 15 and continues intermittently through August 18. If you need to communicate with us during this week, please send an email to the person with whom you need to speak. Thank you for your patience during this important time of faculty/staff development.

Used Uniform Sale, August 15, 17, & 20

The used uniform sale will be held in the Meeting Room on selected evenings the week before school begins. This is the final school year that Educational Outfitters brand uniforms may be worn. Uniform sales will be at the following times: Tuesday, August 15 from 5:00-8:00 PM; Thursday, August 17 from 2:00-7:00 PM; and Sunday, August 20 from 6:00-7:00 PM.

Returning Student Orientation, Thursday, August 17

Returning Students in Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, 12: The early afternoon session is reserved for HS students. The late afternoon session is reserved for MS students. MS parents are required to attend, and HS parents are welcome but not required. Students and parents may leave once orientation is complete. Uniforms are not required as yearbook photos will not be taken on this day. Returning students need not attend school on Monday, August 21 unless you reserved a spot for the Solar Eclipse viewing. For complete details, see the Orientation schedules page in this edition of *News & Notes*.

NHS Members Required Attendance, August 20 & 21

All NHS members should have received an email from Mrs. McCoy about assisting new students on Monday, August 21, as well as attending a short preliminary instructional session at the school on Sunday, August 20. Arrival times will be communicated to you soon via email. This mandatory service project is crucial to helping new students acclimate to SJCS.

Returning Student Make-Up Orientation, Sunday, August 20

ONLY returning students who are unable to attend the August 17 Student Orientation should report on this day. These students may set-up their lockers, turn in all necessary paperwork, and MS students will receive their schedules; however, students attending this make-up session will not be able to meet with teachers/staff, walk their schedule, turn in parking pass applications or receive their Chromebooks. (They will get their Chromebooks on Tuesday). Students are not required to wear their school uniform. For complete details, see the Orientation schedules page in this edition of *News & Notes*.

Student Parking Forms Due at Orientation

All juniors and seniors planning to drive to school should fill out the [Driver Permission Form for Students](#) and turn it in at the appropriate station on your Orientation day. Passes will be issued in Household during the first full week of school. Sophomores will be able to apply for parking passes beginning September 11.

Important Parking Info for the First Home Football Game, Friday, August 18

SJCS will host Southside Christian in our first Varsity home football game of the season on Friday, August 18 at 7:30 PM. Below are some reminders about game day policies on campus: **On-Campus Parking/Tailgating:** The school has two parking lots open for tailgating/parking beginning at 5:30 PM: 1) The visitor parking lot in front of the main school entrance and 2) the large HS lot. NOTE: the visitor lot in front of the main school entrance is reserved for Knights Athletic Booster Club Platinum Level Members. Car hang tags to identify those members can be picked up at the school office. This hang tag must be displayed on your car mirror at all times while on campus that evening. Please note that only one vehicle per family will be given access to the front parking lot.

Off-Campus Parking Lot: The other lot open for parking is directly across from the football field on Ridge Road in the Global Business Park campus (Virginia Business College). This is a grass lot with limited lighting. **NO TAILGATING IS ALLOWED**

IN THIS LOT. Anyone parked across the street in the grass lot MUST cross the street where the police officer is stationed.

No Parking on Ridge Road: Parking is strictly prohibited along Ridge Road.

Handicap Parking: There is limited handicap parking in the MS parking lot. Access to this lot will be granted with a valid handicap car tag.

Field Admission: Game time is 7:30 PM. Field gates open at 6:30 PM. Admission is \$6.00 per person. SJCS students are free with student ID, SJCS alumni are free with Alumni card, SJCS faculty/staff and their families are free, and children 6 and under are free. Ticket gates will be located at the lower gate near the back driveway and the upper gate near the baseball field.

Stadium Seating: Our football stadium will be open for our fans. Please be aware that the seating was designed for the addition of metal bleachers over the concrete steps in the future, so you may wish to bring a blanket or a seat cushion in order to ensure your comfort.

Concessions: Knights Athletic Booster Club will be offering concessions for sale at all of the home games.

Student Attire: SJCS students must wear shirts at all times and black body-painting is prohibited.

Last But Not Least: Show your pride and root for your team, but please remember proper sportsmanlike conduct becoming of a St. Joseph's family is expected at all times.

New Student Orientation, Monday, August 21

All Students Grades 6 and 9; All New Students in Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12: All parents are required to accompany their child on this date. New MS students may begin arriving between 7:30-8:15 AM to set up their locker before Mr. Kiser welcomes everyone in the John Paul II Center at 8:30 AM. NHS students will be on hand in the parking lot when you arrive to assist in carrying things to your locker and introduce you to your Household Dean. Students are not required to wear their school uniform. In addition to meeting your teachers and walking your schedule, there will be multiple stations set up on this day to complete the following tasks:

- Drop off required forms
- Pick up Chromebooks (8-12 grade students only)
- Parents will have optional sessions they may attend to learn more about various aspects of SJCS, including volunteer opportunities, and much more

For complete details, see the Orientation schedules page in this edition of *News & Notes*.

High School Add/Drop Period, August 21-September 1

Schedule changes may be made August 21 through September 1 based on the Add/Drop policy found on pages 4-5 of the 2017-2018 High School Course Catalog. Parents and students should read this policy carefully BEFORE making schedule change requests. Add/Drop forms are available in the College Counseling Office.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Event, Monday, August 21

We are pleased to provide an (optional) opportunity for our school community to enjoy this momentous occasion together. Pizza will be available for purchase from 12:15-12:45 PM, followed by an eclipse presentation and viewing from 1:00-3:15 PM. As previously communicated, registration for this event was required and the registration deadline has already passed.

HS Fall Play Auditions, August 22-24

Auditions for the High School Fall Play will be held August 22-23, with call backs on August 24. These auditions are open to all HS students. More information will be available on the Fine Arts website in August. Questions? Contact Fine Arts Director, [Teresa McGrath](#).

Yearbook Pictures & Mass Day, Tuesday, August 22

This will be a full day for all students and [Dress Uniform](#) is required on this day. In addition to the celebration of Mass and school pictures, the day will focus on what it means to be a SJCS student. Doors open at 7:30 AM and students must be in Household by 7:50 AM. Dismissal is at 3:00 PM.

Wednesday, August 23

Doors open at 7:30 AM and dismissal will be at 1:15 PM. This will be an introductory class day for all students. All class periods will meet on an abbreviated schedule.

Thursday, August 24

This will be the first full day of classes. The day will run on a Monday/Tuesday/Friday bell schedule and Mass will not be celebrated. Students may wear their casual uniform.

HS YIG Interest Meeting, August 24

All HS students interested in Youth in Government this year need to attend an interest meeting on Thursday, August 24 during HS Lunch in Room 205. This includes past participants, leadership, and newly interested students. Students who have not done high school YIG at SJCS will need to sign up for an interview time and pick up an application form. Interviews will begin on Monday, August 28. Any former YIG participants who do not wish to participate this year need to let Mrs. Carr know as soon as possible.

Welcome Back School Wide Tailgate, August 25

All families are invited to attend an All SJCS Community Wide Tailgate potluck picnic as we cheer on our SJCS Knights in a home football game, on Friday, August 25. Stay tuned to your email for details!

Parent Volunteer Breakfast, August 29

Join us for a quick bite to eat and learn of the many great ways to get involved at St. Joseph's Catholic School. Breakfast will be Tuesday, August 29 in the Cafeteria from 8:00-9:00 AM. Please RSVP [here](#).

Red Door Ceremony, Thursday, August 31

All ninth grade students and new high school students will take part in the Red Door Ceremony prior to Mass on Thursday, August 31 beginning at 9:38 PM. Parents are encouraged to attend. *A Brief History: St Joseph's opened its doors in August 1993 and the first 13 high school students entered the school through a red door which, at the time, was the entrance to a little house beside St. Michael's Lutheran Church on Augusta Road. Although the house was subsequently demolished, the red door was donated to SJCS and placed on the school's current campus at the entrance to our chapel, the center of the school. During the school's 15th anniversary celebration in March 2008, the door was unveiled and St. Joseph's began a new tradition. Beginning with the Class of 2008, all graduating seniors now process out through this door as a symbol of their farewell to St Joseph's, marking not only an end but a new beginning. All new high school students are formally welcomed into the school community each August by processing in through the red door, just as this door welcomed the first 13 high school students in 1993.*

Senior and Parents Guidance Meeting, September 5

Our annual meeting for seniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. The meeting will last approximately an hour. At least one parent and their senior student must be in attendance for this informative meeting. Chris Gruber, Vice President/Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Davidson College, will be here to present.

WWI & WWII Battlefield Tour Interest Meeting, September 5

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 WWI and WWII Battlefield Tour over spring break 2019. There will be an interest meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 6:00 PM Meeting Room. All current 8th grade through sophomore students are eligible. 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.

Fall Intramural Program Starts, September 6

Intramurals are open to all SJCS students in grades 6 - 8. The following sports will be offered in the fall: Girls Volleyball and Boys Flag Football. The following sports will be offered in the winter: Girls and Boys Basketball. The following sports will be offered in the spring: Girls and Boys Soccer, Baseball, and Softball. The schedule for the fall offerings will be: practice/games on Wednesdays beginning September 6 from 1:45 - 3:30 PM. No Saturday sessions will be held. A registration form for intramurals can be found [here](#). Start dates for winter and spring intramurals will be communicated at a later date.

HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, September 8

On Friday, September 8 from 5:00–7:00 PM, the Jubilate Arts Guild and Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring the first HS Coffeehouse of the school year. This event will take place in the SJCS Cafeteria. All HS students are encouraged to participate in this event and we invite all families to attend. MS students are permitted to come if an older sibling is performing, but must be accompanied by their parents. Plan to come for an evening of coffee, fellowship, and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue throughout the evening. Entrance is through the HS student entrance and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to student's account (additional family members who attend will also be counted into the account charges).

HS Student Council Back to School Dance, September 9

Student Council is hosting a Back to School Dance for all HS students on Saturday, September 9 in the gym from 7:30-10:30 PM. All ninth through twelfth grade students are welcome to attend. Please note that the first dance is for current HS students only. No outside guests will be admitted. More details will be emailed to HS families shortly. Questions? Contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderators, [Gabe Lewis](#) and [Jen Collins](#).

- **SJCS Dance Arrival/Departure Policy:** Safety and a positive environment are of prime importance at all SJCS dances. Students will not be admitted to the dance if they arrive more than 30 minutes after the published dance start time. Students will not be permitted to leave and come back or leave before the published end time unless an official SJCS dance chaperone has spoken to a parent by phone.

After-school MS Dance Club Begins September 12

Middle school dance will meet on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30 PM. All MS students, beginners through advanced, are welcome to join, but you must love to dance! Classes will begin September 12. Questions? Contact Dance Teacher, [Tami Kiser](#).

Tenth Grade Parent & Student Community Day Retreat, September 17

For the past 3 years, SJCS has hosted the 10th grade students and parents for a day-long retreat, a time for parents and students to slow down for a few hours and reflect on the deeper questions that sometimes get lost in the business of life: why am I here and where am I going? What really matters to me and what makes me truly happy? The fourth annual Sophomore Parent and Student Day Retreat will be held on Sunday, September 17, from 2:00-8:00 PM. Sunday Mass will be included. All 10th graders and their parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Childcare will be offered for families with young children. Please mark your calendars for this day and plan on joining us. More information, including the location and exact time, will be sent out by e-mail in August.

HS Homecoming Dance, October 7

The HS Student Council will host the annual Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 7 from 8:00-11:00 PM. More information will be sent out via e-mail.

Ninth Grade Overnight Retreat, October 10-11

The annual 9th grade overnight retreat will take place from 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 10, until 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 11, at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC. All 9th grade students are expected to attend. More information will be sent to families via e-mail.

HS Model UN, October 20-22

Any HS student interested in participating in the first annual HS Model UN at Clemson University from October 20-22 (please note, this is weekend of Fall Break) please contact [Mrs. Carr](#). We need at least 10 students to commit to the program in order to go. We will not be staying overnight, but will drive over each day. The cost will be less than \$100 per person.

Mills Uniform Samples in the Front Office

Since [Mills Uniform](#) is primarily a web-based store, they have provided us with a generous sample of clothes for students to try on before making online purchases. It is a great way for students to get a feel for the clothes fit and what size to order. Also, if you find that you need a size that it not provided, please contact their customer service at 1-800-541-1850.

School Supplies

A list of middle school supplies can be found [here](#). Middle school students should arrive the first full day of classes with their book bag, textbooks, and all supplies. Teachers will furnish high school students with a list of any particular supplies needed for their classes once classes begin in the fall; however high school students should plan to arrive the first day of classes with their textbooks, a book bag, paper and/or notebooks, and a supply of pens/pencils.

Lunch Coverage Needed for the Receptionist

SJCS is in need of volunteer lunch coverage for the School Receptionist, Dawn Hawkins, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Basic computer and phone skills are needed. Confidentiality and professionalism are a must. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the Assistant to the Headmaster, [Jennifer Church](#).

Student Directories

Student Directories are available through RenWeb. Information on how to access the directory can be found under the Parent Resources/Forms and Links tab on the home page of our new website. Click on ParentsWeb Instructions/How to access the student directory.

Late Stay Program

Parents may make arrangements with the school to participate in the Late Stay Program in the event they cannot pick up their child at the end of the school day. The program is available from 3:30-6:00 PM daily during regularly scheduled class days and from 1:45-6:00 PM on Wednesdays. Late stay charges of \$3.50 per hour (non-pro-rata) will be billed to the student's tuition and fees account and are due monthly.

Cafeteria Service & School Store

Flik Dining Services provides cafeteria service during the day. Breakfast items are served from 7:30-7:45 AM, lunch is served during MS and HS lunch periods, and snacks are sold for 45 minutes at the end of each school day. In addition, a la carte items, pizza, and Stromboli are served during Household on Wednesdays. Also, trays for Household snacks, Household lunches, and/or team meals are available for purchase. To see the options available for purchase, please click on the following links: [Household Lunch Options](#) and [Household Snack Options](#).

From the Academic Dean

Greetings! I hope everyone has had a good summer and is well rested for the start of another school year. We've been hard at work over the last months arranging schedules, finding classroom space, ducking the occasional construction debris, etc., and while we'll all miss June and July, we're looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

We're excited about one change in particular. For some time now we've been discussing how we can best prepare our 6th graders for everything St. Joseph's has to offer. Coming, as they do, from so many different schools, we spend part of our time orienting them to middle school as a whole, and to St. Joseph's more specifically.

Starting this year, St. Joseph's has created a Foundations class that will bring together several of our programs that were previously managed independent of one another. For instance, for years our literature teachers have introduced students to different note-taking strategies, while the Knights Success program has covered test-taking, study skills, and the like. All of this material will now come under the Foundations umbrella. It will also provide an opportunity for other skills-based learning such as keyboarding, digital communication etiquette, and computer safety.

To make room for this promising new initiative, we're combining parts of the literature and grammar curriculum into one course, but **we remain absolutely committed to writing instruction**. Effective writing is one of the hallmarks of a St. Joseph's education, and **the Foundations class will devote significant time to introducing the Lost Tools of Writing**, the thinking-and-writing program we implemented a few years ago.

Lynn Connolly will shift to the 6th grade Literature class, and Elizabeth Duncan will take over the Foundations class.

We want to create a richer experience for our 6th graders, and thus we're also looking at some additional outside-the-classroom opportunities for the youngest Knights! We want them to be as excited as we are about their being here, and we are confident that these changes will make the transition to Middle School both more seamless and more impactful.

There are other changes that will be visible as well, and of course we're very excited about expanding the educational facilities that the UKnight campaign is making a reality right before our eyes. It's going to be a great year at St. Joseph's!

Orientation Schedules for August 17, 20, and 21

Returning Student Orientation Day: Thursday, August 17, 2017

Time	Returning HS Students (10th-12th Grade)	Location
1:00-2:00 PM	Locker Set-up & (OPTIONAL) walk schedule	HS Halls
2:00-3:30 PM	Stations (MANDATORY)	Cafeteria
3:30-5:30 PM	Used Uniform Sale	Meeting Room

Time	Returning MS Students (7th& 8th Grade)	Location
4:00-5:30 PM	Locker Set-up, get schedule, & (OPTIONAL) walk schedule	MS Halls
5:30-6:30 PM	Stations (MANDATORY)	Cafeteria
5:00-7:00 PM	Used Uniform Sale	Meeting Room

Make-up Orientation Day: Sunday, August 20, 2017

Time	Returning HS & MS Students (10th-12th Grade)	Location
6:00-6:30 PM	Locker Set-up	MS & HS Halls
6:30-7:00 PM	Turn in paperwork, MS receive schedule	Senior Commons
6:00-7:00 PM	Used Uniform Sale	Meeting Room

New Student Orientation Day: Monday, August 21, 2017

Time	New MS Students - All 6th, New 7th & 8th	Location	Time	New HS Students - All 9th, New 10th-12th	Location
7:30-8:30 AM	Locker Set-Up	MS Halls			
8:30-9:30 AM	Welcome from Headmaster	JP II	8:30-9:00 AM	Locker Set-Up, walk schedule, meet teachers	HS Halls
9:30-10:00 AM	Receive schedules, walk schedule, meet teachers	MS Halls	9:00-10:00 AM	Stations	Cafeteria
10:00-11:00 AM	Stations	Cafeteria	10:00-11:00 AM	Welcome from Headmaster	JP II
11:00 AM-Noon	Optional Parent stations	Eng. Hall	11:00 AM-Noon	Optional Parent stations	Eng. Hall
1:00-3:00 PM	Solar Eclipse Viewing Event	JP II	1:00-3:00 PM	Solar Eclipse Viewing Event	JP II

From the School Nurse

Immunizations

Each student must have a SC Certificate of Immunization on file at the school. Out-of-state transfers should take copies of their current immunization records to the local Health Department for transcription to the correct form. Rising 7th graders must have documentation (DHEC Form 1148 or 2740) of having received Tdap on or after their 7th birthday in order to attend class in SC for the 2017-2018 school year.

Emergency Contact, Event /Field Trip Permission, and Medical Information Form

Emergency Contact, Event/Field Trip Permission, and Medical Information Forms for the 2017-2018 school year are due by August 1. All students are required to turn in an updated form each year. Please note that this form is not available to submit online, but can found [here](#). Please turn them in to the front office to the attention of Katy McClintock, School Nurse.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

HS College Counseling Meetings for 2017-2018

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend these important and informative meetings. In each case, at least one parent and the student must attend their respective class meeting. Meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center and will last about one hour. Please note the meeting dates for the year: Seniors will meet September 5, 2017; Juniors will meet February 6, 2018; and the Freshman and Sophomores will meet February 8, 2018. There will also be a special Financial Aid Night for Senior Families on October 3 at 7 PM in the Meeting Room as well as course scheduling meetings for Freshmen and Sophomore families in the spring.

High School Class Schedules

All high school schedules are available on Parents Web. You should have received an email announcing the availability of schedules and instructions for any change requests. Beginning August 1, no requests for schedule changes will be honored until the Add/Drop period which is August 21-September 1. Exceptions will be made only for students who have an incomplete schedule (i.e. less than 6 classes) or an error in the core classes assigned.

MS Class Schedules

Middle school scheduling is still in process. Please disregard any middle school schedule information you may see on ParentsWeb before school begins. Students will receive their final schedules on Orientation Day. Eighth grade parents will be contacted via email by Mrs. Broering concerning their foreign language placement when their schedules are complete. Middle school questions may be directed to [Melissa Broering](#).

To Access ParentsWeb

The link to access the ParentsWeb Instruction can be found [here](#). At the bottom of this page, under the section for "ParentsWeb" is the tab for "ParentsWeb Instructions".

From the Tech Services Department

- All 8th -12th graders will be receiving Chromebooks for the 2017-2018 school year. Pickup will be on Orientation Days.
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- Chromebook insurance information will be emailed to parents in August. The annual \$50 insurance fee will be billed to your account in August. The signed insurance form must be turned in when picking up your Chromebook. The Chromebook insurance form is available here: [Chromebook Insurance Form](#).
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- Students new to SJCS for the 2017-2018 school year will receive an email in August with information regarding their SJCS email address, lunch numbers, and other important information.

From the Development Office

UKnight Update

Construction of the 3-story building to connect the academic wing to the gym is in progress! This building will impact all students with the addition of science labs, locker rooms, coaches offices, and classrooms. Completion of the construction is expected in the Spring of 2018. Thank you to all the St. Joseph's families who helped to raise \$2.7 million of the expected \$3.8 million project cost. If you would like more information on the project or would like to contribute, please contact [Kevin Meyer](#), Director of Development.

From the Athletic Department

Sports Participation Requirements

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, workout, and/or practice date. All forms should be submitted to SJCS, Attention: Athletic Office. Please 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 form 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 Athletic Director, [R.J. Beach](#).

Training Consent Form

The Greenville Hospital 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: [Mary Beth Koettters](#).

Knights Athletic Booster Club

- The Knights Athletic Booster Club is an all-sport booster club providing support for all athletic teams at SJCS. In the 2016-2017 academic year, we provided over \$40,000 of unfunded items for our athletic teams, including a game ready and stem unit to help rehab our injured athletes, two golf carts, and 20 free tickets for SJCS students at home playoff games.
- Platinum members, those donating \$500 or more, receive VIP parking at the front lot near the Burgess Hall entrance during football season. This is a wonderful place for football tailgating, reconnecting with friends, and meeting new members of the SJCS community. To join the Knights Booster Club, click [here](#).
- The Knights Athletic Booster Club Board Members for 2017-2018 are: **R.J. Beach** (Athletic Director), **Mary Beth Koettters** (Athletic Administrative Assistant), **Gary Walajtys** (President), **OPEN** (Vice President), **Joe Harvey** (Treasurer), **Stacey Shinas** (Secretary), **Bill Lawton** (Concessions), **OPEN** (Membership), **Debi McCoy** (Team Parent), **OPEN** (Gate/Admissions), **Jason Martin**, **Michael Pace & Brad Scott** (At-Large) **George Shinas** (Ex-Officio Past President).
- As you can see, we have several open positions. Please contact [RJ Beach](#) or [Gary Walajtys](#) if you are interesting in becoming a board member for next year.

From the Business Office

Tuition Statements

- July tuition statements were posted to the billing portal, My Backpack, in mid-July. Plan A and B payments are due by July 31, 2017 in order to be eligible to receive the early payment discount. Plan C or D tuition payments were drafted from bank accounts on July 10, 2017. If you have chosen Plan C or D for your tuition plan and have not turned your draft information into the Business Office, please do so as soon as possible. If you are on Plan C or D, July's tuition payment was due July 10 and should be paid immediately to avoid a late fee. If you need to change your draft information, we must receive this change notice in the Business Office by the 20th of each month in order to change the draft for the succeeding month.
- Tuition drafts do not include miscellaneous fees such as late stay or field trips. Miscellaneous fees and charges can be paid by check or online using the My Backpack portal.
- Each family possesses a debit account for school store purchases. Payments can be made by cash or check to the front office or [online](#). In addition, each student has a debit account for cafeteria purchases. Payments can be made by cash or check to the front office or [online](#).
- If you have questions about your tuition account, or need to change your draft information, please contact [Melody Thompson](#).

From the Fine Arts Department

Volunteers Needed

We welcome any parents or students willing to donate their time and talents to the Fine Arts Department through their sewing skills. We are always on the lookout for parents to assist in the Scene Shop during afterschool and Saturday crew sessions. Please contact the Fine Arts Department Chair, [Teresa McGrath](#) for more information on how to volunteer.

Jubilate Arts Guild

Please support the Fine Arts Department by joining the Jubilate Arts Guild. With membership support this past year, we were able to purchase several items to benefit the department, including a tuba, baritone, tri tom set, keyboard, sheet music, microphones, and much more. Membership benefits and levels for 2017-2018 can be found on the Membership Form. Questions? Contact Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Amy Poinsette](#) to find out how you can support our Fine Arts students and teachers.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2018

Mark your calendars for our Fine Arts Department's annual talent competition, Jubilate Knight for the Arts, on Saturday, May 5, 2018. All members of the school community are invited to join in a talent competition and the sale of voting tokens aids in funding the needs of our dance, choral, instrumental, theatre and visual arts programs. Preparations for this family-friendly evening begin in the fall. To join the planning committee, please contact, Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Amy Poinsette](#).

From the Parents Guild

Welcome to the Parents Guild

Welcome back to all our returning students and parents and a very warm welcome to our new families! All parents and guardians of any enrolled student at SJCS are automatic members of the Parents Guild. The Parents Guild works with the faculty and staff of SJCS to support the mission of the school and provide resources to all the members of the SJCS community who guide our students. If you would like to know more about the Parents Guild and what we do, please check the Parents Guild tab on the SJCS website.

Parents Guild Board Members 2017-2018

The Parents Guild Board Members for the year are [Rikke Gillespy](#) (President), [Catherine Puckett](#) (1st Vice President), [Jackie Zannino](#) (Treasurer), [Cyndi Jennings](#) (Secretary), and [Jill Murphy](#) and [Rita Taylor](#) (Ways and Means). Please email any board member should you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions.

Parents Guild Attractions Book Fundraiser

The Attractions Book sale is back again this year August 22- September 2. There are dozens of coupons and savings in one small book and the money raised will be used to fund the needs of the school. Each student will receive one Attractions Book to sell and will be encouraged to collect orders for additional copies, each sold for \$20. Orders can also be placed online. There are incentives for Households and individuals who sell the most books. All unsold books need to be returned in their original envelope by the last day of the sale. If you have any questions, please contact [Jill Murphy](#).

No-Cost Fundraisers

Please visit the Parents Guild page on the SJCS website to learn ways to participate in no-cost fundraising program for 2017-2018. These include Publix, Box Tops for Education, and Recycle Electronics.

School Store

Volunteers are needed to operate the School Store. This is open to all MS and HS parents who are looking for a great way to meet other parents and engage with the students during the school day. The School Store is open in the mornings Monday through Friday from 7:30-8:00 AM; during lunch on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 10:30 AM-12:15 PM and on Thursday from 10:20-11:30 AM; and after school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:00-3:30 PM and on Wednesday from 1:15-1:45 PM. If you are interested or would like more information about working in the School Store, please contact [Aimee Lonergan](#). In addition, please keep in mind that all School Store account payments must be made either through the Business Office or through MyBackPack. Account deposits cannot be made at the School Store.

Spirit Wear

The School Store will have official SJCS outerwear and spirit wear available for purchase. This year's designs will feature items such as stadium chairs, blankets, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, and more. Look for our online Spirit Wear sale email coming soon!