



**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!

I trust that the new school year is off to a great start for your family. It is always a delight to see our students and parents back on campus after the summer break. And what a treat it was to be able to experience the eclipse together! Thank you to Mr. Koon, Mrs. McLucas, and the entire Science Department for all of their efforts. Too often, many of us fall into the trap of approaching education as merely a utilitarian function, that is, we view learning as a means to an end instead of something that enriches and ennobles. To see everyone on campus in wonder and awe in front of what we were witnessing in the sky, was a reminder of just how fascinating reality is if we will but take the time to look at it closely.

And then in the same week, it was a joy to see so many of you at our first all school tailgate before the Knights' game against Hickory. Thank you for the combined efforts of the Athletic Boosters, the Parents Guild, and the Jubilate Guild for making this event possible. Both of these events were a reminder for me of just how blessed we are to send our kids to a school with a community that feels and acts like an extended family.

There's a lot of information in this edition of *News & Notes*, so I'll keep my letter brief. Permit me to call your attention to just a couple important matters this month. On Wednesday, September 6, we will host our annual Meet the Teacher Night. Please make plans to be on campus that evening to walk through your child's schedule, learn about the teachers' plans for the year, and hear my annual remarks to our parents. I realize it's a long evening, but I promise you that you will leave campus at the end of the evening well-informed and inspired by what we have in store for your children this year.

Secondly, I want to call your attention to a meeting that will be held on Tuesday, September 12 about a new small group program we are calling Parent-2-Parent. Years ago, we had a successful program of this nature, and we'd like to start it up again as a way to facilitate a conversation among the school's parents. To that end, we are hoping to form several small parent groups that would meet monthly to discuss issues pertinent to raising teenagers, with topics ranging from managing screen time to helping parents cultivate openness and conversation with their reticent teens. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

In closing, please be sure to congratulate Mrs. Hawkins, Front Desk Staff, on becoming a grandparent for the first time. Her daughter Lauren (SJCS Class of 2006) and her husband, Chris (SJCS Class of 2005) had their first child in August. Also, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Will Bergman and his family on the loss of his grandmother; for Jayda and Noah Davis and their family on the loss of their father; Mrs. Quiñones, Late Stay Director, on the loss of her uncle; and Paul and Andy Greaves on the loss of Sandy Greaves, the first SJCS School Administrator.

With Love and Prayers,  
Keith F. Kiser  
Headmaster

## Things You Need To Know

### 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 AM** (please note the new Mass time this year). 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.*

### Labor Day. September 4

There will be no classes. The school and school offices will be closed.

### MS MAP Testing. September 5-14

We are excited to be administering the MAP standardized testing this year to our middle school students instead of the ITBS. MAP, the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students. Testing will be done within one of their regular classes, with 6th and 8th graders testing during the week of September 5-8, and 7th graders during the week of September 11-14. This fall assessment will gather baseline information and an additional spring assessment will measure the students' growth to that point.

### WWI & WWII Battlefield Tour Interest Meeting. September 5

2019 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of WWI and the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 \$180 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.

### 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.

### Attractions Book Fundraiser Ends September 6

The Parents Guild Attractions book sale is in full swing. All students received a book the first week of school. Students are encouraged to sell their book and hopefully collect orders for additional books. Prizes will be awarded to the top book sellers as well as a pizza party for the Household that sells the most books overall. The book sale ends on Wednesday, September 6. Please return the book to the school by the deadline if it is not sold.

### Spirit Wear For Sale Ends September 6

We have Spirit Wear! SJCS students are allowed to wear Spirit Wear every Friday. See the newest fashions in SJCS Spirit Wear this season [HERE](#). The order deadline is Wednesday, September 6.

### Senior College Counseling Nuts & Bolts Meeting. September 6

The College Counselors will be meeting with all the seniors on Wednesday, September 6 during the Study Help/Assembly Period to review various procedures students will need to follow throughout the college application process. All seniors must attend this very important meeting.

### 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.

### **All-School Meet the Teacher Night, September 6**

It is our hope that all middle school and high school parents will set aside Wednesday evening, September 6 from 5:45-8:45 PM for the annual Meet the Teacher Night. After a general session in the JP II Center with Mr. Kiser, that begins promptly at 5:45 PM, parents will be able to walk through their child's daily schedule and learn each teacher's goals and expectations for the year. If you have more than one student at SJCS, you will want to choose which classes are most important for you to visit and/or mom and dad can follow different schedules. Class schedules will be provided.

#### **NOTE:**

- This event is reserved for Parents Only.
- In order to keep the evening flowing smoothly and to get everyone out by 8:45 PM, this evening should not be viewed as conference time. Our faculty is available to meet with you for a separate conference at your request at another mutually convenient time.
- Parking is limited, so please try to bring one car per family or consider carpooling with another family.

### **HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, September 8**

On Friday, September 8 from 5:00-7:00 PM, the Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring a Coffeehouse in the Cafeteria. All HS students are encouraged to participate in this event and we invite all families to attend. Middle School 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 entrance and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to the student's account. **MS students: Mark your calendar for the MS Coffeehouse on October 7.**

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Student Council Moderators, [Gabe Lewis](#) or [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](#).

### **Parent2Parent Group Informational Meeting, September 12**

This small group, discussion-based program had been an important part of family outreach and support at St. Joseph's in the past. It is now starting up again. The plan is to form several small Parent-2-Parent groups which will meet monthly at the homes of volunteers. Each meeting will begin with a prayer and include a short presentation, which will then be discussed by the group, with parents having the opportunity to share their experiences as well as learn from the experiences of other parents. There will be an information meeting at St. Joseph's at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12 in the JP II Center. We will explain further how the program works, as well as begin the process of forming groups and establishing meeting times and locations. If you cannot attend the meeting but would still like to be involved, or would like more information, contact [Tami Kiser](#).

### **Tenth Grade Parent & Student Community Day Retreat, September 17**

For the past 3 years, SJCS has hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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. Information was recently emailed to families. Questions? Contact Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

#### **Mid-Quarter Grades Progress Update, September 18**

An email will be sent to parents at the mid-quarter point, September 18, as a reminder to check your child's progress and contact the teacher with any questions or concerns. Instructions for access to ParentsWeb can be found [HERE](#). Information will be at the bottom of the page.

#### **Ladies Knight Out, Drop In/Mixer, September 19**

Save the Date! Tuesday, September 19, the SJCS ladies (moms, guardians, grandmothers, teachers, and staff) will gather for a Ladies Knight Out at the home of Catherine Puckett. More details and invitations/RSVP will be emailed out.

#### **MS Parent Coffee, September 26**

All MS parents are invited to a coffee from 7:50-9:00 AM in the Cafeteria on Tuesday, September 26. School administrators will share information about the new school year and would welcome your questions and participation. This is a great opportunity to hear from and speak with school officials in a small, informal setting.

#### **HS Parent Coffee, September 28**

All HS parents are invited to a coffee from 7:50-9:00 AM in the Cafeteria on Thursday, September 28. School administrators will share information about the new school year and would welcome your questions and participation. This is a great opportunity to hear from and speak with school officials in a small, informal setting.

#### **Financial Aid Night for Senior Families, October 3**

On Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 PM, Katie Egan, Financial Aid Counselor at Furman University, will be conducting a general Financial Aid meeting to discuss the various types of aid, scholarships (including the state scholarships, scholarships through the colleges and private scholarships), the CSS Profile, federal money (grants, loans, work study), and a general overview of the FAFSA and the changes for this year's graduating seniors.

#### **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.

#### **PSAT Testing, October 11**

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) will be administered to all sophomores and juniors here at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 11, with dismissal at **12:15 PM**. Freshman will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade retreat and seniors will not have school on that day. This test is a shortened, practice version of the SAT and it provides a good opportunity for students to get comfortable with the format, pacing, and questions on the SAT. For juniors, this test is also called the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. In September, students will receive a PSAT booklet which includes a complete practice test with answers. Further test details will be communicated in the October *News and Notes*. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

#### **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 the 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.

#### **Fall Art Exhibit, October 23-29**

The Fall Art Exhibit will be displayed October 23-29 in the SJCS Library. The exhibit is for all students, faculty, and staff to show off the artwork, crafts, jewelry, and quilts they completed over the summer. This includes summer art camps the students participated in or even a Color Clay Café day trip. Parents may also participate! The artwork will also be available for viewing during Intermission of the fall play, October 26-29. Entries will be accepted from October 16-18. Questions? Contact SJCS Art Teacher, [Deborah Pickard](#).

**Failure: A Love Story, October 26-29**

Mark your calendar for the HS fall play, *Failure: A Love Story*, in October. On-line ticket sales will begin in early October.

**Veteran's Day Celebration, November 8**

The school will recognize and celebrate Veteran's Day on Wednesday, November 8 from 11:00 AM-Noon in the JP II Center. Contact [Meby Carr](#) if you have a veteran in your family that would like to participate. We are looking for speakers from all conflicts at any level of involvement.

**Confirmation Preparation**

Seventh and eighth grade Catholic parents should contact their home parish to find out about registration for Confirmation preparation. Though St. Joseph's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Religion classes cover Confirmation, each parish has its own requirements and they need to know which children are planning to be confirmed in the upcoming year. This is usually during 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but depending on the parish date for Confirmation, some preparation may begin in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**School Store**

School Store accounts are set up for every student in the school. School store accounts are different from a student's tuition and fees accounts. School Store accounts use a debit balance system whereby a parent "deposits" funds into the students account and these are drawn down by the student as he/she makes purchases. Students cannot have a negative balance in their School Store account, so students will need to have cash or money in their School Store account in order to make a purchase. Payments for your child's School Store account should be made directly to the Business Office personnel or by online payment through your My Backpack account. If your School Store payment is included with your tuition and fees payment, please indicate on the comment line the amount to be credited to tuition and fees, and the amount for the School Store account.

**Cafeteria Service**

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, à 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](#).

**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.

**Student Directories**

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

**From the School Nurse****Allergy Care Plans**

Students with life-threatening or potentially life-threatening allergies should have an Allergy Care Plan filled out by their parent and physician on file in the Healthroom. Contact [Katy McClintock](#) for the correct form.

**Medication Policy**

Students are not allowed to keep medication in lockers, backpacks, purses, athletic bags, etc. unless they have special permission on file. This includes all over the counter medications. Contact [Katy McClintock](#) if you have any questions concerning your child's specific needs.

### From the Academic Dean

Welcome back! We're through the first few days of the school year now, and are starting to settle into the rhythm of the academic calendar. For me, the first week of classes is usually one of the most stressful times of the year. I much prefer the routine that comes after the opening days. I look forward to reconnecting with many of you that I don't get to see over the summer, and establishing new connections with everyone who has joined our community this year.

My younger sons discovered something on YouTube that came to occupy a good bit (probably too much) of their summer. It's called DudePerfect, and it consists of a several recent college graduates that have turned trick shots, stunts, and dorm room antics into what appears to be a thriving business. I don't know if I should be impressed with their entrepreneurship or depressed that this is how they spend their time. A highlight role of their 'skill' might include throwing basketballs off of roofs into giant Pringles cans, throwing fidget spinners at candles to extinguish the flame, and various trick ping-pong shots. Their name comes from their tendency to reward a good trick by saying "Dude...perfect." My sons tried to argue that watching these videos should count as "school time" (that's a thing in our house) since on occasion the guys do explain a little of the physics of what they're doing and thus I found myself, a career educator, trying to convince my own kids that what I do is different than what the DudePerfect guys do. In the end, I won...but mostly through executive power over the computer. I don't think they were convinced.

Blessedly, their fascination with these guys seems to have waned, but it's prompted me to think on the distinctions between entertainment and education. Immediate, easily consumable entertainment is big business in America, and its ubiquity has presented new challenges for teachers. The goals of education are instruction and formation, not entertainment. True, good teaching requires the instructor to engage the minds and imaginations of their students, but there are key differences between teaching and entertaining. First, good teaching is measured over the long-term. Entertainment, these days especially it seems, is packaged in two minute videos or pictures that are captured, consumed, and forgotten in a matter of seconds. Good teaching aims for a multi-year, cumulative impact in the life of the student. It takes patience and discipline to really expand the intellectual horizons of our students, and therefore education both needs and promotes an expanded attention span. Too often, contemporary entertainment does just the opposite. Second, expecting education to always be entertaining is a misunderstanding of what education should be about. At its root, entertainment is most appreciated when it distracts. Education, on the other hand, is about teaching students how to recognize what is truly important, and how to bring the best intellectual resources we have to bear on those issues. Education will always stand in tension with distraction precisely because it's focused on things that reward our patient efforts at understanding.

This is not to say that all entertainment is negative. It isn't. I love my down-time as much as the next person. I even think it helps me return to serious work more refreshed. We should be careful, though, about using entertainment-based criteria to evaluate education. They are not the same thing, and blurring the line between them will further undermine the purpose and priorities of schooling.

### From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

#### College Rep Visits

Numerous colleges have already scheduled campus visits and we are currently working to schedule several others. These visits will be communicated via Naviance and on the College Counseling page of the SJCS website [HERE](#). Students **must** register for visits through their Naviance account, at least one day in advance. We attempt to schedule many of these visits during the high school lunch period so that juniors and seniors can participate without missing class time. However, sometimes visits will need to take place at another time during the school day and in these cases; those students who have a particular interest in the college will need to ask permission from his or her teacher to be excused from class. This will take place at the discretion of individual instructors. Please encourage your child to attend as many of these informal meetings as possible. These sessions provide great opportunities for students to talk with the college reps in a relaxed setting along with their classmates. The list will be updated as more visits are scheduled.

#### College Visits

Juniors and seniors are permitted to make college visits or attend early decision days and will be given excused absences for those days. Any college visits to be approved as excused absences must be submitted in advance to the Front Office (typically two (2) weeks prior to the visit) and documented after the visit with the College Visit Record Form. Second semester sophomores and all juniors are permitted no more than two (2) such absences and seniors are permitted no more than four (4) such absences during the year. Please note that Fall Break is an excellent time for making college visits. Siblings who go with the family for college visits must follow the pre-arranged absence procedure found on page 42 of the Parent/Student Handbook.

## From the Fine Arts Department

### After School Fine Arts Programming

There are several opportunities to get involved with after school Fine Arts: music, dance, art, and theatre. Classes meet as listed below. Contact the teachers for each class if you would like more information.

**Pep Band:** Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00 PM in the Music Room. This is open to all 7th thru 12th grade students; extra fees apply. Questions? Contact [Marjorie Malphrus](#).

**High School Stage Crew:** The stage crew schedule varies; but will usually be after school three days a week. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

**Cantor Choir:** Any student interesting in cantoring for All-School Masses should join the cantor choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from 1:15-2:00 PM in JP11 Center. Questions? Contact [Kenneth Tice](#).

**MS Dance Classes:** After school MS Dance Classes will be on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30 PM starting September 12. We have a couple of high school dance students helping us this year and will offer many types of dance. Come and dance with your friends or make some new friends. Questions? Contact [Tami Kiser](#).

**Themed Monthly After-School Art Classes:** Each month a specific art project will be chosen. Classes are open to any member of the SJCS community (MS, HS, parent, grandparent, etc). Classes will take place in the Art Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 PM. The number of classes each month will depend on the complexity of the project. All supplies will be provided, but the cost for each class will vary, depending on the supplies needed. Pre-registration is required and enrollment must be made per month/project. Email [Deborah Pickard](#) for more information or to enroll in a class. Each month the project theme will be announced in *News & Notes*. **September's project is a CD wreath and the cost is \$50 per person.** The registration deadline is Tuesday, September 5; classes will begin Thursday, September 7.

### Painting Parties Available

If you are looking for a night out with your girlfriends, couples group, Bible study group, or mother-daughter evening, why not have a painting party? Each person in the party will complete a painting to be taken home that night. Parties are \$40 per person and include all supplies and step-by-step instruction. Contact SJCS Art Teacher, [Deborah Pickard](#), to set up a date. All classes will be taught in the SJCS art room.

### Volunteers Needed

We welcome any parents 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. The membership form with details about member levels and benefits for 2017-2018 can be found [HERE](#). Please 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 begins in the fall. To join the planning committee please contact, Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Amy Poinsette](#).

### From the Business Office

#### Tuition Accounts

- During the month of August, a Chromebook insurance charge of \$50 was posted to the tuition accounts for all students grades 8-12. This policy will cover the Chromebook if it is damaged during the 2017-2018 school year.
- Charges for workbooks and any other miscellaneous items provided for students will be added to tuition accounts in early September.
- Plan A and Plan B tuition payments were due July 31, 2017. If you have not made your Plan A or Plan B payment, please do so as soon as possible. If you need to convert to a monthly payment plan, please contact [Melody Thompson](#).
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My Backpack portal. You can find the link [here](#). Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you need help with your user id or password.
- A reminder to review your account will be sent each month around the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month to each family that has a balance due, or activity on their account during the previous month. Please review your account carefully. All charges over 30 days old will be subject to a 1.50% late fee. You can pay your account online or by sending a check to the Business Office. Echeck payments or credit card payments are accepted online. You will be charged a 3.75% convenience fee for these payments.

### From the Parents Guild

Welcome to the Parents Guild. All parents and guardians of St. Joseph's students are automatically members of the Guild. We work to "fill the gaps" the school simply can't hire staff to do, and work to both help raise money for the classrooms and to make some events a little more fun! (Examples of items we have helped funding this past year are charging stations for the Chromebooks, two Promethean Boards, a projector for the JP11 Center, and parking lot lighting). We want to help celebrate the school, the teachers, and the staff! We have events all year long, and there are many ways you can help and volunteer, all to make St. Joseph's a better place to learn and work!

#### Used Uniforms Needed!

Parents Guild is in need of used uniforms! Please think of us, NOT Goodwill, as you're cleaning out your closets or getting rid of outgrown clothing. Any school-approved used uniform pieces can be dropped off at the front office.

#### Box Tops for Education

Box Tops are a great and easy way to help our school raise funds. Please clip your box tops and turn them into your Household Dean's box found in each classroom. This program was a huge success and earned our school almost \$1,500. Questions? Contact [Meredith Dobson](#) and [Stacy Covington](#).

#### SJCS School Store

The SJCS School Store is open Monday through Friday from 7:30-8:00 AM, during lunch, 3:00-3:30 PM, and Wednesday afternoons from 1:15-1:45 PM. For the convenience of our school families, students may set up prepaid accounts for use in the store by submitting payments online through [My Backpack](#) or submitting checks or cash to the front office. Please note: Students will only be able to use the money in their school store accounts to purchase items from the school store. This means that in order to serve students in a timely manner, the school store cannot give students change from their school store account to purchase items from the vending machines or cafeteria.

#### School Store Volunteers Needed

We have a couple of shifts in need of volunteers: Monday 7:30-8:00 AM, Monday 3:00-3:30 PM, Tuesday 7:30-8:00 AM. Usually, volunteers work every other week. Your time and assistance is greatly appreciated. For our new families, this is a great opportunity to get to know other parents, staff, and students. If you are interested in being a sub, or would like to work a regular shift, please contact [Aimee Lonergan](#).

#### No Cost Fundraisers

Please explore the [Parents Guild page](#) on the school website to learn ways to participate in our no cost fundraisers. Questions? Contact the Parents Guild Director of Ways and Means, [Jill Murphy](#).

### 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**

- Platinum Knights Athletic Booster Club Memberships are going fast! To ensure your reserved parking/tailgating spot for the year, as well as free home tickets (based on giving level), join today! For membership form please click here: [Knight's Athletic Booster Club Membership](#). Questions? Contact [Gidge Marchant](#).
- Here's what your membership in the Knight's Athletic Booster Club can do: Last year the Knight's Athletic Booster Club donated approximately \$45,000 towards the athletic programs. We are happy to say we contributed the following to the school: 2 golf carts (one for facilities and one for athletics), game ready unit to assist injured athletes, new championship banners in the gym, flag and flag pole installation on the softball field, athletic coaching wear, and 20 complimentary tickets for SJCS students to each home playoff game. Let's help our student-athletes do great things both on the field and in the community. Joining the Booster Club Board is a fantastic opportunity to jump into the SJCS community! If you are interested in joining the "working" board, please contact [Gary Walajtys](#).

### From the Development Office

#### **Athletic Venue Banners 2017-2018**

The Development Office, in conjunction with the Knights Athletic Booster Club, is looking for advertising sponsors for this year's athletic venues. We are offering business sponsorship opportunities to display company-logoed banners for all athletic facilities. We have several levels to choose from to meet your budget. All proceeds will go toward athletic facilities and equipment. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please contact [Michael Pace](#) or see the [Athletic Sponsorship Form](#).

#### **Parent Engagement Opportunities**

SJCS needs more than tuition dollars to operate efficiently and effectively. Family involvement is essential for the success of the school. Parent participation helps create an engaged and lively community atmosphere. We have many opportunities to 'get involved'. You can find them [HERE](#). Your help is wanted, needed, and greatly appreciated.

#### **Thank You!**

- Thank you to all who helped with our 2017 Come Back to Give Back Day. We had over 90 parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who came to help us spruce our campus up for the beginning of the school year (and did it in record timing this year)! We are grateful for your generosity.
- Thank you to all the parents who generously provided food and time to serve the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Breakfast. The Faculty and Staff were grateful for such an enjoyable and delicious treat.
- Thank you to our SJCS Parents Guild, Knights Athletic Booster Club, and Jubilate Guild for their hard work in sponsoring the School Community Tailgate. Additionally we thank our DJ for the evening, Matt Bynum, our Advancement Representatives for all their help, and all our families who participated and made this such an enjoyable event! Go Knights!