



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!

It's a pleasure to begin my letter this month by congratulating six seniors on their recent recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program. **Catalina Lindstrom**, **Drew Lyons**, and **Carson McAbee** were named National Merit Semifinalists for being ranked in the top one percent of the nation's high school students; **Christian Castillo**, **Dominic Mosley**, and **Megan Seidel** were named Commended Students for being among the top 50,000 of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test in 2016. Christian Castillo and Catalina Lindstrom were also named National Hispanic Scholars for scoring in the top 2.5% among Hispanics on the PSAT/NMSQT. Congratulations to these well-deserving members of the Class of 2018!

Open House, Sunday, November 5

I know Open House is more than a month away, but as I mentioned at Meet the Teacher Night, year in and year out, word of mouth from our parents is the school's most successful method for generating interest in St. Joseph's. So, please begin to tell your neighbors and friends about Open House, which begins with an informative program of middle school, high school, alumni, and parent witnesses at 1:00 PM on November 5 followed by student-led tours. Even better would be to offer to accompany a friend to the event. Also, we would love for you to consider hosting an informal informational event either at the school (last year a Five Oaks Academy parent organized a tour of St. Joseph's for interested parents) or in your home for a group of friends from an affinity group who will have middle or high school aged kids next year. In particular, we are always looking for a way to connect with families who have 5th grade children in public schools. Please reach out to our Director of Admission, [Barbara McGrath](#), if you think this is something you could organize, and she will help to make it happen. And yes, now is the time to put the Open House decal on your car. Please note that the decal is actually a sticker this year, so I'd advise, for ease of removal after the event, that you put the decal on a window and not the body of your car!

Homecoming 2017

On Friday, October 6, the school community looks forward to welcoming back our graduates to campus to watch the Knights football team take on Landrum High School at 7:30 PM. Alumni are invited to enjoy the game and refreshments in the Alumni tent located across the field from the scoreboard. The student body will present its Homecoming Court in a special half-time ceremony. As always, the concession stand will be well-stocked with delicious food, drinks, and the latest SJCS spirit wear. The evening will kick off at 5:30 PM with a family potluck dinner organized by Campus Ministry in the MS playground area followed by a concert by *Insideout & Backwards* from 6:00-7:00 PM. So, bring a dinner item to share, a blanket and/or chairs, and join us for a fun evening of football, pageantry, and music as we welcome our graduates back to campus as our honored guests. And, of course, homecoming activities continue on Saturday evening with the dance which will be held downtown this year at the Greenville Drive Stadium.

First Parent2Parent Presentation & Discussion, October 18

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the interest survey for the new **Parent2Parent** program. At last count, 93 parents have given us feedback on what topics they would like covered and what night is best. Wednesday evening was the clear winner for the meeting night, so that is what we will go with. In looking at the school calendar, the third Wednesday (with the exception of October due to Fall Break) seems to be the best option each month. So, mark your calendar with the following meeting dates: October 17 (TUESDAY), November 15, January 17, February 21, March 21, and April 18. Please note that we will not meet in December nor May, as those months are exceedingly hectic for families.

There was strong interest in just about all of the topics included in the survey, with the majority of the parents saying they

were very interested in discussing the following: management of electronic devices in the home; understanding teenage temperaments and love languages; establishing reasonable boundaries and rules for teenagers; and building positive relationships with your teenage children.

Taking all of this feedback into consideration, we are going to kick off **Parent2Parent** with a presentation on **Recognizing & Managing Teenage Stress & Anxiety on Tuesday, October 17**. This and all subsequent presentations will begin at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center (please use the HS parking lot side entrance) followed by small group discussions. We'll plan to wrap up the evening at 8:15 PM with a little wine and cheese for those who want to stay and socialize a bit.

Once we've put together a schedule of speakers for the year, I will notify you of the topics for each meeting. And while one of the objectives is to build community through repeated interaction in small groups, please understand that you don't need to commit to attend all of these meetings. Feel free to participate as the topics interest you.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Matthew Ramsdell and his family on the loss of his grandfather; for Julia Bartell and her family on the loss of her grandmother; for the Demere family on the loss of Jackson Demere (Class of 2009); for Sarah Pelicano and her family on the loss of her grandmother.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

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.

Life Chain, October 1

All students and parents are invited to participate in the "Life Chain" in front of Whole Foods on Woodruff Road on Sunday, October 1, from 2:30-3:30 PM. This is an hour of prayer and public testimony to the sacredness of all human life from conception until natural death. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

After-School Art Class Registration Deadline, October 2

The October art project is a step-by-step acrylic painting, "Taylors Sunrise". This class is open to any member of the SJCS community (students, faculty/staff, parent, grandparent, or alumni) and will take place in the Art Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 PM, beginning October 3. The cost is \$50 and all supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is required. The registration deadline for October's class is October 2. Contact [Deborah Pickard](#) for more information or to enroll in a class.

Thespian Society Annual Food Drive, October 2-November 1

The International Thespian Society will host their annual food drive as a Household competition. All non-perishable food donations will go to benefit a local food pantry. More details will be announced to the student body in October.

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.

Box Tops for Education Deadline, October 5

Collect your box tops to raise money for our school and help your students Household get Household Points and Krispy Kreme Donuts. Before sending them in to your child's Household, please cut them out and check expiration dates. Our next collection deadline is Thursday, October 5.

Alumni Homecoming Tailgate, October 6

All SJCS alumni are invited to attend our annual alumni tailgate on Friday, October 6 starting at 7:00 PM. Look for us under the big tent at the top of the hill. We'll be serving traditional tailgating food and non-alcoholic beverages with a serving of nostalgia! All SJCS alumni enter free of charge with their SJCS alumni card. Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#).

HS Homecoming Dance, October 7

HS Student Council will sponsor the annual Homecoming Dance from 8:00-11:00 PM at the Champions Club at Fluor Field, located in the West End of Greenville. Student Council e-mailed a link for ticket purchase in September. Tickets cost \$20 and will be charged to student accounts. Students who wish to bring an outside guest must turn in an [outside guest form](#). Students must arrive no later than 8:45 PM. Students wishing to leave early must have parental permission given by phone to one of the dance chaperones. Questions? Contact SJCS Student Council Moderators [Gabe Lewis](#) or [Jen Collins](#).

Homecoming Dance Dress Code

The dress attire for students attending the Homecoming dance is dressy casual. The guidelines for the Homecoming Dance are outlined in the [student handbook](#) on page 27.

Ninth Grade Overnight Retreat, October 10-11

The annual freshman overnight retreat will take place from 1:30 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. Information will be sent out to parents by e-mail. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

PSAT Testing, October 10 (freshmen)

The PSAT 8/9, the first in the College Board's SAT Suite of Assessments, will be administered to all **freshmen** here at school on the morning of Tuesday, October 10. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9 is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school. All freshman will report to their testing room immediately after Household and should bring two #2 pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. Testing room lists will be posted at school. Testing should be completed before noon at which time students will eat lunch and then depart for their Freshman Retreat. Students will wear their uniform to school and change when they get to the retreat center.

PSAT Testing, October 11 (Sophomores and Juniors)

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to all **sophomores and juniors** here at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 11. All sophomores and juniors must report to their testing room at 7:50 AM and will be dismissed at 12:15 PM. Students will need to bring two #2 pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. **Freshman will be on their retreat and seniors do NOT attend 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 of the SAT. Many of our AP courses require a minimum score on one of the PSAT sections as a prerequisite, which will affect both sophomores and juniors when they register for classes for next year. For juniors, this test is also called the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. Students can prepare by taking advantage of Kaplan's new PSAT Prep Live program which consists of FREE live online sessions. Register at [kaptest.com/PSATprelive](#). Students also received a PSAT booklet at school which includes a complete practice test with answers included for checking. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Middle School Dismissal on October 11

MS students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM on Wednesday, October 11, which is the same time the 10th and 11th graders will be dismissed from PSAT testing. They will have a special schedule with all classes meeting for 30 minutes and time in Household for a snack. If parents are unable to pick students up at 12:15 PM, they may go to Late Stay up until 1:15 PM with no charge.

MS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, October 13

On Friday, October 13 from 5:00-7:00 PM, the Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring a MS Coffeehouse in the Cafeteria. All MS students are encouraged to participate in this event and we invite MS families to attend (any younger siblings must be accompanied by their parents). Lemonade will stand in for coffee as the beverage of the night, with plenty of fellowship and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue. Entrance is through the MS parking lot door (across from the stadium) 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).

Junior Ring Information Meeting, October 17

On Tuesday, October 17, a representative from Herff Jones will meet with all juniors to discuss class rings and distribute information packets. The meeting will start at 11:25 AM at the beginning of HS lunch in the Meeting Room. Representatives will return the following week, Tuesday, October 24, to take orders during HS lunch in the Meeting Room. Additionally, a representative will be at school from 4:00-6:00 PM during the Parent-Teacher conferences on Wednesday, October 25, for any parents or students who have specific questions and are unable to meet during the HS lunch the previous day.

First Quarter Grades Emailed Home, October 18

The First Quarter ends on October 13 and report cards will be emailed on Wednesday, October 18 after 4:00 PM.

Fall Break, October 19 & 20

There will be no classes on either of these days. The school and school offices will be closed.

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 showcase 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](#).

Winter Cheerleading Tryouts, October 24 & 26

Winter tryouts for additional members of the Basketball Cheerleading Team will take place at SJCS on October 24 and 26 from 5:45-7:15 PM. Tryouts are open to all girls in the 7th-12th grades. Anyone interested should contact [Coach Jessica Reynolds](#) prior to tryouts.

Household Dean & Parent/Teacher Conferences, October 25

The first quarter report cards will be e-mailed on Wednesday, October 18. Wednesday, October 25 from 2:00-6:00 PM has been set-aside for Household Dean and Parent/Teacher Conferences. An email will be sent to parents around October 18 with instructions for signing up for conferences as all conference appointments will be made online.

HS Fall Play, *Failure: A Love Story*, October 26-29

Failure: A Love Story, is a dramatic play centered around the last year in the lives of the Fail sisters. Narrated by an ensemble of storytellers and filled with a dose of dramatic irony and foreshadowing, this play explores the meaning of love, life, and loss as we meet the Fail family. Journey with Mortimer as he becomes significantly entwined in their lives, falling in love with each sister and learning to grieve with their loss. The beauty of the storytelling will bring you face to face with humanity and the brevity and gift of life. All performances will be in the JPII Center. Online ticket reservation information will be available on the website in early October. Members of the Jubilate Arts Guild will be notified regarding early access to discounted online ticket purchasing opportunities before they go on sale to the public. Click [HERE](#) for the Jubilate Arts Guild membership form. You must join by October 1 in order for the membership benefits to apply to the fall production.

Winter Sports Tryouts & Practices Begin, October 30

Winter sports team tryouts/practice will begin on Monday, October 30. In order to participate on a SJCS sports team, the following forms must be completed and turned in prior to tryouts, NO EXCEPTIONS! The required forms are: [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form](#), [Concussion Consent Form](#), and [Athletic Training Services Consent & Authorization Form](#). Students will not be permitted to tryout unless all forms are turned in prior to the first tryout 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](#).

Senior Graduation Supplies Information Meeting, October 31

On Tuesday, October 31, representatives from Herff Jones will meet with all seniors to discuss graduation supplies such as caps and gowns, announcements, etc. and distribute information packets. The meeting will start at 11:25 AM at the beginning of HS lunch in the Meeting Room. Orders will be taken the following week on Tuesday, November 7, during HS lunch in the Meeting Room. Parents are asked to please take a few moments to look over the information your student brings home and send them back to school on the order day with the proper paperwork and payment. Specific instructions regarding payment will be provided during the information meeting.

Team Competition Day, November 1

All MS and HS Households will participate in the annual fall Team Competition Day on November 1. Dress for the students will follow "free dress" guidelines as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. **All MS students must wear their SJCS gym shorts or sweatpants.** All students should wear their Household t-shirts.

MS & HS Household Luncheons, November 1

All Households are invited to host Household luncheons on November 1. The exact times for the luncheon will be sent out in the weeks leading up to this event.

Admissions Open House, November 5

Please help us fill the campus on November 5 by inviting a prospective parent (friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative) to our annual Admissions Open House. The event begins at 1:00 PM and officially kicks off the admissions season for the upcoming school year for all grades. Families interested in SJCS will have a chance to hear from a St. Joseph's senior, graduate, and parent on the value of their time spent at St. Joseph's, tour with current students, meet and speak with teachers, coaches, and parents, and learn more about opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This is a once-a-year event, so please help us to spread the word.

Open House Car Decals

If you have not yet done so, please consider placing the Open House Car Decal (that you received at Meet The Teacher Night) on your outside back car window now. Extras for other in-town family members are available in the front office. These signs will go on/come off easily, and everyone can help recruit for SJCS by this simple gesture. This visible sign on your car could also serve as a reminder to speak to one other prospective family about your child's SJCS experience. A strong enrollment helps all of us, and we thank you, in advance, for helping us recruit next year's students!

Attention Eighth Grade Parents

SJCS eighth grade parents were recently mailed an important letter from Headmaster Keith Kiser about transitioning your child from eighth to ninth grade. If you do not recall seeing this letter, please contact [Jenny Starks](#) in Admissions for an electronic copy, as many "need to know" items were covered.

- 1) Eighth Grade Tour Guides at Open House: All eighth graders are asked to be here on Sunday, November 5 from 11:30 AM-3:30 PM to help with MS Open House Tours. In return for their service, each student who volunteers will receive a Homework Pass and a "Free Dress" day (following the guidelines in the Student Handbook) the following Monday, November 6. If you see a conflict for your eighth grade child helping serve on Open House Sunday, please contact [Jenny Starks](#) now.
- 2) Eighth Grade Lunch with the Headmaster: Eighth graders will be encouraged to sign up for lunch with Mr. Kiser during their lunch period at some point during this school year. These group luncheons will serve as a halfway check point to see how your child's St. Joseph's career is going. Please look for a follow up email to schedule.
- 3) Eighth Grade Day: If your child plans to re-enroll here in the ninth grade, it is not necessary that he/she "apply" for high school, as your child is already a student in our school. However, it is required that all SJCS eighth graders complete our high school admissions test. This test provides us valuable data on our current eighth grade class, allows your son/daughter a chance to compete for one of two academic scholarships awarded each year to incoming ninth graders, and will assist us in placing your child in the correct high school classes. The test will be given to all SJCS eighth graders during the school day (Eighth Grade Day) on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

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 military conflicts at any level of involvement.

Senior Retreat, November 12-13

The annual senior retreat will be held at Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC, from 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 12,

until 2:00 PM on Monday, November 13. Information will be e-mailed to seniors and parents in October. This is an optional retreat for seniors wishing to go deeper in the questions they have about their lives in this moment. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

MS St. Albert the Great Science Day, November 15

On Wednesday, November 15, the MS celebrates the memorial of St. Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church, and patron of scientists. MS students will all participate and must stay until 2:00 PM that day. Sixth grade students will be demonstrating scientific concepts in the MS first floor classrooms. Seventh grade students will demonstrate their inventions, and eighth grade students will present their Science Fair projects in the gym. Students will receive more details from their science teachers. Family members are invited to view the projects between 12:45 and 2:00 PM. Dismissal for all MS students will be after 2:00 PM. Pizza will be available for the students that day and information will be emailed home concerning how to order. If students do not order pizza, they should bring a bag lunch.

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 7th 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 8th grade, but depending on the parish date for Confirmation, some preparation may begin in 7th grade.

School Store

School Store accounts are set up for every student in the school and 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 student's 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, á 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.

From the Academic Dean

Two of my sons are running cross country this year, one here at SJCS and the other at Our Lady of the Rosary School. If you've never been to a cross country meet, it's a lot of standing around watching people in much better shape than you are run by you just to see if they can run faster than they did the last time. I actually enjoy the meets, but then, I'm not the one running.

One thing I've noticed at every meet I've been to is the way parents cheer the kids. Many parents, of course, find specific areas on the course where they wait for their child to run by before migrating to the next location to catch a quick glimpse of their son or daughter. Others camp out in one place and cheer whoever is running by...I'm in the latter category. I generally get to one spot and try to encourage everyone I see. Parents in both camps, though, are aggressive in their encouragement of the runners. Near the end of the race the kids are exhausted and those that know they're not about to set a personal best can look pretty discouraged. I see parents at every meet pushing them forward. Shouts of "keep going" or "you've got this" are common, and usually not directed at anyone in particular. The finish line is very exciting as the kids find the steam to put in a final sprint to shave one or two seconds off their time. It's really fun to watch and to experience.

My favorite moments, though, are closer to the end of the race. The winners are already done and off somewhere recovering, but there are still a few kids out there taking it one step at a time, just trying to finish. There's a small cadre of parents that go crazy for these kids, and I find their enthusiasm infectious. Yes, of course I'm blown away by the winners. And true, once my kids have finished, I'm less focused on the race...but I think these other parents are onto something. I've spent a lot of my time with a red pen in my hand, correcting mistakes...it's nice to take a moment and offer unsolicited but still heartfelt encouragement. We could all use a little more of that, I think...

There are some nice parallels between a cross-country meet and the academic year as well. They're both better understood as marathons, not as sprints. You can improve in both by regular practice and sustained effort more than sudden cramming sessions right before a big race or test. And finally, encouragement and affirmation is welcome by all the runners, not just the ones who finish first.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Family Connection

Junior and senior students and their parents are encouraged to make use of the "Family Connection" link [HERE](#) for personalized college search information, personality tests, and career planning help. Contact [Heather Najmabadi](#) or [Karen Miros](#) in the College Counseling Office if you have lost your registration code.

Parents of Seniors

It's that time of the year when deadlines are fast approaching for admissions and scholarship applications. Remember that the faculty members who write letters of recommendation need as much advance notice as possible to craft your students' recommendation, and for the College Counseling staff to compile secondary reports, transcript records, copy and mail all related information, etc. We strongly encourage all students to meet with us to review their applications and essays as this will allow us to put together the best possible packet for them. It is incumbent upon the seniors to make sure they give us adequate notice (ideally, four weeks in advance of the deadline) on requests. Please follow-up with your son or daughter today to make sure they get on top of their deadlines and college admissions 'to do' lists, and have them get their requests in to us as soon as possible. Also, make sure your student is checking both the Scholarship and Upcoming Events sections of the [College Counseling](#) page on a regular basis.

From the Athletic Department

Game Day Campus Policies for Home Football Games

Admission Fee: Varsity games \$6, JV games \$5, and MS games \$5. 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.

On-Campus Parking/Tailgating: The school has two parking lots open for tailgating/parking beginning at 5:00 PM. 1) The visitor parking lot in front of the main school entrance and 2) the large HS parking lot. NOTE: the visitor lot in front of the main school entrance is reserved for Knights Athletic Booster Club Platinum Level Members. The car hang tags that 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. 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.

Stadium Seating: Our football stadium will be open for our fans. Please be aware that the seating was designed for the addition of metal bleacher 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.

Alcohol at SJCS Tailgating Events: Alcohol is strictly prohibited while tailgating in any parking lots and at all outdoor sporting events on campus.

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

Knights Athletic Booster Club

The Knights Athletic Booster Club is the all-sport Booster Club for MS, JV, and Varsity teams. Membership provides free tickets, based on giving level, to any home regular season sports contest (away games and home playoff games are not included).

- Blue Level: Receives 1 key tag. Each key tag represents one free admission into all SJCS home (non-playoff) games
- Silver Level: Receives 2 key tags. Each key tag represents one free admission into all SJCS home (non-playoff) games
- Gold Level: Receives 3 key tags. Each key tag represents one free admission into all SJCS home (non-playoff) games
- Platinum Level: Receives 5 key tags. Each key tag represents one free admission into all SJCS home (non-playoff) games plus VIP parking in the Burgess Hall Parking Lot.
- Knights Athletic Booster Club key tags are sponsored by Greenfield Bagels. Members can take their key tag to Greenfields and receive a free coffee, tea, or fountain drink with the purchase of a bagel or sandwich.

These memberships are still available, but are going fast. These contributions go a long way towards supporting all athletes at SJCS. To join the Knights Athletic Booster Club, click [HERE](#).

From the Fine Arts Department

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 begin in the fall. To join the planning committee, please contact Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Amy Poinsette](#).

From the Parents Guild

School Store

- The School store is fully staffed at this time but substitutes are always needed. Please contact [Erica Walajtys](#) or [Aimee Lonergan](#) if you would like to be added to the sub list.
- We have a limited supply of Knights t-shirts available in the school store. They are \$10 each and may be charged to your students' school store account.

Parent Involvement

We have many exciting opportunities to be involved at SJCS. The Parents Guild focuses on filling those "gaps" the school simply can't afford to hire staff to do. From organizing gatherings to helping out with easily executed smaller tasks, there's a place for everyone! Check out the possibilities and sign up to help on the volunteer form, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Catherine Puckett](#), VP Parents Guild.

With Sincere Thanks

The Parents Guild would like to thank the following volunteers for helping to get the school year off to a great start:

- Jackie Zannino for preparing and organizing the faculty/staff welcome back gifts;
- Erica Walajtys and Aimee Lonergan for getting the School Store stocked and staffed for the new school year;
- Jill Murphy, Ways and Means Chairperson, along with Rita Taylor and Cyndi Jennings, for organizing and executing another successful Attractions Book Sale;
- Heather Malone-Grippe and her team of volunteers for organizing and staffing our Used Uniform Sale;
- Michelle Mullins and Catherine Puckett for designing and organizing our Fall Spirit Wear Sales;
- Amy Cassidy and Missy Marchal for planning a wonderful Ladies Knight Out, and Catherine Puckett for opening her home for this fun event.

We appreciate the efforts and dedication from all of our volunteer coordinators and the many volunteers that give their time and talents to make our events at SJCS a success!

After Prom 2018

- It may seem a way away, but we would like for you and your family to think about After Prom! Every year on the news, we hear about tragedies that occur the night after prom; kids staying out too late with no supervision.
- At St. Joseph's, After Prom is a parent-run event. The fun and camaraderie continues after the big night of dancing is over. The kids gather as a group, dress down (t-shirts and shorts), and hang out, laugh, relax and continue having fun. In the past, After Prom has been held at different venues including Sky Zone and last year at the Sports Club, Five Forks. We have police present at the event and parents chaperone. Traditionally, parents have donated gifts and gift cards, giving each participant the chance to win something and seniors get a chance to win a bigger gift (think graduation type gifts: dorm fridges, coffee brewers, dorm decorating items, etc).
- We hope you will make After Prom a part of your Prom-planning. We provide a safe, alcohol-free venue for your student to continue "partying into the night".
- If you are interested in volunteering as part of the planning committee, please contact [Catherine Puckett](#), VP Parents Guild.

From the Development Office

Parent Volunteer Sign-Up

There are many volunteer opportunities to become engaged in the SJCS Parent Community. To view or fill out the form, click [HERE](#).

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](#) on the school website.

October is Annual Fund Giving Month!

During the month of October, we are making a special effort to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides approximately 7% of the school's budget that is not covered by tuition. These dollars are raised every year through the generosity of our community, and provide tuition assistance, support for academic programs, athletics, fine arts, campus ministry, and enrich student life. Our Annual Fund goal for this year, which includes proceeds from the Gala, is \$450,000. Please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) with any questions, and download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) today!

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 Business Office

Tuition Accounts

- During the month of September, the charges for school provided class workbooks were charged to student accounts, as well as PE uniforms.
- MS and HS Youth In Government deposits will be included on the October statements.
- 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 15th 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. E-check payments or credit card payments are accepted online. You will be charged a 3.75% convenience fee for these payments.