



**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 am pleased to begin this month's letter by congratulating our swimmers on an excellent showing at the state swim meet. The girls finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place overall, up one spot from last year, and the boys brought home the school's first SCHSL 3A state championship with a very impressive meet. The boys won by a convincing 47 points, and nearly every swimmer posted personal best times at the meet. **Liam Walker, Silas Crosby, Jack Doyle, Jack Lonergan, Leo Gibson, and Elizabeth Loudermilk** received the distinction of being All-State Swimmers. Congratulations to all of our swimmers and a hearty thank you to Head Coach Becky VanEvera and Assistant Coach Karen Miros for the excellent job they have done building this program into championship caliber teams. Best of luck to all of our teams that are competing in state playoffs during November. I expect to have more good news to share with you about our athletes next month. (Yes, for those who are wondering, SJCS still competes at the 2A classification level of the SCHSL. 1A, 2A, & 3A classifications are combined for the swimming state championship.)

**Open House: Sunday, November 5 at 1:00 PM**

Do you know a family you could invite to Open House? It's not too late. The program begins promptly at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 5. Thank you to those of you who have displayed Open House window decals on your cars for the last month or two. By far, our most effective recruiting is done through word of mouth by our parents. Thank you for encouraging your friends and neighbors to check out SJCS for their sons and daughter's middle and high school education!

**Annual Fund Update & Note of Thanks**

While on the topic of thanking parents, I want to say thank you to all of you who have made a contribution to the 2017-2018 Annual Fund. As we are still wrapping up this year's campaign, I don't have final numbers yet, but I can tell you that as of October 26, 137 families or 20% of school families have made a contribution to the Annual Fund so far this year. With this excellent start and a successful Gala in April, we could be on track to have one of our best annual fundraising years yet!

**Next Parent2Parent Topic: *Managing Electronic Devices in the Home*, Wednesday, November 15**

If your home is anything like mine, the number of personal electronic devices far exceeds the number of people in the home. Recently, I found myself fussing at one of my kids for watching Netflix on the TV while surfing the web on his laptop, and texting friends, all at the same time! It didn't take me long to realize, however, that even as I was correcting him while working out on the elliptical that I was watching a football game (with the sound turned down), listening to music on headphones, and checking emails on the smartphone all at the same time! Yikes! What does this say about the distracted, unfocused, device-driven lives that most of us seem to be living these days and what can we do about it? This is the topic of our next Parent2Parent Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the JPII Center. Last month's session on Teenage Stress and Anxiety seemed to be very much appreciated by the 40 parents who attended. I hope you'll plan to join us for this month's session.

**Grandparents Day: Monday, November 20**

I also hope your parents are making plans to join us for our annual Grandparents Day on Monday, November 20. An informative and entertaining program begins with check-in at 10:00 AM and includes optional tours, a luncheon with grandchildren, a presentation by SJCS Fine Arts students, and a brief state of the school address by me. The program concludes at 1:00 PM.

In closing, I want to extend a warm welcome to Sofia Cividanes del Valle (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Maria Gelpi (10<sup>th</sup> Grade) who have joined the school from Puerto Rico. The girls have come to Greenville with their mothers who are both sisters of

SJCS parent, Eileen Cordi, while their fathers have remained behind in Puerto Rico to put their lives back in order in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Both girls were enrolled in the same Catholic School in Puerto Rico to which they will return when things get back to relative normalcy there. Until then, we feel blessed to have them and their mothers, Mildrede Valle and Rocio Gelpi, in our school community.

Please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: Joshua and Madison Powers and their family on the loss of their grandfather; for Hannah Cate Smith and her family on the loss of her grandfather; for Jill Holiday (Class of 2006 and former SJCS Swim Coach) and her family on the loss of her brother.

With Love and Prayers,  
Keith F. Kiser  
Headmaster

### Things You Need To Know

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

*Failure: A Love Story*, is a dramatic and bittersweet story centered around the last year in the lives of the Fail sisters. Narrated by an ensemble of storytellers and filled with 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 each 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 JP II Center. To purchase tickets in advance, click [HERE](#).

#### **Winter Sports Tryouts & Practices Begin October 30**

Winter sports team tryouts/practice will begin on Monday, October 30. For a complete list of tryout times and locations please check the [SJCS website](#). In order to participate on a SJCS sports team, four forms must be completed and turned in prior to tryouts, NO EXCEPTIONS! [Pre-Participation](#), [Physical Evaluation Form](#), [Concussion Form](#), and [Steadman Hawkins Consent to Treat](#). Students will not be permitted to tryout unless both 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 child to participate through the 2017-18 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, [RJ 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 JP II Center. 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.

#### **All Saints Day Mass, November 1**

The 7th and 8th Grade Girls and 6th Grade Boys and Girls Choral Ensembles will be singing at the All Saints Day Mass on Wednesday, November 1. Mass begins at 8:00 AM.

#### **Team Competition Day & Household Luncheons, 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 (page 27). **All MS students must wear their SJCS gym shorts or sweatpants.** All students should wear their household t-shirts. MS Household Luncheons will be 10:30-11:10 AM and HS Household Luncheons will be 11:15 AM-Noon. **Students will be dismissed at 1:15 PM.**

#### **Thespians Society Annual Food Drive Ends November 1**

The International Thespians Society is currently hosting an annual food drive as a Household competition. Every HH will

receive points per non-perishable food item donated. The collection will end the morning of Wednesday, November 1, prior to the Team Competition Day. All food donations will go to benefit OLR's St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

### **Christmas Wreath Sales End, November 1**

The Jubilate Arts Guild is excited to invite you to participate in our new annual online fundraiser, Mickman Brothers Fresh Minnesota Decorated Christmas Wreaths sale! Choose a decorated Christmas wreath, table top tree, and/or centerpiece to make your Christmas and Holiday season more festive. The best part is that all items ship directly to your doorstep! You can also choose to send one of these beautiful wreaths to family, friends, and/or loved ones, and leave a personal note by designating their respective name and address on the online order form. For pictures and online ordering, click [HERE](#). **Please note: This sale will only last from October 16-November 1.** Deliveries will arrive between November 20 and December 9.

### **No Mass or Dress Uniform on Thursday, November 2**

The all-school Mass will be celebrated on All Saints Day, Wednesday, November 1. Therefore no dress uniform is required on November 2.

### **Early Dismissal, Friday November 3**

All students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM on Friday, November 3 so that the facilities staff may prepare for Open House on Sunday, November 5.

### **Junior High Youth Rally, November 4**

SJCS MS students and parents are invited to the Diocesan Junior High Youth Rally on November 4 from 10:30 AM until 6:00 PM at White Oak Conference Center in White Oak, SC. The theme for this year is "The Road to Emmaus!" We invite you to be part of this exciting and action-packed day as we break open this passage and how it applies to our life. Come learn what it means to encounter Christ, and how Jesus accompanies us on our own "Road to Emmaus!" There will be a live band, skits, activities, food, and great people. We are also looking for parent volunteers who may also wish to attend with their children. Questions? Contact [Kim Adams](#). To register, click [HERE](#).

### **Open House, November 5**

This event, which begins at 1:00 PM, is the best time of year to visit our campus. Interested families will have a chance to hear from several students: one who is just beginning her time here, one who is ending his time here, and one who graduated. Families will tour with current students, can meet and speak with teachers, coaches, and parents in an informal setting, and learn more about opportunities, both in and out of the classroom.

- Two things current SJCS families can do to help: 1) Place an Open House window decal on the outside of your back car window to advertise this event. Thanks to all who have already done so...it's been so exciting to see these on cars around town! More are available in the School Office. 2) Please encourage a prospective family you know to attend the Open House and help us fill the campus with future Knights!

### **Attention Eighth Grade Parents**

SJCS eighth grade parents received an important letter from Headmaster Keith Kiser in late September about transitioning your child from eighth to ninth grade. Please contact [Jenny Starks](#) in Admissions if you do not recall reading this letter, as many "need to know" items were covered.

1) **Eighth Grade Tour Guides at Open House**: All eighth graders have been asked to be here on Open House Sunday (November 5) from 11:30 AM-3:30 PM to help with Middle School Open House Tours. More information will be communicated to both the students and parents in the days ahead. In return for their service, each eighth grader who volunteered at Open House will receive a Homework Pass and a "Free Dress" day (following the guidelines in the Student Handbook) the following Monday, November 6. If you saw a conflict for your eighth grade child helping serve on Open House Sunday, you were already asked to contact [Jenny Starks](#).

2) **Eighth Grade Lunch with the Headmaster**: Eighth graders have already begun online sign-ups for lunch with Mr. Kiser. These group luncheons are for students only and they will serve as a halfway check point in your child's St. Joseph's career. Contact [Jenny Starks](#) if you need help in scheduling.

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. More information will follow.

**Senior Graduation Supply Orders Taken, November 7**

All seniors should have received a packet from Herff Jones for ordering a cap and gown, announcements, etc. Orders for graduation supplies will be taken on Tuesday, November 7, during HS lunch in the Meeting Room. Please take some time to look over the information your senior brings home and return it to school on order day with the proper paperwork and form of payment.

**Scholastic Book Fair, November 7-9**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the Library Media Center during regular school hours Tuesday, November 7-Thursday, November 9. The [online shopping](#) feature will be available November 6-26 ONLY. Teachers can place items onto a Classroom Wish List both online and at the fair itself. The items may vary depending on what Scholastic makes available to the school. The Book Fair helps raise funds to purchase classroom and library resources and hopefully encourages reading among our students. Parents, students, and faculty are welcome to shop during the event. If you are interested in volunteering to work at the Book Fair, either during its scheduled hours or during set-up and pack-up on Monday and Friday, please contact [Rod McClendon](#).

**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.

**Campus Ministry Family "Friendsgiving", November 10**

SJCS Campus Ministry is hosting a family "Friendsgiving" potluck on Friday, November 10 from 6:30-8:30 PM in the SJCS cafeteria. Bring your favorite dish and join other parents and students to give thanks and share a meal together. To RSVP with your family's dish, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Sabrina Moore](#) or [Kim Adams](#).

**Senior Retreat, November 12-13**

The annual senior retreat will be held at Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC, from 11:00 AM on Sunday, November 12, until 11:00 AM on Monday, November 13. Students will go to Sunday Mass together, there will be plenty of rest, and students will finish with lots of time on Monday to get back to school, do homework, and participate in sports. More information will be sent out to parents and students by e-mail. This is an optional retreat, but all seniors are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

**Mid-Quarter Progress Update, November 13**

An email will be sent to parents at the mid-quarter point, November 13, as a reminder to check your student's progress and contact teachers with any questions or concerns. Instructions for access to ParentsWeb can be found [HERE](#). Information will be at the bottom of the page.

**HS Spring Musical Auditions, November 13-15**

Auditions for the HS Spring Musical will be held November 13-14, with callbacks on November 15. These auditions are open to all High School students. More information will be available on the Fine Arts website in early November. Questions? Contact Fine Arts Director, [Teresa McGrath](#).

**Freshmen Ambassador Applications, Due November 14**

Each year, the Admissions Office seeks out qualified ninth graders who would be willing to host prospective students for their shadowing day. This is a campus leadership role, and this position can prove helpful when listed on a student's application for Student Council, National Honor Society, summer jobs, and/or colleges. Freshmen Ambassador Applications may be found [HERE](#). The forms are also available in the Admissions Office; however, they must be received by no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, November 14. Late applications will not be accepted, and interviews will begin shortly thereafter.

**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. Sixth grade students will be demonstrating scientific concepts, seventh grade students will demonstrate their inventions, and eighth grade students will present their Science Fair projects, with all grades in the gym this year. Students have received details from their science teachers. Please be sure students bring all of their materials with them in the morning. Family members are invited to view the projects from 12:45-2:00 PM with invention ballots due by 1:45 PM. Dismissal for all MS students will be after 2:00 PM when winners have been announced and cleanup is complete.

Since HS students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM that day, parents can park in the HS lot and enter through the front door of the gym. Pizza will be available for MS students who order [here](#) by November 10. If they do not order pizza, students should bring their lunch.

### **Parent2Parent Meeting Topic: *Managing Electronic Devices in the Home*, November 15**

*Managing Electronic Devices in the Home* is the topic of our next Parent2Parent Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 for 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. All parents are invited to attend. Please use the HS parking lot side entrance.

### **HS Youth in Government, November 15-18**

Seventy SJCS high school students and six faculty advisors will travel to Columbia, SC November 15-18 to take part in the annual YMCA Youth in Government Convention. Membership in the St. Joseph's YIG delegation is based on a competitive process of applications and interviews and students are selected to participate as a legislator or attorney for a criminal trial or appeals court case. Last spring, twelve YIG members were selected to participate in leadership positions this fall. This is St. Joseph's 16th year of participation.

### **Color Run to Benefit The Family Effect, November 19**

The student councils of SJCS and CCES are once again teaming up for the 3rd annual "Color Run" on Sunday, November 19. The race will begin at 2:00 PM and will take place on the SJCS campus. Race registration information will be sent to families by e-mail. The Color Run is part of Spirit Week 2018, which takes place from January 21-27. The students have chosen "The Family Effect" as this year's beneficiary:

- *The Family Effect works to reduce addiction as a leading cause of family collapse and harm to children. We accomplish this mission by spreading awareness, raising funds, and recruiting volunteers to support the various treatment programs offered at The Phoenix Center. Specifically, The Family Effect raises support for Serenity Village — a residential treatment program for pregnant women, young mothers, and their preschool-aged children. As one of only 3% of facilities in the nation to allow mothers and children to live together and receive treatment simultaneously, Serenity Village works to heal the mother's addiction, accelerate the child's development, and build long-term skills for family strength and self-sufficiency. Currently, The Family Effect is constructing a new building on the Serenity Village campus where the children in the program will receive specialized, evidence-based treatment to address any developmental delays they may have as a result of exposure to addiction in the home. Funds are being raised to support this project and provide resources for counselors to better assess and treat these children in an effort to put them on a successful path and end the cycle of addiction.*

For questions about the Color Run, Spirit Week, and our work with The Family Effect, please contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderators [Jen Collins](#) and [Gabe Lewis](#).

### **Grandparents Day, November 20**

Join us on November 20 for our twelfth annual Grandparents and Friends Celebration. All grandparents and special friends of students are invited to join their grandchildren on campus for a school tour, a lunch reception, and a short presentation. Please note: Invitations are sent to all grandparents in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. If you have NOT filled out the grandparent information in Parents Web, please click [HERE](#) to fill out the form. This will ensure your child's grandparents or special friends receive an invitation. If your child's grandparent lives outside the local area, and you would like them to receive an invitation, please send their names and addresses to [Rachel Neubauer](#) by no later than November 13.

### **Varsity Letter Jacket Order Deadline, November 20**

Any athlete who has earned a Varsity letter for participating on any SJCS Varsity team can order a letter jacket. The deadline for ordering is Friday, November 20. For sizing information, please call First Team Sports at 864-258-6227. To order a jacket, click [HERE](#).

### **Thanksgiving Break, November 22-24**

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

### **Annual Alumni Basketball Game, November 22**

If you know any former SJCS basketball alumni who might be interested in playing against the Varsity team on Friday, November 22, former girls players should contact [Coach Grace Franklin](#) and former boys players should contact [Coach Paul Assinesi](#) to put your name on the roster. The spirited rivalry is always a fun time. Spectators are welcome. Tip-off is at 5:00 PM for girls and 6:30 PM for boys.

**Make-up Orders for Class Rings & Graduation Supplies, November 28**

The make-up day to place an order for class rings and graduation supplies is Tuesday, November 28. A representative from Herff Jones will be available during HS lunch for Juniors and Seniors who need to turn in an order form for a class ring, cap and gown, graduation announcements, or other graduation supplies.

**Junior Class Kairos Retreat, December 1-3**

The annual junior class Kairos Retreat will take place from December 1-3 Kanuga Retreat Center in Hendersonville, NC. Information will be communicated to members of the junior class and their parents via e-mail. This is an optional retreat but all juniors are asked to prayerfully consider attending. Questions? Contact Faculty Kairos Leaders, [Julie Schroeder](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

**March for Life, January 17-20, 2018**

SJCS Campus Ministry will be traveling to Washington D.C. for the 45th annual March for Life to bear witness to the dignity of human life from conception until natural death. HS students and their families are invited to attend. However, MS students must attend with a parent. The buses will leave after dismissal on Wednesday, January 17 and return the evening of Saturday, January 20. More information and registration forms will be e-mailed to students. Questions? Contact SJCS Parent and March for Life Trip coordinator [Brandi Koontz](#).

**Travel & Dive Deeper into History, Spring 2019**

To commemorate the historic events of the ending of WWI and the landing on the Beaches of Normandy, SJCS is taking a trip to these very places of history! The Anne Frank House, Tower of London, and Westminster Abbey will also be visited. All current 8th-11th grade students are eligible. Through November, the code **2019earlybird** will take \$200 off the listed price, and the cost is less than \$190 a month. There is also the opportunity to earn half of a SJCS credit in English or History. For more info, contact [Jennie Neighbors](#) or [Meby Carr](#) or click [HERE](#) to see itinerary details and to sign up and view payment plans. Sign-ups have begun and we are halfway full.

**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.

**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](#).

**From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office****Ninth & Tenth Grade Classroom Meetings**

The College Counseling Office conducted classroom meetings with the sophomores last month and will be conducting them with the freshmen later this semester. The first meeting with the sophomores focused on preparing for the PSAT. The freshmen will receive an introduction to the College Counseling Office and will look at their four-year plan for high school. Classroom meetings will continue next semester.

**Senior Parents**

It's that time of the year when deadlines are fast approaching for seniors' admissions and scholarship applications. Remember that the faculty members who write letters of recommendation need as much advance notice as possible to craft your student's recommendation, and for the College Counseling staff to compile secondary reports, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc. It is incumbent upon the seniors to make sure they give us adequate notice (ideally, at least 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.

### New Re-enrollment Procedure Begins for the 2018-2019 School Year

*In order to provide our families with a re-enrollment process that is both seamless and paperless, while maintaining options as well, SJCS has moved to continuous re-enrollment beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Under the continuous re-enrollment process, students are continually re-enrolled from their initial admission into the school until they graduate from SJCS. In late January, when the 2018-2019 tuition rates are published, parents will receive an email with a link instructing them to select a payment plan for the succeeding school year. In addition, students will be automatically re-enrolled, with a \$300 yearly re-enrollment fee billed to their account. Should a parent desire that their child not to return to SJCS for a subsequent year, written notice must be presented to the school's Admissions Office by February 28, 2018.*

### From the Development Office

#### Alumni Updates!

St. Joseph's wants to know what our SJCS Alums are up to! If you know a graduate who has a story to tell, please email [Rachel Neubaue](#) in the Development Office. Also, please encourage your alumni children and friend to update their alumni information [HERE](#).

#### Annual Fund Update

Our goal this fiscal year (July 2017–June 2018) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. Thanks to all who contributed in the month of October and congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade which is leading with a grade level participation of 28%. 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. If you have not had a chance to participate but would like to, please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) in the Development Office or download the [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) today.

### From the Academic Dean

I've spent the last several months combing through data files and spreadsheets as we get ready for our on-site re-accreditation visit this spring. This can be a very helpful process for schools, even if at times we risk not seeing the forest for the trees.

I did want to give a preliminary report on the parent surveys so many of you took earlier this semester. First, of the roughly 500 families at the school, more than 350 participated in this feedback tool. Many experts will tell you that a 20% participation level for parents is a solid survey, and yet our response rate was closer to 70%. That's a huge win for us, and it means we can have a much higher degree of confidence in the results. Happily, the results were very positive overall. You may recall that the survey is basically a Likert scale in which you were asked whether you strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, etc., with a series of questions. Those answers are then recorded as numbers, and the higher the number the better. **On all 35 questions, our scores went up from the last administration of the survey two years ago.** I'm proud of that because we implemented an improvement plan based on the feedback we received last time, so the early reports are that we are in fact making progress on our goals. You noted improvement on a couple of very specific things, including student access to support services at the school, the relevance of teacher feedback, and the strength of our overall curriculum.

It's tempting to look at results like this and to say we've arrived, but the whole purpose of accreditation is continuous improvement. Even with the positive feedback you provided, there are places where we think we can do better. At the end of this process, the Review Team will give us a few goals for the subsequent years, and at that time we'll begin putting together a plan to improve our performance on those items. Your feedback will be needed again, and I look forward to digging into the data you provide in the future. My youngest son is in 2nd grade, so I've got a lot invested in making sure St. Joseph's continues to thrive!

### From the Business Office

#### **Tuition Accounts**

- Charges for Household t-shirts will be posted to student accounts in November.
- 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. E-check payments or credit card payments are accepted online. You will be charged a 3.75% convenience fee for these payments.

### From the Fine Arts Department

#### **November After-School Art Class, "Artful Fall Tree" Collage**

During the month of November, participants will work step-by-step through creating a fall tree collage. This class is open to any member of the SJCS community (students, faculty/staff, parent, grandparent, alumni) and will take place in the Art Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 PM beginning November 7. The cost is \$50 and all supplies will be provided. Pre-registration is required. The registration deadline for November's class is November 6. Contact [Deborah Pickard](#) for more information or to enroll in a class.

#### **Christmas Concert Dates**

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas concerts:

- Band Ensembles: Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Center
- Choral Ensembles: Sunday, December 10 at 7:30 PM at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
- Strings Ensembles: Monday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Center

#### **Red Door & St. John Paul II Chapel Ornaments**

Don't miss your chance to get your Red Door glass ornaments or a St. John Paul II Chapel commemorative ornament designed by SJCS Art teacher, Deborah Pickard. These beautiful keepsakes will make ideal Christmas gifts for students, alumni, parents, grandparents, or teachers. All proceeds will support the SJCS Fine Arts programs. Orders received by December 1 will be filled prior to Christmas break. Sample ornaments are on display in the entryway to the school office or can be seen [HERE](#).

#### **Jubilate Arts Guild Membership**

Looking for a way to support the SJCS Fine Arts Department? Click [HERE](#) to join the Jubilate Arts Guild. Jubilate Arts Guild members receive many benefits at Fine Arts programs throughout the year. If you have a student involved in theatre, band, strings, chorus, dance, or visual arts, please consider joining our Jubilate Arts Guild. Questions? Contact the Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Amy Poinsette](#).

#### **Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2018**

Preparations have begun for the annual Fine Arts fundraiser, "Jubilate Knight for the Arts" on Saturday, May 5, 2018. This family-friendly talent competition highlights our artistically gifted St. Joseph's community. Patrons will have a variety of opportunities to support the SJCS Fine Arts programs during this entertaining celebration of the arts. Make plans join us and support SJCS Fine Arts!

**To Audition:** Any member of the SJCS community (students, teachers, parents, alumni, siblings) is welcome to audition. Music, comedy, drama, dance, juggling, hula hooping, magic shows, and so many more talents are welcome. Start preparing your performance now! Performances may be up to four minutes in length. Visit the school website at the beginning of December for more details and audition dates. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

**To Volunteer:** If you are interested in helping plan Jubilate Knight or would like to volunteer at the event, please email [Amy Poinsette](#). Our next planning meeting will be held at the school on November 16, 2017 at 8:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to join our planning meetings.

## From the Parents Guild

### Have 'Old-style' Uniforms?

Clean out closets for a good cause! All 'old-style' uniforms collected will be sent to a Catholic school in Houston that was severely affected by the hurricane. A bin will be placed near the front desk. Watch for more info on this exciting outreach project!

### More Food Option at Late Stay

We are excited to announce that students may now purchase more substantial foods (including mac-n-cheese, burgers, and pizza) from the School Store during Late Stay. Students may use their School Store accounts or cash for purchases.

### Belk Charity Day Sale

Support SJCS through Belk's famous Charity Day Sale. By purchasing a \$5 ticket, you receive \$5 off your purchase AND SJCS receives that \$5 right back. Tickets are now available at the front desk.

### Volunteer Sign Up Form

There are many volunteer opportunities at SJCS and our needs continue to grow. To view or fill out the form on the website under Parent Involvement click [HERE](#). Many thanks to those that have signed up. We appreciate your dedication to our school community.

### Many Thanks To

- Jill Murphy and Rita Taylor for their help with the very successful Attractions Coupon Book Fundraiser.
- Stacy Covington and Meredith Dobson for their hard work on our Box Tops Fundraisers.

### Attractions Coupon Book Sales

A big thanks to all who supported the Attractions Coupon Book Sale this year. Almost \$6,000 was raised! Congratulations to our winners:

- Most Sales: 1<sup>st</sup> place (Tie): Madeline Manning and Margo Schellinger, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Hannah Moore
- Winners of the Movie Ticket Package for selling more than 20 books: Madeline Manning, Margo Schellinger, Hannah Moore, and Collin Maides
- Winning HH with 80 books sold: Connelly

### No Cost Fundraisers

Remember to participate in our No Cost Fundraisers! Raise money while you shop at Target, Publix, Amazon, and through Box Tops. More information may be found [HERE](#).

### Did you know?

All funds raised through our various fundraisers are invested right back into our school. In addition to supporting school events like Grandparents Day, Faculty Luncheons, and the After-Prom Party; Parents Guild funds are given to the school to assist with projects. From last year's fundraisers alone, \$12,000 was given to support the exterior lighting project. In the past, we have supported the purchase of Smart Boards for the classroom, a projector for the JPII Center and Cromebook charging stations. Thank you for supporting our Attractions Book Sales and all our no cost fundraisers!