



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!

March was certainly a busy month at the school. Four highlights stick out to me:

- The student-led prayer service on March 14 for the victims of the Parkland, FL school shooting. This simple, beautiful, and deeply moving service featured 17 of our own students reading brief biographical information about each of the victims, followed by a prayer for each that God would grant them eternal rest. Father Duncan closed the prayer service with a blessing for God's mercy and peace.
- The Ribbon Cutting for the UKnight Building, which took place on Thursday evening, March 22. Thank you to all who made this building project possible through your generous contributions. The building will be open for student use immediately after Easter Break.
- On March 22 and 23, an AdvancEd Accreditation Team made its onsite visit to St. Joseph's as part of its regularly scheduled review and renewal process. The visit went very well, and we are looking forward to their full report in the coming weeks, which we will share the highlights of (and lowlights – hopefully, not too many) once we have their report.
- And finally on the same weekend as the ribbon cutting and accreditation visit, the SJCS Theatre Department put on a wonderful performance of the too-infrequently produced musical *Little Women*. I hope you had a chance to see this delightful show. Congratulations and thank you to the cast, crew, and parent volunteers under the direction of Teresa McGrath!

Coming Soon, The Gala

I hope you have your tickets for the Gala, which is fast approaching, on Friday evening, April 20 followed by Prom on the next night, April 21. The theme for both events, a collaborative planning effort of SJCS parents and the student prom committee is: **"A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years."** The gym will once again be transformed into an elegant ballroom for two fun evenings of celebrating, in one another's company, God's blessings to our school community.

The Gala, of course, is the school's single most important fund-raiser, as we raise critical dollars that evening for the Annual Fund which enhances student programs and makes it possible for us to grant tuition assistance to nearly 30% of the school's families. Speaking of tuition, tickets for the Gala Tuition Raffle – a raffle for one year of free tuition – are still available, but they are going fast. Once we've sold the 300th ticket, there will be no more. As of the publication date of this edition of *News & Notes* we had sold over a third of the available tickets. So, hurry and get yours now by clicking [HERE](#) before they are gone. Thank you to all the Gala sponsors who help to insure that the evening is a success for our students!

Board Retreat & Facilities Master Plan

I want you to know that the Annual Board Retreat is coming up on Monday, April 16. At this retreat, we will be looking at the newly revised Facilities Master Plan, which the school's senior leadership team has been working on throughout the current school year with the professional assistance of McMillian, Pazdan, Smith architectural firm. During the retreat, we will also be reviewing the progress we have made as a school on our strategic plan annual goals. The 2017-2018 school year is the third year of the school's six-year plan. Typically, the new six-year plan is developed in the fourth year of the current plan, so the process for developing the next strategic plan will take place during next school year. In addition to all the events, four of which are highlighted above, March was also "survey month" at St. Joseph's. By the time the month is over, we will have surveyed the school's students, employees, alumni, and alumni parents. All of this feedback, along with the information from the facilities master plan study, and our ongoing facilities audit, and the responses gathered by Coach RJ Beach from his surveys at the end of each athletic season will all be taken into consideration as we begin to develop the new strategic plan next fall. I am looking forward to updating you on the facilities master plan and the strategic planning process at Meet the Teacher Night in early September 2018.

Campus Safety & Security

I also want you to know that student safety and school security are always top of mind, and we have had many vigorous conversations about both as an administration and with the trustees in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, FL. The conversation is ongoing and includes discussions about staying abreast of the most recent thinking regarding the most effective faculty/staff training and student drills; making sure the campus and building is secure at all times; the close monitoring of our students' social and emotional well-being and providing timely and appropriate support where needed; the merits and best location of additional surveillance cameras; and how best to go about increasing police presence on our campus.

And finally, all of us at St. Joseph's want to wish you a Blessed Easter Season. Please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Alyssa, Juliana, and Hannah Moore on the loss of their grandfather; for Elizabeth ('17) and Maclean Armstrong on the loss of their grandfather; for Alexandra ('16) and Elizabeth Tamura on the loss of their grandfather; for David and Harrison Miller on the loss of their grandmother; for Julia VanPutte on the loss of her grandmother; and for Carolina and Marcos Salgado on the loss of their grandfather. May they rest in peace and their families and all others who have experienced similar losses find comfort in the love of Christ manifested in and through his people. Easter powerfully reminds us that death does not have the last word. May the popular greeting and response of the early Christians: "Alleluia: Christ is Risen!" "Christ is Risen, indeed!" sustain and give us hope in times of need and loss.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know**Calendar Clarification, March 28 & 29**

The daily bell schedule for March 28 and March 29 have been switched. This means that students are dismissed at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, March 28 and at 1:15 PM on Thursday, March 29.

Easter Break, March 30-April 8

Easter Break will begin on Friday, March 30. The school and school office will be closed. Classes will resume on Monday, April 9.

Mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting, April 11

There will be a mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting on Wednesday, April 11 at 11:00 AM in the JP II Center. Every senior must attend this important meeting. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting. Dress code, arrival times, and graduation practice are just some of the topics covered. You will be given your cap and gown at this time.

Family Honor Chastity Education Program for Parents & 6th Graders, April 11 & 18

The Family Honor program has been successfully helping educate parents and students for decades on questions of sexuality from within a Christian-Catholic perspective. This year, SJCS is hosting a program for 6th graders and their parents geared towards helping to start the important, but sometimes difficult, conversation between parents and child about the meaning of their body. Information will be sent by mail to all 6th grade families. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

MS Agape & Parent Coffee, April 13

The next MS Agape meeting will be Friday, April 13 from 7:10-7:40 AM. MS Agape is a morning breakfast, prayer, and reflection time where high school students witness to middle school students about their own faith journeys. Parents are invited to come for coffee in the library at the same time. Reminders will be sent out by e-mail. There will also be MS Agape on April 27 and May 11. Questions? Contact MS parent [Kelly Gillespie](#).

Seventh Grade Student & Parent Retreat, April 15

All 7th graders and their parents are invited to attend the 4th annual 7th grade "Student & Parent Retreat" from 1:00-6:00 PM on Sunday, April 15. The retreat will be held at [Pleasant Ridge Camp and Retreat](#) just north of Travelers Rest. This is a day when both students and parents are together with other families for a time of rest, friendship, and prayer. More information will be sent out to 7th grade parents by e-mail. Sunday Mass will be offered for all, as well as childcare for those parents who have younger children. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

Mills Uniform On-Campus Sales Event, April 16

Mills Uniform Company will be on campus on April 16 for a mobile store event in our gym. Mills will bring a fully-stocked mobile store directly to our campus, complete with Mills staff, sizing specialists, portable fitting rooms, and a full-selection of garments for try-on and purchase. The hours will be from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM for parents, and students would be able to shop with their parents during lunch or after school. **Students will not be allowed to miss class to go over to the gym.**

Mid-Quarter Progress Update, April 17

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

Annual Auction Gala, A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years, April 20

It's hard to believe we are just a few weeks away from our Annual Auction Gala, *A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years*. Volunteers have been working hard to prepare a vibrant and lively celebration. There are still opportunities to be part of this memorable event:

Volunteer: Want to meet other parents and get involved? Join us on April 9 and 10 for our "Gala Get It Done Days," where we'll work on decorating projects for the Gala. For other opportunities, contact [Michele Dumit](#).

Tickets: Gala tickets are selling quickly so don't delay in purchasing your tickets online now. Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets. Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

For full details about Prom on April 21, please see the "Prom 2018" section of News & Notes.

Home Works Spring Blitz, April 21

If you're looking for service hours, or a project to do with your family, please consider participating in the Home Works Spring Blitz, a day when youth and adults team up to do home repairs for the most needy in our community. The Greenville Spring Blitz will take place on Saturday, April 21 starting at 8:00 AM and lasting until the tasks are completed. If you can set that day aside, please register [HERE](#). Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

AP Exam Preadministration Sessions, April 23-25

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

Student Council Campaign & Elections for 2018-2019, April 23 - May 2

Students wishing to run for an elected position on Student Council for the 2018-2019 school year may campaign from April 23 until Election Day on May 2. All campaign materials must be pre-approved by SJCS Dean of Student Life, Andrea Bell. This year there will be live speeches, though candidates may also prepare videos to be shared with the school. All speeches and videos must be approved by Andrea Bell and should be no longer than 2 minutes. All voting will be done electronically by phone or Chromebook on Wednesday, May 2. Information on available positions and requirements for election will be sent to high school students by e-mail. Questions? Contact Student Council Moderators [Jen Collins](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

NHS, HS Academic & Fine Arts Honor Society and MS Beta Club Inductions, April 25

On Wednesday, April 25, the National Honor Society, HS Academic and Fine Arts Honor Societies, and the MS Beta Club inductions will take place from 12:30-2:30 PM. Students who are being inducted should be in dress uniform that day at school. Students will receive individual letters notifying them of their eligibility and parents will receive an email specifically inviting them to the ceremony if their child is being inducted. Please take note of important times that day: All students (not attending the ceremonies) will be dismissed at 11:57 AM; Beta Club Inductions will take place from 12:30-1:00 PM in the Meeting Room; NHS Inductions will take place from 1:00-1:30 PM in the JP II Center; and the Academic and Fine Arts Honor Society Inductions will take place from 1:30-2:30 PM in the JP II Center. **Please note the early dismissal time of 11:57 AM.** This is in order to accommodate the additional parking needed for parents attending the induction ceremony.

Admissions Testing, April 28

An additional testing date for fall 2018 enrollment has been added for April 28, as we are still accepting applications, space permitting. Tell your friends, co-workers, and neighbors! If you know anyone who might be interested in learning more about SJCS, specifically our new Sixth Grade Academy, please encourage them to contact [Barbara McGrath](#) in the Admissions Office.

New Student Night, April 30

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

MS MAP Testing, April 30-May 10

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) standardized testing is administered to all middle school students in both the fall and the spring. Sixth and eighth graders will test during the week of April 30-May 4, with 6th grade testing during Foundations class and 8th grade testing during History class. They will not test on May 1, which is St. Joseph the Worker Day. Seventh graders will test the week of May 7-10 during their Math class. Please avoid having students out during their test week, if possible. Makeup testing will be scheduled with Mrs. Duncan as needed.

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker Community Service Day, May 1

On Tuesday, May 1, all SJCS students will go out into the community to work on various works of charity and service. This is a required day for all SJCS students. More details will be distributed through Household. Late Stay will begin at Noon. Students must bring their own lunch if they will be in Late Stay.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, Saturday, May 5

The Event: The Fine Arts Department's annual "Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition" is a family-friendly event, highlighting our artistically-gifted school community. Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the Talent Competition will begin at 7:00 PM. Patrons will enjoy an evening of fabulous entertainment and can vote on their favorite acts to benefit our theatre, choral, dance, strings, band, and visual arts programs. Visit the school website for event and ticketing information.

Auditions: Auditions will be **Thursday, April 12 (3:10-7:00 PM)** and **Tuesday, April 17 (3:10-7:00 PM)**.

Any member of the SJCS community is welcome to audition and students can earn points for their Household simply by auditioning. Traditional and non-traditional talents are welcome and performances may be up to four minutes in length. Be sure to start preparing your performance act now and work on it over the Spring Break. Audition information and form can be found [HERE](#). Sign up for your audition time [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

To Volunteer: Lend your talents and time to the Jubilate Knight planning committee. Our next meeting will be March 27 at 8:15 AM in the cafeteria. Questions? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#). If you are interested in volunteering for the night of the event, but can't make it to the meetings, contact [Maureen Coburn](#), the Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteer roles include token counting, ticket sales, concessions, set up and clean up.

Sixth Grade Retreat, May 7

On Monday, May 7, all SJCS 6th Graders will participate in the annual class retreat from 8:00 AM–2:30 PM. Parents should provide transportation to and from Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Road, Greenville. Students should bring a bag lunch with them. More information will be sent to 6th grade parents via e-mail in mid-April. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

AP Exams: Monday, May 7–Friday, May 18

- Monday, May 7: 7:30 AM–Chemistry
- Tuesday, May 8: 7:30 AM–Spanish Language and Culture
- Tuesday, May 8: 11:30 AM–Art History and Physics 1
- Wednesday, May 9: 7:30 AM–English Literature and Composition
- Thursday, May 10: 7:30 AM–U.S. Government and Politics
- Friday, May 11: 7:30 AM–U.S. History
- Monday, May 14: 7:30 AM–Biology
- Tuesday, May 15: 7:30 AM–Calculus AB
- Wednesday, May 16: 7:30 AM–English Language and Composition
- Thursday, May 17: 11:30 AM–Statistics
- Friday, May 18: 11:30 AM–European History

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

Attention Parents of New High School Students! Placement Testing is May 8 & May 10

Newly accepted and enrolled high school students who are entering grades 9-12 and who are currently completing high school courses in math and/or any level of foreign language for high school credit at their current school and wish to advance to the next level at St. Joseph's **may** need to take SJCS Placement Tests. The tests will be held at SJCS on Tuesday, May 8 (Math) and Thursday, May 10 (World Language) beginning at 3:30 PM. Information regarding these tests was sent home in recent acceptance packets. Students entering our high school from the area Catholic middle schools (Our Lady of the Rosary, Prince of Peace, St. Joseph's Anderson, St. Mary's, and St. Paul's) are not required to take Placement Tests but are required to submit a Teacher Recommendation as noted below. Questions? Contact [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office.

- If your child is a new rising ninth grade student and will have completed a high school level math course in his/her current middle school, he/she must take the St. Joseph's Math Placement Test in order to receive credit for his/her current class/classes as well as secure his/her correct placement at SJCS.
- If your child is a new high school student (entering grades 9-12) and will have completed a high school world language course in his/her current school, he/she must take the St. Joseph's World Language Placement Test in order to receive credit for the current class/classes as well as secure his/her correct placement at SJCS.
- Exceptions to the above are granted to students entering our high school from the local Catholic middle schools. These students are not required to take SJCS placement tests provided they submit the appropriate Teacher Recommendation Form(s) from their current math and/or foreign language teacher(s). These forms were included in the acceptance packets and are due back to the SJCS Admissions Office by April 20, 2018 in order to exempt the testing.

Senior Exams, May 11, 15, 17, & 18

- Friday, May 11: 8:05–10:00 AM-Theology
- Friday, May 11: 10:20 AM–12:15 PM-English
- Tuesday, May 15: 8:05–10:00 AM-Foreign Language/Electives
- Thursday, May 17: 8:05–10:00 AM-Math & Make-ups as needed
- Friday, May 18: 8:05–10:00 AM-History & Make-ups as needed
- Friday, May 18: 10:20 AM–12:15 PM-Science

Theatre Summer Camps, June 4-8

Click [HERE](#) for information or to sign up for SJCS Fine Arts Theatre summer camps, June 4-8.

Freshman Class Trip to St. Augustine, July 23-25

Current 8th grade parents and students, mark your calendars for the annual freshman class trip to St. Augustine, Florida, which will take place from Monday, July 23 until Wednesday, July 25, 2018. These dates are chosen because it is a week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. This marks the first experience of the SJCS High School Community, and is always a very enjoyable experience for the students who participate. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of rising senior leaders and a group of SJCS teacher chaperones. More information will be sent out in the coming months. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but is generally between \$300-\$400. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

Mandatory ALL SPORTS Parent Meeting, July 26

Fall 2018 Sports begin as early as July 27. Please see below for the date of each fall sport tryouts. If you have a student that plans to play ANY sport during the 2018-2019 school year, there will be a mandatory parent meeting on Thursday, July 26 at 7:00 PM in the gym. Any student participating in a sport at SJCS must have a physical dated after April 1, 2018 and complete the required forms prior to the first practice: [Pre-Participation History](#) and [Pre-Participation Sports Physical Exam](#), Parent Consent Form (at the bottom of History Form), [Concussion Form](#), and [Steadman Hawkins Form](#). NO EXCEPTIONS!

Fall 2018 Team Tryouts Begin, July 27

- The following tryouts begin on Friday, July 27: Boys and girls cross country, JV and Varsity football
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, July 30: JV and Varsity girls tennis, boys and girls swimming, JV and Varsity volleyball, and Girls Golf
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, August 6: MS football and MS volleyball

Pep Band Pre-season Camp, August 6-10

- All band students, with at least one year of playing experience at SJCS, who are interested in playing for Pep Band are invited to attend pre-season band camp. Openings for all instruments! The camp will be held at SJCS on August

6-10, from 9:00-11:30 AM. We will have a catered lunch on the last day. The cost for pre-season is \$30 and includes a t-shirt, lunch, and sheet music. This is the perfect way to get your "playing chops" back in shape for the start of school. The "Band of Knights" Pep Band has established a tradition of spirit and school pride as they cheer on the team from the stands on Friday nights.

- When the school year begins, Pep Band will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00 PM. We will play for at least three Varsity Friday night home football games (8/31, 9/14, and 9/28), the Fall Pep Rally, and possibly a JV or MS game. All dates will be announced before the pre-season camp has ended. Additionally, Pep Band can be taken for 1/2 HS credit for rising ninth grade and above with permission. Questions? Contact SJCS Band Director, [Marjorie Malphrus](#).

Important Dates for 2018-2019

Please click [HERE](#) to view the Important Dates for 2018-2019 that were recently posted to the SJCS website. The biggest change that you will notice is that Graduation 2019 is after Memorial Day. This allows us to get our required 175 school days as well as a few snow days that we did not have this year and needed. Also, last year was a shorter Christmas Break. This year's Christmas Break is longer.

NEW Parent Communications Committee Forming

Do you enjoy attending SJCS sporting events or Fine Arts performances? Photography or sharing stories? The Communications Department is seeking interested parents to help gather and share stories about all the amazing things happening at our school. This could be as simple as texting a final score after a game, sharing what is happening in your child's clubs, or as detailed as submitting fully written articles with photos - it's up to you! For more information or to volunteer, please contact [Sarah Pelicano](#), Director of Communications.

Summer Exchange Students

SJCS was recently approached concerning an opportunity for our parents to host English speaking Catholic exchange students from Lycee St. Cecile (sponsored by Terre Des Langues) in France from June 12 to July 7. SJCS host families would provide room and board for the students (14 to 17 years old) to experience your family life. The students arrive at GSP with spending money, are insured, and are accompanied by an adult chaperone. If you think you might be interested, our contact is Dr. Andre Goineau. Dr. Goineau, retired from Milliken Research, lives in Spartanburg, and has been matching up exchange students with Upstate host families for 43 years. Contact him directly at mrgoineau@aol.com or call 864-585-3945.

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 Dean

During sixth period every day, I teach a European Literature class. It's been a lot of fun for me (the students might have experienced it differently than I have) to reconnect with some of the classics of the western canon. We read *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Dante's *Inferno*, and next we'll be tackling *MacBeth*. I'd forgotten just how much I love Dante's work. His imagination is so rich it takes my breath away at times. There are parts of it that are terrifying and parts of it that are hilarious, but all of it insists that we take the condition of our soul seriously.

On the recent Senior Mission Trip to Florida, I engaged a group of really awesome students on what they think about the soul. It was reassuring, challenging, and enlightening at the same time. I'm indebted to them for their willingness to engage on these topics, with an assistant principal no less!

Two different experiences, but pointing to the same reality. People occasionally ask me why I work at St. Joseph's, and although I don't usually mention Dante or the group of seniors I have in mind right now, the truth is I work at the school because I want to help create a place where all the parts of the student, body, mind, and *soul*, are recognized as complementary. That's the hard work of formation, and I'm grateful to everyone who helps us make that kind of place a reality here in Greenville.

Prom 2018

The Prom Committee is very excited to present *A Starry Knight!* For the second time, the Gala Committee and the Prom Committee have worked together planning and organizing this beautiful event. We encourage all juniors and seniors to join us as we dance the starry night away!

Prom Ticket Sales, April 12-13

Tickets for Prom are \$30 each and will be available for purchase during lunch on Thursday, April 12 and Friday, April 13. Tickets will be charged to student accounts. Students bringing an out-of-school guest must complete the "Outside Guest Form" which can be found [HERE](#).

Prom Court Voting, April 16-20

The first round of voting for the 2018 Prom Court will be on Monday, April 16. The 2nd round for Prom King and Queen will take place on Thursday, April 19. The Senior Prom King and Queen and the Junior Prom Prince and Princess will be announced at Prom on April 21. All voting will be done electronically on your phone or Chromebook.

Prom, April 21

Prom will take place on Saturday, April 21 from 8:00 PM–Midnight in the Gym. Students must arrive no later than 9:00 PM in order to gain admission to the dance.

Pre-Prom Photos

Parents may take pictures before the dance from 7:30-8:00 PM outside the gym.

Important Reminder of the Dress Code for Prom*

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

- **Boys Attire:** tuxedo, suit with tie, or sport coat with slacks and a tie
- **Girls Attire:** dress, two-piece dresses, dressy pants outfit
- **NOT Permitted:** excessively tight or baggy pants (male and female), shorts, dresses/skirts shorter than 4 inches above the knees, dresses/tops that show cleavage, under garments (including bralettes) or dresses/tops that plunge below waistline, bare midriffs. Please remember the guidelines when shopping. If you have any specific questions, please speak with your Household Dean.

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

After-Prom, April 22

- After-Prom on April 22 is a parent-sponsored event. This event, that ends at 2:30 AM, was organized, planned, and will be staffed by parents. We hope you will encourage your children to participate for the following reasons: we want our students to enjoy their friends and continue the fun in a safe, chaperoned, alcohol-free and drug-free environment!
- This year we are hosting After-Prom at Sportsclub Five Forks. We appreciate the generous support of our own SJCS family, the Egans, who have donated the use of the Sportsclub Five Forks for this event! Waffle House will provide late night catering, lounge areas will be set up for the kids to just chill, or they can swim, use the gym, or racketball courts. They can even continue the dance party if they want in the courtyard. We hope you will support the event, simply by encouraging your children to attend. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased [HERE](#) (student accounts will be charged). Prior to Prom weekend, more details will be sent to parents of juniors and seniors and any sophomores attending Prom. Questions? Contact [Blair Bailey](#).

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Senior College Applications

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

FAFSA Reminder for Seniors

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

Seniors: Finish Your Year Strong

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

SAT & ACT Testing

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

Junior Individual College Planning Meetings

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

Junior Student Athletes

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

College Visits

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

Course Scheduling

In March, all juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and 8th grade students received their Course Selection packet for next year's courses. All forms should have been completed and turned in to the registrar in the College Counseling Office. Any student who has not submitted his/her Course Selection packet should do so as soon as possible in order to be included in the first run of the scheduling process.

From the Fine Arts Department

Upstate High School Art Exhibit

Nine pieces of SJCS student artwork will be part of the 28th High School Art Exhibit hosted by Greenville Technical College, Benson Campus in Greer. The exhibit runs from March 19-April 20.

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Fine Arts Events

NOTE: Additional details will be included in the May News & Notes

- Saturday, May 5: Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition
- Tuesday, May 8: MS & HS Strings Concert
- Wednesday, May 9: MS & HS Chorus Concert
- Thursday, May 10: MS & HS Band Concert
- Friday, May 18: Improvisation Knight

Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2018-2019

The Jubilate Arts Guild is the SJCS Fine Arts booster organization, providing support for all of the SJCS Fine Arts programming. We are recruiting parents to fill several positions for the next school year. If your child is involved in Chorus, Dance, Visual Arts, Theatre, Band, or Strings, you already know how enriching these programs are! Help to support these programs by becoming more involved as a JAG officer and have a rewarding experience. The open positions include: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tech Week Meal Coordinator. Questions/interested? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#) or [Ann Canello](#).

Ornaments for Sale

Looking for a graduation gift? Celebrate our Red Door tradition by purchasing one of our beautiful commemorative ornaments designed by our very own art teacher, Deborah Pickard. The Red Door and St. John Paul II glass ornaments are a beautiful reminder of the spiritual heart of St. Joseph's Catholic School and a unique way to commemorate your student's time at SJCS. Click [HERE](#) to order. Questions? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#).

From the Business Office

Senior Tuition & Flik Accounts

- Senior tuition and fees must be paid in full, except for the June tuition draft, by May 11, 2018. Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you have questions concerning your tuition and fees account.
- All senior student Flik Dining accounts must be paid in full prior to May 1, 2018. After May 1, seniors will be able to purchase lunch only if they have a positive balance in their Flik dining account. Please contact [Shawn Butler](#) if you have questions about your account balance.

Tuition Statements

- The continuous enrollment fee of \$300 has been applied to your student account. This fee will not be drafted but can be paid as other incidental charges through your My BackPack account or by sending a check to the Business Office, attention Melody Thompson.
- All families, please carefully review your monthly Family Statement. Until all tuition, fees, and other student charges are paid up to date or in full, the school: will not provide a diploma or transcript and reserves the right not to allow a student to enroll in a new grading period, participate in graduation exercises, and receive grades or a report card.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My BackPack portal. You can find the link [HERE](#). Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you need help with your user ID or password.

Tuition Assistance

The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2018-2019 school year was February 15. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible. Please note that you must use your 2017 tax information (actual or estimated) to complete the tuition assistance forms. To get to the FACTS application website, click [HERE](#).

From the Parents Guild

After-Prom Help Needed

- We need help from parents to make this event a success. There are small and more substantial ways to donate or loan items for the event as well as opportunities to volunteer your time. Please click [HERE](#) to see how you can help. We will have **prizes** for everyone as well as a senior raffle (which is why we need LOTS of donations to make this work!)
- Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased [HERE](#) (student accounts will be charged). More details will be sent to parents of juniors and seniors and any sophomores attending Prom. Questions? Contact [Blair Bailey](#).

What a wonderful Fish Fry!

Thanks to all who came out to support this record-breaking event! An increase in dinner orders meant an increase in fun. Many thanks to Mary Margaret Knight for heading up the incredible team of volunteers, Jackie Zannino for sharing her creativity and beautiful labels, Francis Produce for supplying the veggies, and to Charlie Sutter for preparing his famous fried fish! We'll see you next year for another night of Lenten blessings.

Want to get involved at SJCS?

The 2018-2019 school year will be here before we know it. Are you interested in getting involved at SJCS? We are now making plans for next year and would love your input. There are many opportunities to serve: on the Parents Guild Board, as committee chairs, and much more. Contact [Catherine Puckett](#) for more information.

Celebrating our Faculty & Staff

To continue the 25th Anniversary fun, the Parents Guild coordinated a gift for the faculty and staff. Each received a list of "25 reasons why they are loved" along with \$25 in cash. A small "thank you" for all they do!

From the Athletic Department

Summer Sports Camps 2017

Summer Sports Camps dates and sessions are posted on the SJCS website. Please click on the following link for more information: [SJCS 2018 Summer Camps](#).

Knight's Athletic Booster Club

The Knight's Athletic Booster Club is the all-sports booster club for middle school, JV, and Varsity sports. Membership provides varying levels of home tickets for regular season games. It is not too late to join the Booster Club for this year! If you would like to become a Knight's Athletic Booster Club member, contact [Gary Walajtys](#).

From the Development Office

Annual Fund

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. 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!