



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

Spring Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

A hearty thank you to all who made the Annual Gala and Prom wonderful celebrations. Thanks goes out especially to the Gala Chair Mary Salgado (her second year in this role) and Co-Chair Michelle Mullins, and the student prom committee under the direction of Mrs. Koon. I am very proud of the student-parent collaboration that made this weekend so special. Allison Moon (SJCS Trustee and Class of 1997) asked me if I realized that the very first SJCS Prom theme was "A Starry Knight." I'm told that we did not know this when the parents and students picked this year's Gala/Prom theme: "A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years." A little coincidence (God-incidence, rather) that tied this year's events to the school's beginning!

Boy, can we throw a party with a purpose! Thanks to the generosity of so many people, the Gala was once again a huge success in support of the mission and the Annual Fund in particular. The generosity on display at the Gala was truly moving. One highlight for me was the fact that three families each donated \$15,000 toward tuition assistance and another family (with a newly enrolled student for 2018-2019) won the Tuition Raffle and donated it back the school to be given to another student in need of it!

The Gala is made possible through the tireless efforts of so many people under the leadership of Kevin Meyer and Rachel Neubauer from our Development Office, the entire Gala Committee, the Sponsorship Dream Team, our Student Advancement Representatives, with significant assistance from the St. Joseph's Communications, Facilities and Finance Departments, and all of our many Gala volunteers and donors. I would also like to extend particular thanks to Katie Hudak (Class of 2018) for treating us to her Live Artwork (which sold for over \$1,000!), as well as Elizabeth Poinsette (Class of 2019) for blessing us with her vocal talents. Thank you to all for a truly special weekend celebrating the St. Joseph's Catholic School community!

Spring Sports

As we turn the calendar for the final month of the school year, the Knights are once again in the thick of the race to possibly win our second consecutive 2A Carlisle Cup. While all of our spring teams saw playoff action this year and many will likely go deep into the playoffs, the big story of the spring athletic season has to be the performance of our undefeated Tennis team. Led by Nick Loudermilk and Brandon Hodge in the number one and two spots respectively and anchored by the only senior on the team, Mack Self, this Knights squad is having a historic season. Be sure to check the website for updates on all the playoff action and get out and support our teams as they make their play-off runs.

Members of the Class of 2018 counting down their final days at SJCS

It won't be long now before, with great pride, I will hand diplomas to the 99 members of the Class of 2018. These talented, generous young women and men are certainly well-equipped and destined to change the world for the better, each in their own unique, unrepeatable manner. The preliminary college acceptance and scholarship statistics certainly testify to their abilities and efforts over the years at St. Joseph's. With only 20% of the college guidance surveys complete at this point, here's what the numbers look like. I'll update them with the complete information next month:

- 88% of the senior class has reported being awarded at least one scholarship, totaling just over 11.8 million dollars.
- 80% of the class is currently on track to receive one of the three state scholarships (Palmetto, Life or Hope) with several more likely qualifying by the end of the year.
- With over 90% of the class reporting at least some of their college acceptances.... all have been accepted to at least one 4-year university. They have been accepted to 106 different universities in 28 states (including DC) and 3 different countries.

- At least 9 members of the senior class have signed or committed to play a college-level sport.

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2018 on their pending graduation on Saturday, May 26 at 10:00 AM. This being, of course, our 25th Anniversary Year, I've asked Brett Myers (SJCS Class of 1998) to be the Commencement Speaker. Graduation is preceding by Baccalaureate Mass on Friday evening, May 25 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome at both events to pray for and celebrate with the Class of 2018.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Catherine '15, Margaret '16 and Lee Eberly on the loss of their grandfather; for Zac and Lily Palmer on the loss of their grandmother; for Declan McKinley on the loss of his grandmother; and Ashton '07 and Aaron Lesiak '12 on the loss of their father.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser

Things You Need To Know

NEW! Admissions Testing Date, Saturday, April 28

An additional testing date for fall 2018 admissions has been added for April 28 to accommodate interest in grades with openings. A completed application must be on file in the Admissions Office prior to testing. Please tell your friends, neighbors, and colleagues! Interested parents should contact [Barbara McGrath](#) in the Admissions Office to reserve a test spot.

New Student Night, Monday, April 30

All newly accepted and newly 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. Doors open at 6:15 PM, and new families are encouraged to come early and shop SJCS Spirit Wear! 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.

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

On Tuesday, May 1, all SJCS students will go out to 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.

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.

Senior College T-shirt Day, May 2

Seniors are invited to wear a college t-shirt from their chosen college on Wednesday, May 2. Seniors should wear their t-shirt with uniform bottoms.

HS Student Council Speeches & Elections, May 2

Candidates for elected positions in HS Student Council will present speeches on Wednesday, May 2. Officers will give speeches during the morning assembly period, while class reps will give speeches during the beginning of study help. Voting will be done electronically after school. Appointed positions will be selected in the weeks after the election of officers and class reps.

Football Interest Meeting, May 3

There will be a meeting in the JP II Center at 7:00 PM, for anyone interested in playing football for the 2018-2019 school year. Interested students who are enrolled for the 2018-2019 school year and who will be in grades 6-12 and at least one parent are strongly encouraged to attend. Come meet our coaching staff, our new Athletic Director Eric Nash, and SJCS graduate and Wofford All-American Andre Stoddard, who will be answering the question "How Football Changed My Life". Please come and bring others that are interested, or have questions about football. Even if you are only considering playing, come out and learn about what football can do for you.

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

- Tickets are now on sale for Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, Saturday, May 5. Doors open at 6:00 PM and the performances begin at 7:00 PM.

- Come to the Fine Arts Department's family-friendly annual talent show, highlighting our artistic school community. Be prepared to vote for your favorite performance act and donate towards the Wish List benefiting the Choral, Band, Strings, Dance, Visual Arts, and Theatre programs.
- Online tickets are available to purchase now until 10:00 AM on Friday, May 4. Tickets also will be on sale at the door, starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 5, but seating is limited. To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).
- To volunteer at Jubilate Knight, please email [Amy Poinsette](#) or [Maureen Coburn](#).

Please see the Exam section of this News & Notes for full details of final exams.

Sixth Grade Retreat, May 7

On Monday, May 7, all SJCS 6th graders will participate in the annual retreat to be held at Conestee Park and at the Knights of Columbus Hall, both on Mauldin Road not far from SJCS. Parents should drop students off between 8:00-8:30 AM at the Picnic Pavilion at Conestee Park, and pick them up between 2:30-3:00 PM at the same location. Address and directions can be found [HERE](#). More information has already been sent to 6th grade parents via e-mail at the end of April. Parents will be charged \$5 to student accounts to help cover the costs of the retreat. Parents whose son/daughter is unable to attend the retreat should fill out the [withdrawal request](#). Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Spring Concerts, May 8, 9, & 10

This year, the Fine Arts Department will sponsor three spring concerts:

- Tuesday, May 8: MS & HS Strings ensembles
- Wednesday, May 9: MS & HS Choral ensembles
- Thursday, May 10: MS & HS Band ensembles

All concerts will begin at 7:00 P.M. in the St. John Paul II Center. Admission is free with the donation of a non-perishable food item. Food donations will go to assist the new Catholic Charities Food Bank in Sans Souci, where the SJCS National Art Honor Society recently completed a large mural project.

Jubilate Arts Guild members will receive priority seating based on their membership level. Seating will not be assigned, but doors will open to Jubilate members only at 6:30 PM, followed by general admission at 6:45 PM. Be sure to pick up your Jubilate Arts Guild member tag at check-in. Additionally, the Fine Arts Department decals will be available for purchase in the HS Commons!

Attention Parents of New High School Students: Placement Testing, 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 Algebra One and Geometry as well as any level of world 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 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 rising 9th grader is new to SJCS for fall 2018, 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 world language teacher(s). These forms were included in the acceptance packets and were due back to the SJCS Admissions Office on April 20th in order to exempt the testing.

Attention Parents of Current SJCS Eighth Grade Students Currently Enrolled In Algebra 1A

SJCS 8th grade students currently in Algebra IA, whose class average is above 90%, have been notified by 8th grade Algebra I teacher Therese DeMars **that they have the opportunity to take the Algebra I Placement Test here on May 8**. Several current SJCS 8th graders are registered to take this test, and the parents of these students will be sent a reminder email prior to May 8. Current SJCS 8th grade parents with questions about this should contact [Therese DeMars](#).

Academic Awards Ceremony & Class of 2018 Red Door Ceremony, May 9

The 8th grade and HS Academic Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 9 in the JP II Center at Noon. All students should wear their dress uniform that day. All parents are invited to attend and you will be notified, in advance, if your child is receiving an award. The Academic Awards Ceremony will conclude with the Class of 2018 processing out through the Red Door in the school's annual Red Door Farewell Ceremony. This program marks an end of one spiritual journey and the beginning of a new one for our seniors. Parents are welcome to attend this special ceremony.

Annual May Crowning of Our Lady, May 10

For centuries the month of May has been a time of special devotion to Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In celebration of Our Lady's month we will have special hymns and devotions at our All School Mass on Thursday, May 10, including a crowning of her image. Each household is asked to bring flowers to place at the image.

Campus Ministry End-of-the-Year Family Potluck, May 12

Campus Ministry will be sponsoring a family potluck on May 12 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 762 Mauldin Road, Greenville. This is open to all SJCS families and students from both MS and HS. In particular, this is a night to honor both students and parents who have dedicated themselves in a special way to the mission of campus ministry. Come for a night of food and friendship and family! To RSVP, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Eighth Grade Convocation Mass, May 16

The 8th Grade Convocation Mass will be held at Noon on Wednesday, May 16, in the JP II Center. Eighth grade family members are welcome to attend Mass and the short convocation ceremony that follows. This Mass marks the end of the SJCS middle school journey and the opening of the doors into the next step, high school.

Improvisation Knight, May 18

- The SJCS Theatre Department will sponsor an Improvisation Knight on Friday, May 18. Join us for an entertaining evening of improvisation as the students compete against each other on stage, using only their quick-wit and humor. The show will start at 7:00 PM; admission is \$5 at the door and concessions will be available for purchase.
- Jubilate Arts Guild members will receive priority seating based on their membership level; be sure to pick up your Jubilate Arts Guild member tag at check-in. Seating will not be assigned, but doors will open to Jubilate members only at 6:30 PM, followed by general admission at 6:45 PM.

Celebration & Yearbook Day, May 21 (Early Dismissal)

Senior Send-Off will be held on Monday, May 21. The school will host a special program for the seniors beginning at 8:00 AM and parents are invited to attend. The Parents Guild will provide the senior class with a farewell breakfast and the rising senior class with a breakfast. All students will receive a yearbook compliments of SJCS. Below is the schedule for the day, with dismissal for all students at 12:15 PM.

HS Schedule		MS Schedule	
7:50-8:00 AM	HH Attendance Locker Clean Up	7:50-8:50 AM	HH Breakfast Locker Clean Out 8th Grade Send-off
8:00-9:00 AM	Senior Video Senior Roast	8:55-9:40 AM	6 th Grade: Recess outside, if raining, a movie in a classroom 7 th Grade: Study for exams in Cafeteria for 25 min, then recess 8 th Grade: Study for exams
9:00-9:45 AM	Senior Breakfast/Cords Junior Breakfast Underclassmen Breakfast in HH	9:45-10:45 AM	Athletic Video Athletic Awards Yearbook Video
9:45-10:45 AM	Athletic Video Athletic Awards Yearbook Video	10:45-11:40 AM	Yearbook Distribution & Signing
10:45-11:40 AM	Yearbook Distribution & Signing	11:45 AM-12:15 PM	MS Headmaster's Cup
11:45 AM-12:15 PM	HS Headmaster's Cup		

MS Final Week of School, May 21-25

All MS students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM from May 21-24. Monday, May 21 will be a special end-of-year celebration day and the exam schedule will start on Tuesday, May 22. Sixth and seventh graders will have two extended classes each day matching the 8th and HS Exam schedule (schedule found in News & Notes). Friday, May 25 will be the last day of school and the students will be dismissed at 10:00 AM after 8th period. Eighth graders should go to morning household on exam days and may need to stay later on Friday if they have a make-up exam.

Late Stay, May 22 - 24

We will have Late Stay on Tuesday through Thursday (May 22-24) after the 12:15 PM dismissal, but NO Late Stay on Friday, May 25, which is the last day of school, with a 10:00 AM dismissal.

Graduation Practice, May 24

Graduation practice will begin promptly at 1:00 PM in the Gym. This is a required event for ALL seniors and they should plan to be at practice from 1:00–3:00 PM. All seniors must be present and arrive on time at this practice in order to walk at Commencement.

MBS Textbook Buyback, May 25

The MBS EZ Drop Textbook Buyback will be held on the same day as the Used Textbook Sale, Friday, May 25, from 9:00 AM-Noon in the library. Volunteers will also have some MBS boxes in the parking lot for the convenience of those participating in the Used Textbook Sale. MBS purchases books according to their inventory needs, and they will buy books that have been purchased elsewhere. Please see the link on the Academic/Bookstore tab of our website for specific information on condition requirements, frequently asked questions, and instructions on how to prepare a quote. To sell books back, you must prepare a quote on the MBS site and bring a printed copy of the quote to the buyback. If you need to prepare a quote, you can use the library's computers during the Buyback event for that purpose. For more information, please contact the school librarian, [Rod McClendon](#).

Used Textbook Sale, May 25

Although not a school-sponsored event, parents may purchase, swap, or sell used textbooks in the high school parking lot on Friday, May 25, beginning at 10:00 AM. Arrive early for best selection. Parents who choose to participate in this event should raise their car trunk lid. Display a red sign with the grade level(s) you wish to purchase, and/or a green sign with the grade level(s) you wish to sell. Check the book lists (under Academics/Bookstore) on the school website after May 18 make sure you purchase books with the correct ISBN number. It is the sole responsibility of parents to verify that the correct used book is purchased - old ISBN numbers are not acceptable books for use. Workbooks may not be sold or purchased since workbooks need to be new and unused. **NOTE:** Schedules are not released until mid-summer. If you choose to purchase textbooks early, please be aware that you may need to purchase different books based on your student's final schedule.

Baccalaureate Mass, May 25

The Class of 2018 will have their Baccalaureate Mass at 6:00 PM in the JP II Center.

Commencement, May 26

The Class of 2018 will graduate at 10:00 AM in the SJCS Gym.

School Holiday, May 28

The school and school offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

Summer Office Hours Begin May 30

Beginning Wednesday, May 30, summer office hours are 8:00 AM-1:00 PM Monday-Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays, as well as the week of July 2-6. The office re-opens July 9 and summer hours continue until early August.

Summer Sports Camps Begin June 4

The 2018 Summer Sports Camps begin on June 4. More information may be found [HERE](#).

Theatre Summer Camps Begin June 4

- June 4-8 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM: Rising Stars (Grades 3-8) \$125
- June 4-7 from 3:00-5:00 PM: HS Auditioning 101 (Grades 8-12) \$75
- June 4-7 from 7:00-8:30 PM: Adult Improvisation \$65

To register for any of the camps listed above, click [HERE](#)

Final Report Cards, June 4

Quarter 4/Semester II report cards will be emailed on June 4 after 4:00 PM. Please remember to check your *junk mail*. If you do not receive a report card, please email [Carol Curry](#). Any questions regarding your student's grade should be directed toward his or her teacher.

Band Program Instrument Fair, June 25 & July 19

Any incoming 6th grade students interested in joining the Band ensemble next year should drop by the Musical Innovations Music Store on Monday June 25 (11:30 AM-1:30 PM) or Thursday, July 19 (3:30-5:30 PM).

- SJCS Band Director, Marjorie Malphrus, and other music professionals will be available to assist you in having a "hands on" experience with several band instruments and to discuss options in leasing/purchasing an instrument. If you already have an instrument in the family, Musical Innovations can also evaluate it for playing condition.
- This is a session designed for parents and students to make an informed choice about their music classes for next year. Please remember, 6th grade is the only year beginning band instruction takes place.
- Questions? Contact [Marjorie Malphrus](#) or Musical Innovations (864-286-8742). Musical Innovations is located at 150 Tanner Rd., Greenville, SC 29607.

Textbook Purchases Can Begin, July 2

The school's online textbook vendor, MBS Direct, will open for business on July 2. (Select summer reading titles will also be available on MBS beginning June 4.) MBS provides free ground shipping for St. Joseph's on all orders over \$99 during the week of July 16-22. MBS carries the majority of our books, but they are sometimes unable to stock some of the older editions we use. Parents are welcome to buy from other sources, but the MBS site does provide a good guide for verifying that the right book is being purchased. In order to ensure you have all the necessary materials for each course, please consult MBS or the 2018-19 SJCS Textbook List found on our website under Academics/Bookstore after May 18.

Rising Ninth Grade Trip, July 23-25

Parents of current 8th graders, mark your calendars for the Ninth Grade Freshman Connection Trip to St. Augustine, Florida, from Monday, July 23-Wednesday, July 25. These dates were chosen because it is the week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. All rising 9th grade students, whether new or returning to SJCS, are invited and encouraged to attend. This marks the first experience of the SJCS HS Community and is an introduction into the mission and spirit of SJCS. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of upper-classmen peer ministers, and faculty and parent chaperones. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but it has generally cost around \$350. More information will be e-mailed directly to rising 9th grade parents. Questions? Contact [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 ONLINE prior to the first practice. NO PAPER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS!

- The required forms that must be filled out online prior to the first practice are: Pre-Participation History and Pre-Participation Sports Physical Exam, Parent Consent Form, Concussion Form, a copy of your athlete's birth certificate and Steadman Hawkins form.
- All required athletic forms must be submitted through Arbiter Athlete found [HERE](#). The site will be accessible beginning May 7, 2018. Information on how to create the parent and student login at Arbiter Athlete will be available on the SJCS website under Athletics, or you can send a text to 69274 containing S777 in the message and you will instantly receive a text inviting you to create an account.

Fall 2018 Team Tryouts Begin, July 27

- The following tryouts begin on Friday, July 27: Boys and girls cross country (7:30-9:00 AM), JV and Varsity football (8:00 AM-Noon)
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, July 30: JV and Varsity girls tennis (4:00-6:00 PM), boys and girls swimming (7:30-9:30 AM at Spalding Farms Pool), JV and Varsity volleyball (1:30-3:30 PM), and Girls Golf (9:30 AM at The Preserve at Verdae)
- The following tryouts begin on Monday, August 6: MS football (8:00-10:00 AM) and MS volleyball (3:30-5:30 PM)

Rising Senior Application Boot Camp, August 6-8

The College Counseling Office will host a college application boot camp for rising seniors August 6-8 at SJCS. All rising seniors are welcome. More details will follow in an email later this summer.

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. Contact SJCS Band Director, [Marjorie Malphrus](#), for more information.

HS Service Hour Opportunities

- HS students have the opportunity to get some of the required service hours in over the summer, please see below for more details.
- HS students interested in earning service hours in the technology department over the summer, contact [Mrs. Cummings](#) to sign up.
- HS students interested in earning service hours in the facilities department over the summer, contact [Mr. Keefe](#) to sign up.

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.

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.

From the Academic Dean

In late March, a group of school administrators and teachers (known as an External Review Team, or ERT) visited St. Joseph's as part of our accreditation with AdvancEd, the largest school accreditor in the world. Every five years we have to report on several aspects of our operations, including more than three dozen indicators of quality. Aside from a number of reports and self-assessments, every classroom is visited and evaluated from the student perspective. Over the past several years, the focus of accreditation for all schools has shifted from "proving yourself" to a focus on continuous improvement. That is, accreditation used to be seen as something of an accomplishment but it is now more of a process.

The short message here is that we were, once again, recommended for full accreditation for the next five years. While that was not a surprise, it's always a bit of a relief to have that recommendation in hand! The ERT was impressed with virtually every aspect of our operation, and specifically commended us for the strong sense of community at SJCS, the palpable sense of mission that guides what we do (they returned to this theme several times), and the high expectations to which our students are held. The process, while cumbersome at times, was very affirming. I specifically want to thank our teachers, staff, and administrators for all that they did to help us prepare for the external visit. Additionally, thanks to the students and parents that participated in the process through surveys, focus groups, etc., since AdvancEd believes that stakeholder feedback is an important part of the approval process.

At the end of the external visit, every school receives at least one major improvement goal, usually based on one of the indicators of school quality I mentioned earlier. This year, St. Joseph's major improvement goal revolves around the use of classroom-based data to drive subsequent instruction. This is one of the most common improvement goals set by External Review Teams, and it will be a major focus of our school-wide professional development program next year. You'll hear more about this in the months to come, but we are already examining ways to implement student-specific improvement plans that are designed to provide teachers with individualized feedback on student performance and tools to help each student improve their mastery of various skill sets. While the full implementation of all these plans cannot be done overnight, there is a growing body of evidence that suggests these efforts can be very fruitful, especially over the long term. We look forward to updating everyone on our progress. Have a great summer!

Exam ScheduleAP Exam Schedule

Monday, May 7	7:30 AM – Chemistry
Tuesday, May 8	7:30 AM – Spanish Language and Culture 11:30 AM – Art History 11:30 AM – 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 2nd floor classrooms in the new addition 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 to school 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 or the Library. They may not leave campus after a morning exam and return to school for a later class.

Senior Exam Schedule

Friday, May 11	8:05–10:00 AM – Theology 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 10:20 AM–12:15 PM – Science

Final Exam Schedule, Grades 8-11 for Non-AP Courses

Tuesday, May 22	8:05–10:00 AM Period 1 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 2 Exam
Wednesday, May 23	8:05–10:00 AM Period 3 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 4/5 Exam
Thursday, May 24	8:05–10:00 AM Period 6 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 7 Exam
Friday, May 25	8:05–10:00 AM Period 8 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Make up Exams

Exam Guidelines

- Students are not allowed to test early.
- **SJCS Exemption Policy:** Excepting math courses, juniors and seniors can exempt exams in year-long courses if they have a 90 average in the course by the Friday before final exams are scheduled to begin. Exemption averages are calculated by averaging the Fall semester grade with the third and fourth quarter grades. Students on probation or those who have certain disciplinary actions may not be eligible.
- Eighth grade students should go to morning Household on exam days.
- High school students should report directly to their exam room and must be seated by 8:00 AM. Anyone not in attendance after 8:00 AM will be considered tardy. No students are to be admitted to the exam once the exam has

been distributed. Likewise for the second exam, students should be seated and attendance taken by 10:15 AM and no student will be admitted after the exam has been distributed.

- Students should bring review materials for other exams and study quietly if they finish an exam before the end of the exam period. Silence should be maintained from the moment exams are distributed until all exams are collected at the end of the exam period. Students with questions should raise their hands quietly.
- Once an exam begins, students are not permitted to leave the room. Restroom trips should be for emergencies only and then only after the student has turned in their exam.
- Students with only one exam on a given day need be present only for that exam. If they do not have a 10:20 AM exam they may leave at the end of the 8:00 AM exam period. Similarly, if a student does not have an 8:00 AM exam, they do not need to report until the 10:20 AM exam period (by 10:15 AM). All students leaving or arriving between the exam times should enter/exit through the front office.

From the Parents Guild

Donate Your Used Uniforms

Please remember to turn in any outgrown, gently-used uniforms to be sold at the next Used Uniform Sale. This includes *all* HS blazers (previous version and current)! Not only do your donated uniforms turn into a fundraiser for the school, but other families can purchase uniform pieces at a greatly discounted price.

Coming in August: Attractions Book Sale

The 2017 sale brought in almost \$6,000 to our school. Get ready for the fall sale right after school begins. Remember, the Guild receives \$10 for every book sold. Books typically pay for themselves after 2 or 3 uses.

After-Prom Thanks To

- Blair Bailey, Amy Henderson, Devon Pace, and other great team members for organizing an incredible After-Prom for our juniors and seniors;
- The Egan family for allowing us to have this event at Sportsclub Five Forks;
- And to the parents who generously donated gift cards and prizes as well as those who stayed up late to chaperone this event.

A Word from the Outgoing Parents Guild President, Rikke Gillespy

Serving as the President of the Parents Guild this year has been an honor and a privilege. It has certainly highlighted that none of us can do it alone, and as the group has heard me say over and over, "Many hands make light work". Thank you to an outstanding group of parents who have worked tirelessly to plan and staff events, including our new Tailgate-Get-Together, and helped to show the teachers and staff at SJCS that we appreciate them more than they know.

I cannot thank Catherine Puckett (Vice President) enough for being a tremendous leader and friend – and Godspeed ahead; I know you will do great things for the school! Thank you to Cyndi Jennings (Secretary) who will leave the Parents Guild Board this year after having been the picture to us all of what a true servant is! Thank you to Jill Murphy (Ways and Means), who also leaves the Parents Guild Board this year, for tirelessly working to bring in the funds that makes all we do as a board possible! Thank you to Jackie Zannino (Treasurer) who bravely joined the Parents Guild Board in this role, and has the heart and spirit to continue serving next year as head of Ways and Means, and Rita Taylor (Ways and Means) for your energy and smile as you continue next year as Treasurer for the Guild.

Finally thank you to Rachel Neubauer and Kevin Meyer for your energy, kindness, and unyielding support of the Parents Guild and all the parents of St. Joseph's.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Seniors: Graduation Surveys

All seniors must complete their Graduation Survey in the College Counseling Office no later than May 2. Completing this survey is essential in your college receiving your final transcript.

Seniors: Final Transcripts

We will send final transcripts to the college(s) that you indicate on your Graduation Survey. Please note that this also includes the NCAA. Final transcripts will be sent out the first and second week of June. If your college requires a form to be included with the transcript, please make sure the College Counseling Office has this form. Please continue to bring in all college acceptance letters and scholarships offers to us.

Rising Senior Families

If you have not scheduled your college planning meeting or would like to have a follow-up meeting, please contact [Heather Najmabadi](#) or [Karen Miros](#) to set one up. All students should meet with their College Counselor at least once before the end of the school year. Parents who have not yet filled out the [Junior Parent Questionnaire](#) should do so before the end of May.

Course Schedules

HS students and parents will be notified, via email, over the summer when the course schedules are available on ParentsWeb, usually in early July. Students will have an opportunity to make change requests once they receive their schedules. MS students will receive their schedules on the first day of school.

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

- All families, should carefully review their 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.
- May Family Statements will include any outstanding library late fees or lost book charges.
- June Family Statements will include charges for any missing or damaged Chromebooks, Chromebook chargers, or Chromebook cases. If you have any questions regarding the Chromebook return policy, please see the Technology Department's section of News and Notes.
- 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.

From the Technology Services Office

Seniors Returning Chromebooks

All seniors are required to return their Chromebooks to the Library by May 18, immediately following the end of the last exam. Your Chromebook may be returned to the Library prior to May 18 if you are done with exams and/or will no longer need your Chromebook to study. The Chromebooks are to be returned with the charger and case. The case should be emptied of all items except the Chromebook and charger. Your student account will be charged for any items not returned. The charges for non-returned items are: Chromebook \$300, Charger \$15, and Case \$25. Senior student accounts must be paid in full in order for a student to graduate.

Grades 8-11 Returning Chromebooks

All 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students are required to return their Chromebooks to the Library by May 25, immediately following the end of the last exam at 10:00 AM. Your Chromebook may be returned to the Library before May 25 if you are done with exams and/or will no longer need your Chromebook to study. The case should be emptied of all items except the Chromebook and charger. Your student account will be charged for any items not returned. The charges for non-returned items are: Chromebook \$300, Charger \$15, and Case \$25.

All Students Returning Chromebooks

- All Chromebooks will be evaluated for damages at time of turn-in. Students should be prepared to wait as they turn in their Chromebook as there are many students returning them. All students will be given a receipt at turn-in and if damages are found, they will be noted and the appropriate fee will be billed to the student account.
- The Chromebooks will be restored to factory settings over the summer so all downloaded files MUST be moved to the student's Google Drive prior to turning it in or else the files will be lost.
- Contact [Mrs. Cummings](#) prior to return date if there are any concerns regarding the return of your Chromebook. Otherwise, your account will be charged for any items not returned. The charges for non-returned items are: Chromebook \$300, Charger \$15, and Case \$25.

Chromebook Pick-Up for 2018-2019 School Year

Students receiving Chromebooks for the 2018-2019 school year (grades 8-12) will be sent an email over the summer regarding pick-up schedule and insurance information.

Student Email Accounts & Google Drive

- Students new to SJCS for the 2018-2019 school year will receive information regarding their email address over the summer.
- All students should periodically check their email over the summer.
- Seniors will have access to their email/Google Drive until July 31.

eBooks

Over the summer, students can check out eBooks to read on personal devices. Contact [Mr. McClendon](#) or [Mrs. Cummings](#) for help with a password or user ID.

From the Development Office

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

The 2018 Annual Auction Gala, A Starry Knight was held on Friday, April 20. It was a beautiful starlight evening filled with warmth, love, delicious food from Table 301, lively music, and a bright spirit of togetherness as we danced under the stars and our shining moon. We are grateful for our sponsors, vendors, parent volunteers, Faculty & Staff, Prom Committee, Student Government, and our Advancement Representatives who worked so selflessly to make St. Joseph's light shine even brighter.

- A special thanks to the Gala Committee who put in many hours behind-the-scenes to organize the wonderful event: Michelle Mullins (Gala Co-Chair), Sharman Armstrong, Michele Dumit, Melanie Calder, Missy McLear, Susanne Norwood, Kiera Egan, Tara Ann Garrett, Matt Puckett, Donna Frank, Megan Koon, Shannon Cole, Aimee Miller, and Jill Murphy. Special thanks to Mary Salgado who finishes her Gala Chair-ship and has seamlessly helped us weave the Gala/Prom weekend with such joy, gratitude, incredible leadership and vibrancy.

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!

From the Fine Arts Department

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 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 Jubilate Knight Chair. Questions/interested? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#) or [Ann Canello](#).