



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!

At the end of the first day of school I ran into a group of sixth grade students waiting to exit the cafeteria on their way to carline. I asked them about their day. One boy, clearly echoing the sentiments of the others, said, with a big smile on his face, "It was great! I think we're really going to like it here." I couldn't have asked for any better initial feedback for what we are trying to do with the new 6th Grade Academy. Hopefully that enthusiasm will continue throughout the year.

I hope that you have been hearing similar sentiments from your students in other grades as well. I know that the transition to a new school year and, in some cases, to a new school altogether, can be difficult for many. If this is the situation in your home, please reach out to us so that we can help your child settle in here at St. Joseph's. Feel free to contact [Barbara McGrath](#) in the Admissions Office and/or [Greshan Charlton](#) in Student Support Services. Of course, your child's Household Dean or even a coach can be a good resource for you as well.

Meet the Teacher Night

I hope you are making plans to attend **Meet the Teacher Night, on Wednesday, September 12**. During that evening you will have the opportunity to walk through your child's daily schedule and hear from each of his or her teachers about what they have planned for the year. During the opening general session that evening, I will be sharing with you an overview of the school's newly developed long-range facilities master plan. It's an exciting look at what the next 25 years could look like for the school. As a little teaser for my remarks, when speaking with the 6th graders during orientation day and being reminded by them that they are the Class of 2025, I mentioned to them that is the precise year (their senior year) when we hope to open a new student center/cafeteria. You'll hear more about that and the rest of our plans on September 12. Please see the Need to Know section for details regarding the evening.

An Introduction to the iGen Kids in Our School and Homes

To prepare for this school year, the faculty went to Charleston for a couple days of meetings during which we delved deeply into discussions about who the students are that sit in our classrooms each day. For many of us who have been at St. Joseph's for a while, we have seen a change in our students in the past five to eight years that we are trying to understand. With that in mind, we watched a brief TED talk by **Dr. Jean Twenge** and another one by **Bishop Robert Barron**, who did a good job of introducing us to this generation of adolescents, a generation that is fast becoming known as **iGen**, because they are the first generation of teenagers who have spent their entire adolescent years with a smart phone. To view these videos, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). I hope you'll take the less than 20 minutes that is needed to watch both videos. While viewing the videos, please ask yourself if what they are describing is true to your experience with the teens in your home. If so, what does this mean for us as parents and school? We'll be talking about this throughout the year at faculty and staff meetings and looking for opportunities to engage parents in the conversation as well. Sophomore parents and their students will have the opportunity to discuss this together at their upcoming retreat on Saturday, September 21 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

Red Door Ceremony and Mass

The Red Door Ceremony and Mass were extra special this year, as it took place on the exact day 25 years ago that the Red Door was first opened on the very first day of St. Joseph's High School, as it was then called. We'll be posting the very first video the school produced on the website so that you can see how it all began. Every time I watch this I am deeply moved by the faith and courage of our founders and reminded of the sacred mission that has been entrusted to us.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. We feel privileged that you have chosen to partner with us for the education of your children. It's our desire to provide your sons and daughters with the best educational experience possible.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Cole '17, Riley '18 and Patrick Fesler; Jake '15, Lizzie '18 and Faith Reinstein; and Cailin Sullivan and their families on the loss of their grandmother, Annette Sullivan.

If you would like the school community to pray for your needs, please contact [Dawn Hawkins](#), who will see that your requests are added to the school's prayer list. In addition to individual faculty and staff members who pray regularly for the needs of school community, there's a Parents in Prayer group that meets at the school weekly who will lift your concerns up to the Lord.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

Labor Day, September 3

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

MS MAP Testing, September 4-13

We will be administering the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) standardized testing to our middle school students in September and again in the spring. MAP is a computerized adaptive test that helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students. Testing will be done in the mornings, with 8th graders testing on September 4-6, and 6th and 7th graders testing on September 10, 12, and 13. Please try to avoid taking your child out of school on these days before 10:30 AM. If they are sick and must miss testing, [Elizabeth Duncan](#) will communicate makeup testing information.

Monthly Requiem Mass, September 6

Mass for the Faithful Departed will be offered at 9:45 AM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The mass will be offered for all those family and friends who have died in the past 2 months or whose anniversary of death falls during August and September. A signup list will be sent out the day before mass.

Senior Students College Counseling Nuts & Bolts Meeting, September 6

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

Seniors & Parents College Counseling Meeting, September 6

Our annual meeting for seniors and their parents will be held on Thursday, September 6 in the John Paul II Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and last for approximately one hour. At least one parent and their senior student should be in attendance for this informative meeting. Mr. Chris Gruber, Vice President/Dean of Admission & Financial Aid at Davidson College, will be here to present.

Eighth Grade Class Day, September 7

On Friday, September 7, the 8th graders will spend the day off-campus for their "8th Grade Class Day." This is a day dedicated to getting to know their classmates and themselves better, and to understand their role as 8th graders at St. Joseph's. We will depart from campus at 8:00 AM and return to campus by 3:30 PM. More information will be provided to 8th grade families via e-mail. Most transportation will be provided by SJCS, but some parent drivers will be needed. To volunteer to drive, or for any other questions, please contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Attractions Book Fundraiser Ends September 7

The Parents Guild Attractions book sale is in full swing. By simply using 2 or 3 coupons at your favorite restaurants and stores, the book will easily pay for itself! All money raised will directly benefit every student at our school. Prizes will be awarded to the top book sellers as well as a pizza party for the Household that sells the most books overall. The cost of each book is \$20.00. Please return payment in the envelope provided to your student and use the front to keep track of additional orders to fill. September 7 is the last day to turn in orders. If you are not able to participate, please return the book in its original condition immediately. Questions? Call Jackie Zannino at 864-303-5947.

HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, September 7

On Friday, September 7 from 5:00-7:00 PM, the Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring a Coffeehouse in the Cafeteria. All HS students are encouraged to participate in this event and we invite all families to attend. MS students are permitted to come if an older sibling is performing, but must be accompanied by their parents. Plan to come for an evening of coffee,

fellowship, and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue throughout the evening. Entrance is through the HS entrance and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to the student's account. **MS students: Mark your calendar for the MS Coffeehouse on October 5.**

Spirit Wear Sale Ends September 9

Don't forget to order your Spirit Wear! Students are allowed to wear Spirit Wear every Friday. See the newest fashions in SJCS Spirit Wear [HERE](#). The deadline for ordering is September 9 at 11:59 PM.

All-School Meet the Teacher Night, September 12

It is our hope that all middle school and high school parents will set aside Wednesday evening, September 12 from 5:45-8:45 PM for the annual Meet the Teacher Night. After a general session in the JPII Center with Mr. Kiser, that begins promptly at 5:45 PM, parents will be able to walk through their child's daily schedule and learn each teacher's goals and expectations for the year. If you have more than one student at SJCS, you will want to choose which classes are most important for you to visit and/or mom and dad can follow different schedules. Class schedules will be provided. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Arrive early for best parking!

NOTE:

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

Mid-Quarter Grades Progress Update September 14

An email will be sent to parents at the mid-quarter point, September 14, as a reminder to check your child's progress and contact the teacher with any questions or concerns. Instructions for access to ParentsWeb can be found [HERE](#). Instructions will be at the bottom of the page.

All-School Homecoming Tailgate, Friday, September 14

Join us for an All-School Homecoming Tailgate Party under the big white tent on Friday, September 14. An email will be sent out asking for each family to bring a specific item. Hope to see you there!

HS Homecoming Dance, September 15

The SJCS Homecoming Dance will take place from 8:00-11:00 PM at the Poinsett Club (807 E Washington St, Greenville, SC 29601). This dance is open to all SJCS HS students. The cost is \$20. Ticket information will be e-mailed to parents and students. To bring an outside guest, SJCS students must turn in the outside guest form found [HERE](#). Please dress according to the guidelines laid out in the SJCS Handbook and copied below. Questions? Contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderator, [Gabe Lewis](#).

SJCS Homecoming Dress Code

General Guidelines: The dress attire for students attending the Homecoming dance is Dressy Casual. The general guidelines outlined in the student handbook apply, but the following are more specific to the dance.

Males: Slacks, dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open collar or polo shirt, optional tie

Females: Dress, skirt and dressy top, dressy pants outfit

Not Permitted: dresses/skirts that are shorter than 4" above knees, dresses/tops that show cleavage, dresses/tops that plunge in the back, bare midriffs

SJCS Dance Arrival/Departure Policy

Safety and a positive environment are of prime importance at all SJCS dances. Students will not be admitted to the dance if they arrive more than 30 minutes after the published dance start time. Students will not be permitted to leave and come back or leave before the published end time unless an official SJCS dance chaperone has spoken to a parent by phone.

Ladies Knight Out Drop In/Mixer, September 18

All SJCS ladies (moms, guardians, grandmothers, faculty, and staff) are invited to gather for a Ladies Knight Out at the home of Missy Marchal on Tuesday, September 18 from 6:00-9:00 PM. More details and invitations/RSVP will be mailed out or you can register [HERE](#). Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact [Amy Cassidy](#) or [Missy Marchal](#).

HS Club Fair, September 20

HS Student Council will host a club fair during Club Period (8:01-8:27 AM) on Thursday, September 20. Any SJCS approved

HS clubs may request a table and may present information on their club in the form of tri-fold boards, fliers, etc. Questions? Contact SJCS Student Council Moderator [Gabe Lewis](#).

Tenth Grade Parent & Student Retreat Night, September 21

For the past 4 years, St. Joseph's has hosted 10th grade students and parents for a brief retreat, a time for parents and students to slow down for a few hours and reflect on the deeper questions that sometimes get lost in the business of life: Why am I here and where am I going? What really matters to me and makes me truly happy? The 5th annual Sophomore Parent and Student Retreat will be an evening retreat on Friday, September 21 from 5:30-9:00 PM at Prince of Peace Catholic Church and School. All sophomores and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Childcare will be offered for families with young children. Please mark your calendars for this day and plan on joining us. More information will be sent out via e-mail. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Voting Poll Training Class, September 22

On **Saturday, September 22**, a poll training class will be held at SJCS for students signed up to work the election polls. The class is from 9:00 AM-Noon and will be held in the Meeting Room. Students should arrive by 8:45 AM. Bring their driver's license, and pen/pencil. Enter through the cafeteria door.

MS Father & Son Night, September 29

There will be a MS Father and Son night on Saturday, September 29 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the home of MS parents Eric and Lisa Ireland at 614 Asheton Way, Simpsonville, SC 29681. This event is open to any MS boys and dads to attend together. There will be games, dinner, campfire, night prayers, and brotherhood! Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Youth in Government Fundraiser Ends October 1

The SJCS High School Youth in Government program is selling the 2018 White House Christmas Ornament as a fundraiser for scholarships this year. The ornaments are \$23 each and YIG will receive \$6 of each ornament sold. The proceeds will be used to fully fund three full scholarships to YIG this year. All orders are due October 1. To get the order form, click [HERE](#) and forms can be returned with payment to Mrs. Carr's box in the front office. Questions? Contact [Mrs. Carr](#).

MS Parent Coffee, October 2

Immediately following morning drop-off, all MS parents are encouraged to come to the cafeteria for coffee, pastries, and fellowship until 8:00 AM. From 8:00-9:00 AM, Headmaster Keith Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the new school year and will welcome your questions and participation. This is a great opportunity to hear from and speak with school officials in a small, informal setting.

Financial Aid Night for Senior Families, October 2

On Tuesday, October 2 at 7:00 PM, Melissa M. Barnette, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Furman University, will be conducting a general Financial Aid meeting to discuss the various types of aid, scholarships (including the state scholarships, scholarships through the colleges and private scholarships), the CSS Profile, federal money (grants, loans, work study), and a general overview of the FAFSA for this year's graduating seniors. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room.

HS Parent Coffee, October 4

Immediately following morning drop-off, all HS parents are encouraged to come to the Cafeteria for coffee, pastries, and fellowship until 8:00 AM. From 8:00-9:00 AM, Headmaster Keith Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the new school year and will welcome your questions and participation. This is a great opportunity to hear from and speak with school officials in a small, informal setting.

Ninth Grade PSAT Testing, October 9

All freshman will take the PSAT 8/9 on Tuesday, October 9. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9, which is the first in the College Board's SAT Suite of Assessments, is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school. The results help educators and students figure out what students need to work on most so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school. Testing will be completed before noon at which time students will eat lunch and then depart from school for their Freshman Retreat. Further test details will be communicated in the *October News and Notes*. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Ninth Grade Overnight Retreat, October 9-10

The annual 9th grade overnight retreat will take place from 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 9 until 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10 at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC. All 9th grade students are required to attend. Students should wear their school uniform to school in the morning. After PSAT testing, they will have lunch as normal in the cafeteria (packed

or purchased), then load buses to head to Look Up Lodge. Students will not miss any class time for this retreat and are excused from athletic practice on Tuesday afternoon. Most transportation will be provided by SJCS, but some parent drivers will be needed. To volunteer to drive, or for any other questions, please contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Tenth & Eleventh Grade PSAT Testing, October 10

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) will be administered to all sophomores and juniors here at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 10, with dismissal at 12:15 PM. Freshmen will be on the 9th grade retreat and seniors will be off campus that day (details TBD). This test is a shortened, practice version of the SAT and it provides a good opportunity for students to get comfortable with the format, pacing and questions on the SAT. For juniors, this test is also called the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. In September, students will receive a PSAT booklet which includes a complete practice test with answers. Further test details will be communicated in the October *News and Notes*. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

HS Field Trip to Montgomery, Alabama, October 21-22

Mrs. Neighbors and Mrs. Carr will be chaperoning a field trip to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice on October 21-22, in Montgomery AL. The cost for transportation, hotel, and admission will be approximately \$100 and is open to all HS students. Permission forms and information are available from Mrs. Carr and Mrs. Neighbors. Questions? Email [Mrs. Neighbors](#) or [Mrs. Carr](#).

MS "Bring a Friend to School" Day, November 6

Our annual "Bring A Friend" Day will take place earlier this year! On Tuesday, November 6, current SJCS MS students will be encouraged to invite a friend (currently in grades 5-7) for a half day of classes and lunch. Greenville County Schools have the day off, but SJCS will operate on a regular Tuesday schedule that day.

- Current SJCS families can help the school out in two ways in regards to this event: 1) Does your middle school child have a friend who would like to see what St. Joe's is like? Please direct the parents of your child's friend to register on our website in early October. 2) Would your middle school child be interested in hosting a student they do not know on this day? If so, please submit your child's name to [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office as soon as possible.

HS Minimester in Charleston, March 4-6

Join Mr. Swingle and Mrs. Carr in Charleston for Minimester this March! It's months away, but we need to be sure we have enough for the trip to go forward. Tour Boone Hall, take a walking tour of Charleston, explore an aircraft carrier and submarine, and hit the beach! This two night, three day adventure includes all activities, transportation, breakfast, hotel room, lunch at Boone Hall, and dinner at a seafood restaurant for \$300-\$350. See Mrs. Carr or Mr. Swingle for an interest form.

Easter Break Travel, April 11-20

Sign-ups are drawing to a close for the WWI-WWII spring break trip. Prices increase on October 1. Travel to England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and walk in the footsteps of heroes. See Mrs. Neighbors or Mrs. Carr for more information or click [HERE](#) and use TourCenter ID: Carr-855 to see the entire itinerary, pricing, and to sign up. Questions? Email [Mrs. Carr](#).

Western US Trip During Spring Break 2020

Want to make plans for Spring Break 2020? Travel west and visit some of the country's most spectacular national parks, including the Grand Canyon. For the complete itinerary, pricing, and payment options, click [HERE](#). Sign up early and receive a discounted price. Questions? Email [Mr. Swingle](#).

Confirmation Preparation

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

Substitute Teachers

We are in the process of updating our sub list for the year. If you are interested in subbing at St. Joseph's this year, please email [Karen Miros](#).

Parents in Prayer

You are cordially invited to participate in the Parents in Prayer group that meets each Thursday afternoon in the Small Conference room at 1:30 PM (we finish in time for student pick-up). Join us and meet other prayer warriors as we lift up

the intentions of the St. Joseph's school community. Come once or come often, just come when you can. Questions? Contact [Eileen Cordi](#) (or 864-518-2332) or [Mary Armstrong](#) (or 864-804-0088). We look forward to praying with you soon. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

From the Middle School Director

As a woman of faith, I work hard to stay grounded in prayer, continually reflecting on what God asks of me, and what He seeks to do through me. For several months, I felt the call to explore and consider - not knowing what it might mean for me or my family. I have been told that discernment of God's plan for our lives is rooted in prayer, and that we first use our intellect to examine opportunities that are feasible and possible. Following that examination, we let our heart lead us to home. That discernment process led me to this incredible community of St. Joseph's Catholic School, a place I now call home.

As of this writing, my family and I will have been in Greenville a little shy of three weeks, moving from Kenosha, Wisconsin - a place in which I was born and raised. My work over the last 26 years has been a journey of faith, and of saying "yes" to the promptings and nudgings of our God. Graduating with a B.S. in Finance, I discovered that the world of investments and banking was not necessarily where my inspiration and passion lied. So in 1992, I accepted a role as Director of Evangelization for one of the largest Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. From there, my work spanned a variety of positions in church ministry, until I further discerned inspiration and passion in Catholic education. For the last nine years, I served St. Joseph Catholic Academy, a preschool through grade 12 school system in Kenosha. My work spanned roles in business operations, admissions, student success and, most recently, as Director of Middle School.

Never in my grandest hopes and dreams did I believe that an opportunity such as the one here at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville would be open and available for me to embrace, or that I would be ready to accept it with such tremendous conviction and certainty. What I have witnessed and experienced in these three short weeks has been affirmation of what I learned in my research and discernment - SJCS is wholly committed to developing the potential and promise found in each young person here. We will encourage each student to believe they have unique God-given gifts to offer, a compelling story to share, and a life of influence to live. I am honored and humbled to serve this school in dedication to its mission of forming the minds, hearts, and souls of its students in the likeness of Christ.

From the Upper School Director

This past summer I spent a week with 25 other principals from all across the country. One of the most pressing issues many of them were facing related to how to talk about academic integrity with the current generation of high school students. The national statistics are pretty discouraging. When surveyed in college, more than nine out of ten students will admit to having cheated at some point in high school. The forms of academic dishonesty vary, but some of the most common examples include swapping homework assignments from one subject to another or plagiarizing online sources. Using prohibited tools is very common as well, because they're so readily available. Perhaps the most common form is to seek inside information from a student that has already seen a quiz or exam (for instance, someone who is in an earlier section of the same class). At one of my previous institutions, we caught students who had taken the label off a bottle of water, written several formulas on the inside of the label, and then put it back on the bottle. As they drank down the water level the formulas became readable. Clever, but he still got caught.

Schools and colleges across the country have tried to combat this trend, with varying levels of success. Some strategies that have proven helpful:

- Especially with younger students, we need to talk to our kids NOT just about our academic expectations for them, but about how they should live up to those expectations. **I don't believe any parent endorses cheating as a means of getting good grades**, but many students have told me over the last two decades that while their parents uphold high standards for achievement (as they should), they cannot remember any conversations with their parents about honesty in learning. Our kids have grown up in an era of free, readily available information, and they have tools that make working together much easier than it was back when we were in high school. They need to hear us talk about the limits of collaboration and the responsibilities that come with such easy access to information.
- Clear expectations are a must on the school's end as well. Our handbook has a detailed discussion of academic honesty, and of course talking to individual teachers about assignments is always welcome. We're here to help, not to condemn, but that help is most effective when it comes *before* an incident.
- Lowering the short-term stress students feel for particular assignments, primarily by helping them learn better study habits so that the pressure to cram is minimized, is also a good strategy. **The single most effective means I know for lowering this kind of stress is to have students re-read their notes several times a week.** Even when they don't think it's necessary, this is a remarkably effective tool for increasing mastery and shortening study time.

When I talk to students about these issues, I am always reminded of the sixteenth chapter of Luke's gospel, where Jesus tells His listeners that someone who is faithful, or unfaithful, in little things will also be faithful or unfaithful in larger things. I know our students work hard, and with all they have going on around them, it can be tempting to take a shortcut on an assignment that may seem like something unimportant. But the richness that comes from a life of integrity demands faithfulness, even in the small things. Remembering that simple truth is a good step for us all.

Our children are extraordinary, and I'm grateful every day for the commitment to excellence they bring to St. Joseph's. I know you join me in wanting to help them achieve excellence not just on the report card, but in the moral dimension of their lives as well.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

College Rep Visits

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

College Visits

Juniors and seniors are permitted to visit colleges or attend an early decision day. In order for a college visit to count as a field trip, you must provide advance notice of the trip to the front office, and documentation (standard college visit letters) from the college or university must be provided immediately after the visit. Second-semester sophomores and all juniors are allowed two (2) college visits per academic year. Seniors are allowed up to four (4) college visits over the course of the academic year. Siblings who go with the family for college visits must fill out a Pre-Arranged Absence Form found [HERE](#).

2018 Graduation Latin Honors Correction

Samantha Miller graduated with the distinction *Cum Laude*. Our deepest apologies for this omission at graduation.

From the Athletic Department

Forms Needed to Participate in Sports

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](#). Information on how to create the parent and student login at Arbiter Athlete is 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. Be sure to type St. Joseph's Catholic School in the search line when looking for our school.

Knights Athletic Booster Club

The Knights Athletic Booster Club is an ALL-SPORTS booster club providing support for ALL athletic teams at SJCS in cooperation with the school administration, Athletic Director, and the Board of Trustees. In the 2017-2018 academic year, we provided over \$50,000 of unfunded items for our athletic teams, including the new stadium scoreboard, weight lifting and training room floor, end zone camera system, championship banners, coach's spirit wear, and coach's appreciation dinner. Parents are encouraged to help raise funds to support our athletes and teams by becoming members of the Knights Athletic Booster Club. For more information, click [HERE](#) or contact [Gidge Marchant](#). Our largest needs this year are a new baseball scoreboard and a new bus. Please consider becoming a Knights Athletic Booster to support the cause. It is a great way to meet fellow SJCS families and have some fun! If interested, please contact [Gary Walajtys](#) or [Michael Pace](#).

Athletic Venue Banners for 2018-2019

Looking for a way to directly support a specific sport or team? Please consider becoming an advertising sponsor for this year's athletic venues. We are offering business sponsorship opportunities to display company-logoed banners for all athletic facilities. We have several levels to choose from to meet your budget. All proceeds will go to your preferred team's account to help cover facility and equipment expenses. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please contact [Katie Martin](#) or see the Athletic Sponsorship form on the school website [HERE](#).

From the Business Office

Tuition Accounts

- During the month of July, a Chromebook insurance charge of \$50 was posted to the tuition accounts for all students grades 8-12. This policy will cover the Chromebook if it is damaged during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Charges for workbooks and any other miscellaneous items provided for students will be added to tuition accounts in early September.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My Backpack portal. You can find the link [HERE](#). Please contact [Lisa Lawrence](#) if you need help with your user ID or password.
- A reminder to review your account will be sent each month around the 18th day of the month to each family that has a balance due, or activity on their account during the previous month. Please review your account carefully. All charges over 30 days old will be subject to a 1.50% late fee. You can pay your account online or by sending a check to the Business Office. Echeck payments or credit card payments are accepted online. You will be charged a 3.75% convenience fee for these payments.

From the Development Office

Annual Fund

Our goal this fiscal year (July 2018 – June 2019) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. Last fiscal year, 66% of our school families gave to the Annual Fund, including an impressive 78% of our 6th grade families! We will track participation numbers by grade level throughout the year, starting in October.

The Annual Fund provides approximately 6% 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 \$475,000. Please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) with any questions, and download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) today!

With Sincere Thanks to...

- All who helped with our 2018 Come Back to Give Back Day. We had over 80 parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who came to help us spruce our campus up for the beginning of the school year (and did it in record timing this year)! We are grateful for your generosity.
- All the parents who generously provided food and time to serve the Faculty/Staff Welcome Back Appreciation Breakfast. The Faculty and Staff were grateful for such an enjoyable and delicious treat.

From the Fine Arts Department

Fine Arts Programming

There are several opportunities to get involved with Fine Arts program outside of the regular class schedule. Classes meet as listed below. Contact the teachers for each class if you would like more information.

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

HS Stage Crew: The stage crew schedule varies, but is usually scheduled after school three days a week and on Saturdays. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

Mass Choir: Any HS student interested in being a part of the Mass Choir should join the after-school choir rehearsals on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:00 PM in the Chorus Room (C114). Questions? Contact [Angela Hayes](#).

MS Dance Club: Middle school students will have the opportunity to work on their dancing skills and talents in the new MS Dance Club. Dancers of all levels will meet together during the Club period, divide into groups, and work on their own dance routines. Some high school dancers will be along to help. A performance will be planned for December. Questions? Contact [Tami Kiser](#).

Volunteers Needed

Please contact [Teresa McGrath](#) for more information on how to volunteer for either of the opportunities below:

- Any parents or students willing to donate their time and talents to the Fine Arts Department through their sewing skills
- Any parents willing to assist in the Scene Shop during after-school and Saturday crew sessions

Jubilate Arts Guild

Please support the Fine Arts Department by joining the Jubilate Arts Guild. With membership support this past year, we were able to purchase several items to benefit the department, including sheet music, microphones, art supplies, instruments, and much more. The membership form with details about member levels and benefits for 2018-2019 can be

found [HERE](#). Please contact Jubilate Arts Guild President, [Ann Canello](#), to find out how you can support our Fine Arts students and teachers.

There are two additional ways to support the Fine Arts Department: you can purchase Red Door and/or John Paul II ornaments. The order form is [HERE](#). Also, the Christmas Wreath Sale starts in October. Purchase a Christmas wreath for your family or gift one to a friend or relative! They will be delivered to any address you choose the first week of December. Ordering details coming soon.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2019

Mark your calendars for our Fine Arts Department's annual talent competition, Jubilate Knight for the Arts, on Saturday, May 11, 2019. All members of the school community are invited to join in a talent competition. The sale of voting tokens aids in funding the needs of our dance, choral, instrumental, theatre, and visual arts programs. Preparations for this family-friendly evening begin in the fall. To join the planning committee please contact Jubilate Knight Co-Chairs [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#).

From the Parents Guild

From the Parents Guild President

Welcome to another great school year! We pray you enjoyed your summer. Family involvement is essential for the success of our school. Parent participation continues the strong tradition of an engaged and lively community atmosphere, where our students and families are supported and thrive. Each year we reach out to our families and provide them with opportunities to engage within our daily school life by using their God-given gifts to serve our community.

You can find out how to get involved by clicking [HERE](#). We invite you to prayerfully consider how your time and talents can contribute to the life of the school, and commit to helping us make St. Joseph's an even more vibrant and engaging community. Your help is wanted, needed, and appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: Checking a box indicates an interest to help serve at the event. All interested volunteers will be contacted by the lead to verify your availability to serve.

Used Uniforms Needed!

Parents Guild is in need of gently-used uniforms! Please think of us, NOT Goodwill, as you're cleaning out your closets or getting rid of outgrown uniforms. Any school-approved used Mill's uniform pieces can be dropped off at the front office. They'll be used in two upcoming used uniform sales (January and May) and all proceeds go directly back to the Parents Guild. Are you interested in volunteering for the Used Uniform Sale Committee? Contact [Debbie Cruz](#).

Box Tops for Education

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

School Store

The School Store is open every day before school, at all lunch periods, and after school.

- Monday-Friday from 7:30-8:00 AM (before school)
- Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 10:30 AM-12:15 PM (MS & HS lunch)
- Thursday from 10:30-12:35 PM (MS & HS lunch)
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:00-3:30 PM (after school)
- Wednesday from 1:15-1:45 PM (after school)

School Store Volunteers Needed

There are a couple of shifts in need of volunteers: Monday and Thursday from 7:30-8:00 AM. Usually, volunteers work every other week. Your time and assistance are greatly appreciated. For our new families, this is a great opportunity to get to know other parents, staff, and students. If you are interested in being a sub, or would like to work a regular shift, contact [Erica Walajtys](#) or [Jill Wagner](#).

School Store Accounts

If you would like to add money to your child's School Store account, payments must be made either through the Business Office or through [MyBackPack](#). Account deposits cannot be made at the school store.

Publix Partners

Program changes will take effect in October. It's easy to participate and it no longer requires a plastic tag. First begin

by setting your account up online [HERE](#). After that, it will be simple to enter your phone number at check out. However, there are several steps to setting up your account. You have to have your phone number entered into your account, then an option to select a school will be available in the “My Publix Partner” section. PLEASE NOTE: When you search for a school, be aware St. Joseph’s is listed as ‘St. Joseph High School’.

Harris Teeter Together in Education – NEW!!

If you already have a VIC card – great! Just re-link your VIC card. The code for SJCS is **5284**. Please note that this does have to be done every year, as the programs runs from October to May.