



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!

Thank you for your attendance at Meet the Teacher Night. I was very pleased that 79% of our families were present. I trust you had a good experience and that you feel informed and excited about what the teachers have in store for your sons and daughters this year.

During one of the class changes that evening, a rightfully proud parent stopped to update me on his older daughter's (SJCS Class of 2015) success in college and in particular about how a work co-op program at college led to his daughter being offered an engineering job before her senior year. He went on to say that the company wanted her on their team so badly that they asked her to forgo a traditional senior year of college. They went so far as to ask the university to make it possible for her to fulfill her graduation requirements outside of the normal channels. Then, he told me the salary they offered her (which I won't repeat), but suffice it to say that she won't have a problem buying a new car and renting a very nice apartment! This father then thanked me for the great job the teachers at St. Joseph's did to help set her life on this trajectory.

Honestly, I hear stories like this all the time. The details are different, but the sentiment is the same: *The academic foundation and human formation my child received at St. Joseph's made his/her success in college and beyond possible and even likely.* This "success" goes way beyond the realm of work and career. Just the other day, I enjoyed watching the one-year old daughter of two SJCS grads taking her first steps in the school lobby. Joyful experiences like this make me wonder just how many St. Joseph's marriages and babies there are now!

It is certainly understandable that it is sometimes hard for parents to see the forest for the trees when their kids are struggling with this or that daily reality in middle and high school. Stories like the above are one reason that I love to encourage parents and teachers to take the long view when it comes to passing on their values to their children. I long ago stopped being surprised at how well our graduates are doing after high school, including those who may have had a rocky time of it in middle and/or high school. The important thing now is that they learn the lessons from their mistakes and use them as opportunities to grow.

Much has been written in recent years about the need for students to develop resiliency, grit, and fortitude. Typically, these lessons are best learned through adversity and even failure. For an interesting and entertaining take on the value of losing, check out the brief YouTube video [HERE](#) of Jon Nakamatsu's talk. He was the surprise Gold Medalist at the 1997 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, but before that, as he says in the talk, he was "a loser" but not a failure.

This video is just one of a handful of items I have posted on a new [Headmaster's Resources](#) page on the school's website. I hope you will check it out from time to time for interesting articles, videos, podcasts, and books on education and parenting. I'd love to hear what you are reading, listening to, and watching. Drop me an email to let me know, and you might see it posted on the Headmaster's Resources page.

Announcing the appointment of new CFO

I am very pleased to announce that Brent Dunlap has been hired as the school's new Chief Financial Officer. Brent comes to us from HeathPro Heritage here in Greenville where he has been an accountant since 2001 and their controller since 2003. Brent holds a BS degree in accounting from West Virginia University and is a Certified Public Accountant. Brent came to Greenville shortly after college when he married Pamela, who is a teacher in a Greenville County school. They are the parents of 7th grade twins. Brent does have a St. Joseph's connection. His wife is the sister of SJCS parent Susan Cinquemani. Brent is very excited to put his considerable skills and experiences to work for St. Joseph's Catholic

School. We expect his first day to be Monday, October 8.

No one, perhaps, is more excited about Brent's pending arrival at St. Joseph's than Anita Childers, who did a fantastic job keeping the school's business operations in good shape during the three months we were without a CFO. I am extremely grateful to Anita for taking on many more hours and all the stress associated with this herculean task. Please make a point to join me in thanking Anita for all she did for us over this time period in her quiet, intelligent, and always competent manner.

I also want to thank Lisa Lawrence for taking on more hours to assist with the Business Office functions in addition to her HR work, which included organizing the search for the CFO. Having two generous, talented CPA's on staff in the Business Office made it possible for us to take our time to hire the right CFO for St. Joseph's. Thank you also to Kevin Meyer, Barb McGrath, Steven Jones, Wanda Jaraczewski, Jenn Church, Anita Childers and trustees Richard Coggins and Frank Mobley for serving on the search committee.

Finally, I hope that you'll spread the good news about St. Joseph's Catholic School. Our surveys tell us time and again that more than 80% of our families became interested in the school from comments made by family and friends. With that in mind, please be sure to let yours know that **Middle School Bring a Friend Day is November 6** and that our **Admissions Open House is November 11**. You can help spread the word about the latter event by displaying an Open House decal on your car's rear window. Get yours in the front office from Dawn Hawkins.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Justin, Jordan '14 and Jared '16 Chamberlin on the passing of their father; for Thomas Cannon '10 on the passing of his brother; and for SJCS faculty member Michele Houmis on the loss of her father.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

MS Father & Son Night, September 29

There will be a middle school 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](#). Forms can be returned with payment to Mrs. Carr's box in the front office. Questions? Contact [Mrs. Carr](#).

Thespian Society Annual Food Drive, October 1-November 1

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

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 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.

Box Tops for Education Deadline, October 4

Collect your box tops to raise money for our school and help your student's Household get Household Points and Krispy Kreme Donuts. Before sending them into your child's Household, please cut them out and check expiration dates. Our next collection deadline is Thursday, October 4.

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.

Spain & France Trip June 2020 Interest Meeting, October 4

Madame McCoy and Señora Fesler will be leading students on a trip to France and Spain in early June 2020. The exciting itinerary leads us from Paris to Madrid, with the Mediterranean Coast in between. From touring the Arc de Triomphe, to climbing the towers of Notre Dame, to visiting the top of the Eiffel Tower, to a scenic, illuminated boat ride along the Seine River, we will visit the most famous landmarks in Paris. The highlight of our stay in the south of France will be a horseback ride through the Camargue and a tour of the Pont du Gard, a 161 foot Roman aqueduct in nearly perfect condition. We will continue along the Mediterranean Coast to Barcelona. There, we will explore all the major sites, including Gaudi's masterpiece, the still-unfinished Sagrada Familia. Students are sure to delight in all the sites as we discover Barcelona by bike. Once in Madrid, we will see the Plaza de España, with its statue of Don Quixote, the majestic Alcalá Gate, the famous bullring Las Ventas, and the impressive Prado museum. Students will experience culture first-hand as we learn flamenco from a professional dancer.

- If you are interested in providing this opportunity for your child, please attend the interest meeting on Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. If you are interested, but unable to attend, contact [Madame McCoy](#).

MS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, October 5

On Friday, October 5 from 5:00–7:00 PM, the Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring a MS Coffeehouse in the Cafeteria. All MS students are encouraged to participate in this event and MS families are invited to attend (any younger siblings must be accompanied by their parents). Lemonade will stand in for coffee as the beverage of the night, with plenty of fellowship and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue. Entrance is through the Cafeteria/MS parking lot door and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to student accounts (additional family members who attend will also be counted into the account charges).

Freshman PSAT Testing, October 9

The PSAT 8/9, the first in the College Board's SAT Suite of Assessments, will be administered to all **freshmen** here at school on the morning of Tuesday, October 9. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9 is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school. All freshmen will report to their testing room immediately after Household and should bring two #2 wooden pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. Testing room lists will be posted at school. Testing should be finished by approximately 11:30 AM, at which time freshmen will be dismissed. If parents cannot pick them up early, supervision will be provided free of charge until 3:00 PM. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Freshman Class Day, October 10

We will have the "Freshman Class Day" on Wednesday, October 10. This is a change from the original overnight event scheduled for that Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday, all 9th graders will meet at SJCS at 7:45 AM and shortly afterwards depart for Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest. Students will return to SJCS by 3:30 PM. Sports coaches will be aware of this time as well so that all freshmen can stay until the end. Lunch will be included. The day will be led by a group of seniors and by a group of teachers (Fr. Duncan, Ms. Houmis, Coach Kucinic, Ms. Charlton, among others). In order to attend, students will be given a waiver for Look Up Lodge in religion class. Questions? Contact Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

Sophomore & Junior PSAT Testing, October 10

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to all **sophomores and juniors** here at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 10. All sophomores and juniors must report to their testing room at 7:50 AM and will be dismissed at 12:15 PM. Students will need to bring two #2 wooden pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. **Freshmen will be on their retreat and seniors do not have school that day.** This test is a shortened, practice version of the SAT and it provides

a good opportunity for students to get comfortable with the format, pacing, and questions of the SAT. Many of our AP courses require a minimum score on one of the PSAT sections as a prerequisite, which will affect both sophomores and juniors when they register for classes for next year. For juniors, this test is also called the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. Students can prepare by taking advantage of Kaplan's new PSAT Prep Live program which consists of FREE live online sessions. Register at kaptest.com/PSATprelive. Students also received a PSAT booklet at school, which includes a complete practice test with answers included for checking. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

MS Dismissal on October 10

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

Schedule Change on Thursday, October 11

Due to PSAT testing, Thursday, October 11 will be a special schedule with all seven classes and Mass. Students should wear their dress uniform.

Mass of Healing & Reparation for the Victims of Abuse, October 11

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it." (1 Cor 12:26). In solidarity with all those who have been wounded by the Church's shepherds, on Thursday, October 11, we will offer a special All School Mass for the healing of the victims of clergy abuse and for the reparation of these crimes against the vulnerable.

America Needs Fatima Public Rosary Rally, October 13

On October 13, 2007, America Needs Fatima launched its first 2100 Public Square Rosary Rallies all across America in honor of the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, in Portugal. On October 13, 2018, an estimated one million Catholics will attend an estimated 23,000 rallies and pray for the conversion of America in a public place and to honor Our Lady on the 101st anniversary of the Marian apparition at Fatima. Please join us at Noon on Saturday, October 13, at St. Joseph's, just outside the main entrance, to ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother. For more information, contact Ted Kelly at 864-385-0880.

Campus Ministry "Beginning Day", October 13

On Saturday, October 13, SJCS Campus Ministry will host the "Beginning Day" from 6:00-9:00 PM at the home of the McCauley Family (1999 Roe Ford Road, Greenville, SC 29617). The night will include food, games, a bonfire, songs, and prayer. The theme for the evening is "Take me back to the Start" and it is the moment when we gather to officially begin our work together in Campus Ministry, to look at the moments we will live together this year, and the questions that will guide us as we journey. Any and all high school students are invited. Questions? Contact Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

HS Minimester in Charleston Sign-up Due by October 15

Join Mr. Swingle and Mrs. Carr in Charleston for Minimester from March 4-6. 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 to sign up.

Monthly Requiem Mass, October 16

Mass for the Faithful Departed will be offered at 11:25 AM (the beginning of HS Lunch) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The Mass will be offered for all those family and friends who have died in the past month or whose anniversary of death falls during October. A signup list will be sent out the day before Mass.

New Date! Ladies Knight Out Drop In/ Mixer, October 16

Due to Hurricane Florence, Ladies Knight Out was rescheduled for October 16 from 6:00-9:00 PM. The SJCS ladies (moms, guardians, grandmothers, faculty, and staff) will gather for a Ladies Knight Out at the home of Missy Marchal. You can still register [HERE](#). Hope you can make it! Questions? Contact [Amy Cassidy](#) or [Missy Marchal](#).

First Quarter Grades Emailed, October 17

The first quarter grading period ends on October 12. Report cards will be emailed to parents and students on Wednesday, October 17 after 4:00 PM.

Junior Rings Information Meeting, October 18

There will be a meeting for all juniors on Thursday, October 18, at the beginning of Study Help in the JP II Center. A representative from Herff Jones will present information regarding class rings and packets will be available at the meeting. Orders will be taken on Friday, November 2, during 4th period and HS lunch in Room B302. Make-up orders will be Friday, November 9 during HS lunch.

Fall Break, October 22

There will be no classes on Monday, October 22. The school and school offices will be closed.

Household Dean & Parent/Teacher Conferences, October 24

The first quarter report cards will be e-mailed on Wednesday, October 17. Wednesday, October 24 from 2:00-6:00 PM has been set-aside for Household Dean and Parent/Teacher Conferences. An email will be sent to parents around October 17 with instructions for signing up for conferences as all conference appointments will be made online.

Senior Graduation Supplies Information Meeting, October 25

There will be a meeting for all seniors on Thursday, October 25, at the beginning of Study Help in the JP II Center. A representative from Herff Jones will present information regarding caps and gowns, announcements, as well as other graduation supplies, and packets will be available at the meeting. Orders will be taken on Friday, November 2 during 4th period and HS lunch in Room B302. Parents are asked to please take a few moments to look over the information your senior brings home and return order forms to school on the order day with the proper payment. Specific instructions regarding payment will be provided during the information meeting. Make-up orders will be Friday, November 9 during HS lunch.

Seventh Grade Class Day, October 26

The 7th Grade Class Day will take place at Look Up Lodge on Friday, October 26. All 7th grade students will attend this day of community building, led by a group of sophomore team leaders and a group of teachers. Students will come to school and be picked up as they are on a regular day. Transportation will be provided by SJCS. Lunch will be provided. Questions? Contact Campus Minister, [Gabe Lewis](#).

Winter Sports Tryouts Begin October 29

- Boys Basketball Tryouts will take place from October 29-31. MS will tryout from 3:15-4:45 PM, JV and Varsity will try out from 5:00-7:00 PM. Questions? Contact Coach [Paul Assinessi](#).
- Girls Basketball Tryouts will take place from October 29-31. MS will tryout from 3:15-4:45PM, JV and Varsity will try out from 7:00-9:00 PM. Questions? Contact Coach [Natalie Satterfield](#).
- Wrestling will begin practicing October 29 in the Cafeteria from 6:00-8:00 PM. Questions? Contact Coach [Cameron Hallman](#).
- Cheerleading will hold winter tryouts October 30 and November 1 in the Dance Room from 3:30-5:30 PM. Questions? Contact Coach [Jessica Reynolds](#).

Fall Art Exhibit, October 29 – November 4

The Fall Art Exhibit will be displayed October 29-November 4 in the SJCS Library. The exhibit is for all students, faculty, and staff to show off the artwork, crafts, jewelry, quilts, and other art they completed over the summer. This includes summer art camps the students participated in or even a Color Clay Cafe day trip. Parents may also participate! The artwork will also be available for viewing during Intermission of the fall play from November 1-4. Entries will be accepted between October 24-26. Contact the Art Teacher [Deborah Pickard](#) with any questions.

Schedule Change on Wednesday, October 31

Due to Team Day the following day, Wednesday, October 31 will be a 1:15 PM dismissal with all seven classes, and no Mass. There will still be Household Snack time. Students may wear casual uniform.

Team Competition Day, November 1

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

HS Fall Play-*The Man Who Came to Dinner*, November 1-4

Having invited celebrated critic, lecturer, and orator Sheridan Whiteside over for dinner, the lives of the Stanley family are forever turned upside-down when he slips on a patch of ice as he departs from their home. Sentenced to spend several

weeks in smalltown America as he heals from this injury, Sheridan Whiteside takes over jurisdiction of the Stanley home, filling it with exotic gifts and eccentric friends, and masterminding a vile plot twist. Join the SJCS Theatre Department and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* as we bring to life this humorous adventure filled with witty banter, shameless name-dropping, and a story that highlights the best and worst of everybody!

- All performances will be in the St. John Paul II Center; online ticket reservation information will be available on the website in early October. Members of the Jubilate Arts Guild will be notified regarding early access to discounted online ticket purchasing opportunities before they go on sale to the public. Click [HERE](#) for the Jubilate Arts Guild membership form; you must join by October 1 in order for the membership benefits to apply to the fall production.

MS Bring a Friend to School Day, November 6

Our annual Bring a Friend to School Day will take place earlier this year! On Tuesday, November 6, current SJCS middle school 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. NOTE: Registration forms are on the website home page now, and the deadline to register is Friday, October 26.

- **HOW CAN YOU HELP?** 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. All forms must be completed no later than October 26 for requests to be honored. *First come, first served, as classroom space is limited and we will limit the number of participants.* 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.

SWITCH Presentation, November 6

As was mentioned at Meet the Teacher Night, the school is taking a comprehensive approach to processing the recent horrific revelations of clergy sexual abuse in the Church, beginning with a Mass for victims on Thursday, October 11, to which you are all invited.

- As an educational moment, we have begun a relationship with a location organization called [SWITCH](#), which was founded six years ago with the mission of protecting women and men from the purveyors of sex-trafficking. Located as we are on I-85 between Atlanta and Charlotte, this is an issue of real importance for those of us living in the Upstate. On Tuesday, November 6, a survivor (who was herself trafficked) and a police officer (who works to fight these unimaginable crimes), both of whom work with SWITCH, will give a talk about their experiences at St. Joseph's at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. Given the subject matter, this talk is geared toward parents and high school students.

Veterans Day Assembly, November 8

SJCS will recognize Veterans Day on Thursday, November 8. Any SJCS family member who is a veteran and would like to come speak at the assembly, please get in touch with Mrs. Carr by October 15.

SAT Practice Test, November 10

We will be giving a Kaplan ACT Practice Test here at school on Saturday, November 10, from 9:15 AM-1:15 PM. This test is geared toward juniors who have not yet taken the ACT, but interested sophomores may also attend. The experience will help students become familiar with the ACT format and learn about which areas they need to focus on to improve their scores when they take the actual ACT for college admissions purposes. Please click [HERE](#) to register by October 29. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Admissions Open House, Sunday, November 11

Please help us fill the campus on November 11 by inviting a prospective parent (friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative) to our annual Admissions Open House. The event begins at 1:00 PM and officially kicks off the admissions season for the upcoming school year for all grades. Families interested in SJCS will have a chance to hear from a St. Joseph's senior, graduate, and parent on the value of their time spent at St. Joseph's, tour with current students, meet and speak with teachers, coaches, and parents, and learn more about opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This is a once-a-year event, so please help us to spread the word.

- **HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Current SJCS families can help the school by placing the Open House Car Decal (that most of you received at Meet the Teacher Night) on your outside back car window now. Extras for other in-town family members are available in the front office. These window clings will go on/come off easily, and everyone can help recruit for St. Joseph's by this simple gesture. This visible sign on your car could also serve as a reminder to speak to one other prospective family about your child's St. Joseph's experience. A strong enrollment helps all of us, and we thank you, in advance, for helping us recruit next year's students! NOTE: this year's decals are perforated/peel off easily from the front side.

Attention Eighth Grade Parents

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

1) **Eighth Graders To Serve As Tour Guides at Open House**: All eighth graders are asked to be here on Sunday, November 11 from 11:30 AM-3:30 PM to help with Middle School Open House Tours. In return for their service, each student who volunteers will receive a Homework Pass and a “Free Dress” day (following the guidelines in the Student Handbook) the following Monday, November 12. If you see a conflict for your eighth grade child helping serve on Open House Sunday, please contact [Jenny Starks](#) now.

2) **“Lunch with the Headmaster”**: Eighth graders will be encouraged to sign up for lunch with Headmaster Keith Kiser and Middle School Director Wanda Jaraczewski during their lunch period at some point during this school year. These group luncheons will serve as a halfway check point to see how your child’s St. Joseph’s career is going. Please look for a follow up email to schedule.

3) **Eighth Grade Day**: If your child plans to re-enroll here in the ninth grade, it is not necessary that he/she “apply” for high school, as your child is already a student in our school. However, it is required that all SJCS eighth graders complete our high school admissions test. This test provides us valuable data on our current eighth grade class, allows your son/daughter a chance to compete for one of two academic scholarships awarded each year to incoming ninth graders, and will assist us in placing your child in the correct high school classes. The test will be given to all SJCS eighth graders during the school day (Eighth Grade Day) on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

MS St. Albert the Great Science Day, November 14

On Wednesday, November 14, the middle school celebrates the memorial of St. Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church, and patron of scientists. Middle school students will all participate and must stay until 2:00 PM that day. Sixth grade students will be demonstrating scientific concepts in the C-100 Hall. In the gym, seventh grade students will demonstrate their inventions, and eighth grade students will present their Science Fair projects. Students will receive more details from their science teachers. Family members are invited to view the projects between 12:45 and 2:00 PM. Dismissal for all MS students will be after 2:00 PM. Pizza will be available for the students that day and information will be emailed home concerning how to order. If students do not order pizza they should bring a bag lunch.

Semester Exams & Christmas Travel Reminder

As we near the Christmas Holidays, please remember to book family travel plans for after your student’s scheduled exams. Eighth grade and high school exams are Monday, December 17 through Thursday, December 20 with make-up exams only on Friday, December 21.

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](#).

From the High School Director

I recently changed the first question to my kids after school from my usual “what did you learn today” to “what made you curious today?” The Marshall Memo (an educational research clearing house) summarized a few recent articles identifying 4 different kinds of curiosity (social curiosity, joyous exploration, thrill seekers, and deprivation sensitivity), each with their own strengths. Social curiosity is an appreciation for the beliefs, habits, and practices of other individuals or groups. That’s different from joyous exploration, which seeks out new situations and challenges. Unpredictability is especially welcome by those with this kind of curiosity. Some people are thrill seekers, and like those with joyous exploration, they thrive on the new but it adds in risk (physical, financial, etc.). I might have named it something different, but the fourth kind of curiosity is called deprivation sensitivity. These are people that just have to figure things out...this group can’t tolerate gaps in knowledge. The study focused mainly on success in business but there are obvious implications for education as well, particularly with regard to the kinds of courses and projects that are likely to hold a student’s attention.

We all know that when the focal point of our work really energizes us, we are much more willing to fully engage the assignment and to explore various facets of the problem. I was satisfied just to get the right answer in chemistry (or close to the right answer), but wanted to know everything I could about ecosystems and living organisms. At St. Joseph’s, we’ve expanded our course offerings for just this reason. Our goal is not to make every student learn the same thing and then to stop investigating a topic (there’s an element of that, of course, as there has to be in middle and high school). Rather,

we want to provide opportunities and insights in a variety of fields that can be the basis of future study. Education, at this level, is as much about piquing curiosity as it is about satisfying it. When talking to your sons and daughters about what they're working on, be sure to go beyond the usual questions about performance...take a moment to ask them if there's something they want to follow up on, especially in the younger years. You never know what you BOTH might discover!

From the Development Office

Parent Volunteer Sign-Up

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

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. We will track participation numbers by grade level throughout the year, starting in October. **Our faculty and staff are leading the way this year with a most impressive 96% participation rate and over \$24,000!**

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!

From the Fine Arts Department

Fine Arts Programming

There are several opportunities to get involved with the Fine Arts program outside of the regular school hours. 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](#).

High School 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 JP II Center. 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 Thursday 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](#).

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. If you would like to be on the Jubilate Arts Guild Board, we are currently looking to fill the secretary position. Please contact [Ann Canello](#). If you have not purchased your Red Door Ornament and would like to, click [HERE](#) for the order form.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2019

Be sure to mark your calendar 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 (students, parents, alumni) are invited to join in this annual 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 are just getting started and we welcome people to join the planning committee. Please contact [Ann Gushue](#) or [Christine Balts](#) with questions, comments, or to get involved.

From the Parents Guild

School Store

The School Store currently has openings for the 1st and 3rd Monday mornings (7:30-8:00 AM). We are always looking for substitutes as well. Please contact [Erica Walajtys](#) or [Jill Wagner](#) if you are interested in helping out. Please be reminded that your child's School Store account is separate from their FLIK account. All School Store proceeds go to the Parents Guild which directly benefits the school.

Easy No Cost Fundraisers

- 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 up your account online [HERE](#). Once set up, click on 'My Publix Partner' and enter 'ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – GREENVILLE, SC' to designate your savings. When completed, use your phone number at check out during your weekly Publix visits and help us continue to raise money for SJCS. To date, we've raised over \$56,000 from this incredible program!
- Harris Teeter Together in Education: Register your VIC Card or sign up for eVIC card [HERE](#). Once your account is set up, scroll down to *Together in Education* and type in the code for SJCS, 5284. Please note this process needs to be renewed every year, as the programs runs from October to May.
- Lowes Foods: Join the *Cart to Class* program by clicking [HERE](#). We are listed under 'St. Joseph's'. Once selected and saved, we will begin receiving rewards from your weekly shopping trips. Amazon Smile: Help us raise money each time you make purchases on Amazon by using Amazon Smile. To designate SJCS, click [HERE](#). St. Joseph's is listed under *St. Joseph's Catholic School Inc.* In order for us to receive savings, please use smile.amazon.com for your future Amazon purchases.

Congratulations to the 2018 Winners of the Attractions Fund Raiser

Top Selling Students

- First Place Winner (\$125) is Catherine Noel
- Second and Third Place Winners (will split the remaining \$175) are Amanda Schmidt, Emily Schmidt, Collin Maides, Jordan Plumbee, Lauren Bridges, and Graham Houck

Top Selling Household

- Mrs. Connelly's Household sold 41 Attractions Books and will receive a pizza party

Movie Card Package Winners

- Six students sold 20 or more Attractions Books and will receive the Movie Card Package (movie gift card, popcorn, and candy)

Swamp Rabbit Ticket Winners

- Nineteen students sold 5 or more Attractions Books and will receive Swamp Rabbit tickets

With Sincere Thanks

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

- Monica Dodge for preparing and organizing our Welcome Back to School Breakfast
- Debbie Cruz for organizing the Used Uniform Sales
- Jackie Zannino for organizing another successful Attractions Book sale
Macie Lawton and Emily Getz for designing and organizing our Fall Spirit Wear Sales

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

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Naviance Family Connection

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

Parents of Seniors

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

From the Athletic Department

Wrap Yourself in School Spirit!

The SJCS lacrosse team is selling cozy sweatshirt blankets and lightweight stadium seats to raise money for the 2018-2019 season. The royal blue blankets are 54" x 84" with the white Knight Head logo at the center and cost \$40 each. They are perfect for cool weather sporting events or as an additional layer at the foot of the bed. The 11"x14" royal blue foam stadium seats cost \$10 each while supplies last. To order, please contact [Allison Warren](#).

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 logo'd 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](#).