



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

Advent Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

I hope it has been a good first semester for you and your children. As the students begin preparing for exams, and our hearts turn toward the joys of the Christmas holiday, I want to invite you to consider contributing new and gently used items to the coat drive sponsored by the Mental Illness Awareness Club. In doing so, you will be literally helping neighbors of the school, as all of this winter gear will be given to the young people who live in the Berkley Point Apartment Complex on Wenwood Drive, which is not more than a couple miles from our campus. Jesus asks us to be ever mindful of those in need. As St. Basil famously said: *"When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; **the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.**"* For more information on donating gently used clothes, contact the coat drive coordinator, [Greshan Charlton](#).

As we begin the 2019-2020 admissions season in earnest, I want to encourage you to please take the time to watch the Open House speeches. All the speakers did a terrific job witnessing to the transformative value of their experiences at St. Joseph's Catholic School. I particularly want to call your attention to the talks given by seniors Abbie Pannucio and Jack Malo and the remarks by graduate Clare Ruble (Class of 2013). You can find all of the talks on the school's website [HERE](#). And by all means, please share these with friends and family who might be considering St. Joseph's for their children. I can't imagine a better way to show them what the school is all about.

At the end of the first semester, I want to thank all of you who have contributed so much of your time, talent and treasure to enrich the experience of our students. I am especially grateful for those who have contributed to the Annual Fund, which 24% of our families have done so far this school year. More than any other dollars that are contributed to the school, I am always deeply touched by those who support the Annual Fund because most of these dollars are used to help provide a Catholic education for students who otherwise would not be able to attend St. Joseph's. Moreover, it is always such an encouragement to me and the other employees to see all those who take the time to volunteer at the school each year. In addition to all the individuals who give their time, talent, and treasure, the Parents Guild, the Athletic Boosters, and the Jubilate Guild collectively do an untold amount of good each year to enrich the experience of our students. To all of those we see day in and day out at the school, a hearty thank you! This community doesn't thrive without you and all the sacrifices you make for St. Joseph's.

Finally, get ready to say your goodbyes to the front office building (aka "The Scary Building"). It's coming down over Christmas break! Thank you to Terry Crosby and his team for performing the yeoman's task of emptying a building that for the past 15 years has been used as a giant storage facility. Terry and his team, along with significant assistance of Kevin Meyer and Rachel Neubauer in the Development Office, did a terrific job of finding ways to donate much of the contents of that building to individuals, schools, parishes, and community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, keeping the waste to as little as possible.

At the same time that building is coming down, work will begin on the new dugouts and hit house for the baseball field. The baseball field will also be getting a new scoreboard (the old one stopped working last spring after 17 years). Many thanks to the Athletic Boosters, who were able to donate half of the cost of the new scoreboard. These projects will be followed later in the year with the addition of lights to the tennis courts. With construction (and destruction!) taking place on campus over the next few months, the entrance to the overflow student parking lot on the front lawn will change slightly. Please give your kids a heads up and encourage them to keep out of the cordoned off areas around the scary building and baseball field.

In closing please, please join me in celebrating the birth of Henry Patton Collins to SJCS teacher Jen Collins. I also want to give a shout out to Seth and Theresa (Krupka) Kiser (both graduates of the SJCS Class of 2011), who made Tami and me grandparents for the 8th time with the birth of their son John Thomas Kiser. Please also remember to keep Jeanne McCoy in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Kaitlyn Dach on the loss of her grandmother; for Polina Vertegel on the loss of her grandfather; for Reid and Caroline Feldman on the loss of their grandfather.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

*** PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE ***

Eighth Grade & HS First Semester Exam Schedule

Location: Various Classrooms of Instruction

Monday, December 17	8:05 – 10:00 AM	10:20 AM – 12:15 PM
Tuesday, December 18	First Period	Second Period
Wednesday, December 19	Third Period	HS Fourth Period/MS Fifth Period
Thursday, December 20	Sixth Period	Seventh Period
Friday, December 21	Eighth Period	Make-up Exam
	(Make-ups if needed)	(Make-ups if needed)

Exam Guidelines

1. Students are to report directly to their designated exam rooms. All students should be seated by 8:00 AM. Any students arriving 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 may be admitted once the exam has been distributed.
2. Students may bring review materials for other exams to study quietly if they finish their exam early. Silence should be maintained from the moment the exams are distributed until all exams are collected at the end of the testing period. Students may ask quiet, non-test-related questions. Students who have questions should raise their hands and the proctor will attend to them quietly.
3. Once the exams begin, students should not be permitted to leave the examination rooms. Restroom trips should be limited to emergencies and then only after the student has turned in his/her exam.
4. **All students must remain in their designated exam rooms until the exam period is over.** Quiet is to be maintained at all times. Students should remain in their seats until the last exam is turned in.
5. Students on campus who are not taking exams must remain in the library. The library will be a designated study hall; the proctor may allow students to leave the library one at a time to use the restroom. All other normal study hall procedures are to remain in force.
6. Students with only one exam on a given day need be present for that exam only. In other words, they can leave after their first exam if they don't have a 10:20 AM exam, and they can arrive at 10:15 AM if they don't have an 8:05 AM exam. Students leaving after their first exam must sign out and leave through the front office.

Things You Need To Know

Toys for Tots Drive, November 26–December 7

The MS Chess Club is sponsoring the annual Toys for Tots Drive from November 26 to December 7. Donations of new, unwrapped toys may be brought to the school and deposited in the boxes provided or brought to Mrs. Trakas' room. These toys will be given to the local Marine coordinator and distributed to needy children in the area.

Junior Class Kairos Retreat, November 30–December 2

The annual junior class Kairos Retreat will take place from November 30–December 2 at Kanuga Retreat Center in Hendersonville, NC. Information has already been communicated to parents of participants. Please pray that the juniors who attend experience the love of God and of the Christian community! Questions? Contact [Julie Schroeder](#) or [Gabe Lewis](#).

Box Tops for Education Deadline, December 4

Collect your box tops to raise money for our school and help your student to earn Household Points and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. Before sending them in, please cut them out and check expiration dates. Our next collection deadline is Tuesday, December 4. Questions? Contact [Meredith Dobson](#) or [Stacy Covington](#).

Prospective Parent Night, December 4

Please help us spread the word about this event if you know a prospective parent who 1) has a child who has already applied, 2) has a child who might be interested in applying, or 3) did not get a chance to attend our recent Open House. Prospective Parent Night, to be held from 6:00-7:30 PM at the school, is a great way for parents to gather more information about our programs and to see what sets SJCS apart from other schools...all in a small group setting. Several administrators will be on hand to present information/answer questions on a wide range of topics focusing on Curriculum, Co-Curriculars, Student Life, and more.

Mandatory Trip Meeting for Spring Break Trip, December 6

There is a mandatory meeting for all participants and at least one parent traveling on the Spring Break America in the World Wars Trip on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room. An email has been sent detailing what each participant needs to bring to the meeting. Questions? Contact [Meby Carr](#).

Sophomore Class Day, December 7

On Friday, December 7, the entire 10th grade class will spend the day at Asbury Hills Camp and Retreat Center for the Sophomore Class Day, a day of rest, community building, games, and prayer. Information has been emailed to sophomores and parents. Students will depart from SJCS after Household and return to SJCS around 3:30 PM. This is a required day for all sophomores. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Advent Family Potluck, December 7

SJCS Campus Ministry is sponsoring an Advent Potluck dinner on Friday, December 7 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Families are invited to bring a simple dish to share. The evening will also include a brief, guided time of reflection on the meaning of Advent, and a musical presentation by SJCS students. Please click [HERE](#) to RSVP. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Monthly Requiem Mass, December 11

Mass for the Faithful Departed will be offered at 11:25 AM 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 November or December. A signup list will be sent out the day before Mass.

Christmas Concerts, December 11-13

This year the Fine Arts Department will sponsor the following concerts which will begin at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center:

- Tuesday, December 11: Band Ensembles
- Wednesday, December 12: Strings Ensembles
- Thursday, December 13: Choral Ensembles

Admission is free to all concerts. 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 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 and Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase in the HS Commons.

Second Quarter Ends, December 14

Grading for the second quarter ends on Friday, December 14. ParentsWeb will be shut down to allow teachers to enter grades for the quarter and the first semester. It will re-open after report cards are issued.

MS Christmas Parties, December 17–19

Middle School students will have their Christmas parties separately by grade level during their Related Arts periods. The sixth grade party will be on December 17, the eighth grade on December 18, and the seventh grade on December 19. Look for an email from Melissa Broering requesting food and help with these parties.

Eighth Grade & HS Exams, December 17–20

Please see the exam schedule and guidelines detailed in this edition of *News and Notes*. Please avoid taking students out for appointments on exam days and remember that exams may not be taken early.

Sixth & Seventh Grade Schedule, December 17–20

The 6th and 7th grades will be dismissed at 12:15 PM December 17-19. Thursday, December 20 will be the last day for students before the Christmas break and they will be dismissed at 10:00 AM. They will not have exams but will follow the exam schedule with two long classes each day. Please see the exam schedule for details.

No Late Stay, December 20

There will be NO LATE STAY on Thursday, December 20. Students will be dismissed at 10:00 AM on December 20. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up at that time.

HS Advent Retreat, December 20–21

High School Campus Ministry invites any and all high school students to attend an Advent Retreat after exams from 2:30 PM on Thursday, December 20 until Noon on Friday, December 21. The retreat will include a lesson, some time for prayer, dinner, games, singing, campfire, a hike, Mass, adoration, and more. Questions? Contact [Gabe Lewis](#) or [Michele Houmis](#). Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

Alumni Christmas Social, December 21

All SJCS alumni are invited to the annual Christmas Social hosted by the Alumni Board, held at the Commerce Club in downtown Greenville on Friday, December 21 from 7:00-10:30 PM. Join us for holiday cheer, appetizers, and raffle prizes including 2019 Gala tickets. This is an incredibly well attended event by alumni of all ages and we can't wait to see our alumni there! Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Christmas Break, December 21–January 6

There will be no classes. The school and school offices will be closed. Classes will resume and the school office will re-open on Monday, January 7.

Second Quarter Grades Emailed, December 22

Second Quarter/First Semester report cards will be emailed on Saturday, December 22, after 4:00 PM. Please remember to check your *junk mail*. If you do not receive the link for the report card, please email the Registrar, [Carol Curry](#). Any questions regarding your student's grade, however, should be directed toward his/her teacher.

HS Second Semester Add/Drop Period, January 7–11

The period to add or drop a course for Second Semester is from January 7-11. Course Add/Drop forms will be available in the College Counseling Office beginning December 10. Please note that full-year courses cannot be modified during the second semester, and switching between sections of the same course is not permitted. Only semester courses may be added or dropped, and only if space is available.

Priority Admissions Testing, January 12 OR February 2

If your child is interested in applying for fall 2019, or you know someone who is planning for their child to apply, please do not delay. Our priority testing dates are Saturday, January 12, 2019 **OR** Saturday, February 2, 2019, and you sign up for one date when you complete the online application found [HERE](#). There is no preference given to either of these dates. Applicants who test in January are not given priority over those who test in February. These are the best dates to test because applicants who test on one of these two dates will get the first look and be the first to receive their admissions notifications (around March 15). In addition, ninth grade applicants who test on either of these two dates will be in the running for one of two academic scholarships awarded each year. We do offer a third testing date on March 16, 2019. All

testing will be held on campus beginning at 8:30 AM and a completed application must be on file prior to testing.

Monthly Requiem Mass, January 15

Mass for the Faithful Departed will be offered at 11:25 AM 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 January. A signup list will be sent out the day before Mass.

Eighth Grade Day, January 16

All SJCS eighth grade parents received a letter from Keith Kiser in the fall with details on transitioning your eighth grade son or daughter into high school. The annual Eighth Grade Day, to be held on Wednesday, January 16, is the day when all SJCS eighth graders are not in their regular classes; rather, they take the High School Placement Test here at school, are treated to a special lunch, and participate in a panel discussion with high school students designed to help ready them for high school. As way of a reminder, there are several reasons for eighth graders to complete our placement test: 1) the test helps determine eligibility for academic scholarships awarded each year to two incoming freshmen; 2) the test provides us valuable data on our incoming ninth grade students; and, 3) the test will assist in placing your child in the correct high school classes. This is considered a regular school day and all eighth graders should be in attendance. If your son/daughter is absent on January 16, he/she will need to take the High School Placement Test on Saturday, February 2. In addition, eighth graders may have a Free Dress Day on this date, following the guidelines in the Parent/Student Handbook. Dismissal is at the regular Wednesday time of 1:15 PM.

March for Life in Washington DC, January 17-19

SJCS students are invited to travel to Washington D.C. for the 46th annual March for Life to bear witness to the dignity of human life from conception until natural death. HS students are invited as well as families (MS students must attend with a parent.) Buses will leave from the SJCS parking lot on Thursday, January 17, at 6:00 AM and return to SJCS on Saturday, January 19 around 10:00 PM. Questions? Contact SJCS Students for Life Club Moderator [Karl Orbon](#).

HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, January 18

On Friday, January 18 from 5:00–7:00 PM, the Jubilate Arts Guild and Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring the final HS Coffeehouse of the school year. This event will take place in the SJCS 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 Cafeteria/MS parking lot door and admission is \$5.00 per person. This admission fee will be charged to each student's account (additional family members who attend will also be counted into the account charges).

Spirit Week, January 18 - 26

SJCS HS Student Council has elected [St. Anthony's Catholic School](#) as beneficiary of the 2019 Spirit Week. More information will be sent to all students and parents via e-mail, but below is a very brief overview of what can be expected during the week:

- \$10 to dress-down for the entire week (charged to student accounts)
- Profit Sharing at various restaurants throughout the Greenville area
- Activities during the school day (tournaments, challenges, carnivals, Karaoke...)
- Evening Activities (cycling class, bowling, skating, movie night...)
- Pep Rally on Friday, January 25
- Conclusion of Spirit Week at the SJCS vs. CCES Basketball Game on Friday, January 25

All families and students are invited to participate in as many events as possible during this week to benefit the students of St. Anthony's Catholic School, located in West Greenville, SC. For questions about Spirit Week and our work with St. Anthony's, contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderator [Gabe Lewis](#).

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the school and school offices will be closed on Monday, January 21.

Annual Pastors Appreciation Luncheon, January 24

For the past 5 years, SJCS has dedicated a luncheon during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity to sharing prayer and fellowship with the pastors of the churches attended by our non-Catholic families. This year's luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 24. Questions? Contact [Father Jonathan Duncan](#).

HS MORP Dance, January 26

The annual MORP dance (spell it backwards to understand the name!) will take place from 7:30-10:30 PM in the SJCS Gym. The proceeds from the dance will also benefit the 2019 Spirit Week charity, St. Anthony's Catholic School. More information on this dance and the cost will be announced to students in December.

Catholic Schools Week, January 27-February 2

St. Joseph's will join with Catholic schools throughout the nation celebrating the gift of Catholic education. Activities will be light this year, since this week follows directly on the heels of Spirit Week, but look for the following events: Teacher Appreciation Day, Student Appreciation Day, Priest Appreciation Day, and Volunteer Appreciation Day. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Spring Sports Tryouts Begin January 28

Please note that all required athletic forms MUST be turned in to the athletic office before tryouts begin.

- Girls Lacrosse: January 28 from 4:00-6:00 PM
- Boys Lacrosse: January 28 from 4:00-6:00 PM
- Boys JV & Varsity Soccer: January 28 & 29 from 3:30-5:30 PM, January 30 from 1:30-3:30 PM, January 31 & February 1 from 5:30-7:00 PM
- Girls MS, JV & Varsity Soccer: January 28 & 29 from 5:30-7:00 PM, January 30 from 3:30-5:30, January 31 & February 1 from 3:30-5:30 PM
- Boys Varsity Tennis: January 28 & 29 from 3:30-5:00 PM, January 30 from 1:30-3:30 PM, January 31 & February 1 from 3:30-5:00 PM
- Varsity and JV Baseball: January 29 & February 1 from 5:30-7:30 PM
- MS Baseball: January 30 & February 1 from 3:30-5:15 PM
- Boys Golf: January 30 at 2:30 PM at The Preserve at Verdae
- JV and Varsity Softball: February 4-8 from 3:45-5:15 PM
- MS Co-Ed Golf: TBD

Catholic Schools Week Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Thursday, January 31

We want to celebrate you! Join us for breakfast on Thursday, January 31 from 8:00-9:00 AM in the Cafeteria, as we take time to recognize and appreciate the incredible work done by our many volunteers. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

Eighth Grade Play, *Haphazardly Ever After*, January 31

In celebration of Catholic School's Week, the SJCS Fine Arts Department will be presenting the eleventh annual 8th grade play on Thursday, January 31. Join us for this production, starring 35 students from the 8th grade class. The performance begins at 7:00 PM with free admission. Seating will be open for Jubilate Arts Guild members 6:30-6:45 PM; general admission seating will begin at 6:45 PM. Concessions will be for sale during intermission.

Wine & Cheese Socials, January 31 & February 7

This is a great opportunity to hear from, socialize, and speak with school officials and other parents in a small, informal setting.

- **Middle School Parents, January 31:** Prior to the Eighth Grade Play, all middle school parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, January 31 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.
- **High School Parents, February 7:** Prior to the Freshman/Sophomore College Counseling program, all high school parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, February 7 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.

Re-Enrollment for the 2019-2020 School Year Begins Late January 2019

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

College Planning Night for Juniors, February 5

Brand R. Stille, Vice President for Enrollment at Wofford College will be here to present on some of the following topics: College Admission Calendar, Key Terms (Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling Admission, Wait List, Common Application, etc.), Student/Parent/School Responsibilities, How to Research College Information, College Entrance Exams, and Financial Aid. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center and at least one parent must attend with their student. We will let you know who your college counselor will be and will begin scheduling individual student/family meetings following this meeting.

Used Uniform Sale, February 7, 2019

Mark your calendars for the used uniform sale on Thursday, February 7, 2019. The sale will take place in the cafeteria beginning at 3:30 PM.

Freshman & Sophomore College Counseling Night, February 7

We will be having our annual meeting for freshmen and sophomores and their parents to discuss general academic and college planning items. Holley Springfield from Auburn University Admissions will be here to present as well. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center and all freshmen and sophomore families must attend this meeting at least once (either during the students' freshman or sophomore year). Students are asked to sit with their parents.

SJCS Spring Art Show, February 25-March 1

The 2019 Spring Art Show will be held in the SJCS Library from February 25-March 1. Students in all grades are encouraged to participate. Categories include Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Mixed Media, and Computer Graphics. Entries will be accepted in the Art Room from February 19-22. For entry requirements, contact [Deborah Pickard](#). The Jubilate Arts Guild will also be hosting a reception in the library on Friday, March 1 from 7:00-8:00 PM.

Travel to Greece, Summer 2019

Would you like to give your student a unique and exciting gift for Christmas or Graduation? There is still time to sign up for our trip to Greece this summer! The trip is open to all students who are currently in grades 8-12. The trip will take place from June 8-16, 2019. We will be visiting various ancient sites in Athens and around the Greek Islands (including Ephesus and the island of Patmos/the Cave of the Apocalypse) as well as experiencing the modern Greek culture. For questions or to sign up for the trip, contact [Marla Palmer](#) or [Elaine Trakas](#).

France & Spain Student Trip, June 2020

Just a few spots remain for the trip to France and Spain in early June 2020. The exciting itinerary leads us from Paris to Madrid, with the Mediterranean Coast in between. 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. If you are interested in providing this opportunity for your child, please contact [Shawna Fesler](#).

Community Service Hours

The holiday season provides many opportunities for community service. It is the perfect time for students to share their time and talents with those less fortunate. Students should continue to check the school website and the daily bulletins for service opportunities and are encouraged to seek out other community needs as well. At this point in the school year, students should be at least halfway to completing their community service requirements. Current community service opportunities, as well as the requirements for graduation and the service hour documentation form can be found [HERE](#). These forms should be submitted to Household Deans once completed. Community service at St. Joseph's should always be rooted in the [Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy](#). If you have a question about whether a project meets these requirements, please consult with your Household Dean.

Thank You, School Families!

Special thanks to the entire school community who helped contribute to our successful Open House: to the parents who sent in food and drinks for the reception, to the parent volunteers who worked the reception, to the students who gave of their time and talent to give campus tours, and to everyone who displayed an Open House window cling on their car. Many, many thanks!

From the High School Director

For someone who lives in Greenville and does not like to drive, I spend a surprising amount of time traveling around South Carolina. In just the last few weeks, I've been to Charleston for a teacher's conference, Columbia (twice), and the somewhat less exciting Winnsboro, South Carolina. In each location, when people find out I work at St. Joseph's, they give a little nod of respect to our school. We're known for our commitment to excellence, and I have to admit I like telling people where I work.

Consider the two trips to Columbia. Last weekend, I took three of my kids down to the varsity volleyball state championships. Our team won their eighth consecutive state championship that day, but that's not what I most remember about the trip. What sticks with me are the smiles and joy on the faces of the girls. Win or lose on an individual point, they were confident and supportive of each other, and that's a joy to behold. Then, I went to Columbia for Youth in Government, a three-day experience in self-government and civic education that about 80 of our students go to every year. As we were loading up the busses to drive down, I noticed several members of the volleyball team attending YIG as well, alongside members of the football team, the baseball team, the cross country team, etc. One of the benefits of St. Joseph's is that kids have the opportunity to participate in several different kinds of activity, rather than getting completely immersed in one part of their identity.

What I am most proud of, though, is not their successes in all these worthy activities. I'm most proud of the community I see them building every day at St. Joseph's. I see the way they support one another, the way they commiserate with one another at times, and most of all they push one another forward. It's a daily lesson in the truth of the old adage that iron sharpens iron, and that's one of the most essential assets a school can possess, and we have it in abundance at St. Joseph's.

From the Athletic Department

Athletic Twitter Account

New this fall: our Athletic Department has a new Twitter account [@sjcs_athletics](#). Please follow us for athletic scores and updates!

Sports Participation Requirements

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 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. Be sure to type St. Joseph's Catholic School in the search line when looking for our school.

Knights Athletic Booster Club

Best Thanksgiving and Christmas wishes to all! The Athletic Booster Club is incredibly proud of all the student athletes. We especially congratulate our state champions, and are looking forward to the ring ceremonies. Your memberships help support the ring awards. We are also thrilled to provide assistance for the new baseball scoreboard that will be erected in time for the spring baseball season. For more information on joining the Booster Club, click [HERE](#) or contact [Gidge Marchant](#). Thank you for your support of the fall/winter spirit wear store! We will also offer a spring on-line store to prepare you for the season. Please contact [Gary Walajty](#) or [Michael Pace](#) for volunteer opportunities on the Booster Club board.

From the Parents Guild

Catholic Schools Week

Each year, parents treat the faculty and staff to a luncheon during Catholic Schools Week (January 28–February 2). This year's luncheon will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019. To further show our appreciation, each member of the faculty and staff are given a gift card. Be on the lookout for ways to participate in the luncheon and start collecting those gift cards. Do you have any unused gift cards from the holidays? Gift cards can be sent to the school, marked to the attention of Parents Guild. Anyone interested in helping with Catholic Schools Week, contact [Megha Lal](#) (864-538-3117).

After-Prom

Back by popular demand! After dancing the night away at prom on April 27, students can head over to Spare Time, 822 Congaree Rd, for games, lanes, food, and fun. Of course prizes will be available to all who attend this event, and we are already accepting donations. Some ideas are \$10 gifts cards (think food and gas cards) or larger prizes for our senior raffle (think college dorm gifts: Keurig, bluetooth speakers, TV, ENO, etc). If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact [Devon Pace](#) (864-630-9196).

Spring Volunteers Needed

We have some great upcoming events that need your help! Events include Catholic Schools Week, the Lenten Fish Fry, Annual Gala, After Prom, Junior and Senior Luncheons, and the Graduation Reception. You can sign up to volunteer on the Volunteer Form found [HERE](#).

Surprise for our Faculty and Staff

As the Faculty and Staff embarked on Thanksgiving Break, the Parents Guild gifted each person with a pumpkin bread loaf and a fun (and helpful) Christmas gift wrapping starter kit.

With Appreciation

We are so thankful for all of the many volunteers. Thanks to Lisa Lillibridge and committee for their assistance with Open House; Jackie Zannino for her work on the Belk Charity Day Sale; Katie Martin and volunteers for making Grandparents Day so special; and Rebecca Feldman and volunteer bakers for providing Thanksgiving pumpkin bread and Christmas cookies for faculty and staff.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

PSAT 8/9 & PSAT/NMSQT Test Results

PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT test results are expected to be available online in December for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. When scores are ready the College Board will email an access code to students who included their email address on their test, which will allow them to view their online score report. Click [HERE](#) for information on opening a College Board account, which is necessary for accessing your scores, if you don't already have one. Paper score reports will be distributed at school in January. Parents will be emailed when students receive these reports.

Senior College Applications

Please continue to share your good news and advise Ms. Najmabadi and Mrs. Butler of college acceptances and scholarship awards.

Seniors: Transcript Requests

Transcript requests should be made no later than December 3, 2018 for all colleges for which you plan to apply. If you would like for your Mid-Year Report (first semester grades) to be mailed in January (once the first semester grades are finalized), then you must put in your transcript request no later than December 14.

From the Business Office

Tuition Assistance

The Tuition Assistance application process for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in early January with a priority deadline of February 15, 2019. Tuition Assistance is awarded annually and must be applied for each year. You will need your 2017 tax return (we realize that you may not have your 2018 tax return completed) and your 2018 W2 forms (we ask to see the most current W2 forms) to complete the Tuition Assistance Application. The tuition assistance process, which will utilize the FACTS tuition assistance application, will be available beginning January 3. Please look for the FACTS link at the bottom of the Affording SJCS page under the Admissions tab on the website.

Tuition Statements

- Plan B tuition payments are due Thursday, January 31, 2019. If your family selected the Plan B tuition, this charge will be included in your January billing statement.
- 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.

From the Development Office

Annual Auction Gala: Seaside Soiree: A Knight on the Coast. Friday, April 26

The Gala Committee is already hard at work preparing another magical evening. We encourage you to make plans to join us as we present our coastal inspired "Seaside Soiree: A Knight on the Coast" *Hope Anchors the Soul* Gala on Friday, April 26, 2019. Last year was another memorable event raising over \$286,000 for our Annual Fund, which supports tuition assistance, academics, campus ministries, student life, fine arts, and athletics. Please consider getting involved with one of the many Gala volunteer opportunities by contacting [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Donations:

- If you have any unopened bottles of wine leftover from your Christmas or New Year Celebrations, please consider donating them to Gala. We will be collecting wine of all varieties and qualities for a fun new element at this year's event. Please leave bottles in the front office for Rachel Neubauer.
- Vacation Rental Properties: If you have any Vacation Home Rental Properties and would like to donate a stay to the Annual Auction Gala please contact [Michelle Mullins](#), [Kiera Egan](#), or [Rachel Neubauer](#).
- Empty Baskets: If you have any sturdy baskets from past Gala winnings, please feel free to donate them back to the school by dropping them off at the Front Office.
- As the end of the year approaches, please consider donating to the Annual Auction Gala's Silent Auction, Live Auction, or becoming a Gala Sponsor.

The Gala sponsorship goal for this year is \$140,000. For details on becoming a Gala Sponsor, please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) in 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. As of late November an impressive 96% of faculty and staff, 100% of the Board of Trustees and almost 30% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the **6th grade** which is leading with a **grade level participation of 35%**! We will continue to track these participation numbers through the Gala in the spring.
- 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, download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) or give [online](#) today!

From the Fine Arts Department

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](#). To find out how you can support our Fine Arts students and teachers or if you would like to be on the Jubilate Arts Guild Board as the secretary, please contact the Jubilate Guild President, [Ann Canello](#).

Red Door & St. John Paul II Chapel Ornaments

Don't miss your chance to get your red door glass ornaments or a St. John Paul II Chapel commemorative ornament designed by SJCS Art Teacher, Deborah Pickard. These beautiful keepsakes will make ideal Christmas gifts for students, alumni, parents, grandparents, or teachers. All proceeds will support the SJCS Fine Arts program. Ornaments will be for sale in December at the Band, Strings, and Choral Christmas concerts. Sample ornaments are on display in the entryway to the school office or found [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Ann Canello](#).

Jubilate Knight for the Arts, May 11, 2019

Preparations have begun for the annual Jubilate Arts Guild event, "Jubilate Knight for the Arts" on Saturday, May 11, 2019. This family-friendly talent competition highlights our artistically gifted St. Joseph's community. Patrons will have a variety of opportunities to support the SJCS Fine Arts programs during this entertaining celebration of the arts. Make plans to join us and enjoy an evening of creative performances!

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

To Volunteer: Planning has already begun, but it's not too late to volunteer! The planning committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month; **the next meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:30 AM**. Everyone is welcome to join our planning meetings. If you are interested in helping plan Jubilate Knight or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#).

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