



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!

I started writing this letter from the make-shift concession stand on the hill overlooking the baseball field. Distracted by the game, I didn't get very far with the letter. Picking it up the next morning, I found my thoughts drifting back to the baseball game. It was a surprisingly warm 54 degrees with no wind – a rarity on that hill. The sun was shining through the doors of the concessions shed, the field looked spectacular, and the JV team was having a good night (and, oh yeah, my son is pitching). It was a joy listening to the parents cheering for their kids – no one louder than Bobby Lyons who watched his son Mark hit a home run over the left field fence. (Mark almost hit another one to center later in the game.)

It was a bucolic couple of hours after what had been a very difficult couple of weeks for the school, and I was grateful for it. I had a similar experience the previous Friday night at the Fish Fry. I had gone home in the early afternoon to meet a contractor, and the thought of throwing on sweat pants and a t-shirt and skipping the Fish Fry was pretty appealing at that point, but I knew my wife wasn't going to let me get away with that, after all we had paid for five meals and she really wanted to try an oyster. So we went, and I am very glad we did. The Stations of the Cross had a new poignancy in light of recent events. The food was great, with the added oyster roast a big hit. The band, featuring SJCS parents Mark Keating and Bill Coffey, provided a fun vibe for the evening. It was a joy to unexpectedly have dinner with an alumni couple who are to be married in the coming months. They were home on break from Notre Dame, where he is finishing up a master's degree in architecture. And then, it was just plain fun watching our parents visit and enjoy one another's company. I am grateful for the Development Office and the parent group leaders for putting on another great St. Joseph's Catholic School community event.

The Annual Gala "Seaside Soiree: A Knight on the Coast" on Friday, April 26 promises to be another great evening for the SJCS community, as will the Prom be for the students on the following night. I hope you are making plans to attend the Gala which, as you know, supports the school's Annual Fund and Tuition Assistance Fund in particular. The theme of this year's party, "Hope Anchors the Soul" has taken on a new significance in light of recent events. This theme is taken from a verse in the book of Hebrews where the author is trying to convince his readers that they can place all their trust in God because He is faithful to His promises, citing as evidence that God made His promises firm by swearing an oath of fidelity to His covenant, a covenant which was sealed through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is surely sound advice for our community too, as we follow in the footsteps of our school founders who relied on God to provide all that we need so that we can provide our students with a Catholic education that will inspire them to want to change the world for the better. This is what you are supporting when you attend and support the Gala.

In closing, please pray for Len Byrne on the occasion of the unexpected death of his beloved wife, Ginny, in early March. Both Len and Ginny have been longtime friends of St. Joseph's Catholic School. Please also pray for Emma Kate and Meg Seckinger for the loss of their grandfather, and for Nick Betit on the loss of his great grandmother.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

SJCS Spring Musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, April 4-7

Be sure to mark your calendars for the spring musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, April 4-7. Based on the classic story, journey with Dorothy through the eye of a tornado into the Land of Oz. Along the way, she'll meet new friends and attempt to avoid the wrath of the Wicked Witch of the West as she travels to the Emerald City in the hopes of finding her way back to Kansas, learning that there truly is "no place like home." Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets.

AP Exam Pre-administration Sessions, April 8-10

All current AP students must attend a 30 minute Pre-Administration Session in April. They will be offered at various times during and after school. You can register for one of these sessions by clicking [HERE](#). Sign-up information has already been emailed to AP students and parents. The AP exam schedule and other details are also published in this newsletter. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Class Rings & Graduation Supplies Distributed, April 9

Representatives from Herff Jones will deliver class rings and graduation supplies (e.g., announcements) during HS lunch in the Small Conference Room on the Administration Hall. You will receive a mailing from Herff Jones letting you know how to pay if you have a balance due. Graduation caps and gowns will be distributed April 11 at the Senior Graduation Meeting.

HS Academic & Honor Societies Inductions, April 10

On Wednesday, April 10, the National Honor Society, and the HS Academic and Fine Arts Honor Societies inductions will take place from 1:30-3:00 PM. Students will receive individual letters notifying them of their eligibility and parents will receive an email specifically inviting them to the ceremony if their child is being inducted. NHS Inductions will take place from 1:30-2:15 PM in the JP II Center; and the Academic and Fine Arts Honor Society Inductions will take place from 2:15-3:00 PM in the JP II Center.

Mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting, April 11

There will be a mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting on Thursday, April 11 at 9:45 AM in the JP II Center. Every senior must attend this important meeting. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting. Dress code, arrival times, and graduation practice are just some of the topics covered. You will be given your cap and gown at this time.

Mid-Quarter Progress Update, April 12

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

Campus Ministry HS Holy Week Retreat, April 12-14

Campus ministry will sponsor an optional Holy Week Retreat for HS students beginning with dinner on Friday, April 12, ending after breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 14. More information was sent to students and families by email. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Easter Break, April 15-22

Easter Break will begin on Monday, April 15. The school and school office will be closed through Easter Monday, April 22. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 23.

HS Student Council Campaign & Elections for 2019-2020, April 23-May 3

An email was sent to HS students with information regarding elections for the 2019-2020 HS Student Council. Students who wish either to run for an elected position or to be considered for an appointed position must fill out the respective application forms which were sent by email. Actual campaigning will begin after students return from Easter Break and elections will be at the end of the first week of May. Questions? Contact Student Council Moderator [Gabe Lewis](#).

Important Reminder of the Dress Code for Prom*, April 27

Many juniors and seniors have already begun to think about outfits for Prom. General guidelines outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook apply, but the following are more specific for Prom (pg. 31):

- **Boys Attire:** tuxedo, suit with tie, or sport coat with slacks and a tie
- **Girls Attire:** dress, two-piece dresses, dressy pants outfit
- **NOT Permitted:** excessively tight or baggy pants (male and female), shorts, dresses/skirts shorter than 4 inches above the knees, dresses/tops that show cleavage, under garments (including bralettes) or dresses/tops that plunge below

waistline, bare midribs. Please remember the guidelines when shopping. If you have any specific questions, please speak with your Household Dean.

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

MS MAP Testing, April 29-May 3

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) standardized testing is administered to all MS students in both the fall and the spring. Eighth graders will test on April 29-30. Sixth and seventh graders will test on May 2-3. Testing will be from 8:00-10:30 AM, so please avoid having students out during their testing times, if possible. There will be no testing on May 1, which is St. Joseph the Worker Day. Makeup testing will be scheduled with Mrs. Duncan as needed.

Calendar Clarification, April 30 & May 3

Due to MS MAP Testing on April 30 and May 3, both MS and HS class periods will run in reverse order: Period 8, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 2 and 1. MS and HS lunch periods remain the same.

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

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

Calendar Clarification, May 2

Due to May 1 being St. Joseph the Worker Day and therefore students will not have class, all classes will meet on May 2 and there will not be Mass. It is a 3:00 PM dismissal.

Admissions Testing, May 4

An additional testing date for fall 2019 enrollment has been added for Saturday, May 4, as we are still accepting applications, space permitting. If you know anyone who might be interested in learning more about SJCS, specifically our new Sixth Grade Academy, please encourage them to contact [Barbara McGrath](#) in the Admissions Office.

New Student Night, May 6

All newly accepted and enrolled students (students new to SJCS for fall 2019) and their parents are required to attend this informative evening on campus beginning at 7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Center. Attendees should use the side HS entrance door. A checklist covering a number of important topics will be discussed, along with the opportunity to meet the sixth and ninth grade teaching teams. Questions? Contact [Jennifer DeForest](#) in the Admissions Office.

AP Exams, May 6-16

- Monday, May 6, 7:30 AM: US Government and Politics
- Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 AM: Spanish Language and Culture
- Tuesday, May 7, 11:30 AM: Physics 1: Algebra-Based
- Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 AM: English Literature and Comp
- Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 AM: European History
- Thursday, May 9, 7:30 AM: Chemistry
- Friday, May 10, 7:30 AM: United States History
- Friday, May 10, 11:30 AM: Physics 2: Algebra-Based
- Monday, May 13, 7:30 AM: Biology
- Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 AM: Calculus AB/Calculus BC
- Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 AM: English Language and Composition
- Thursday, May 16, 11:30 AM: Statistics

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

Calendar Clarification, May 8 & 9

May 8 is the Academic Awards and Red Door Ceremony. There will be no Mass and that time slot will be moved to the end of the day so that the Ceremony can start around Noon. Since there will be no Mass on Wednesday, May 8, due to the Awards Ceremony, May 9 will be a Mass day with Mass in place of Study Help.

Attention Parents of New HS Students! Placement Testing is May 14 & 16

Newly accepted and enrolled HS students who are entering grades 9-12 and who are currently completing HS courses in math and/or any level of world language for HS credit at their current school and wish to advance to the next level at St. Joseph's need to take SJCS Placement Tests. The tests will be held at SJCS on Tuesday, May 14 (Math) and Thursday, May 16 (World Language) beginning at 3:30 PM. Information regarding these tests was sent home in your child's acceptance packet. Questions? Contact [Jennifer DeForest](#) in the Admissions Office.

- New rising ninth grade students who have completed a high school level math course in their current MS must take the St. Joseph's Math Placement Test in order to receive credit for their current class/classes as well as secure their correct placement at SJCS.
- New HS students (entering grades 9-12) who have completed a HS world language course in their current school must take the St. Joseph's World Language Placement Test in order to receive credit for their current class as well as secure their correct placement at SJCS.

Eighth Grade Convocation Mass, May 15

The 8th Grade Convocation Mass will be held at Noon on Wednesday, May 15. Eighth grade family members are welcome to attend Mass and the short ceremony that follows.

Calendar Clarification May 15 & 16

Due to 8th Grade Convocation there will be an adjusted bell schedule and only MS will attend Mass at Noon that day; HS will have a study hall during that time. On Thursday, May 16, MS will have regular Study Help and only HS will attend Mass during the Study Help period.

Senior Exams: May 20, 21, 22, & 23

- Monday, May 20: 8:05–10:00 AM-History
- Monday, May 20: 10:20 AM–12:15 PM-Math
- Tuesday, May 21: 8:05–10:00 AM-World Language/Electives
- Tuesday, May 21: 10:20 AM–12:15 PM - Science
- Wednesday, May 22: 8:05–10:00 AM-Theology
- Wednesday, May 22: 10:20 AM–12:15 PM- English
- Thursday, May 23: Make-ups as needed

Semester Exams & Travel Reminder

As we near the end of the year, please remember to book family travel plans for after your student's scheduled exams. Senior exams start the week of May 20, with 8th- 11th grade exams starting on Tuesday, May 28.

Fine Arts Summer Camps, June 10-14

More information regarding registration for the SJCS Fine Arts summer camps will be posted on the school website in early April. Mark your calendars for the summer Theatre camps from June 10-14.

Rising Ninth Grade Trip, July 29-31

Parents of current 8th graders mark your calendars for the 9th Grade Freshman Trip to St. Augustine, Florida, which will take place from Monday, July 29-Wednesday, July 31, 2019. These dates are chosen because it is a week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. All new and returning rising 9th grade students are invited to attend. This marks the first experience of the SJCS HS community, and is always a very enjoyable experience for the students who participate. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of rising senior leaders and a group of SJCS teacher chaperones. More details will be e-mailed in the spring. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but is generally between \$300-\$400. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Important Dates for 2019-2020

Please click [HERE](#) to view the Important Dates for 2019-2020 that were recently posted to the SJCS website.

From the High School Director

The evidence is in, and it's about as conclusive as anything ever gets in the social sciences. Over the last several years educational researchers have identified a list of common characteristics for high-performing schools. These include:

- **Collective Teacher Efficacy**, which is the ability teachers feel like they have to directly shape their student's experience.
- **A Growth Mindset**

Collective teacher efficacy is the number one characteristic of good schools, according to some researchers, but unfortunately, it's very easy to undermine, and nothing does that faster than mistrust between stakeholders. Often, this mistrust emerges from a simple lack of clear, direct communication. St. Joseph's believes that productive, direct communication is most important between teachers and students, the two groups most closely connected to the school's mission. As we near the end of the year, it's natural to start getting more narrowly focused on the end-of-year grades, and that can raise questions about exams, major assignments, review sessions, etc. Please encourage your students to talk to their teachers when they're struggling. In many cases, a few short minutes of conversation can save a lot of back and forth later on, and strengthen the relationship between teacher and student (which also increases student achievement).

The **Growth Mindset** means that kids need to believe they can learn, and school personnel (including Directors) need to believe they can get better at their jobs. Two years ago, we purchased copies of *The Growth Mindset* by Carol Dweck. This book is all about how believing you can do better leads one to work harder, which not surprisingly leads to greater achievement. That's what we want, not just for ourselves as professionals, but for all our students, too. To that end, we're investing more in professional development initiatives for our teachers so that we can improve the experience for our students. Everything we do at St. Joseph's is measured against that yardstick...is it better for the students?

As we head toward exams and the end of the year, let's keep the channels of communication open, and remind our kids, all of them, that the best is yet to come!

Chaperone/Driving Policy

Please see the procedure below for chaperoning and/or driving for an SJCS event. Per our insurance company, this is the SJCS procedure and must be followed for all SJCS events (field trip, retreats, etc).

If a parent would like to chaperone an event (field trip, retreat, etc) they must do the following:

- Fill out the SJCS [background check form](#) and return it to [Jennifer Church](#)
 - Once that form is processed, you will receive instructions from [Jennifer Church](#) on how to complete Armatus training
- The cost for this is \$30.

If a parent would like to drive for an event (field trip, retreat, etc), they must do the following:

- Complete the [background check](#) and Armatus training
 - Complete the [Driver Permission Form](#) and return it along with required documents listed on form to [Jennifer Church](#)
- The cost for the driver's check is \$5.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

From the Catholic Community

Mercy & Mary Retreat

The Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy are sponsoring a retreat at St. Joseph's Catholic School on Friday and Saturday, July 19-20. The retreat will offer five conferences and a book signing with featured guest speaker, Father Michael Gaitley. In addition, the retreat will include Mass, Adoration, and Benediction as well as personal testimonials and lunch. Cost is \$49.95 for the two-day conference. Register now [HERE](#). For more information, call 413-944-8500, ext. 10.

From the Business Office

Senior Tuition & Flik Accounts

- Senior tuition and fees must be paid in full, except for the June tuition draft and Chromebook damage fees, by May 13, 2019. Any fees for lost or damaged Chromebooks will be posted at the time Chromebooks are returned. Please contact [Lisa Lawrence](#) if you have questions concerning your tuition and fees account.
- All senior student Flik Dining accounts must be paid in full prior to May 1, 2019. After May 1, seniors will be able to purchase lunch only if they have a positive balance in their Flik dining account. Please contact [Shawn Butler](#) if you have questions about your account balance.

Tuition Statements

- The continuous enrollment fee of \$300 has been applied to your student account. This fee will not be drafted but can be paid as other incidental charges through your [My Backpack](#) account or by sending a check to the Business Office.
- All families, please carefully review your monthly Family Statement. **Until all tuition, fees, and other student charges are paid up to date or in full, the school will not provide a diploma or transcript and reserves the right not to allow a student to enroll in a new grading period, participate in graduation exercises, and receive grades or a report card.**
- The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2019-2020 school year was February 15. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible.

From the Parents Guild

After-Prom Help Needed

- We need help from parents to make this event a success. There are both small and more substantial ways to donate or loan items for the event, as well as opportunities to volunteer your time. We will have **prizes** for everyone as well as a senior raffle (which is why we need LOTS of donations to make this work!)
- More details will be sent to parents of juniors and seniors and any sophomores attending Prom. Questions? Contact [Devon Pace](#).

Senior Luncheon Help Needed, May 24

If you are interested in helping with the 2019 Senior Luncheon, please contact [Blair Bailey](#).

Junior Luncheon Help Needed, May 24

If you are interested in helping with the 2019 Junior Luncheon, please contact [Betsy Poole](#).

What a wonderful Fish Fry!

Thanks to all who came out to support this record-breaking event! An increase in dinner orders meant an increase in fun. Many thanks to **Jill Murphy** and **Tammy Patrick** for heading up the incredible team of volunteers, **Catherine Puckett** for overseeing the oyster roast, **Jackie Zannino** for sharing her creativity and beautiful labels, **Francis Produce** for supplying the veggies, **Charlie Sutter** for preparing his famous fried fish with the dedicated help of **Gary** and **Erica Walajtys** and his team of fish fryers, and to the band **Tailspin** for the great music! We'll see you next year for another night of Lenten blessings.

Get Involved at SJCS

The 2019-2020 school year will be here before we know it. Are you interested in getting involved at SJCS? We are now making plans for next year and would love your input. There are many opportunities to serve: on the Parents Guild Board, as committee chairs, and much more. Contact [Mary Ellen Bradley](#) for more information.

Want to be a SJCS Parent Ambassador?

Our Ambassador Program is a great opportunity for you to meet new SJCS families, and most importantly, help guide new parents and families as they acclimate to the school and all of its programs. If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador for our new families beginning this spring and into the 2019-2020 school year, contact [Aimee Lonergan](#) for HS and [Kimberly Masters](#) for MS or email [Mary Ellen Bradley](#).

Celebrating Our Faculty & Staff

The Parents Guild coordinated a gift for the faculty and staff last month. Each received a personalized clip-board (thank you, **Jackie Zannino!**) as a small "thank you" for all they do!

From the Athletic Department

Summer Sports Camps 2019

Summer Sports Camps dates and sessions are posted on the SJCS website. Please click on the following link for more information: [SJCS 2019 Summer Camps](#).

Summer Practices & Fall Sports

Any student participating in a sport for the 2019-2020 school year at SJCS must have a physical dated after **April 1, 2019** 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.

Sports Participation Required Forms for 2019-2020

The required Sports Participation Forms for 2019-2020 will be available online [HERE](#) beginning on April 1, 2019.

From the Booster Club

The Knight's Athletic Booster Club is the all-sports booster club for middle school, JV, and Varsity sports. Your membership supports our Knight's and provides varying levels of home tickets for regular season games. The Booster Club supported the improvements on the baseball field this year by providing funding assistance for the scoreboard that looks incredible. We have the upcoming Coaches Appreciation Dinner in May and all of this is made possible by your member participation in the Knight's Booster Club... thank you! It's not too late to join the Booster Club for this year. If you would like to become a Knight's Athletic Booster Club member, contact [Michael Pace](#) or [Gary Walajtys](#).

Clear Bag Policy for Away Games

Greenville County has gone to clear bag policy for all sporting events. The details of this policy can be found [HERE](#). If we are competing at an away game at a Greenville County School, this policy will be enforced. Clear SJCS bags are available for purchase from the cheerleading team. Athletes and Coaches may carry their sports bags.

From the Technology Services Director

Seniors Must Return Chromebooks by May 23

- All seniors are required to return their Chromebooks to the Library by May 23, immediately following the end of the last exam.
- Be prepared to wait as you turn in your Chromebook as there are many students returning them. All students will be given a receipt at turn-in and if damages are found, they will be noted and the appropriate fee will be billed to your student account.

Grades 8-11 Must Return Chromebooks by May 31

- All students in grades 8-11 are required to return their Chromebooks to the Library by May 31, immediately following the end of the last exam at 10:00 AM.
- Chromebooks may be returned to the Library prior to the due date if you are done with exams and will no longer need your Chromebook to study.
- The Chromebooks are to be returned with the charger and case. The case should be emptied of all items except the Chromebook and charger.
- Your student account will be charged for any items not returned or for any damages. The charges for non-returned items are: Chromebook \$300, Charger \$15, and Case \$25. The damage charge is \$25.
- Be prepared to wait as you turn in your Chromebook as there are many students returning them. All students will be given a receipt at turn-in and if damages are found, they will be noted and the appropriate fee will be billed to your student account.

From the Fine Arts Department

Twenty-ninth Upstate High School Art Exhibit

Nine pieces of student artwork will be part of the 29th High School Art Exhibit hosted by Greenville Technical College, Benson Campus in Greer. The exhibit runs from March 21-April 19 and is open to the public.

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Fine Arts Events

- Saturday, May 11: Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition
- Tuesday, May 14: MS & HS Band Concert
- Wednesday, May 15: HS & MS Strings Concert
- Thursday, May 16: HS & MS Choral Concert
- Thursday, May 23: Improvisation Knight

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

Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2019-2020

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

Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, May 11

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

Auditions: Auditions will be Thursday, April 25 (3:10-7:00 PM) and Tuesday, April 30 (3:10-7:00 PM). Any member of the SJCS community is welcome to audition and students can earn points for their Household simply by auditioning. Traditional and non-traditional talents are welcome and performances may be up to four minutes in length. Be sure to start preparing your performance act now and work on it over the Spring Break. Audition information and form can be found [HERE](#) and you can sign up for your audition time [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).

To Volunteer: Lend your talents and time to the Jubilate Knight Planning Committee. Our next meeting will be April 24 at 7:30 AM in the Boardroom on the Administrative hall. Questions? Contact [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#). If you are interested in volunteering for the night of the event, but can't make it to the planning meetings, contact [Christine Balts](#). Volunteer roles include token counting, ticket sales, concessions, set up and clean up.

Red Door & St. John Paul II Chapel Ornaments

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

From the Development Office

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

It's hard to believe we're only a month away from our Annual Auction Gala, Seaside Soiree: A Knight on the Coast. Volunteers have been working hard to prepare a cool and breezy celebration. There are still opportunities to be part of this memorable event.

- **Volunteer:** Want to meet other parents and get involved? Join us for our upcoming "Gala Get It Done Days," where we'll work on decorating projects for the Gala. More details will be coming in the following weeks. Questions? Contact [Michele Dumit](#).
- **Tickets:** Gala tickets are selling quickly so don't delay in purchasing your tickets online now. Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets.
- **Tuition Raffle:** We are pleased to announce this year's Annual Auction Gala Tuition Raffle is OPEN! Only 300 tickets will be sold and they are already selling quickly, so don't wait to purchase yours. Every ticket you purchase not only increases your chance to win, but also provides invaluable support for the needs of our students. Like the Annual Auction Gala, tuition raffle ticket sales benefit the Annual Fund, which provides the financial support for tuition assistance, academics, campus ministries, student life, fine arts and athletics. Buy your raffle ticket [HERE](#).
- Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) 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 March an impressive 96% of faculty/staff, 100% of the Board of Trustees, and 32% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the **6th grade** which is leading with a **grade level participation of 42%! 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 Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Course Scheduling

In February and March, all juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and 8th grade students received their Course Selection packet for next year's courses. All forms should be completed and turned into the Registrar in the College Counseling Office (Room B208) by the respective due date. Any student who has not submitted his/her Course Selection packet should do so as soon as possible in order to be included in the first run of the scheduling process.

Senior College Applications

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

FAFSA Reminder for Seniors

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

Seniors: Finish Your Year Strong

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

SAT & ACT Testing

- Juniors make sure you register to take both the ACT and SAT at least once before the end of your junior year. Click [HERE](#) for SAT test dates and [HERE](#) for ACT test dates. Most colleges do not require the writing section. Please check with your college counselor if you are not sure if you need to take the writing section.
- Also, check to see if your college/university requires SAT Subject Tests and register accordingly. If you have taken an AP course, it is strongly recommended that you take the corresponding SAT Subject Test at the end of the year. Please remember that you cannot take the SAT Test and the SAT Subject Tests on the same day.

Juniors: Individual College Planning Meetings

Don't forget to schedule your individual family college planning meeting with your college counselor. Every junior should meet with his or her college counselor at least once before the end of April.

Juniors: Student Athletes

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

College Visits

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who would like to visit colleges should register for visits through the colleges' websites or with the admissions offices and then email the [Front Office](#) with the date(s) you will be attending the college visit. Juniors and second semester sophomores get two college visit days and seniors are permitted four college visit days per year. Please remember to bring back the proper documentation to the Front Office ([College Visit Record Form](#) with required signatures and official documentation—see form for details).