



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

Easter Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

Christus Vivit!

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to the world. The very first words, then that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and He wants you to be alive."

With these stirring words, Pope Francis opens his recent Apostolic Exhortation addressed "with great affection" to all Christian young people and the entire people of God. Written in first person with a pastoral and at times even a folksy style, the Pope says that he wants to speak to young people and those who minister to them "about what is essential, the one thing that we should never keep quiet about. It is a message containing three great truths that all of us need constantly to keep hearing." 1) God loves you. 2) Christ saves you. 3) He is alive!

"We need to keep reminding ourselves of this," the Holy Father says, "because we can risk seeing Jesus Christ simply as a fine model from the distant past, as a memory, as someone who saved us two thousand years ago. But that would be of no use to us; it would leave us unchanged, it would not set us free. The one who fills us with his grace, the one who liberates us, transforms us, heals and consoles us is someone fully alive. He is the Christ, risen from the dead, filled with supernatural life and energy, and robed in boundless light."

I could go on about this letter, which I spent much time reading and praying about over the break, but I will spare you an extended homily. Suffice it to say that I am very moved by what I read - in particular, by the Pope's insistence on the need to invite young people to enter into a life-changing friendship with Jesus Christ as the key to unlocking the meaning and purpose of the Church itself. You can find the Pope's letter [HERE](#) for your edification as you strive to raise your children as Christians, and I will also include it on my Headmaster's Parent Resource page for future reference.

The Pope's letter could not be more timely for us a school community, for we are in the midst of developing a new six-year strategic plan. In early April, the board and admin team set aside 8 hours over two days to consider the school's greatest short-term needs going forward. Taking into consideration all the data and feedback we received through surveying our students, faculty, and alumni, we identified a list of 40 candidate items for the new plan. We concluded that our top priority is to develop a document which describes how St. Joseph's Catholic School goes about making a Christian, and specifically Catholic, proposal to its students. The new Apostolic Exhortation on ministering to youth will be an important guide for us in the development of what we are calling *The St. Joseph's Way*. You will, of course, be hearing much more about this document and the entire strategic plan during the 2019-2020 school year once the strategic plan is finalized, hopefully, over the summer.

Hope Anchors the Soul

I want to extend a hearty thank you to all of those who made the Gala and Prom such a wonderful experience for our school community and especially for our students. I want to give a shout out to all of our physician parents who made it possible for Prisma Health (formerly GHS) to be the presenting sponsor and to all of our Shield, Knight, and Blue Level Gala Sponsors. All total, 75 SJCS families sponsored the Gala, which is a testimony to their sacrificial commitment to the school. I particularly want to thank the women and men who have made the Gala and Prom so memorable through their months-long efforts, most especially to our Gala Committee, led by co-chairs Michelle Mullins and Kiera Egan, as well as Mary Salgado and Megan Koon, who worked with our students to ensure the best prom experience possible. A special thank you to graduating senior parents Missy McLear and Melanie Calder for the tireless efforts in helping out with the

Gala over the years. If you were not able to attend the Gala, I want to encourage you to please watch the video that was produced for the event. The students, parents, and employees do a great job putting words to what it is we are striving to do here every day.

Celebrating with the Class of 2019

It won't be long now before we are saying goodbye and wishing the members of the Class of 2019 well on the next step in life. I want to invite all of you to join us for Baccalaureate Mass on Friday, May 31 at 6:00 PM in the JP II Center, followed by Commencement on Saturday, June 1 at 10:00 AM in the gym.

Did you know that 57 members of the Class of 2019 have been together since 6th grade? The stories they could tell about one another! To celebrate all the students of the Class of 2019, we are initiating something new this year. Throughout the month of May, we will be posting stories and brief videos on social media and the school's website highlighting some of the achievements and plans of these young women and men of this exceptional class. I hope you'll look for these, as I'm sure you will be moved by these students' stories.

A Warm SJCS Welcome to Bob Castello

The person pulling all these stories together is the school's incoming Director of Communications, Bob Castello. The school's current director, Sarah Pelicano, is getting married on May 4 and will be leaving her job in mid-June because of a move to Nova Scotia for her husband's job. I am very grateful for Sarah's service to the school and for how well, in particular, she has communicated the school's Catholic ethos and mission. While I am very sorry to see Sarah leave us, I was pleased to be able to hire someone of Bob's caliber and experience. You might recognize his name, for Bob was a longtime sports journalist for the *Greenville News* before taking early retirement this past December. No one did more to promote the success of the St. Joseph's Knights athletics program over the years than Bob did. After his departure from the *Greenville News*, Bob did some freelance work for us, writing stories about the Interfaith Panel and a piece about the school's patron, St. Joseph.

A well-connected, award-winning writer and communicator with social media savvy, Bob has been in and out of the Upstate's high schools for the past two decades covering sports from a uniquely human interest perspective. Getting to know Bob better over the last couple of months, learning about his Catholic roots in Pittsburgh and then at the University of Notre Dame where he went to college, I believe Bob is uniquely qualified to pick up where Sarah is leaving off to tell the story of St. Joseph's Catholic School in the Upstate. Bob's first day at St. Joseph's was on Tuesday, April 23, the day we returned from Easter Break. Bob will do on-the-job training with Sarah Pelicano before she hands over the baton to him on June 17, 2019. Please make a point to thank Sarah for her faithful service to the school and extend a warm welcome to Bob when you meet him.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Ava Catherine Elder on the loss of her grandfather; for Emma Lowry on the loss of her great grandfather; for Lindsey and Brendan ('18) Cummings on the loss of their grandfather.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

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 and 6th and 7th graders will test on May 2-3. Testing will be held in the mornings before lunch. There will be no testing on May 1, which is St. Joseph the Worker Day when students go off campus with their Households to volunteer in the community. Please avoid having students out on the mornings of their test days, if possible. 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

Since May 1 is St. Joseph the Worker Day and students will not have class, all classes will meet on May 2 with a 3:00 PM dismissal. There will be no all school Mass on May 2 and students can wear their casual uniform.

Senior College T-Shirt Day, May 2

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

HS Student Council Speeches & Elections, May 2

Candidates for elected positions in HS Student Council will present speeches in the gym during HS lunch on Thursday, May 2. Appointed positions will be selected in the weeks after the election of officers and class reps.

Admissions Testing, Saturday, May 4

An additional testing date for fall 2019 enrollment has been added for 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.

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

Mills Uniform On-Campus Sales Event, May 6

Mills Uniform Company will be on campus on May 6 for a mobile store event in our gym. Mills will bring a fully-stocked mobile store directly to our campus with a full selection of garments to try on and purchase. The hours will be from 1:00-7:00 PM for parents, and students will be able to shop with their parents after school. Students will not be allowed to miss class to go over to the gym.

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.

Academic Awards Ceremony & Class of 2019 Red Door Ceremony, May 8

The eighth grade and HS Academic Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 8 in the JP II Center at Noon. All students (grades 8-12) should wear their dress uniform that day. All parents are invited to attend and you will be notified, in advance, if your child is receiving an award. The Academic Awards Ceremony will conclude with the Class of 2019 processing out through the Red Door in the school's annual Red Door Farewell Ceremony. This program marks an end of one spiritual journey and the beginning of a new one for our seniors. Parents are welcome to attend this special ceremony.

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 at 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.

Annual May Crowning of Our Lady, May 9

For centuries the month of May has been a time of special devotion to Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In celebration of Our Lady's month, we will have special hymns and devotions at our All School Mass on Thursday, May 9, including a crowning of her image. Mass will begin that day at 9:12 AM. Each Household is asked to bring flowers to place at the image.

Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, May 11

- Tickets are now on sale for Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, Saturday, May 11. Doors open at 6:00 PM and the performances begin at 7:00 PM. Make plans to attend the Fine Arts Department's family-friendly annual talent show, highlighting our artistic school community. Be prepared to vote for your favorite performance act and donate towards the Wish List benefiting the Choral, Band, Strings, Dance, Visual Arts, and Theatre programs.
- Online tickets are available to purchase now until 10:00 AM on Friday, May 10. Tickets also will be on sale at the door, starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 11, but seating is limited. Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets. To volunteer at Jubilate Knight, please email [Christine Balts](#) or [Desiree Spikings](#).

Spring Concerts, May 14-16

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

- Tuesday, May 14: MS & HS Band ensembles
- Wednesday, May 15: MS & HS Strings ensembles
- Thursday, May 16: MS & HS Choral ensembles

All concerts will begin at 7:00 PM in the St. John Paul II Center. Admission is free.

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

New HS Student Placement Testing: May 14 & 16

Newly accepted and enrolled HS students who are entering grades 9-12 and who are currently completing high school courses in math and/or any level of world language for high school credit at their current school and wish to advance to the next level at St. Joseph's need to take SJCS Placement Tests. The tests will be held at SJCS after school on Tuesday, May 14 (World Language) and Thursday, May 16 (Math) 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 middle school 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 high school students (entering grades 9-12) who have completed a high school 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.

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

SJCS eighth grade students currently completing Algebra 1A, whose class average is above 90%, have been notified by eighth grade Algebra I teacher Therese DeMars that they have the opportunity to take the Algebra I Placement Test here on May 16. This two-hour test is offered after school from 3:30-5:30 PM. Current SJCS eighth parents will need to register their child for the test in advance by contacting [Jennifer DeForest](#) in the Admissions Office. Questions? Contact [Therese DeMars](#).

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 on May 15 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.

Campus Ministry End-of-the-Year Family Potluck, May 18

SJCS Campus Ministry will be sponsoring a family potluck on May 18 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall (McGivney Hall, 762 Mauldin Road, Greenville). This is open to any SJCS families and students from both MS and HS. In particular, this is a night to honor both students and parents who have dedicated themselves in a special way to the mission of campus ministry. Come for a night of food and friendship and family! Questions? Contact Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Senior vs Senior Parents Dodgeball Game, May 23

Attention seniors, senior parents, and their families! Join us for our first-ever senior vs senior parents dodgeball game on Thursday, May 23 at 5:30PM. This will be a great time for some friendly competition as well as a final opportunity for our Senior class and their families to enjoy each other's company. Food and beverage will be provided; please sign up [HERE](#). Senior parents are asked to dress up like the year in which they graduated high school. Awards will be given to the 'Best Dressed Parent(s)' and also 'Most Team Spirit' (for those parents taking part in the team cheerleading squad). Please note: this event is only for seniors/senior parents and their families.

Improvisation Knight, May 23

- The SJCS Theatre Department will sponsor an Improvisation Knight on Thursday, May 23. Join us for an entertaining evening of Improvisation as the students compete against each other on stage, using only their quick wit and humor. The show will start at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$5 at the door and concessions will be available for purchase.
- Jubilate Arts Guild members will receive priority seating based on their membership level; be sure to pick up your Jubilate Arts Guild member tag at check-in. Seating will not be assigned, but doors will open to Jubilate members only at 6:30 PM, followed by general admission at 6:45 PM.

Senior Send-Off/Rising Senior Luncheon, May 24

Senior Send-Off will be held on Friday, May 24. The school will host a special program in the JP II Center for the entire HS beginning at 10:30 AM and parents are invited to attend. The Parents Guild will provide the senior class with the annual Farewell Senior Luncheon and will also provide the rising senior class with a luncheon following this ceremony.

Team Day & Yearbook Day, May 24 (Early Dismissal)

Below is the schedule for the day, with dismissal for all students at 2:00 PM.

HS Schedule		MS Schedule	
7:50-8:30 AM	HH Locker Clean Out Divide into teams	7:50-8:30 AM	HH Locker Clean Out Divide into teams
8:30-9:30 AM	Athletic Video Athletic Awards Senior Video Yearbook Video	8:30-9:00	Athletic Video Athletic Awards
9:15-10:30 AM	Yearbook Distribution & Signing	9:00 AM-12:30 PM	Team Competition
10:30-11:30 AM	Senior Roast	12:30-1:15 PM	Lunch
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Lunch	1:15-1:50 PM	Yearbook Distribution & Signing
12:30-1:45 PM	Team Competition	1:50-2:00 PM	Closing Ceremony
1:45-2:00 PM	Closing Ceremony		

School Holiday, May 27

The school and school offices will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

MS Final Week of School, May 28-31

All students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM on exam days from May 28-30. Sixth and 7th graders will have two extended classes each day matching the 8th grade and HS Exam schedule (see Exam Schedule included). Friday, May 31 will be

the last day of school and the students will be dismissed at 10:00 AM after the 8th period exam. Eighth graders should go to morning Household on exam days and may need to stay later on Friday if they have a make-up exam.

Late Stay, May 28-30

We will have Late Stay on Tuesday through Thursday (May 28-30) after the 12:15 PM dismissal, but NO Late Stay on Friday, May 31, which is the last day of school, with a 10:00 AM dismissal.

MBS Textbook Buyback, May 28-31

The library will serve as a drop-off point for textbooks that can be shipped back to MBS for you at no cost. You may turn books in with a prepared quote any time during finals week, May 28-31. Drop-off times are 9:00 AM-1:00 PM on Tuesday through Thursday, May 28-30, and 9:00-11:00 AM on Friday, May 31. Our textbook vendor, MBS, will buy back textbooks that meet their condition requirements, and send the money directly to you. You do not have to purchase your books through MBS to participate. To participate, please follow the instructions on the MBS website to generate your buyback quote. The site can be found [HERE](#). You may also sell your books back to MBS directly through their website. They will cover shipping costs.

Graduation Practice, May 30

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

Used Textbook Sale, May 31

Although not a school-sponsored event, parents may purchase, swap, or sell used textbooks in the HS parking lot on Friday, May 31, beginning at 10:00 AM. Arrive early for best selection. Parents who choose to participate in this event should raise their car trunk lid. Display a red sign with the grade level(s) you wish to purchase, and/or a green sign with the grade level(s) you wish to sell. Check the book lists (under Academics/Bookstore) on the school website after May 24 to make sure you purchase books with the correct ISBN number. It is the sole responsibility of parents to verify that the correct used book is purchased - old ISBN numbers are not acceptable books for use. Workbooks may not be sold or purchased since workbooks need to be new and unused. NOTE: Schedules are not released until mid-summer. If you choose to purchase textbooks early, please be aware that you may need to purchase different books based on your student's final schedule.

Baccalaureate Mass, May 31

The Class of 2019 will have their Baccalaureate Mass at 6:00 PM in the JP II Center.

Commencement, June 1

The Class of 2019 will graduate at 10:00 AM in the SJCS Gym.

Calendar Change

Seniors eligible to receive cords and regalia for graduation will receive these items when they arrive the morning of graduation. There will not be a senior honor cord lunch.

Summer Office Hours Begin June 3

Beginning Monday, June 3, summer office hours are 8:00 AM-1:00 PM Monday-Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays, as well as the week of July 1-5. The office re-opens July 8 and summer hours continue until early August.

Final Report Cards, June 5

Quarter 4/Semester II report cards will be emailed on June 5 after 4:00 PM. Please remember to check your *junk mail*. If you do not receive a report card link, please email [Carol Curry](#). If you have any questions regarding your student's grades, please contact the teacher directly.

Textbook Purchasing Can Begin July 8

The school's online textbook vendor, MBS Direct, will open for business on July 8. (Select summer reading titles will also be available on MBS beginning June 3.) MBS provides free ground shipping for St. Joseph's on all orders over \$99 during the week of July 22-28. MBS carries the majority of our books, but they are sometimes unable to stock some of the older editions we use. Parents are welcome to buy from other sources, but the MBS site does provide a good guide for verifying that the right book is being purchased. In order to ensure you have all the necessary materials for each course, please consult MBS or the 2019-2020 SJCS Textbook List found on our website under Academics/Bookstore after May 24.

Rising Ninth Grade Trip, July 29-31

Parents of current 8th graders, mark your calendars for the Ninth Grade Freshman Connection Trip to St. Augustine, Florida, from Monday, July 29-Wednesday, July 31, 2019. These dates were chosen because it is the week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. All rising 9th grade students, whether new or returning to SJCS, are invited and encouraged to attend. This marks the first experience of the St. Joseph's HS community and is an introduction into the mission and spirit of SJCS. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of upperclassmen peer ministers, and faculty and parent chaperones. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but it has generally been around \$350. More information will be e-mailed directly to rising 9th grade parents. Questions? Contact [Gabe Lewis](#).

Mandatory All-Sports Meeting, August 1

The mandatory all-sports meeting for parents and athletes will be August 1 in the evening, location TBA.

First Annual SJCS Athletic Department Golf Tournament, August 2

Save the date for first annual SJCS Athletic Department Golf Tournament at The Preserve at Verdae golf course on August 2, 2019. The Athletic Department is starting its first annual fundraiser for all sports teams. These funds will be used to support all 46 teams that make up St. Joseph's athletics. This will replace many of the individual fundraisers that each team has done in the past. We strongly encourage everyone to participate either through the golf tournament and/or the social event that night. All Alumni families and friends are welcome! Let us know [HERE](#) if you are interested in the golf tournament or volunteering to help organize this event. Questions? Contact [Ron Thompson](#).

Rising Senior Application Boot Camp, August 7-8

The college Counseling Office will host a college application boot camp for rising seniors August 7-8 at SJCS. All rising seniors are welcome. More details will follow in an email later this summer.

Important Dates for 2019-2020

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

SJCS Trip to the Far East, June 2021

Have you ever wanted to travel to the Far East? Well, your opportunity is coming! In June of 2021, SJCS will take a summer trip to Japan. This once in a life-time trip will include Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and Hiroshima. It is currently open for sign-up for current students in grades 8-10. We will ride the bullet train, visit Japanese castles and gardens, and sleep in a traditional Japanese house. Please visit www.explorica.com and the trip code is Carr-6839. You can look at the itinerary, the cost, sign up, and set up a payment plan. Be sure to use the voucher code **2021earlybird** when it asks for a voucher to receive a discount, and if you have traveled with Explorica already, use your same log-in to receive an extra \$100 off. Signing up early means lower payments. This tour will fill up. There are a limited number of spots and sign-ups have already begun. Questions? Contact [Meby Carr](#). At this time, only students may sign up. Parents who are interested will need to wait until next fall.

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 and will be billed to your account.

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 and will be billed to your account.

From the Middle School Director

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.*

Psalm 145: 5 - 6

Twenty-eight school days left. That's it. By the time you read this, some days will have already come and gone. We say it every year ... and this one is no exception ... "This year went by so fast!"

While our school team will be hard at work planning for the 2019-2020 academic year, summertime brings an ease and peace that is truly amazing. There is nothing quite like it. As the director of the youngest people in our SJCS community, I have a list of wishes for our students this summer.

Mrs. J's Top Ten Wish List for Summer

1. Stay close to Christ
2. Pray
3. Serve
4. Exercise your body
5. Rest
6. Spend time with family
7. Spend time with friends
8. Read
9. Write
10. Do math

It is important to keep our mind, body, and spirit active and engaged during the summer. When it comes to keeping minds active, one of my favorite FREE math resources is [Khan Academy](#). Sign up for an account and have your child refresh their past year's math learning. Twenty to thirty minutes a day during the week keeps skills active. Parents can receive updates based on their child's progress and accuracy. And when a student is not sure how to solve a problem, there are short videos that help them work to the solution. Khan Academy is an awesome tool, and provides math support all the way through Calculus and beyond.

To help our children stay close to Christ during the summer months, consider purchasing a daily devotional written specifically for teens. ***Take Ten: Daily Reflections for Teens*** is a Catholic reflection book that includes one of the daily scripture readings, a short reflection and a prayer. It is written by Dr. Maureen Gallagher and published by St. Mary's Press. Encourage your child to commit to the daily readings, adding – perhaps – the suggestion of journaling their own thoughts or reflections based on the message of that day. This activity will feed their spirit, as well as inspire some creative writing opportunities.

Most of all, I hope and pray that summer brings you and your family renewal and refreshment. May God continue to bless you – today and all days.

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.

Exam ScheduleAP Exam Schedule

Monday, May 6	7:30 AM – US Government and Politics
Tuesday, May 7	7:30 AM – Spanish Language and Culture 11:30 AM – Physics 1: Algebra-Based
Wednesday, May 8	7:30 AM – English Literature and Composition 11:30 AM – European History
Thursday, May 9	7:30 AM – Chemistry
Friday, May 10	7:30 AM – United States History 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. They may not leave campus after a morning exam and return to school for a later class.

Senior Exam Schedule

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

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

Tuesday, May 28	8:05–10:00 AM Period 1 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 2 Exam
Wednesday, May 29	8:05–10:00 AM Period 3 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 4/5 Exam
Thursday, May 30	8:05–10:00 AM Period 6 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Period 7 Exam
Friday, May 31	8:05–10:00 AM Period 8 Exam 10:20 AM–12:15 PM Make up Exams

Exam Guidelines

- Students are not allowed to test early.
- **SJCS Exemption Policy:** Excepting math courses, juniors and seniors can exempt exams in year-long courses if they have a 90 average in the course by the Friday before final exams are scheduled to begin. Exemption averages are calculated by averaging the fall semester grade with the third and fourth quarter grades. Students on probation or those who have certain disciplinary actions may not be eligible.
- Eighth grade students should go to morning Household on exam days.
- High school students should report directly to their exam room and must be seated by 8:00 AM. Anyone not in attendance after 8:00 AM will be considered tardy. No students are to be admitted to the exam once the exam has been distributed. Likewise for the second exam, students should be seated and attendance taken by 10:15 AM and no student will be admitted after the exam has been distributed.

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

From the Development Office

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

- The 2019 Annual Auction Gala, Seaside Soiree, was held on Friday, April 26. It was a beautiful breezy evening filled with goodness, love, delicious food from Table 301, lively music, and a bright spirit of togetherness as we danced under the stars and our shining moon. We are grateful for our sponsors, vendors, parent volunteers, faculty/staff, Prom Committee, Student Government, and our Advancement Representatives who worked so selflessly to make St. Joseph's light shine even brighter.
- A special thanks to the Gala Committee who put in many hours behind-the-scenes to organize the wonderful event: Kiera Egan (Gala Co-Chair), Sharman Armstrong, Michele Dumit, Melanie Calder, Missy McLearn, Susanne Norwood, Shannon Cole, Tara Ann Garrett, Doug Kopscik, Donna Frank, Megan Koon, Mary Salgado, and Jill Murphy. Special thanks to Michelle Mullins, who finishes her Gala Chair-ship and has continued to lead our Gala committee with joy, goodness, and heartfelt passion & vision.

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. 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 Schedules

HS students and parents will be notified, via email, this summer when the course schedules are available on ParentsWeb in mid-July. Students will have an opportunity to make limited change requests once they receive their schedules. MS students will receive their schedules at Orientation in August.

Senior Graduation Surveys

All seniors must complete their Graduation Survey in the College Counseling Office no later than May 3. Completing this survey is essential in your college receiving your final transcript.

Senior Final Transcripts

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

Rising Senior Families

If you would like to have a follow-up meeting, please contact [Heather Najmabadi](#) or [Emily Butler](#) to set one up. All students should try to meet with their college counselor at least one more time before the end of the school year. Parents who have not yet filled out the [Junior Parent Questionnaire](#) should do so before the end of May.

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](#).

Sports Participation Requirements 2019-2020

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 found [HERE](#) prior to the first practice. NO PAPER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED; NO EXCEPTIONS! If you were an athlete in 2018-2019 please use your existing login. The required forms that must be filled out online prior to the first practice are: Pre-Participation History and Pre-Participation Sports Physical Exam (please print and take with you to your doctor and then upload), 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 Planet HS (formerly Arbiter Athlete) found [HERE](#). Information for New Athletes on how to create the parent and student login at Planet HS 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. If you have any issues with the www.Planeths.com website please call 1-888-668-7452, ext. 5 for support.

First Day of Tryouts/Practice for Fall Sports

Cheerleading: April 29-May 2 (Rising 7-12th Graders)

Girls & Boys Cross Country: Friday, August 2 from 7:30-9:00 AM

JV & Varsity Football: Friday, August 2 from 8:00-10:00 AM

Boys & Girls Swimming: Friday, August 2 from 7:00-8:30 AM at the Spaulding Farms Pool

JV & Varsity Volleyball: Monday, August 5 from 1:30-3:30 PM

JV & Varsity Girls Tennis: Monday, August 5 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Girls Golf: Monday, August 5 at 9:30AM at The Preserve at Verdae

MS Football: Monday, August 12 from 8:00-10:00 AM

MS Volleyball: Monday, August 12 from 3:30-5:30 PM

Sixth Grade Cheerleading: Monday, August 12 from 8:00-10:00 AM

From the Booster Club

- The SJCS Athletic Booster Club would like to thank each and every parent and student that has participated in athletics this year! Your participation as an athletic supporter goes a long way in helping SJCS build a legacy of excellence. The Booster Club Board will hold its last meeting in May for the current year and we welcome any and all to attend. If you have an interest in sports and in becoming involved with a great parent group, the Athletic Booster Club Board is for you! Interested? Reach out to [Gary Walajtys](#) or [Michael Pace](#) for more information.
- Looking ahead to next year, we have leadership opportunities for what will be the first annual SJCS Golf Outing. It will be held August 2 and, along with the golf outing, there will be a SJCS Community Back to School party that evening. We need volunteers for golf and hospitality to plan this awesome event. Interested? Reach out to [Gary Walajtys](#) or [Michael Pace](#) for more information.

From the Parents Guild

After-Prom Thank You

Thank you to Devon Pace for organizing an incredible After-Prom for our juniors and seniors. Also, a warm thank you to all the parents who generously donated gift cards and prizes, as well as those who stayed up late to chaperone this event.

Donate Your Used Uniforms

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

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](#).

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.
- Your Chromebook may be returned to the Library prior to May 23 if you are done with exams and will no longer need your Chromebook to study.
- 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.

All Students Returning Chromebooks

- The Chromebooks are to be returned with the charger, stylus (if applicable), 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.
- The Chromebooks will be restored to factory settings over the summer so all downloaded files MUST be moved to the student's Google Drive prior to turning it in or else the files will be lost.
- Contact Mrs. Cummings prior to return date if there are any concerns regarding the return of your Chromebook.

Chromebook Pick-Up for 2019-2020 School Year

Students receiving Chromebooks for the 2019-2020 school year will be sent information over the summer regarding Chromebook pick-up.

Student Email Accounts & Google Drive

- Students new to SJCS for the 2019-2020 school year will receive information regarding their email address over the summer.
- All students should periodically check their email over the summer.
- Seniors will have access to their email/Google Drive until July 31.
- Seniors will receive an email in May on how to take their files with them.

eBooks

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

From the Fine Arts Department

Theatre Summer Camps

- June 10-14: Rising Stars (Grades 3-8), 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Cost: \$125
- June 10-13: HS Improvisation, 3:00-5:00 PM. Cost: \$75

Click [HERE](#) to register for any of the Theatre camps listed above.

Band Program Instrument Fair, June 25 & July 25

- Any incoming 6th grade students interested in joining the Band ensemble next year should drop by the Musical Innovations Music Store on Tuesday, June 25 (11:30 AM-1:30 PM) or Thursday, July 25 (3:30-6:30 PM). SJCS Band Director, Marjorie Malphrus, and other music professionals will be available to assist you in having a “hands-on” experience with several band instruments and to discuss options in leasing/purchasing an instrument. If you already have an instrument in the family, Musical Innovations can also evaluate it for playing condition.
- This is a session designed for parents and students to make an informed choice about their music classes for next year. Please remember 6th grade is the only year beginning band instruction takes place.
- Questions? Contact [Marjorie Malphrus](#) or Musical Innovations (864-286-8742). Musical Innovations is located at 150 Tanner Road, Greenville, SC 29607.

Pep Band Pre-season Camp

- All band students with at least one year of playing experience at SJCS, who are interested in playing for Pep Band, are invited to attend pre-season band camp. Openings for all instruments! **NOTE: Percussion tryouts will be held before school is out at the end of May.**
- The camp will be held at SJCS on August 7-9 and 12-13, from 9:00-11:30 AM, with a catered lunch on the last day. The cost for pre-season is \$35 and includes a t-shirt, lunch, and sheet music. This is the perfect way to get your “playing chops” back in shape for the start of school and to be prepared to play at the opening football game on August 30. The “Band of Knights” Pep Band has established a tradition of spirit and school pride as they cheer on the team from the stands on Friday nights.
- When the school year begins, Pep Band will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00 PM. We will play for at least five of the Friday night home football games (8/30, 9/6, 9/13, 10/11, 10/18, and 11/1) and at the Fall Pep Rally. Additionally, Pep Band can be taken for 1/2 HS credit for ninth grade and above with permission. Contact SJCS Band Director, [Marjorie Malphrus](#), for more information.

Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2019-2020

The Jubilate Arts Guild (JAG) 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, Treasurer, and Publicity Coordinator. Questions/interested? Contact [Ann Cancellor](#) or [Kelly Donovan](#).

From the Business Office

Senior Tuition Accounts

- In order to participate in Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation, all 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. Questions? Contact [Lisa Lawrence](#).
- 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. Questions? Contact [Shawn Butler](#).

Tuition Statements

- All families should carefully review their monthly Family Statement. Until all tuition, fees, and other student charges are paid up to date or in full, the school will not provide a diploma or transcript, and reserves the right not to allow a student to enroll in a new grading period, participate in graduation exercises, and receive grades or a report card.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family [My Backpack](#) portal.