



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

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

“Have a great heart. Do not be afraid to dream big things.”

My wife wrote these encouraging words of Pope Francis on a post-it note and stuck it on my desk at home earlier this summer. While she was trying to lift my spirits, which she certainly did, my thoughts quickly turned to our students at St. Joseph's. Isn't this what we want for our sons and daughters: for our students to have great hearts that dream of big things? But what makes this possible? Experience has taught me that just wishing for a great heart does not make it so. To move our hearts, we need someone who believes in us, someone whose gaze says: “You are precious in my eyes.” I had read that quote from Pope Francis before, but it wasn't until my wife gave it to me (with all the love that I know she has for me) that it started to expand my heart.

We all need someone to look at us with unconditional love in order for us to thrive. This is especially true for young people, which is why I have chosen “**You are precious in my eyes**” for this year's theme. These words were originally addressed to the people of Israel who were in exile from the promised land due to their idolatry and infidelity to God's covenant. In one of the more consoling sections of the entire Bible (chapters 40 through 66 of the book of Isaiah), the prophet Isaiah sets out to reassure his people of God's fidelity and love despite their unfaithfulness. Isaiah goes so far as to prophesy that God will send His son to save His people through His redemptive suffering (Isaiah 52-53), proving that we are indeed precious in God's eyes! My hope and prayer for your sons and daughters this year is that they will each be looked upon in a way that communicates that they are precious in God's eyes.

The artwork I have chosen alongside of the theme for the year is the 17th century masterwork by Murillo, *The Holy Family with a Bird*. I chose this painting because of the serene, loving gaze on the faces of each member of the Holy Family as Mary and Joseph watch Jesus' delight in playing with a bird and a dog (view image [HERE](#)). This painting is unique for its time in that St. Joseph is given center stage. May this image and theme be a constant reminder that we are indeed precious in God's eyes, and may He grant us the grace to have this gaze on one another and especially on our students this year.

A Warm St. Joseph's Welcome to...

One of the many wonderful things about working in a school is the cyclical nature of the academic year. Every summer we have the opportunity to evaluate the year just completed, assess what is needed to make the student experience that much better, and seek out the people who can help us make that happen. I'm pleased to say that God has once again blessed us with exceptional women and men to work with our students. In addition to seeing a few new faces when returning to school this year, you will also see some familiar faces in new places. For example, both Joel Brandon and Chris Ortiz are now exclusively high school teachers. Mr. Brandon is moving to the high school English department, taking the spot vacated when Mr. Bellino moved to 8th grade English. Mr. Ortiz is now a full-time high school religion teacher.

Two teachers who are new to St. Joseph's this year have joined what is shaping up to be a newly constituted 8th grade teaching team. I am pleased to tell you that **Mrs. Jennifer Chesery** is the new 8th grade history teacher. Mrs. Chesery comes to us highly recommended with nearly two decades of teaching experience in Catholic, Christian, and public schools. Most recently, she taught at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School in Edwards, Colorado. She and her husband and daughter recently moved to the area from Vail.

Mr. Trey Nickell will also be joining the 8th grade teaching team. Trey comes to us from Next High School here in the Upstate where he was a highly regarded math teacher. Trey holds a master's degree in secondary mathematics from

Clemson University. I am very pleased that Trey will teach Algebra for us.

As Dr. Jones is fond of saying, at St. Joseph's we strive to keep the expectations high for our students, but we also want to provide high levels of support to help our students meet those expectations. Over the last few years we have expanded our student support services considerably, and we have done so once again this year with the addition of **Mr. Dorian Lane** to the school's Achievement Center staff. Dorian comes to us from Byrnes Freshman Academy where he held similar responsibilities for assisting underperforming students. Dorian's efforts earned him a Support Employee of the Year Award as voted on by the school's employees. Already known to some of our students as Coach Lane, Dorian is a member of our football coaching staff. As part of his new duties at St. Joseph's, he will provide some much needed assistance to our Athletic Director, Coach Eric Nash.

The Business Office is pleased to welcome **Mrs. Ann Gushue** to their staff. Ann is the mother of St. Joseph's students, Sarah and Emily Gushue. The hiring of Mrs. Gushue was long overdue as the Business Office was understaffed for most of last year and in need of experienced bookkeeping support.

In closing I want to wish you and your family a wonderful final few weeks of summer. We are looking forward to seeing you soon and inspiring your sons and daughters to dream of big things. Please join me in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Ryan '18 and Katie Byrne on the loss of their grandfather; for Madison '19 Koontz on the loss of her grandmother; for Amy '15 and Marie '19 Schemitsch on the loss of their father; for Mary '11, Margaret '14, Agnes '17, Brigid, Tom and Vine Stanton on the loss of their grandmother; and for Shannon and Jack Murphy on the loss of their grandfather.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

MBS Direct Ships Free July 22-28

As a reminder, the school's online textbook vendor, MBS Direct, will provide free ground shipping on all SJCS 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 Lists. The MS Textbook List can be found [HERE](#) and the HS Textbook List can be found [HERE](#).

Summer Reading

As a reminder, all students have required reading to complete before classes begin. The MS Summer Reading List can be found [HERE](#) and the HS Summer Reading List can be found [HERE](#).

Band Program Instrument Fair, July 25

Any incoming 6th grade students interested in joining the Band ensemble next year should drop by the Musical Innovations Music Store on Thursday, July 25 from 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). The location is 150 Tanner Rd., Greenville, SC 29607.

Mandatory ALL SPORTS Athlete & Parent Meeting, August 1

Fall 2019 sports begin as early as August 2. Please see below for the date of each fall sport tryouts. If you have a student that plans to play ANY sport during the 2019-2020 school year, there will be a mandatory parent meeting on Thursday, August 1 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center.

Sports Participation Requirements for 2019-2020 & All Summer Practices and 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 at www.planeths.com 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.

Fall 2019 Team Tryouts Begin August 2

- JV & Varsity Football: Friday, August 2 from 8:00-10:00 AM
- JV & Varsity Girls Tennis: Friday, August 2 from 9:00-11:00 AM
- Girls & Boys Cross Country: Monday, August 5 from 7:30-9:00 AM
- Boys & Girls Swimming: Monday, August 5 from 7:00-8:30 AM at the Spaulding Farms Pool
- JV & Varsity Volleyball: Monday, August 5 from 1:30-3:30 PM
- Girls Golf: Monday, August 5 at 9:30 AM 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 Cheer: Monday, August 12 from 8:00-10:00 AM
- Varsity Cheer: - Contact [Coach Jessica Reynolds](#)

All tryouts and practices are on campus unless otherwise noted.

First Annual SJCS Athletic Department Golf Tournament, August 2

We are excited to announce the 1st Annual St. Joseph's Catholic School Athletic Department Golf Tournament and Summer Social to be held on Friday, August 2. Please join us at The Preserve at Verdae and for the Summer Social

to follow at SJCS for what promises to be a great day and evening.

- The Golf Tournament and Social will support the entire St. Joseph's Athletic Department and help fund equipment, uniforms, and the many other needs that arise throughout the year. With 42 teams competing in 14 different sports there is no shortage of needs. The hope is that with a successful annual Golf Tournament, we can help eliminate the need for many smaller team fundraisers throughout the school year.
- Our goal for the 1st Annual Golf Tournament and Social is to raise \$50,000 to help support and grow our Athletic Department, so that we are able to continue offering an exceptional athletic experience for our deserving student-athletes. You are able to designate (on your sponsorship form) which team you want to benefit from your contribution.
- We invite you to partner with us on our inaugural Athletic Golf Tournament and Social. Your sponsorship dollars will directly impact the lives of our student-athletes, ensuring that they have an opportunity to learn the many life lessons that extend past the classroom and onto the playing field. Click [HERE](#) for information regarding Golf Tournament registration and sponsorship opportunities. Click [HERE](#) for information regarding the Summer Social registration. Questions? Contact Kevin Meyer, Director of Development (864-234-9009, ext. 107) or Eric Nash, Athletic Director (864-234-9009, ext. 113).

Pep Band Pre-season Camp, August 5-9 (REVISED DATES)

- 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! (Percussion tryouts were held in May at the end of the school year.)
- The camp will be held at SJCS on August 5-9, 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 game on August 30th. The "Band of Knights" Pep Band has established a tradition of spirit and school pride as it cheers on the team from the stands on Friday nights.
- When the school year begins, the Pep Band will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00 P.M. We will play for at least 5 of these 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 rising ninth grade and above with permission. Questions? Contact SJCS Band Director [Marjorie Malphrus](#).

Attention New High School Students: Makeup Placement Testing, August 6

Most new high school students completed our placement testing in May; however, if your child is new to our high school for the 2019-2020 school year and enrolled after May 1, he/she may still need to complete Math and World Language placement testing. A make-up date has been set for Tuesday, August 6. Additional information about the testing can be found in your child's acceptance packet. Questions? Contact [Jennifer DeForest](#) in the Admissions Office.

College Application Workshop for Seniors, August 7-8

The College Counseling Office will be conducting a free College Application Workshop on August 7 and 8 from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM in the Meeting Room. We will be focusing on the Common Application and state applications. Please bring your laptop or electronic device that has internet capability as we will be accessing and completing the actual college application forms during the workshop. Please sign up for this event using the registration link that was sent to you in July.

Come Back to Give Back 2019, August 10

Join us and meet new families while connecting with other SJCS community members as we take some time to spruce up the campus for our new school year. All families, friends, and alumni are encouraged to volunteer in a variety of projects from 8:00 AM-Noon on Saturday, August 10. Boxed lunches will be provided for all volunteers. The first 50 to sign up will receive a free T-Shirt. To sign up, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Faculty/Staff Orientation, August 12-16

Faculty/Staff Orientation begins August 12 and continues intermittently through August 16. If you need to communicate with us during this week, please send an email to the person with whom you need to speak. Thank you for your patience during this important time of faculty/staff development.

NHS & Beta Club Members Required Attendance, August 16 & 19

All NHS and Beta Club members should have received an email from Mrs. McCoy or Mrs. Crosby about assisting new students on Monday, August 19. NHS members should also have received an email about attending a short preliminary instructional session at the school on Friday, August 16. This mandatory service project is crucial to helping new students acclimate to SJCS.

Student Parking Forms Due, August 16 & 19

All juniors and seniors planning to drive to school should fill out the Driver Permission Form for Students found [HERE](#) and turn it in on August 16 between 2:00-3:00 PM or August 19 between 2:00-3:00 PM in the HS Commons. Sophomores will not be able to apply for parking passes until construction of the new parking lot is completed, likely in October of this year.

Summerstock Performance of *Charlotte's Web*, August 16-18

Join the SJCS Theatre Department in kicking off the school year with this memorable childhood tale. Join Wilbur as he finds a new home on the Zuckerman farm. His blossoming friendships with Fern and the farm animals become a source of courage in the face of danger. It's Charlotte's artistic messages that truly save the day. Take a journey to a world where animals talk and friendship's ties are strong! All performances will be in the St. John Paul II Center. Click [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets online. Questions? Contact Theatre Director, [Teresa McGrath](#).

High School Course Add/Drop Period, August 19-27

Schedule changes may be made from August 19 until 4:00 PM on August 27, according to the Add/Drop policy on page 5 of the 2019-2020 High School Course Catalog. Parents and students should consider both the Add/Drop policy as well as the course withdrawal policy BEFORE making any schedule change request. Add/Drop forms are available in the College Counseling Office (Room B208).

New Student Orientation, Monday, August 19

All Students Grades 6 & 9 and All New Students in Grades 7, 8, 10, 11, & 12: All parents are required to accompany their child on Monday, August 19 for New Student Orientation. NHS and Beta Club students will be on hand in the parking lot when you arrive to assist in carrying things to your locker and to introduce you to your Household Dean. **Students ARE required to wear their casual uniforms.** In addition to meeting your teachers and walking your schedules, students and parents will be able to drop off required forms, pick up Chromebooks (students in grades 8-12 only), and visit the School Store.

Returning Student Orientation, Monday, August 19

All returning students in grades 7-8-10-11-12 are welcome to campus on Monday, August 19 between 2:00-3:30 PM to set up their lockers, turn in required forms, and pick up Chromebooks (8-12 grade students only).

For complete details, see the Orientation schedules page in this edition of News & Notes.

Attention All Parents: Complete/Review Family Demographic Form online by August 19

This online form must be reviewed and completed by all parents (new and returning) each summer through your ParentsWeb account. We must have verification that you reviewed and/or updated important student, parent, grandparent, medical, transportation, and emergency contact information in RenWeb (our school's online software program). To access the Family Demographic Form: 1) log into your ParentsWeb account with your username and password. 2) The St. Joseph's page will load. Under the School Information tab, click Web Forms. 3) Click on the Family Demographic Form. 4) The required form(s) will pop up by your child's (children's) name(s). 5) Open each form and verify or provide the information that is needed. Once you have reviewed your page, hit "SAVE" at the bottom of each form. **MOST IMPORTANT:** You must hit SAVE on the form even if you do not make changes in order for the school to receive your information and confirm that you have reviewed your information. This information will then be sent directly to St. Joseph's.

- As a reminder, all SJCS parents must set up a ParentsWeb account. ParentsWeb Instructions can be found [HERE](#) at the bottom of the page. Once you set up your account, this tool helps parents with the following: 1) Completing required forms online, 2) Accessing a Student Directory, and 3) Viewing your child's schedule and grades. Questions? Contact [Jennifer DeForest](#) in the Admissions Office.

Schedule Notes for August 20-23

Tuesday, August 20 will be the first full day of classes. The day will run on a Monday/Tuesday/Friday bell schedule and students may wear their casual uniforms. Wednesday, August 21 will be the first all-school Mass and Red Door Ceremony. All students should be in dress uniform. Thursday, August 22 is a normal Thursday schedule. Friday, August 23 is Yearbook Picture Day; all students must be in dress uniforms.

Red Door Ceremony, August 21

All ninth grade students and new high school students will take part in the Red Door Ceremony prior to Mass on Wednesday, August 21 beginning at 10:23 AM. Parents are encouraged to attend the ceremony and stay for Mass. Parents will be allowed to enter the JP II Center at 10:00 AM.

A Brief History: St Joseph's opened its doors in August 1993 and the first 13 high school students entered the school through a red door which, at the time, was the entrance to a little house beside St. Michael's Lutheran Church on Augusta Road. Although the house was subsequently demolished, the red door was donated to SJCS and placed on the school's current campus at the entrance to our chapel, the center of the school. During the school's 15th anniversary celebration in March 2008, the door was unveiled and St. Joseph's began a new tradition. Beginning with the Class of 2008, all graduating seniors now process out through this door as a symbol of their farewell to St Joseph's, marking not only an end but a new beginning. All new high school students are formally welcomed into the school community each August by processing in through the red door, just as this door welcomed the first 13 high school students in 1993.

Yearbook Pictures, August 23

Dress uniforms are required all day for grades 6 - 11 for yearbook photos on Friday, August 23. Students will be directed by class to their assigned photo times during the school day. Please be sure to have all necessary dress uniform items (blazers, ties, vests, etc) on hand and wrinkle free, neat haircuts, and boys clean shaven. The make-up photo day will be Thursday, August 29 is available for students absent on picture day.

YIG Interviews Begin, August 26

YIG interviews will begin Monday, August 26. If you participated in YIG last year as a freshman or sophomore for the first time OR have not yet participated in the SJCS High School YIG program, you must interview to be considered. Sign-ups are outside Mrs. Carr's room (Room 205) and you need to be sure to take an application from the folder as well. All freshmen who are interested must interview. Questions? Contact [Meby Carr](#).

High School Fall Play Auditions, August 26-28

Auditions for the HS Fall Play will be held August 26-27, with callbacks on August 28. These auditions are open to all HS students. More information will be available on the Fine Arts website in August. Questions? Contact Fine Arts Director [Teresa McGrath](#).

France & Spain Interest Meeting, August 29

Madame McCoy and Señora Fesler are leading students on a trip to France and Spain June 3-12, 2020. The exciting itinerary leads us from Paris to Madrid, with the Mediterranean Coast in between. From touring the Arc de Triomphe, to visiting the awe-inspiring Sainte Chapelle, to climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower, we will visit the most famous landmarks in Paris. From Paris we will head south via fast train to Avignon and the picturesque Provence region. The highlight of our stay in the south of France will be a horseback ride through the Camargue and a tour of the Pont du Gard, a 161-foot Roman aqueduct in nearly perfect condition. Students are sure to delight in all the sites as we discover Barcelona by bike. Students will experience the culture first-hand as we learn flamenco from a professional dancer. If you are interested in providing this opportunity for your child, please attend the interest meeting on Thursday, August 29 at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. If you are interested, but unable to attend, please email [Jeanne McCoy](#) or [Shawna Fesler](#). Only a few spots remain!

Welcome Back School-Wide Potluck, August 30

All families are invited to attend an All-SJCS Community-Wide Tailgate potluck picnic as we cheer on our SJCS Knights in the first home football game, on Friday, August 30. Stay tuned to your email for details!

Important Parking Info for the First Home Football Game, Friday, August 30

SJCS will host Carolina High School in our first Varsity home football game of the season on Friday, August 30 at 7:30 PM. Below are some reminders about game day policies on campus:

On-Campus Parking/Tailgating: The school has two parking lots open for tailgating/parking beginning at 5:30 PM: 1) The visitor parking lot in front of the main school entrance and 2) the large HS lot. NOTE: the visitor lot in front of the main school entrance is reserved for Knights Athletic Booster Club Gold and Platinum Level Members. Car hang tags to identify those members can be picked up at the school office. This hang tag must be displayed on your car mirror at all times while on campus that evening. Please note that only one vehicle per family will be given access to the front parking lot.

Off-Campus Parking Lot: The other lot open for parking is directly across from the football field on Ridge Road in the Global Business Park campus (Virginia Business College). This is a grass lot with limited lighting. NO TAILGATING IS ALLOWED IN THIS LOT. Anyone parked across the street in the grass lot MUST cross the street where the police officer is stationed.

No Parking on Ridge Road: Parking is strictly prohibited along Ridge Road.

Handicap Parking: There is limited handicap parking in the MS parking lot. Access to this lot will be granted with a valid handicap car tag.

Field Admission: Game time is 7:30 PM. Field gates open at 6:30 PM. SJCS students are free with student ID, SJCS alumni are free with Alumni card, SJCS faculty/staff and their families are free, and children 6 and under are free. Ticket gates will be located at the lower gate near the back driveway and the upper gate near the baseball field.

Stadium Seating: Our football stadium will be open for our fans. Please be aware that the seating was designed for the addition of metal bleachers over the concrete steps in the future, so you may wish to bring a blanket or a seat cushion in order to ensure your comfort.

Concessions: Knights Athletic Booster Club will be offering concessions for sale at all of the home games.

Student Attire: SJCS students must wear shirts at all times and black body-painting is prohibited.

Last But Not Least: Show your pride and root for your team, but please remember that proper sportsmanlike conduct becoming of a St. Joseph's family is expected at all times.

Ninth Grade Class Day, August 30

All freshmen will travel to Asbury Hills Retreat Center in Cleveland, SC, on Friday, August 30, for the "Freshman Class Day", a day of rest, games, reflection, and community. The day will begin and end at SJCS at the regular times of 7:50 AM and 3:00 PM. Students will be back at school in time for athletic practices. All freshmen are required to attend. Most transportation will be provided by the school, but some parent drivers will be needed. To volunteer to drive, or for any other questions, please contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

Japan in 2021 Interest Meeting, September 4

Interested in the 2021 Japan school trip? There will be an interest meeting at school on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room. Any 8th-11th grade student is welcome to attend, with or without parents. Questions? Contact [Meby Carr](#) or visit www.explorica.com and use the trip code *Carr-6839* to locate the trip. 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.

Senior and Parents Guidance Meeting, September 5

Our annual meeting for seniors and their parents will be held on Thursday, September 5 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. The meeting will last approximately an hour. At least one parent and the senior student must be in attendance for this informative meeting. Chris Gruber, Vice President/Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Davidson College, will be here to present.

Student Council Back to School Dance, September 7

High school student council will sponsor the annual "Back to School" dance on Saturday, September 7 from 7:00-10:00 PM in the SJCS Gym. This dance is only open to current SJCS students. More information will be communicated from Student Council during the first weeks of school. Questions? Contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderator, [Gabe Lewis](#).

SJCS Dance Arrival/Departure Policy

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

Eighth Grade Class Day, September 13

On Friday, September 13, the 8th graders will spend the day off-campus for their "8th Grade Class Day." The day will begin and end at SJCS at the regular times of 7:50 AM and 3:00 PM. This is a day dedicated to getting to know their classmates and themselves better, and to understand their role as 8th graders at St. Joseph's. Most transportation will be provided by SJCS, but some parent drivers will be needed. To volunteer to drive, or for any other questions, please contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, September 20

- On Friday, September 20 from 5:00-7:00 PM, the Jubilate Arts Guild and Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring the first 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 door and admission is \$5 per person. This admission fee will be charged to the student's account (additional family

members who attend will also be counted into the account charges).

All-Parent Coffee, September 25

Immediately following morning drop-off, all SJCS parents are welcomed and encouraged to come to the Cafeteria for coffee, a light breakfast, and fellowship until 8:00 AM. From 8:00-9:00 AM, Headmaster Keith Kiser, other School Administrators, and a few Parent Volunteer Leaders will share information about the new school year, talk about opportunities for involvement, and be available to answer your questions. This is a great opportunity to hear from and speak with school officials and parent leaders in a small, informal setting.

Tenth Grade Family Retreat Night, September 26

Each year SJCS hosts a retreat night for current sophomores and their parents. This year's retreat will take place from 6:00-9:00 PM on Thursday, September 26. The location is TBD. The evening will include dinner, discussion, fellowship, and prayer. For more information or for other questions, please contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

HS Homecoming Dance, October 19

The SJCS Homecoming Dance will take place on October 19 from 8:00-11:00 PM. The location has not been determined yet. This dance is open to all SJCS HS students. To bring an outside guest, SJCS students must turn in the outside guest form found [HERE](#). Questions? Contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderator, [Gabe Lewis](#).

Western US Trip During Spring Break 2020

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

Lunch Coverage Needed for the Receptionist

SJCS is in need of volunteer lunch coverage for the School Receptionist, Dawn Hawkins, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Basic computer and phone skills are needed. Confidentiality and professionalism are a must. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the Assistant to the Headmaster, [Jennifer Church](#).

Late Stay Program

Parents may make arrangements with the school to participate in the Late Stay Program in the event they cannot pick up their child at the end of the school day. The program is available from 3:30-6:00 PM daily during regularly scheduled class days and from 1:45-6:00 PM on Wednesdays. Late stay charges of \$3.50 per hour (non-pro-rata) will be billed to the student's tuition and fees account and are due monthly. Late Stay will begin Tuesday, August 20. Questions? Contact Director of Late Stay, [Debbie Quinones](#).

Mills Uniform Samples in the Front Office

Since [Mills Uniform](#) is primarily a web-based store, they have provided us with a generous sample of clothes for students to try on before making online purchases. It is a great way for students to get a feel for how the clothes fit and what size to order. Also, if you find that you need a size that it not provided, please contact their customer service at 1-800-541-1850.

Cafeteria Service

Flik Dining Services provides cafeteria service during the day. Breakfast items are served from 7:30-7:45 AM, lunch is served during MS and HS lunch periods, and snacks are sold for 45 minutes at the end of each school day. In addition, a la carte items such as pizza and stromboli are served during Household on Wednesdays. Trays for Household snacks, Household lunches, and/or team meals are also available for purchase. Please contact [Chef Shawn Butler](#) for information on the items available for Household lunches and snacks.

School Store

The School Store is open every school day during lunch periods, before school, and after school. Staffed by parent volunteers, the store is located at the entrance to the school cafeteria. The store stocks snacks and some school supplies (highlighters, pens, notecards, etc.), locker accessories (locker ladders and magnets), and St. Joseph's logo items (SJCS t-shirts, car decals and license plates). Your child's account works like a debit card. You can apply funds through your [FACTS portal](#) or by sending a check into the Business Office marked "School Store".

Parent/Student Handbook for 2019-2020

The Parent/Student handbook will be available on the SJCS website homepage in early August. All parents and students

must read this and sign the form on the last page indicating they have done so. This form must be turned in during Orientation or the first day of school.

Student Directories

Student Directories are available through RenWeb. Information on how to access the directory can be found [HERE](#) under the Parent Resources/Forms and Links tab on the home page of our new website. Click on ParentsWeb Instructions/How to access the student directory.

School Supplies

The middle school supplies list can be found [HERE](#) and on the Academics page of the website under Announcements. Middle school students should arrive the first full day of classes with their book bag, textbooks, and all supplies. There is no published list of high school supplies. High school students should plan to arrive the first day of classes with their book bag, textbooks, paper, a binder or notebook for each class, and a supply of pens and pencils. If particular supplies are needed for their classes, teachers will furnish students with that list after school begins.

Orientation Schedule for Monday, August 19

Sixth & Ninth Grade Morning Orientation (ALL Sixth & Ninth Grade Students)

Doors will open at 8:30 AM. Sixth Grade families park in the back Middle School lot and check in at the Cafeteria Entrance. Ninth Grade families park in the High School lot and check in at the High School Entrance. All students must wear their casual uniform.

Parent Schedule

- 8:30-8:55 AM: Parents enter the school with their student, greet the Household Dean, and help students set up lockers. Current NHS & Beta Club students will be present to assist.
- 9:00-9:45 AM: All parents will attend a meeting in the John Paul II Center with Mr. Kiser.
- 9:45 AM: Parents will exit to the cafeteria, where they will be greeted by members of the Parents Guild. Stations will be set up, including the School Store, Business Office, RenWeb Update, Handbook Form submission, and Health Form submission. When parents are done, they may leave campus. Sixth and ninth grade students will be dismissed at 11:15 AM.

Sixth Grade Student Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 AM: Students check in, go to Household, and set up lockers
- 9:00-9:15 AM: Meeting with Household Dean
- 9:15-10:00 AM: Walk through bell schedule & get student ID
- 10:05-10:45 AM: Sixth Grade and Senior Buddy event
- 10:45-11:15 AM: Students will report to the John Paul II Center for an assembly with Mr. Kiser and other staff
- 11:15 AM: Dismissal from the Cafeteria door

Ninth Grade Student Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 AM: Students check in, go to Household, and set up their lockers
- 9:00-9:10 AM: Meeting with Household Dean
- 9:10-9:15 AM: Meeting with brother/sister Household in the sister Household room
- 9:15-10:00 AM: Walk through bell schedule
- 10:05-10:30 AM: Students will report to the John Paul II Center for an assembly with Mr. Kiser and other staff
- 10:30-11:15 AM: Get Chromebooks in Library
- 11:15 AM: Dismissal from the High School entrance

Afternoon Orientation (All New Students in Grades 7-8-10-11-12)

Doors will open at 12:30 PM. Seventh and Eighth Grade families park in the back Middle School lot and check in at the Cafeteria Entrance. Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Grade families park in the High School lot and check in at the High School Entrance. All students must wear their casual uniform.

Parent Schedule

- 12:30-1:00 PM: Students and parents check in, go to Household, and set up lockers. Current NHS & Beta Club students will be present to assist in this.
- 1:00-1:30 PM: All parents will attend a meeting in the Meeting Room with Mr. Kiser.
- 1:30-2:00 PM: Parents will exit to the cafeteria, where stations will be set up, including the School Store, Business Office, RenWeb Update, Handbook form submission, Senior Waiver Form submission, and Health Form submission.

Student Schedule

- 12:30-1:00 PM: Students check in, meet their Household Dean, and set up lockers
- 1:00-1:30 PM: Students will walk through their bell schedule & get student ID; students in grades 8, 10, 11, and 12 will also pick up their Chromebooks at this time.
- 1:30-2:00 PM: All students will report to the JP II Center for an assembly
- 2:00 PM: Dismissal

Information for Returning Students

- **Locker Setup:** Returning students in grades 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 will have the option of setting up their lockers on Monday, August 19 between 2:00 - 3:30 PM or on Tuesday, August 20, the first morning of school, between 7:30 - 7:50 AM. Student lists with locker numbers will be posted near the HS and MS entrances.
- **Parking Pass Applications:** Parking Pass applications for Juniors and Seniors must be turned in either on Friday, August 16 from 2:00–3:00 PM or on Monday, August 19 from 2:00–3:00 PM in the High School Commons. Parking passes for sophomores will be available after construction of the new parking lot is complete, likely in October of this year.
- **Chromebooks:** Chromebooks for returning students will be available for pickup in the Library on Friday, August 16 between 2:00-3:00 PM and Monday, August 19 between 2:00-3:00 PM. Any Chromebooks not picked up during this time must be picked up in the library by the end of school on Tuesday, August 20.

From the Middle School Director

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

As many of you know, my family and I are relatively new to South Carolina. So, a relaxed summer schedule provided us an incredible opportunity to explore the South and all the great things that make the Upstate a desirable place to live. However, I miss seeing our students! Their energetic, enthusiastic and simple approach to life offers us the inspiration we need to deliver the very best Catholic education possible. I am so grateful that you have chosen this school community for your child.

Despite an ease in the summer schedule, we have been busy at work refining the St. Joseph's experience – working to ensure that our policies, procedures, and expectations align with what it means for our students to grow in the image and likeness of Christ. I am eager for the year to begin, and I look forward to our work together in partnership for the benefit of our young people. Let's continue to approach our Lord in prayer for a blessed and joyful year.

From the High School Director

"Nothing." That's the one-word answer I usually get when I ask my kids what they did during the day now that they're not in school. The messes in my back yard and living room suggest that they did at least find something to do, but apparently it wasn't very memorable (or maybe it was very memorable and they're hoping I don't find out about it!). I got the same answer during the school year at times, but an extra question or two usually prompted a pretty animated review of something they learned that day.

My goal as a parent is to make sure my kids are investing in their education by not allowing them to check out at the end of the school day. That's why we ask them to tell us about what they're doing in various classes. My goal as the Director of the High School is to support our teachers in their efforts to give the students something to talk about at night. That's where Faculty Professional Development comes in.

As a school, we're investing a lot in professional development for the express purpose of improving the experience for our students. St. Joseph's faculty are in College Board workshops, STEM conferences, professional organizations, etc., throughout the summer, all in an effort make what's already great even better. Just as one example, two of our teachers just returned from Notre Dame, having attended a three-day workshop on what neuroscience tells us about religious life. True, much of this is interesting in its own right, but our teachers are there because they believe in getting better at their craft. It is the students, not just the teachers, who benefit from faculty professional development. Based on what I'm hearing, our sons and daughters are sure to have some interesting things to talk about at the dinner table starting next fall. It's going to be a great year!

From the Fine Arts Department

Volunteers Needed

- Please contact [Teresa McGrath](#) for more information on how to volunteer for either of the opportunities below:
- Any parents or students willing to donate their time and talents to the Fine Arts Department through their sewing skills
- Any parents willing to assist in the Scene Shop during after-school and Saturday crew sessions

Jubilate Arts Guild

Please support the Fine Arts Department by joining the Jubilate Arts Guild. With membership support this past year, we were able to purchase several items to benefit the department, including sheet music for the choral, band, and strings ensembles, instrument repairs for band and strings instruments, accompanists for semester concerts, cello stand, percussion accessories, euphonium, cymbal, and provided funds for a music subscription for dance classes, travel for theatre conferences, and supplies for the art classroom, community art projects, and involvement in the annual Memory Project.

- Membership benefits and levels for 2019-2020 can be found on the Jubilate Arts Guild Membership Form found [HERE](#).
- The Jubilate Arts Guild is in need of officers for the 2019-2020 school year, specifically for Vice President and Publicity Chair. Questions? Contact Jubilate Arts Guild President [Kelly Donovan](#) to find out how you can support our Fine Arts students and teachers.
- Be on the lookout for information regarding our annual Christmas Wreath sale in October!

Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2019

Mark your calendars for our Fine Arts Department's annual talent competition, Jubilate Knight for the Arts, on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Planning meetings will begin in the fall. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or serving on the planning committee, contact Jubilate Knight Co-Chairs [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#).

From the Tech Services Department

Chromebook Distribution, August 16 & 19

- Chromebooks will be distributed to all freshmen and new students in grades 8-12 during Orientation on Monday, August 19.
- Chromebooks for returning students in grades 8, 10, 11, and 12 will be available for pickup in the Library on Friday, August 6 between 2:00-3:00 PM and Monday, August 19 between 2:00-3:30 PM.
- Any Chromebooks not picked up during Orientation must be picked up in the library by the end of school on Tuesday, August 20.

New Student Email Address & Lunch Numbers

Students new to SJCS for the 2019-2020 school year will receive emails over the summer with information regarding their SJCS email address, lunch numbers, and other important information.

From the School Nurse

Immunizations

Each student must have a SC Certificate of Immunization on file at the school. Out-of-state transfers should take copies of their current immunization records to the local Health Department for transcription to the correct form. Rising seventh graders must have documentation (DHEC Form 1148 or 2740) of having received Tdap on or after their 7th birthday in order to attend class in SC for the 2019-2020 school year.

Emergency Contact, Event /Field Trip Permission, and Medical Information Form

Emergency Contact, Event/Field Trip Permission, and Medical Information Forms for the 2019-2020 school year are due by August 1. Each student is required to turn in an updated form each year. Please note that this form is not available to submit online, but can found [HERE](#). Please turn them in to the front office to the attention of Katy McClintock, School Nurse.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

College Counseling Meetings for 2019-2020

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend these important and informative meetings. In each case, at least one parent and the student must attend their respective class meeting. Meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center and will last about one hour. Please note the meeting dates for the year:

- Seniors: September 5
- Juniors: February 4
- Freshmen & Sophomores: February 6

There will also be a special Financial Aid Night for Senior Families on October 3 at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room as well as course scheduling meetings for Freshman and Sophomore families in the spring (specific dates and sign-up links will be emailed to families during second semester).

Middle School Schedules

Middle school scheduling is still in process. Please disregard any middle school schedule information you may see on ParentsWeb before school begins. Students will receive their final schedules on Orientation Day. Eighth grade parents will be contacted via email by Mrs. Broering concerning their World Language placement when their schedules are complete. Middle school questions may be directed to [Melissa Broering](#).

High School Class Schedule

All high school schedules will be made available on ParentsWeb once they are completed. Students and parents will receive an email from the College Counseling Office in late-July announcing the availability of schedules and instructions for any change requests. After August 2, no requests for schedule changes will be honored until the designated Fall Add/Drop period from August 19-27. Exceptions will be made only for students who have an incomplete schedule (i.e. fewer than 6 classes) or an error in the core classes assigned.

To Access ParentsWeb

On the St. Joseph's home page at the top right corner, select Students & Parents, then select Parent Resources: Forms and Links. At the bottom of this page, under the section for ParentsWeb is the tab for ParentsWeb Instructions (click [HERE](#) to get directly to the Parent Resources: Forms & Links page).

From the Business Office

Tuition Accounts

- Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, St. Joseph's will be using FACTS for all tuition and incidental billing. You can access FACTS through your ParentsWeb portal [HERE](#). Using the FACTS portal, you will be able to select the day you prefer to pay tuition as well as set up a schedule to pay incidentals. If you need assistance setting up your FACTS account, please contact [Lisa Lawrence](#).
- Each family possesses a debit account for school store purchases. Payments can be made through the FACTS portal [HERE](#), or by bringing cash or a check to the Business Office.
- Each student also has a debit account for cafeteria purchases. Payments can be made by bringing cash or a check to the front office, or online at MySchoolBucks [HERE](#).
- Questions about your tuition account? Contact [Lisa Lawrence](#).

From the Parents Guild

Welcome to the Parents Guild!

Welcome back to all our returning students and parents and a very warm welcome to our new families! All parents and guardians of any enrolled student at SJCS are automatic members of the Parents Guild. The Parents Guild works with the faculty and staff of SJCS to support the mission of the school and provide resources to all the members of the SJCS community who guide our students. If you would like to know more about the Parents Guild and what we do, please contact [Aimee Lonergan](#) or any of the other board members.

Parents Guild Board 2019-2020

The Parents Guild Board members for the year are [Mary Ellen Bradley](#) (President), [Aimee Lonergan](#) (Vice President-Parent Engagement), [Jackie Zannino](#) (Vice President-Ways and Means), [Rita Taylor](#) (Treasurer), [Anne Stein](#) (Secretary), [Kimberly Masters](#) (HS Representative) and [Rebecca Feldman](#) (MS Representative). Please contact any board member with ideas or questions.

Attractions Book Fundraiser

The Attractions Book sale is back and will be August 22-September 2. There are TONS of coupons and savings in one small book! The money raised will be used to fund the needs of the school. Each student will receive one book to sell and will be encouraged to collect orders for additional copies at \$20 each. Orders can also be placed online. There are some great incentives for Households and individuals who sell the most books. All unsold books need to be returned in their original envelope by the last day of the sale. Questions? Contact [Jackie Zannino](#).

No-Cost Fundraisers

Please visit the Parents Guild page on the SJCS website [HERE](#) to learn ways to participate in no-cost fundraising program for 2019-2020. These include Publix, Box Tops for Education, and Amazon.

School Store

Volunteers are needed to operate the School Store. This is open to all MS and HS parents who are looking for a great way to meet other parents and engage with the students during the school day. If you are interested or would like more information about working in the School Store, please contact [Kristen Miller](#). The School Store is open every day before school, at all lunch periods, and after school.

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

If you would like to load a balance onto your child's school store account, payments must be made either through the Business Office or through MyBackPack. Account deposits cannot be made at the School Store.

Spirit Wear

The School Store will have official SJCS outerwear and spirit wear available for purchase. This year's designs will feature items such as stadium chairs, blankets, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, and more. Look for our online Spirit Wear sale email coming soon!

Used Uniforms

Drop off any gently used uniform pieces at the front desk to be used in the next Used Uniform Sale!

From the Development Office

Volunteer Opportunities

Parent involvement at St. Joseph's is an essential part of our growing and active community. Your time and talents can contribute to the life of the school, making St. Joseph's a vibrant and engaging community. Your help is wanted, needed, and appreciated (an added bonus—we have a lot of fun)! Click [HERE](#) to access the Parent Volunteer Opportunities form and get involved with Parents Guild, Athletic Boosters, Jubilate Guild (Fine Arts Boosters), Gala, and Campus Ministry. We look forward to serving with you!

Annual Fund

- Our goal this fiscal year (July 2019–June 2020) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. Last fiscal year, 63% of our school families gave to the Annual Fund, including an impressive 71% of our sixth grade families! We will track participation numbers by grade level throughout the year.
- 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 \$500,000. You can make a gift to the Annual Fund by downloading the Annual Fund Donation Form found [HERE](#) or by giving [online](#) today. Questions? Contact [Kevin Meyer](#).

From the Athletic Department

The Knights Booster Club

The Knights Booster Club is reaching for a goal of 100% participation this year. Every year the Knights Booster Club raises money and works directly with our Athletic Director, Eric Nash, to supplement the athletic budget to better serve our student-athletes. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Booster Club helped purchase a new baseball scoreboard and storage system for athletic uniforms. Prior to that we helped purchase the football scoreboard, new flooring for the weight room, paint machine for the fields and many other much-needed items. In 2019-2020 we will buy new weights for the weight room, which should arrive this summer. We also anticipate the need of purchasing a new bus in the coming year(s) to help with transporting all of our athletes. The boosters were also able to host all of the coaches and their spouses at a wonderful dinner to celebrate their dedication and commitment to making their respective programs the best that they can be. We invite everyone to join the Knights Booster Club to support our student-athletes. You can join the Knights Booster Club [HERE](#).