



**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**

"You Are Precious in My Eyes"

Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

One of the lines from Isaiah 43, the biblical text from where I lifted this year's theme, "You are precious in my eyes," (See August's *News & Notes* for an explanation) kept coming to mind for me as we met as a faculty and staff to prepare for the school year and then as we welcomed the new students for their orientation. I kept thinking of the line: "See, I am doing something new." There was an energy, positivity, and joy that was palpable during faculty/staff orientation, with some of our longer tenured teachers telling me it was the best orientation they can remember in a while. That energy certainly carried over to Monday, August 19 when the new students were enthusiastically and warmly greeted by senior NHS and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Beta Club members. All of this makes me think that God is doing something new and good at St. Joseph's.

Maybe it was the inspiring talks by the guest priest from the Archdiocese of Atlanta, who showed the teachers and staff a method for how to more effectively form the minds, hearts, and souls of our students in the likeness of Christ. Or was it the fact that each teacher and staff member shared their stories of how they were called by God to work at St. Joseph's – an exercise that many of us found very moving? Could it have been that we sang together as a faculty and staff throughout orientation week (a little awkward at first, but great unifying fun in the end), or that we put a lot of time, effort, and prayer into preparing for the new school year? Whatever it was, it's clear to me that the Holy Spirit is bringing something new and beautiful to our school.

Speaking of new, it's always a joy to welcome the new employees to our community. Last month, I introduced you to new 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers Jennifer Chesery and Trey Nickell, as well as to Dorian Lane (Academic Achievement Center Coordinator & Assistant Athletic Director) and Ann Gushue (Business Office bookkeeper). Since that time we have added two new employees, expanded the job description of another employee, and had to reduce the responsibilities of another employee because of a new leadership role he is taking on in the greater Greenville community.

I am pleased to welcome **Mrs. Keitt Brace** (nee Panuccio) back to St. Joseph's this year. Keitt (pronounced "Kit"), a 2012 graduate of St. Joseph's, is the school's new Student Activities Director and Summer Programs Coordinator. In her new role she will work with Student Council, clubs, and the Household program to help ensure a vibrant, engaged student culture at the school. Additionally, Keitt will work on building up our summer programs and camps, which have been in need of attention for a while now. Those of us who knew Keitt when she was a student here know what a blessing it is to have her putting her considerable skills and talents to work on behalf of our students and community.

I am also pleased to welcome **Mrs. Emily Weathers** to the St. Joseph's English department. Emily comes to us very highly regarded from Greenville Technical College, where she taught literature to mainly dual credit students, with nearly 70% of her students being enrolled in a charter high school and a college program. Prior to that, Emily was an instructor/lecturer at Clemson University, where she earned her MA in English.

We were blessed to find a teacher with Emily's qualifications and experience after learning in late July that Mrs. Megan Koon would be leaving St. Joseph's to take a job at Furman University. Mrs. Koon will be missed by students, parents, teachers, and administrators alike. We're glad that Megan will remain a St. Joseph's parent. When you see her around the school, please be sure to express your appreciation for her service for so many years.

While not a new hire, I did want to let you know that we have shifted and expanded **Mr. Gabe Lewis'** role at St. Joseph's. In addition to his Campus Ministry duties, which he will keep, I have asked Gabe to help the Development Office and me

with some mission advancement initiatives. As I am sure you know, Kevin Meyer and Rachel Neubauer do an incredible job supporting our parent groups and managing the Annual Fund. With a capital campaign on the horizon to build a new student center/cafeteria by 2025, however, there is a need for the school to begin to broaden its base of friends, supporters, and major donors now. Kevin and I have tasked Gabe to assist us with this important task of relationship building. Accordingly, Gabe's title has been changed to Special Assistant to the Headmaster for Mission Advancement.

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you that our chaplain, **Father Jonathan Duncan**, is moving to a part-time role at the school beginning in September. This is to make room in his schedule for a new leadership opportunity for him in the community as the chaplain of St. Francis Bon Secours Hospital System. Thankfully, Father Duncan will remain our chaplain and still be available for the weekly All School Mass on Wednesdays. He will also continue to assist with school retreats, continue his role with the football team, and visit the school on Fridays to hear confessions and offer daily Mass. Father Duncan is also working with the deanery to schedule priests for the daily Masses when he is not available.

#### **Meet the Teacher Night, Wednesday, September 11**

I hope you have marked your calendar and set aside Wednesday evening, September 11 so that you can attend Meet the Teacher Night. This is an excellent opportunity for you to walk through your child's schedule and hear from each of his or her teachers about what they have planned for the year. You will also have an opportunity to hear from me and a few others regarding the state of the school and our plans for the year.

#### **Open House, Sunday, October 6**

No, this is not a typo. We have moved our Admissions Open House up a full month earlier than usual to October 6. We have done so in order to help ensure that parents consider St. Joseph's as an option before applications are due for charter and magnet schools. Please spread the word about the new date for Open House. New parents tell us year in and year out that our current and alumni parents are the number one reason they considered St. Joseph's for their children.

#### **Are You a Well Read Mom?**

Whether you're a well read mom or not, there is a new "book club" forming at St. Joseph's that you might be interested in joining. **Well Read Mom** is a national program sweeping the country that is giving moms an excuse to read more and read well. My wife, Tami, has offered to lead a group at St. Joseph's. For more details click [HERE](#). Essentially, the group meets once a month, with each woman ideally having read the assigned reading and ready for discussion. For more details, please do check out Tami's letter at the link provided. This group is going to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at St. Joseph's, with the first meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 17.

Finally, I want to ask you to please keep SJCS sophomore PJ Malafronte in your prayers as he continues to recover from complications from surgery this summer. PJ is a very brave young man who's been fighting a heroic battle all summer long in the children's hospital in Norfolk, VA. I learned from his mother that the hope is for PJ to be transferred to Greenville in the coming weeks and then, hopefully, to a rehab center where he will begin his school year as a homebound student until he's ready to return to St. Joseph's. You can follow his recovery and send him messages of encouragement and support at his Caring Bridge site [HERE](#). In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Jessica '18, Emily and Sarah Crosby on the loss of their grandmother; for Ellie and Emily Mullins on the loss of their grandfather; and for Rod McClendon on the loss of his father.

With Love and Prayers,  
Keith F. Kiser  
Headmaster

## Things You Need To Know

### Welcome Back Tailgate, August 30

All SJCS families and friends are invited to attend our Welcome Back Tailgate before the SJCS Varsity Football vs. Ninety Six on Friday, August 30. The tailgate takes place on the Girls Softball Field (next to Gym) and begins at 5:30PM and ends at 7:00PM. SJCS Parent Leader Groups will be providing FREE hot dogs (grilled by Mr. Kiser, Dr. Jones, and Mrs. J), condiments, plates, flatware, and napkins. There is no cost to attend, though we ask that you bring the item listed below if your last name begins with:

- A-C Individual bags of chips
- D-H Dessert (no nuts, please)
- I-Q Side Dish (fruit, salads, antipasto, veggies, etc...)
- R-Z Case of Bottled Water

### Spirit Wear Sale Ends September 1

Don't forget to order your Spirit Wear! Students are allowed to wear Spirit Wear every Friday. See the newest fashions in SJCS Spirit Wear [HERE](#). The sale will run through Sunday, September 1. Items will take 2-3 weeks to arrive after the online store closes. Questions? Contact the Spirit Wear Committee Chair [Macie Lawton](#).

### Labor Day, September 2

There will be no classes. The school and school offices will be closed.

### SJCS Trip to Japan in June 2021 Interest Meeting, September 4

みなさん、こんにちは...or, "Hello everyone!" Just one phrase we will learn before going to Japan in 2021. Interested in the 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. Please contact [Meby Carr](#) with any questions or visit [www.explorica.com](http://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 Students College Counseling Nuts & Bolts Meeting, September 5

The College Counselors will be meeting with all the seniors (students only) on Thursday, September 5 during the Study Help period to review various procedures students will need to follow throughout the college application process. All seniors must attend this very important meeting.

### Seniors & Parents College Counseling Meeting, September 5

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

### Attractions Book Fundraiser Ends September 6

The Parents Guild Attractions Book sale is in full swing. By simply using 2 or 3 coupons at your favorite restaurants and stores, the book will easily pay for itself! All money raised will directly benefit every student at our school. Prizes will be awarded to the top book sellers as well as a pizza party for the Household that sells the most books overall. The cost of each book is \$20.00. Please return payment in the envelope provided to your student and use the front to keep track of additional orders. September 6 is the last day to turn in orders. If you are not able to participate, please return the book in its original condition immediately. Questions? Call Jackie Zannino (864-303-5947).

### Youth in Government (YIG) Dress Down Day, September 6

HS Youth in Government will sponsor a dress-down day on Friday, September 6. Students are encouraged to wear blue, red, and/or white to coincide with Military Night at the SJCS football game. No hats allowed. The cost is \$3 for both MS and HS. No accounts will be charged, students must bring cash or checks.

### 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 7:00-10:30 PM in the SJCS Gym. The theme is Cowboys vs. Aliens. All ninth through twelfth grade students are welcome to attend.

Please note that the first dance is for current SJCS HS students only. No outside guests will be admitted. The price is \$5 per student. More details will be emailed to HS families shortly. Questions? Contact Student Council Moderator, [Keitt Brace](#).

### **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.

### **All-School Meet the Teacher Night, September 11**

It is our hope that all middle school and high school parents will set aside Wednesday evening, September 11 from 5:45-8:45 PM for the annual Meet the Teacher Night. After a general session in the JPII Center with Mr. Kiser that begins promptly at 5:45 PM, parents will be able to walk through their child's daily schedule and learn each teacher's goals and expectations for the year. If you have more than one student at SJCS, you will want to choose which classes are most important for you to visit and/or mom and dad can follow different schedules. Class schedules will be provided. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Arrive early for best parking!

#### **NOTE:**

- This event is reserved FOR PARENTS ONLY.
- In order to keep the evening flowing smoothly and to get everyone out by 8:45 PM, this evening should not be viewed as conference time. Our faculty is available to meet with you at your request at another mutually convenient time.
- Parking is limited, so please try to bring one car per family.

### **Middle School MAP Testing, September 11-12**

We will be administering the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) standardized testing to all of our middle school students on September 11-12 and again in the spring. MAP is a computerized adaptive test that helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students. Testing will be done in the mornings on both days, so please try to avoid taking your child out of school on these days before 10:30 AM. If they are sick and must miss testing, [Elizabeth Duncan](#) will communicate makeup testing information.

### **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](#).

### **Mid-Quarter Grades Update September 13**

An email will be sent to parents at the mid-quarter point, September 13, as a reminder to check your child's progress and contact the teacher with any questions or concerns. Instructions on how to access ParentsWeb can be found [HERE](#).

### **Western US Trip During Spring Break 2020 Interest Meeting, September 18**

Want to make plans for Spring Break 2020? Come to the interest meeting on September 18 at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room to find out more. 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](#).

### **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, to be paid by cash/check at the entry point.
- MS students: Mark your calendar for the MS Coffeehouse on October 4.

### **All-Parent Coffee, Wednesday, 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

several parent volunteer leaders will be on hand to 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.

### **Sophomore Parent & Student Retreat Night, September 26**

For the past five years, St. Joseph's has hosted the 10th grade students and parents for a brief retreat, a time for parents and students to slow down for a few hours and reflect on the deeper questions that sometimes get lost in the business of life: Why am I here and where am I going? What really matters to me and makes me truly happy? The Sixth Annual Sophomore Parent & Student Retreat will be an evening retreat on Thursday, September 26 from 6:00-9:00 PM at Gallivan Hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church and School. All sophomores and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Childcare will be offered for families with young children. Please mark your calendars for this day and plan on joining us. More information will be sent out by email. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

### **NO SCHOOL, September 27**

There will be no classes on Friday, September 27. The school and school offices will be closed.

### **Financial Aid Night for Senior Families, October 3**

Melissa M. Barnette, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Furman University, will be conducting a general Financial Aid meeting to discuss the various types of aid, scholarships (including the state scholarships, scholarships through the colleges and private scholarships), the CSS Profile, federal money (grants, loans, work study) and a general overview of the FAFSA for this year's graduating seniors. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room on Thursday, October 3 at 7:00 PM.

### **Admissions Open House, Sunday, October 6**

Please help us fill the campus on October 6 by inviting a prospective parent (friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative) to our annual Admissions Open House. The event begins at 1:00 PM and officially kicks off the admissions season for the upcoming school year for all grades. Families interested in SJCS will have a chance to hear from a St. Joseph's middle school student, senior, graduate, and parent on the value of their time spent at St. Joseph's, tour with current students, meet and speak with teachers, coaches, and parents, and learn more about opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This is a once-a-year event, so please help us to spread the word.

- **HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Current SJCS families can help the school by placing the Open House Car Decal (to be handed out at Meet the Teacher Night on September 11th) on your outside back car window now. Please ask us for extras for in-town family members or multiple cars. These window clings will go on/come off easily, and everyone can help recruit for St. Joe's by this simple gesture. This visible sign on your car could also serve as a reminder to speak to one other prospective family about your child's St. Joe's experience. A strong enrollment helps all of us, and we thank you, in advance, for helping us recruit next year's students.

### **Attention Eighth Grade Parents**

SJCS eighth grade parents will receive an important letter from Headmaster Keith Kiser this month about transitioning your child from eighth to ninth grade. This letter will cover many important topics for eighth grade families:

- 1) **Eighth Graders To Serve As Tour Guides at Open House**: All eighth graders are asked to be here on Sunday, October 6th from 11:30-3:30 to help with Middle School Open House Tours. In return for their service, each student who volunteered will receive a Homework Pass and a "Free Dress" day (following the guidelines in the Student Handbook) the following Monday, October 7th. If you see a conflict for your eighth grade child helping serve on Open House Sunday, please contact [Jennifer DeForest](#) now.
- 2) **"Lunch with the Leaders"**: Eighth graders will be encouraged to sign up for lunch with our Headmaster, Keith Kiser, and, our Middle School Director, Wanda Jaraczewski, during their lunch period at some point during this school year. These group luncheons will serve as a halfway check point to see how your child's St. Joseph's career is going, and a great time to ask questions about high school. Please look for a follow up email to schedule.
- 3) **Eighth Grade Day**: If your child plans to re-enroll here in the ninth grade, it is not necessary that he/she "apply" for high school, as your child is already a student in our school. However, it is required that all SJCS eighth graders complete our high school admissions test. This test provides us valuable data on our current eighth grade class, allows your son/daughter a chance to compete for one of two academic scholarships awarded each year to incoming ninth graders, and will assist us in placing your child in the correct high school classes. The test will be given to all SJCS eighth graders during the school day (Eighth Grade Day) on Friday, January 17, 2020.

### **Blood Drive, October 8**

SJCS will host a blood drive on Tuesday, October 8 from 2:00-7:00 PM. This blood drive is in honor of SJCS student PJ

Malafronte who recently required over 60 units of blood. More details will follow.

### **Pope Francis Forum for Dialogue and Diversity (PFFDD) Field Trip, October 13-14**

The PFFDD will host a field trip on October 13-14 to the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL. On Sunday, the group will visit EJI's Legacy Museum and on Monday the group will visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The cost is approximately \$100.00 and a \$75.00 non-refundable deposit is due by September 20. For more information, contact [Jennie Neighbors](#) or [Meby Carr](#).

### **Middle School Early Dismissal, October 16**

All middle school students will dismiss at 12:15 on Wednesday, October 16, and all classes will meet.

### **Freshmen PSAT Testing, October 16**

All freshmen will take the PSAT 8/9 on Wednesday, October 16 with dismissal at **12:15 PM**. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9, which is the first in the College Board's SAT Suite of Assessments, is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school. The results help educators and students figure out what students need to work on most so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school. Further test details will be communicated in the October *News and Notes*. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

### **Sophomore & Junior PSAT Testing, October 16**

The PSAT will also be administered to all sophomores and juniors here at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 16, with dismissal at **12:15 PM**. This test is a shortened, practice version of the SAT and it provides a good opportunity for students to get comfortable with the format, pacing, and questions on the SAT. For juniors, this test also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. In September, students will receive a PSAT booklet which includes a complete practice test with answers. Further test details will be communicated via email and in the October *News and Notes*. Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

### **Twelfth Grade Class Day, October 16**

On Wednesday, October 16, all seniors will attend the "Senior Class Day" at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, SC. Students should arrive at school at the normal time. They will return to school by 3:00 PM. More information will be sent out to seniors and parents via email. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

### **High School Homecoming Dance, October 19**

The SJCS Homecoming Dance will take place from 8:00-11:00 PM on Saturday, October 19. This dance is open to all SJCS high school students. More information will be e-mailed to parents and students. To bring an outside guest SJCS students must turn in the outside guest form found [HERE](#). Please dress according to the guidelines laid out in the SJCS Handbook and copied below. Questions? Contact SJCS HS Student Council Moderator, [Keitt Brace](#).

### **SJCS Homecoming Dress Code**

General Guidelines: The dress attire for students attending the Homecoming dance is dressy casual. The general guidelines outlined in the student handbook apply, but the following are more specific to the dance.  
Males: Slacks, dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open collar or polo shirt, optional tie  
Females: Dress, skirt and dressy top, or dressy pants outfit  
Not permitted: dresses/skirts that are shorter than 4" above knees, dresses/tops that show cleavage, dresses/tops that plunge in the back, bare midriffs

### **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.

### **Holocaust Survivor Presentation, November 4**

Save the date! Come and experience the living testimony of a Holocaust survivor in person in the JPII Center on November 4 at 7:00 PM. There are so few survivors left in the world, so this is a special opportunity for students and parents alike. Marion Blumenthal Lazan will speak about how she and her family survived living under the Nazi regime and how they eventually emigrated to America. An outstanding speaker, Mrs. Lazan has shared her moving first-hand account of the Blumenthal family's life in Germany, from the events preceding Kristallnacht to imprisonment in concentration camps to liberation in April of 1945. Her Holocaust experiences and messages of respect and tolerance go beyond the facts and

inspire audiences around the world. For more information, contact [Jennie Neighbors](#) or [Marla Palmer](#). You may learn more about Mrs. Lazan's life [HERE](#).

### **Attention Families with Veterans**

The National Social Studies Honor Society will again sponsor a Veterans Day Assembly this year. We would love to have veterans from our St. Joseph's community attend and/or speak. Please contact [Meby Carr](#) now if you or a family member would like to attend or participate in the assembly, or to get more information. We would love to have them!

### **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. Information regarding lunch pricing and options can be found [HERE](#).
- Each student 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](#).
- 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.

### **Confirmation Preparation**

Seventh and eighth grade Catholic parents should contact their home parish to find out about registration for Confirmation preparation. Though St. Joseph's seventh grade Religion classes cover Confirmation, each parish has its own requirements and they need to know which children are planning to be confirmed in the upcoming year. This is usually during eighth grade, but depending on the parish date for Confirmation, some preparation may begin in seventh grade.

### **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. Questions? Contact Director of Late Stay, [Debbie Quinones](#).

### **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".

### From the High School Director

One of my summer jobs in college was working construction, and for part of that time I worked for a house painter named Bruce. I don't remember his last name, but he was an interesting guy. He'd disappear about halfway through the workday to go do what he called "boss stuff." I still have no idea where he was, but he'd show up again a little before the end of the day to pick up his supplies. Bruce was a man of strong opinions, and I was on the receiving end of several lectures (using that term generously) about how to improve the state of the world. I've blocked most of these out, but one I still remember very specifically. Bruce lit into me for not washing out a paint brush very well, and he could tell from my demeanor that I wasn't taking it too seriously. I've never forgotten what he said to me: "You know how you feel about your books? That's how I feel about my brushes."

Truth be told I might still want to make some arguments about the importance of books to human events, but Bruce had a point. I hadn't done a good job of taking care of his tools, and my carelessness created more work for him. I think about that a lot as I walk around the school and see the ways that what I do, or don't do, impacts other people. From cleaning up after myself to trying to get work in on time, how I do my job matters for how other people get to do theirs. The same is true for students, of course. If a lot of kids in one class are turning things in late, or not doing what needs to be done, it impacts the teacher and the other students in the class.

There's another level to what Bruce said as well. I love my books, but those are the tools of my trade. Brushes were the tools of his trade, and the fact that he took care of them was a mark of pride in doing a job well. I didn't see it at the time, but it mattered to him that his work was well done, even down to taking care of the brushes.

There are other things I "learned" from Bruce that I probably shouldn't put in this column, but I'm in his debt for at least these two things: your work impacts other people, and do the job right.

### From the Development Office

#### Thank you to...

- All who helped with our 2019 Come Back to Give Back Day. We had over 90 parents, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who came to help us spruce up our campus up for the beginning of the school year. We are grateful for your generosity.
- Monica Dodge and all the parents who generously provided food and time to serve the Faculty/Staff Welcome Back Appreciation Breakfast. The faculty and staff were grateful for such an enjoyable and delicious treat. Thank 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, 62% of our school families gave to the Annual Fund, including an impressive 71% of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade families! We will track participation numbers by grade level throughout the year, starting in October.
- 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. Please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) with any questions, and download your Annual Fund Donation Form [HERE](#) today!

### From the Fine Arts Department

#### Fine Arts Programming

There are several opportunities to get involved with the Fine Arts program outside of the regular class schedule. Classes meet as listed below. Contact the teachers for each class if you would like more information.

- **High School Stage Crew:** The stage crew schedule varies, but is usually scheduled after school three days a week and on Saturdays. Questions? Contact [Teresa McGrath](#).
- **High School Choir:** Students interested in joining St. Joseph Singers are invited to attend Tuesday after school rehearsals from 3:15-4:00 PM in the Choral Room (C114). Students may attend as their availability allows. Questions? Contact [Angela Hayes](#).
- **HS & MS Art Club:** Mrs. Pickard will offer Art Club this year during Club Time. This is a place for MS and HS students to work on individual projects of their choice. Mrs. Pickard will offer guidance, supplies, and a place to create. Questions? Contact [Deborah Pickard](#).

#### 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

- Help support the Fine Arts Department by joining the Jubilate Arts Guild (JAG). With membership support this past year, we were able to purchase several items to benefit the department, including sheet music, microphones, art supplies, instruments, and much more. The membership form with details about member levels and benefits for 2019-2020 can be found [HERE](#). Contact Jubilate Arts Guild President [Kelly Donovan](#) to find out how you can support our Fine Arts students and teachers.
- The Jubilate Arts Guild is looking for parents interested in serving on the JAG committee for the 2019-2020 school year. We have vacancies for both the JAG Vice President and Publicity Chair. If you are interested in these opportunities or sharing your time and talents in support of the Arts in additional ways, please contact Jubilate Arts Guild President [Kelly Donovan](#) for more information.

#### Two Additional Ways to Support the Fine Arts Department

- Purchase Red Door ornaments available for purchase [HERE](#).
- The Christmas Wreath Sale starts in October. Purchase a Christmas wreath for your family or gift one to a friend or relative. They will be delivered to any address you choose the first week of December. Ordering details coming soon.

#### Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2020

Mark your calendars for our Fine Arts Department's annual talent competition, Jubilate Knight for the Arts, on Saturday, May 9, 2020. All members of the school community are invited to join in a talent competition. The sale of voting tokens aids in funding the needs of our dance, choral, instrumental, theatre, and visual arts programs. Preparations for this family-friendly evening begin in the fall. To join the planning committee please contact, Jubilate Knight Co-Chairs [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#).

## From the Athletic Department

### The Knights Booster Club

The Knights Booster Club is off to a fantastic start in 2019 with our membership drive and has raised over \$30,000 this year. Please help us achieve our goal of reaching 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. We invite everyone to join the Knights Booster Club to support our student-athletes. You can join the Knights Booster Club [HERE](#).

Over the last several years, the Booster Club helped purchase:

- new baseball scoreboard
- football scoreboard
- storage system for athletic uniforms
- new flooring for the weight room
- new dumbbells for weight room
- paint machine for the fields

We anticipate needing to purchase a new bus in the coming year(s) to help with transporting all of our athletes.

### Important Parking Info for Home Football Games

**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.

**Booster Parking:** 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 Grass 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. As you enter this lot please drive between the cones and following parking attendants directions.

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

**MS Parking Lot:** This lot is reserved for Handicap Parking with a valid handicap car tag, SJCS Game Day Coaches, Game Officials, and visiting team buses.

**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. Varsity Football admission is \$6.00. 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.

**Alcohol at SJCS Tailgating Events:** Alcohol is prohibited while tailgating in any parking lots and at all outdoor sporting events on campus.

**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.

### Sports Participation Requirements for 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 at [planetHS](#) 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 is available on the SJCS website under Athletics. 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 [planetHS](#) website, please call 1-888-668-7452, ext. 5, for support.

## From the Parents Guild

### From the Parents Guild President

Welcome to another great school year! We pray you enjoyed your summer. Family involvement is essential for the success of our school. Parent participation continues the strong tradition of an engaged and lively community atmosphere, where our students and families are supported and thrive. Each year we reach out to our families and provide them with opportunities to engage within our daily school life by using their God-given gifts to serve our community. You can find out how to get involved by clicking [HERE](#). We invite you to prayerfully consider how your time and talents can contribute to the life of the school, and commit to helping us make St. Joseph's an even more vibrant and engaging community. Your help is wanted, needed, and appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: Checking a box indicates an interest to help serve at the event. All interested volunteers will be contacted by the lead to verify your availability to serve. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact [Mary Ellen Bradley](#).

### School Store

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)

### School Store Volunteers Needed

There are a couple of shifts in need of volunteers: Monday and Thursday from 7:30-8:00 AM. Usually, volunteers work every other week. Your time and assistance are greatly appreciated. For our new families, this is a great opportunity to get to know other parents, staff, and students. If you are interested in being a sub, or would like to work a regular shift, contact [Kristen Miller](#) or [Lisa Hunnicutt](#).

### Have Your Groceries & Amazon Purchases Raise Money for SJCS

In just a few minutes, you can set up your account and help us start gaining rewards with:

- **Publix Partners:** It's easy to participate, and we no longer use the plastic tag. Begin by setting up your online account [HERE](#). Then click on "My Publix Partner" and enter "ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL – GREENVILLE, SC" or 29607 and click on St. Joseph's Catholic School to designate your savings. When finished, use your phone number at checkout during your weekly Publix visits and help us continue to raise money for SJCS. To date, we've raised more than \$56,000 through this incredible program!
- **Harris Teeter Together in Education:** Register your VIC Card or sign up for eVIC card [HERE](#). Once your account is set up, scroll down to Together in Education and type in the code for SJCS: 5284. Please note the program runs from October to May and this process needs to be renewed every year.
- **Lowe's Foods:** Join the Cart to Class program by clicking [HERE](#). We are listed under "St. Joseph's." Once you've selected and saved our school, we will begin receiving rewards from your weekly shopping trips.
- **Amazon Smile:** Help us raise money each time you make purchases on Amazon by using Amazon Smile. To designate SJCS, click [HERE](#). We are listed as St. Joseph's Catholic School Inc. In order for us to receive savings, please use smile.amazon.com for your future Amazon purchases.

### Box Tops Are Going Digital

Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online. Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip and send them to school. Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Top label. If you see the new label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ each for your school.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online. To download the app and find more information, click [HERE](#).

### From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

#### College Rep Visits

Numerous colleges have already scheduled campus visits and we are currently working to schedule several others. These visits will be communicated via Scoir and on the College Counseling page of the SJCS website under "Colleges Visiting SJCS". Students **must** register for visits through their Scoir account at least one day in advance. We attempt to schedule as many of these visits during the high school lunch period so that juniors and seniors can participate without missing class time. However, sometimes visits will need to take place at another time during the school day and in these cases, those students who have a particular interest in the college will need to ask permission from his or her teacher to be excused from class. This will take place at the discretion of individual instructors. Please encourage your child to attend as many of these informal meetings as possible. These sessions provide great opportunities for students to talk with the college reps in a relaxed setting along with their classmates. The list will be updated as more visits are scheduled.

#### College Visits

Juniors and seniors are permitted to visit colleges or attend early decision days. In order for a college visit to count as a field trip, you must provide advance notice of the trip to the front office, and documentation (standard college visit letters) from the college or university must be provided immediately after the visit. Second-semester sophomores and all juniors are allowed two (2) college visits. Seniors are allowed up to four (4) college visits over the course of the academic year.

### From the Business Office

#### Tuition Accounts

- Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, St. Joseph's will be using FACTS for all tuition billing. You can access FACTS through your [ParentsWeb portal](#). 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](#).
- **Effective with the new school year, the Business Office will no longer charge student account for non-academic expenses.** The monthly student bills will only contain tuition and related academic fees (i.e. AP exams, mini-mester charges, computer repairs, etc.). Extracurricular charges, such as background checks, parent drivers checks, t-shirts, dress down days, spirit week charges, fundraisers, etc. will not be placed on the student bills. This includes expenses that might include an entire grade, household, or athletic team, including club t-shirts, sports t-shirts, athletic team costs (i.e. tennis shoes, etc.). Those expenses are expected to be paid by cash or check and need to be paid in order for the student to receive the item (i.e. t-shirt, tennis shoes, etc.). If you have any questions about these changes, please contact [Lisa Lawrence](#) in the Business Office.
- If you have questions about your tuition account, please contact [Lisa Lawrence](#).