Greetings from St. Joseph’s Catholic School!

I hope that 2020 is off to a good start for you and your family. I pray that the new year brings all manner of God’s blessings, most especially the knowledge of his loving presence in your lives.

We are grateful that you chose to partner with us for the education of your sons and daughters. Just the other day, Mrs. J. and I had lunch with a dozen or so 8th graders, one of eight such lunches we will have before the end of the year to hear feedback from the students about their middle school experience. As part of this process, we ask the 8th graders to fill out a survey about the school. While they always have a few suggestions about changes they’d like to see, the 8th graders this year have, by and large, spoken and written very positively about the school. It’s very encouraging to hear 14 year-olds express their appreciation for the school. I love what one young man wrote on his survey in answer to the question: *Is there anything else you’d like to say about your experience at St. Joseph’s?* “I love St. Joseph’s for everything it has offered me. There’s no better school than this one!”

If you have similar feelings of appreciation for the school, we’d love for you to take a few minutes to tell your friends, colleagues, and family members with school-aged children about your experience at St. Joseph’s. We are entering the heart of the admissions season, and we are well aware that nothing is more powerful than for a family considering the school to hear a personal witness and recommendation from a happy St. Joseph’s family.

For starters, you might tell families with potential 6th grade applicants about the new Margaret Ann Moon Half-Tuition Middle School Scholarships. We have initiated this scholarship to try to reach families who believe that a St. Joseph’s Catholic School education is beyond their ability to pay. This scholarship is just one more way we are trying to fulfill our mission of making sure a Catholic education is available to students from families from all economic backgrounds. The full details about the school’s tuition assistance program and the new MS scholarship in particular can be found [HERE](#).

Here are a couple “tools” that are at your disposal when talking to families about St. Joseph’s:

1. A Fact Sheet (found [HERE](#)) that details our students’ academic performance, college acceptance rates, and scholarship offers as well as a by-the-numbers accounting of what we offer at the school.
2. A link to a couple of the brief videos (found [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#)) about the school we have promoted on Facebook in recent months.

As far as talking points about the school, might I suggest that you consider sharing:

1. That the school worked with you to make it possible for you to afford sending your children to St. Joseph’s through our tuition assistance program.
2. A unique story about the difference a teacher and/or a coach has made in the life of one of your children.
3. If you have an older child who is a graduate of St. Joseph’s, you might also consider sharing how well prepared they were for college and the scholarships that helped make college tuition more affordable.

Thank you for doing what you can to spread the good word about St. Joseph’s in the community.

The longer I do this job the more I have come to realize that it is the entire community together that educates our students. The Christian proposal we make to our students, more than words and exhortation, makes the deepest impression on our students through what we live together as a school community and is communicated through what we love, value, and celebrate and how we treat one another (including our athletic opponents!); face problems, setbacks, and disappointments; and how we respond to the needs of the community and the world.
I saw this Christian proposal on display in January as we mourned the loss of one of our graduates, AnnaGrace O’Connor (SJCS Class of 2013), and on the occasion of the death of Karen and Chris Miros’ unborn baby, Porter Joseph.

Grace O’Connor was a lively, intelligent young lady with a big desire, who unfortunately was not able to break free from her addictions despite the best efforts of many who loved her dearly. I saw that love on display in spades in her classmates and friends who came out to pray for the repose of her soul and to comfort her family and one another. Please do keep Grace, her mother Meg Hudak, and her sister Mary (SJCS Class of 2009) in your prayers.

The same thing can be said about the outpouring of love and support from the SJCS community for Karen and Chris Miros on the death of their unborn son, Porter Joseph. Karen told me that she felt carried and strengthened by your prayers through some of the darkest days of her life. She and Chris were also very appreciative of all the notes, gifts, and meals they have received from the community. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

I did want to call your attention to the Women’s Conference that will be held once again at St. Joseph’s on Saturday, February 29. Click HERE for all the details. Also, please mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, May 3. That is when Scott and Kimberly Hahn will be on campus speaking in the JP II Center. We expect a sellout crowd for these popular Catholic authors and speakers. Click HERE for more details.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Mary Mayken Reed on the passing of her grandfather; for Trey Speed on the passing of his great grandmother; for Brigid and Patrick ’18 Alvis on the passing of their grandmother and grandfather; for Mary Branch Cotner on the passing of her great grandmother; and for Alex Eichler ’05 on the passing of her daughter.

With love and prayers,
Keith Kiser
Headmaster

Volunteer/Chaperone/Driving Policy & Requirements

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

If a parent would like to volunteer/chaperone an event (field trip, retreat, etc) they must do the following:
- Fill out the SJCS Background Check Form and return it to Jennifer Church
- Once that form is processed, you will receive instructions from Jennifer Church on how to complete Armatus training
The cost for this is $30. Please send in a check to the attention of Jennifer Church.

If a parent would like to drive for an event (field trip, retreat, etc), they must do the following:
- Complete the Background Check Form and Armatus training
- Complete the Driver Permission Form and return it along with required documents listed on form to Jennifer Church
The cost for the driver’s check is $5. Please send in a check to the attention of Jennifer Church.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
**Things You Need To Know**

**Eighth Grade Play Comic Book Artist, January 30**
In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the SJCS Fine Arts Department will be presenting the twelfth annual 8th grade play on Thursday, January 30. Join us for this production, starring 45 students from the 8th grade class. The performance begins at 7:00 PM with free admission. Seating will be open for Jubilate Arts Guild members from 6:30-6:45 PM; general admission will begin at 6:45 PM. Concessions will be for sale during intermission.

**Parent Wine & Cheese Socials, January 30 & February 6**
This is a great opportunity to hear from, socialize, and speak with school officials and other parents in a small, informal setting.

- **Middle School Parents: Thursday, January 30:** Prior to the Eighth Grade Play, all middle school parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on January 30 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM. Beginning at 6:00 PM, school administrators will provide timely information and share updates about the school year as well as invite your questions and participation. Student supervision provided free of charge.

- **High School Parents: Thursday, February 6:** Prior to the Freshman/Sophomore College Counseling program, all high school parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on February 6 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM. Beginning at 6:00 PM, school administrators will provide timely information and share updates about the school year as well as invite your questions and participation. Student supervision provided free of charge.

**Final Priority Admissions Testing, February 1**
The final priority admissions testing date for Fall 2020 enrollment is Saturday, February 1 for all grades. Applicants who test on or before February 1st will be the first ones to be reviewed and offered spots. It's also the final merit scholarship testing date for new students coming into ninth grade. There is one more scheduled admissions testing date on Saturday, March 14 (see Headmaster Kiser’s column for more details on the new half-tuition Middle School Scholarships offered for rising sixth grade applicants currently not in Catholic schools who test on March 14). Please don’t miss these dates if you or someone you know has an applicant interested in SJCS for next year. Applicants sign up for testing when they complete the online application. Contact Admissions for more information.

**Spring Sports Tryouts Begin February 3**
Please note that all required athletic forms MUST be uploaded HERE before tryouts begin.

- Boys & Girls Track and Field: February 3-4 from 3:30-5:00 PM, February 5 from 1:45-3:15 PM, February 6-7 from 3:30-5:00 PM
- Boys JV Soccer: February 3-7 from 3:30-5:30 PM
- Boys Varsity Soccer: February 3, 5-7 from 3:30-5:30 PM, February 4 & 6 from 5:30-7:30 PM
- Girls JV & Varsity Soccer: February 3 & 7 from 5:30-7:30 PM, February 5 from 1:30-3:30 PM, February 4 & 6 from 3:30-5:30 PM
- MS Baseball: February 5-7 from 3:30-5:00 PM
- Varsity & JV Baseball: February 3-6 from 5:30-7:30 PM
- Girls Lacrosse: February 3-7 from 3:45-5:15 PM at Sunset Park
- Boys Lacrosse: February 3-7 from 4:00-5:30 PM at Sunset Park
- Boys V Tennis: February 3-7 from 3:30-5:00 PM
- Boys JV Tennis February 10-14 from 3:30-5:00 PM
- Softball: February 3-7 from 3:30-5:00PM
- Boys Golf: February 5 & 12 at 2:30 PM at The Preserve at Verdae

**Junior College Planning Night, February 4**
Brand R. Stille, Vice President for Enrollment at Wofford College will be here on February 4 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. Some of the topics he will present on are: College Admission Calendar, Key Terms (Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling Admission, Wait List, Common Application, etc.), Student/Parent/School Responsibilities, How to Research College Information, College Entrance Exams, and Financial Aid. At least one parent must attend with their student. We will let you know who your college counselor will be and will begin scheduling individual student/family meetings following this meeting.

**Freshman & Sophomore College Counseling Night, February 6**
We will be having our annual meeting for freshmen and sophomores and their parents to discuss general academic and college planning items on February 6 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. Holley Springfield, Admissions Advisor for Auburn
University will be here to present on student involvement, course selection, and general college search items. All freshmen and sophomore families must attend this meeting at least once (either during the student’s freshman or sophomore year). Students are asked to sit with their parents.

**Mid-Quarter Progress Update, February 7**
An email will be sent to parents regarding mid-quarter grades on Friday, February 7, as a reminder to check your student’s progress through the Family Portal in FACTS. Please contact teachers directly if you have any questions or concerns.

**HS Fine Arts Coffeehouse, February 7**
On Friday, February 7 from 5:00–7:00 PM, the Jubilate Arts Guild and Fine Arts Department will be sponsoring the final High School 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. Middle School students are permitted to come if an older sibling is performing, but must be accompanied by their parents. Plan to come for an evening of coffee, fellowship, and open-mic entertainment. Equipment will be available for those interested in performing a favorite poem, song, or monologue throughout the evening. Entrance is through the Cafeteria/MS parking lot door and admission is $5.00 per person, to be paid by cash/check at the entrance door.

**Test Taking & Study Skills Seminar, February 8**
A test-taking and study skills seminar is once again being offered for 9 & 10th graders on Saturday, February 8 from 9:00 AM-Noon in the Meeting Room. If the morning session fills up and a waiting list is generated, a second session will be considered for the afternoon from 1:00-4:00 PM. Parents will receive an email from Mrs. Carr with details. The cost is $75. Click [HERE](#) to register. Questions? Contact Mrs. Carr.

**New York Encounter, February 14-16**
SJCS will be sending a group of more than 20 students and teachers to attend the [New York Encounter](#) February 14-16. The Encounter is an annual three-day public cultural event in the heart of New York City that strives to witness to the new life and knowledge generated by the faith, following Pope Benedict XVI’s claim that “the intelligence of faith has to become the intelligence of reality.” The SJCS group will depart on Thursday, February 13, and return Sunday, February 16. Questions? Contact Gabe Lewis.

**Presidents’ Day Off, February 17**
There is no school on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents’ Day. The school and school offices will be closed.

**Tuition Assistance Deadline for 2020-2021 is February 17**
The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2020-2021 school year is February 17, 2020. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible. Please note that you must use your [2018 tax information](#) and your [2019 W-2s](#) to complete the tuition assistance forms. To get to the FACTS application website, click [HERE](#).

**SAT Practice Test, February 22**
We will be giving a Princeton Review SAT Practice Test here at school on Saturday, February 22, from 9:15 AM-1:15 PM in the Meeting Room. This test is geared toward any interested sophomores or juniors who have not yet taken the SAT. The experience will help students learn about which areas they need to focus on to improve their scores when they take the actual SAT for college admissions purposes. Click [HERE](#) to register by February 10.

**Ash Wednesday, February 26**
The imposition of ashes will be offered at Mass, to be held at the regular Wednesday time of 10:23 AM.

**MS Minimester, March 4 & 5**
On March 4-5, the middle school will be taking a break from their regular classes to take part in several fun and creative minimester classes being offered here at school by the middle school teachers and others from the community. We will have regular drop-off and dismissal times on those days. High school minimester activities will take place on these same days at various times at either on or off campus locations. Please be on the lookout for further information concerning minimester classes and signups, which will be shared via email.

**HS Minimester, March 4 & 5**
High School minimester information was emailed to parents and students in January. All HS students will register for a course by grade level during the week of February 3. Course rosters will be placed in the HS commons, and instructors
will email their respective groups to provide more specific information regarding their courses. Questions? Contact Carol Curry.

**NO SCHOOL, March 6**
There will be no school on Friday, March 6 so that the faculty and staff may attend a retreat.

**Seventh Grade Family Retreat Night, March 13**
On Friday, March 13, all 7th graders and their parents are invited to a family retreat evening with dinner, a reflection, group activity, and night prayer. The event will be held at Prince of Peace Catholic Church from 6:00-9:00 PM. More information will be sent out by email to 7th grade families. Questions? Contact Gabe Lewis.

**SJCS Spring Art Show, March 16-27**
The 2019 Spring Art Show will be held in the Library on the SJCS campus March 16-27. Students in all grades are encouraged to participate. Categories include Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Mixed Media, and Computer Graphics. **Entries will be accepted in the art room from March 9-13.** For entry requirements, contact Anne Meyer. The Jubilate Arts Guild will also be hosting a reception in the Library on Friday, March 27 from 7:00-7:30 PM.

**Oyster Roast & Annual Lenten Fish Fry, March 27**
Mark your calendars for an SJCS favorite, the Annual Lenten Fish Fry AND Oyster Roast on Friday, March 27 at 5:00 PM. This wonderful event features Stations of the Cross, Live Music, Charlie’s Famous Fried Fish, and an Oyster Roast. This night offers a chance for the whole family to fellowship with members of our SJCS family from present and past. A delicious fried fish meal (prepared on site) and All-You-Can-Eat Oyster Roast will be served under the big white tent in the Middle School parking lot. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities. Meals can be ordered HERE.

**SJCS Spring Musical, High School Musical, April 2-5**
Be sure to mark your calendars for the spring musical, *High School Musical!* The Wildcats of East High will be making their appearance on the SJCS stage, bringing this popular musical to life. Join Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, and their classmates as they struggle with the challenges of breaking free from the status quo. Performances will be April 2-5 and tickets will be available to purchase in early March.

**SJCS Uniform Supplier Changing to Lands’ End**
St. Joseph’s is switching to Lands’ End as our uniform provider beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Uniform items from Mills (our current supplier) can be worn indefinitely. However, at the end of this school year, you will no longer be able to purchase from Mills. Mills is currently running a clearance special of our remaining inventory with them. The Lands’ End website is open now and can be accessed HERE. Lands’ End frequently runs sales and specials, so be sure to sign up to receive emails.

**Discontinuing the Collection/Recycling of Used Ink Cartridges**
St. Joseph’s has discontinued accepting used/empty printer ink cartridges. The company we had been using became very strict about what cartridges they would accept and if we send cartridges not on the list they charge the school. Therefore, we are not recycling ink cartridges anymore.

**Middle School Supplies Replenishment**
At this point in the school year, your child’s school supplies probably need a little boost. The teachers have mentioned that many students are in need of paper, pencils, marking pens, etc. Please check with your child and send them with needed supplies in order to be prepared for class. In addition, with cold and flu season upon us, teachers have mentioned that the tissues and antibacterial wipes are dwindling. If your child is able to bring in one of these to their Household, it would be very much appreciated.
From the Middle School Director

Last Friday, I was waiting to pick up Johnny from basketball practice. It was 5:00 PM and I was tired, hungry, and maybe a tad crabby. I so hoped that the team would get done with practice on time, and that Johnny wouldn’t decide to stay longer and chat with his friends. I just wanted to get home.

As I waited in the SJCS parking lot, I saw a number of parents dropping off and picking up their children. Siblings old enough to drive were relegated to the task as well. Kids entered and left the gym with a variety of postures and expressions - most moved quickly … some even skipping; most had a friend to greet or say goodbye to; others looked like they had a long week, too. As I sat in my car on that unseasonably warm January evening, my mood quickly lifted. That Friday night scene helped me remember the importance of helping our children discover their passions and interests, and supporting them as they continue to explore and develop the things that are important to them. What a joy and gift that we are in a community that supports this understanding of a holistic education.

“Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”
- Saint Pope John Paul II

When a student is struggling in some area of their life, I ask them what it is that gets them excited … what it is that puts a smile on their face, or gives them a reason to persevere through the things they aren’t so fond of. Sometimes they have a great adventure or interest to share, and sometimes they don’t. One of the things I love about Catholic education is our commitment to helping students discover their God-gifted talents and abilities. At some point in their lives, they discover the intersection of their passions and the opportunity to affect positive change in the world as part of God’s design. It is an awesome thing, and something we may never see while they are a student at SJCS.

To that end, SJCS middle school students will have an opportunity to “put out into the deep” and stretch their comfort zones a bit during two days of our March Minimester. Students will select three mini-courses that are outside of our traditional liberal arts curriculum with the hope that something will spark their curiosity and interest. A course catalog will come out in the next few weeks; please encourage your children to select something they are curious about, even if their friends aren’t taking it, or it is something they haven’t tried before. Our teachers have worked hard to present offerings that they think our students will enjoy; parents and other non-teaching staff members are providing classes as well. Please continue to pray for the students, faculty, staff, and families of SJCS, so that we stay committed and focused on our mission of forming hearts, minds, and souls in the likeness of Christ.
From the High School Director

It's about this time of year that I start getting more questions about the best study tips I know. So, here is a short list of some of the easiest things to implement that in my experience can make a positive difference almost as soon as you (thinking of students, here) start.

The single best tip I can give is to adopt a note taking strategy and use it in every class, every day. Too often, students think that unless they're specifically told to write something down they “don’t need it.” It’s a very mercenary approach to academic success, and more often than not it falls apart as you move into upper level classes. Class notes should NOT be thought of as a hopeful list of what might be on an assessment. Rather, they should be a summary of what went on in the class, preferably one that includes connections to other resources used in the class. There are several styles of notes, but really do what works for you. A couple of quick points on notes:

• Develop a short hand (I used to skip vowels) and make it work for you.
• Save room in the margins to make notes to yourself (something like “check the book” or “this could be an essay question”).
• Personally, I’m a fan of writing notes, not typing them. The motion of writing takes more concentration, which aids in memory.

The second best tip also deals with notes. **Every night, read the notes you took that day in class.** I know this sounds like a real time killer, but in the long-run it will save you study time. I find that it takes no more than a few minutes to read a class period worth of notes, but this does two things. First, it locks more of the information in your memory. Second, and this is key, it gives you the opportunity to make connections that the teacher may have mentioned but that you didn’t get written down. You’ll remember some example s/he used and you can make a quick addition to the notes. If you wait a few days, you’ll forget these little points and then they’re lost as you prepare for tests.

Find the study method that works for you, and stick to it. Personally, unless I’m learning something totally new and very complicated, I’m better off with some white noise around me. I used to study in library lounges, coffee shops, etc. The worst thing for me to do was to go to a silent room like a study caroll. It has to be something you don’t really want to pay attention to, so this does not include music or the phone. I needed something I could tune out, not something that actually interrupted me.

This one’s a little harder, but it helps. When you’re studying, do so as if you were already taking the test. Instead of just reading over various facts, try to construct them into an essay or short answer in your head. Ask yourself how you would put them together to build a case for or against a certain thesis. In science and math classes, make sure you know more than just how to use the formula. Make sure you know the conditions under which a given formula might be the best option. In these classes, it’s all about practice. Get with a friend and write a few questions for each other...then work them out and compare answers.

Finally, talk to your teachers. They’re your best source! Stop by during study help or after school, even if you’re just asking them to work out a quick problem with you, or to explain a historical connection you missed in class.
From the Athletic Department

Second Annual SJCS Athletic Department Golf Tournament, August 7
Save the date for the second annual SJCS Athletic Department Golf Tournament at The Preserve at Verdae golf course on August 7, 2020. The Athletic Department will be hosting this fundraiser for all sports teams. These funds will be used to support all 49 teams that make up St. Joseph's athletics. This has replaced many of the individual fundraisers that each team has done in the past. We strongly encourage the whole St. Joseph's Community to participate in the golf tournament. All alumni, families and friends are welcome! Let us know HERE if you are interested in the golf tournament or volunteering to help organize this event. Look for more details in March.

Knights Athletic Booster Club
The Knights Athletic Booster Club is the all-sport Booster Club for SJCS. Thank you for your generous support of all SJCS athletes. Remember to use your key tags at any home game, however, home playoff games for any sport are not included in this offer. Again this year, Knights Athletic Booster Club will cover the cost of admission for the first 20 SJCS students that arrive for all home playoff games.

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. 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.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Senior College Acceptances/Scholarships
Please continue to share your good news and advise the college counseling office of college acceptances and scholarship awards.

College Visits
• Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who would like to visit colleges should register for visits through the colleges' websites or with the admissions offices and then email frontoffice@sjcatholicschool.org to let us know what date(s) you will be attending the college visit. Please remember to bring back the proper documentation and turn it in at the front office (College Visit Record Form with required signatures and official documentation—see form for details).
• Juniors should also consider signing up for the college visit Minimester. This is a great opportunity to visit a few local colleges or one to two further away colleges without having to use your college visit days or personal days.

Course Scheduling
Course scheduling for 2020-2021 will begin in February, and specific scheduling information will be emailed to parents and students. High School students will review their graduation requirements in group meetings with the College Counseling staff. Students will receive scheduling information packets and transcripts at meetings during lunch or Study Help in late February or early March.
From the Parents Guild

After-Prom, April 25
After dancing the night away at Prom on April 25, students can head over to Spare Time on Congree Road for games, lanes, food, fun, and prizes. We are already accepting donations for the event, and they can be sent in with your student to the school. Some ideas: $10 gift cards, restaurant and gas cards, or larger prizes for our senior raffle: Keurig, Bluetooth speakers, ENO, etc. We can always use cash and the committee can fill in the prize bucket where needed. Thanks to some Black Friday shopping, we have two TV’s. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact Devon Pace (864-630-9196). Thank you in advance for the support!

Many Thanks!
The Parents Guild would like to thank Monica Dodge for organizing the Parent/Teacher Luncheon during Catholic Schools Week. And, thank you to those that supported the event with delicious soup, gift cards, and set-up help. Also, thank you to Liz Cotner for organizing the holiday baking for our faculty and staff. The bread and cookies were delicious!

Your Donations for Fall 2019!
Thank you to everyone who donated time, talent, and financial support to the Parents Guild so far this school year. Your generosity has provided funds for teacher luncheons, Grandparents Day, support for the Sunshine Committee, gifts of appreciation for the faculty and staff, Catholic Schools Week and much more. Additionally, so far this year, the Parents Guild was able to donate two Smartboards that were greatly needed in the middle school and we also contributed $450 toward three new iPad mini’s for the Development Office. Congratulations to the St. Joseph’s Family!

Keep the Donations Coming!
Did you know that SJCS receives a check every month from Amazon? Plus, we receive funds from Publix, Harris Teeter, Lowe’s Foods, and Box Tops. We need these funds to continue our efforts in improving the school. In just a few minutes, you can set up your account and help us start gaining rewards with:

- **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.

- **Publix Partners**: It’s easy to participate, and we’ll 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 programs runs from October to May. 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.

- **Box Tops for Education**: Keep collecting your box tops and turn them in to your household. What a super easy way to get funds to our school!

Looking Ahead to 2020-2021 School Year
Are you interested in getting involved? We are now making plans for next year and would love your input. We have many opportunities to serve including: the Parents Guild Board, committee chairs, and much more. Contact Aimee Lonergan for more information.
### From the Business Office

**Senior Tuition Accounts**
In order to participate in Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation, all senior tuition and fees must be paid in full (except for the June tuition) by May 20, 2020.

**Tuition Statements**
- Plan B tuition payments are due January 31, 2020. If you have not made your Plan B payment, please do so as soon as possible.
- Re-enrollment for 2020-2021 school year will be completed online through FACTS. In late January, when the next school year’s tuition rates are published, parents will receive instructions on how to complete the re-enrollment process.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your FACTS Family Portal.

**Tuition Assistance Deadline for 2020-2021 is February 17**
The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2020-2021 school year is February 17, 2020. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible. Please note that you must use your **2018 tax information** and your **2019 W-2s** to complete the tuition assistance forms. To get to the FACTS application website, click [HERE](#).

### From the Fine Arts Department

**Teachers Take the Stage! February Fundraiser**
Would you love to see your favorite teacher star in a cameo role in *High School Musical*? You can! The Jubilate Arts Guild is hosting a “Teacher Cameo” Fundraiser, February 5-21. Students and parents will have the opportunity to vote for a teacher to fill a cameo role in the spring musical, *High School Musical*. Votes will be $1.00 and can be made on-line and at various school events during the fundraising period. More details will be posted to the school website and in the announcements. The winning teacher will be announced in the March edition of *News and Notes*.

**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 with supervision during after-school and Saturday crew sessions

**Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2020-2021**
We are looking to fill several positions for the next school year. The Jubilate Arts Guild is our Fine Arts booster organization and provides support for all the Fine Arts programming. If your child is involved in chorus, dance, visual arts, theatre, band, or strings, then you already know how enriching these programs are. Help us support these programs, become more involved, and have a rewarding experience by becoming an officer. Questions/interested? Contact Kelly Donovan.

**Red Door Ornaments**
There are a limited number of Red Door ornaments left. Order yours [HERE](#) before they run out. What a great way to commemorate your student’s years at St. Joseph’s. Order forms are available in the lobby of the school. Questions? Contact Kelly Donovan.

**Jubilate Knight for the Arts 2020**
It’s a new year and that means that we are counting down to the annual St. Joseph’s talent show. Be sure that **Saturday, May 9** is on your calendar to walk the Hollywood red carpet for "*St. Joe’s Got Talent: A Knight of Talent*". This family-friendly talent competition highlights our artistically gifted St. Joseph’s community. Patrons will have a variety of opportunities to support the SJCS Fine Arts programs during this entertaining celebration of the arts. Make plans to join us and enjoy an evening of creative performances!

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

**Volunteers:** Planning has already begun, but it’s not too late to volunteer! We welcome you to join us for our next meeting and would “love” to see you on **Friday, February 14** at 7:30AM. Everyone is welcome to join our planning meetings. If you are interested in helping plan Jubilate Knight or would like to volunteer for just the day of the event, please contact Christine Balts or Ann Gushue.
From the Development Office

Annual Auction Gala Update: Serengeti Knights: One Village United in Christ
Mark your calendars for the 2020 Annual Auction Gala, Serengeti Knights: One Village United in Christ on Friday, April 24. Our Gala and Prom committee members, faculty/staff, students, and parents are working together to diligently prepare for our school's largest fundraiser. Join our community for this enjoyable evening as you mingle with friends, enjoy the tastes of Table 301’s delicious cuisine, bid on silent and live auction items, and dance the night away surrounded by our beloved community. If you are interested in volunteering or donating a silent or live auction item, contact Kiera Egan (Gala Chair), Megha Lal (Gala Co-Chair), or Rachel Neubauer in the Development Office.

The Gala Committee Needs Your Help
The Gala Committee is in need of:
• Bottles of wine for the wine pull
• Baskets that can be used for Silent Auction
• Vacation homes or time shares to be auctioned off
If you are able to help, contact Kiera Egan (Gala Chair), Megha Lal (Gala Co-Chair), or Rachel Neubauer in the Development Office.

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. As of January, an impressive 97% of faculty and staff and 38% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the 7th grade which is leading with a grade level participation of 46%! We will continue to track these participation numbers through the Gala in the Spring.

The Annual Fund provides approximately 6% of the school’s budget that is not covered by tuition. These dollars are raised every year through the generosity of our community, and provide tuition assistance, support for academic programs, athletics, fine arts, campus ministry, and enrich student life. Our Annual Fund goal for this year, which includes proceeds from the Gala, is $500,000. The Annual Fund total through December was $190,000! Please contact Kevin Meyer with any questions. Download your Annual Fund Donation Form or give online today!

2019 Tax Statements
Giving statements for 2019 will be distributed by January 31. These statements are meant to assist with tax preparation. For any questions regarding these statements, please contact Kevin Meyer.

Planned Giving Seminar, February 12
You are invited to attend a Planned Giving Seminar which will be held on Wednesday, February 12 from 5:30–7:00 PM at St. Joseph’s. Please RSVP HERE for this important informational session. Our speakers and topics for the session include: Mr. Don Reichert (President, The Reichert Company) who will speak about Basic Estate Planning Concepts, Tax Efficient Giving, “Must Have” Legal Documents, Property Ownership, Long Term Care and Mr. Dennis Gerber (President, Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund) who will speak on Creating a Family Fund.