



ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWS & NOTES

Striving to form the MINDS, HEARTS, and SOULS of its students in the likeness of Christ.

From the Desk of the Headmaster

Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

Thank you for all that you are doing to spread the good word about St. Joseph's to your friends, neighbors, and relatives. It's making a difference. The **Student Recruitment Tuition Credit Program** we initiated earlier this year has been very successful. 29 of the 67 eligible applicants thus far have stated that a current parent referred them to the school. That's an impressive 43%. In appreciation and as an incentive, we are awarding a \$500 tuition credit to each recruiting family. (Click [HERE](#) for details about the program.) As we come down the home stretch of the 2020-2021 admissions season, we hope you will keep it up. As a current parent, nobody knows better the value of a St. Joseph's education and who would benefit from going to school here. We are particularly still in need of 6th graders for next year, so please give some thought as to what families you know with current 5th graders and let them know about your experience at St. Joseph's.

Lent at St. Joseph's

As we enter the liturgical season of Lent, I thought it might be a good time for us to return to the theme for this school year, which I introduced to you back in September: "You are precious in my eyes." Lent is a privileged time to slow down to do some reflection and stock-taking of how things are going in life. I recently heard a talk by Dr. Paul Voss, president of Ethikos, an Atlanta based center dedicated to promoting Catholic business ethics. He talked about the fact that surveys repeatedly show that a disproportionate number of Americans report feeling stuck in life. I would imagine that most of us feel like that from time to time. Perhaps you might even feel your family is in a rut.

I want to suggest that Lent is an excellent time to ask God to help you or your family get unstuck. How so? By setting aside the time in Lent to remember that "you are precious in God's eyes." This truth is why the church proposes an increase in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent. All three of these spiritual disciplines help free us from our idols of self-sufficiency, pride, and disordered attachments so that we can experience God's mercy and love anew in our lives.

Carving out a few minutes each day for silence and prayer; taking time to have family dinner together on a more regular basis; listing prayer concerns on the refrigerator as a reminder to pray for loved ones in need; scheduling mother-daughter or father-son nights (or whatever parent-child combo works best for you); the whole family going to church on a Saturday afternoon for confession; setting aside more time to help out your favorite charitable organization; visiting or calling grandma and grandpa more often; fasting from phones and electronic devices in the home from 8:00 PM – 8:00 AM. These are just some of the things that I've seen families do over the years to reset priorities during Lent and make space for God to break into our lives.

Here at St. Joseph's, we're hosting our annual Lenten Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 27. Then on April 1, thanks to the generosity of the priests of the deanery, we'll hold our annual Lenten penance service with the opportunity for students to go to confessions. And finally, Campus Ministry is sponsoring a Way of the Cross through downtown Greenville beginning at 10:00 AM on Good Friday, April 10. Look for more information in next month's *News and Notes* and on social media in the coming weeks. It's a beautiful way for the whole family to enter into the experience of Good Friday together as a school community, not to mention the powerful witness it is to God's mercy for all who see us walking through the heart of our city carrying the cross.

SJCS Students in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

I wanted to mention that some of our Fine Arts students will participate in Greenville's St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Saturday, March 14. Our students will be on the float celebrating the Diocese of Charleston's 200th anniversary. One student will even have the honor of portraying Bishop John England, the founding bishop of the diocese. Please consider coming downtown to support them.

Congratulations to Our Winter Sports Teams

I also wanted to give a shout out to our winter athletic teams, especially the varsity girls basketball team, which had a breakout season. A couple of years ago, a few of the players led by now senior Brigid Stanton said they were going to change the culture of girls basketball into a winning program. They have certainly done that under the leadership of Coach Natalie Satterfield. They were a lot of fun to watch this year. From what I can see looking at the basketball program as a whole, we have a bright future ahead of us with all of the talented players and coaches. I also wanted to give a shout out to Coach Rick Morris for the excellent job he and his coaches have done revitalizing a wrestling program that looked like it might be down for the count.

Finally, thank you for the outpouring of support and prayers for 7th grader David Schofield. What we have witnessed so far with his recovery seems nothing short of miraculous to me. Please continue to pray for David's complete healing. Please join me in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for KD Boyd on the passing of his grandfather; for Grace Betit on the passing of her grandmother; for Lola and Tessa Kelly on the passing of their grandmother.

Thank you for your prayers. They truly make a difference. I could tell you story after story of how I see prayer changing things in big and little ways, but I digress. To me, the way we pray and care for one another is an unmissable sign of Christ's presence in our midst.

With love and prayers,
Keith Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know**MS Minimester, March 4 & 5**

On March 4-5, middle school students will be taking special Minimester courses here at school instead of their regular classes. We will follow the normal schedule for start and dismissal times. There will be no weekly all-school Mass on Wednesday and school uniforms are not required either day; however, free dress guidelines in the handbook apply. Household snacks will be served on Wednesday, and the lunchroom will operate as normal on Thursday. Your child should already have registered for their courses. Lists will be placed around the school a day or two before Minimester for students to check their course names and meeting locations. If you have specific course questions, please contact the teacher of the course. For other general questions, contact [Melissa Broering](#) or [Wanda Jaraczewski](#).

HS Minimester, March 4 & 5

High School Minimester information was emailed to parents and students in January. 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. The school and school office will be closed.

Third Quarter Ends, March 10

Grading for the third quarter ends on Tuesday, March 10.

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](#).

Last Scheduled Admissions Testing, March 14

The last scheduled admissions testing date for new students (all grades) for Fall 2020 admission is Saturday, March 14. Please refer to Headmaster Keith Kiser's column in the February *News and Notes* 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 help us spread the word if you know someone (family, friend, colleague) who has a rising sixth grader for next year. Applicants sign up for testing when they complete the online application. Contact [Admissions](#) for more information.

First Round Admissions Notifications, March 15

If you have a child who has applied for admission to SJCS for Fall 2020, and you completed the priority admissions process by the end of February, the first notifications will arrive in mailboxes on or before March 15.

Sophomore Course Selection Conferences, March 16-26

Course scheduling conferences with the College Counseling office are required for current sophomores. Conferences for sophomores will be held March 16-26. It is recommended that the student and at least one parent attend the meeting, but students can attend the meeting without a parent present. Please sign up for a 15-minute session [HERE](#). If your student has a study hall period, you can email Mrs. Butler or Ms. Najmabadi to set up a scheduling meeting that is not offered on the link above.

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.

Third Quarter Grades Emailed March 18

The link for third quarter report cards will be emailed on Wednesday, March 18, after 4:00 PM. Please remember to check your *junk mail*. If you **do not** receive the link or have problems viewing the report card, please email the Registrar, [Carol Curry](#). If you have any questions regarding your student's grade, please contact the teacher.

Schedule Change March 18 & 19

The daily bell schedules for March 18 and March 19 have been switched. This means that students are dismissed at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, March 18 (and will have a 'Thursday' schedule of classes) and at 1:15 PM on Thursday, March 19 (and will have a 'Wednesday' schedule of classes). This change is made to celebrate the feast day of our school's patron saint, St. Joseph, on Thursday, March 19, which will be a Mass day. Students may wear casual uniform on Wednesday, March 18, and should wear dress uniform on Thursday, March 19.

NO SCHOOL, March 23 & 24 (Originally Planned as Snow Day Make-ups)

As we have not cancelled school due to inclement weather, we will not need to use March 23 or 24 as make-up days. This means that the school and school offices will be closed on March 23 and 24.

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 from 5:00-8:00 PM. This wonderful event features Stations of the Cross, Live Music, Charlie's Famous Fried Fish, and an Oyster Roast. A delicious fried fish meal (prepared on site by Alumni Parent Charlie Sutter) and All-You-Can-Eat Oyster Roast will be served under the big white tent in the Middle School parking lot. We will have dine-in and carry-out available. Click [HERE](#) to place your order by Wednesday, March 18. Beer and wine (for those 21 and over) will be available for separate purchase. You will not want to miss this special night! We need many volunteers to make this event the huge success it has always been. Click [HERE](#) if you are able to help.

Lenten Penance Service & Adoration, April 1

On Wednesday, April 1, several priests from nearby Catholic churches will come to St. Joseph's for our annual Lenten Penance Service, where all SJCS students are offered the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Lenten Season. The high school service will begin at 9:12 AM and the middle school service will begin at 10:16 AM. Both services will take place in the gym, where there will also be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and time for personal prayer and reflection. There will not be Mass on this day as this Lenten Penance Service will be in its place. Questions? Contact [Gabe Lewis](#).

Class Rings & Graduation Supplies Delivery, April 2

Representatives from Herff Jones will be on campus during HS lunch on Thursday, April 2, to deliver class rings and graduation supplies (e.g. announcements). You will receive a mailing from Herff Jones letting you know how to pay if you have a balance due. Please note that graduation caps and gowns will be distributed at the Senior Graduation Meeting on April 8.

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 on the website in mid-March.

Mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting, April 8

There will be a mandatory Senior Graduation Meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 9:45 AM in the JP II Center. Every senior must attend this important meeting. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting. Dress code, arrival times, and graduation practice are just some of the topics covered. You will be given your cap and gown at this time.

Schedule Change April 8 & 9

The daily bell schedules for April 8 and April 9 have been switched. This means that students are dismissed at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, April 8 (and will have a 'Thursday' schedule of classes) and at 1:15 PM on Thursday, April 9 (and will have a 'Wednesday' schedule of classes). This change is made since Thursday, April 9 is Holy Thursday and the next day begins our Easter Break. There will NOT be Mass on Thursday, April 9; there will be a Lenten service in its place. Students may wear casual uniform on Wednesday, April 8, and should wear dress uniform on Thursday, April 9.

Easter Break, April 10-19

Easter Break will begin on Friday, April 10. The school and school office will be closed. Classes will resume on Monday, April 20.

Downtown Stations of the Cross, April 10

From Noon-1:30 PM on Good Friday, April 10, SJCS Campus Ministry will collaborate with the Catholic lay movement Communion and Liberation to lead Stations of the Cross through downtown Greenville. All high school and middle school students and their parents are invited to attend this moment of prayer and memory of Christ's passion. More information will be e-mailed to families as the event approaches. Questions? Contact [Gabe Lewis](#).

Lands' End on Campus, May 4

Lands' End will be on campus on Monday, May 4 from 10:30 AM-7:00 PM for a Fit Event. While uniforms will not be available for purchase at that time, they will have samples on hand to see and feel, as well as Lands' End employees present to do measuring and answer questions. More details about this event will be forthcoming as it gets closer.

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. This can be accessed through the SJCS website. 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.

Rising Ninth Grade Trip, July 27-29

Parents of current 8th graders, mark your calendars for the 9th Grade Trip to St. Augustine, Florida, which will take place from Monday, July 27 - Wednesday, July 29, 2020. These dates are chosen because it is a week when sports teams are not allowed to practice. All new or returning rising 9th grade students are invited to attend. This marks the first experience of the SJCS High School Community, and is always a very enjoyable experience for the students who participate. The trip is run by SJCS Campus Minister Gabe Lewis along with a team of rising senior leaders and a group of SJCS teacher chaperones. More details will be emailed in the spring. The cost of the trip depends on the amount of students who sign up, but is generally between \$350-\$450. Questions? Contact SJCS Campus Minister [Gabe Lewis](#).

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.

From the Middle School Director

“Find out how much God has given you, and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.” - St. Augustine

This can be a difficult time of year in school life. Predictable routines can seem plain and unremarkable, smoldering germs manifest as one illness after another, and not enough sunshine can leave even the most cheerful person feeling cheerless. That is why this is the most opportune time to talk about the importance of kindness.

We've been talking to the middle school students about this more specifically over the last few weeks ... not because there's been an uptick in unkind behavior, but simply because when those around us are feeling weak, vulnerable, and a bit disengaged from what's going on, kindness goes a long, long way. I hope we can all recall a time when we were the recipient of an unexpected gesture of thoughtfulness. The resulting boost of mood and surge in confidence was absolute, authentic, and immediate. Kindness is a game-changer. And we need more of it.

I recently read an article on Inc.com titled, “Want to Raise Successful Kids? Focus on Kindness Instead ...” Author Scott Mautz fuses his observations with those of famed Wharton psychologist Adam Grant, and Grant's wife Allison Sweet Grant. The main message of the article suggests that in our desire to see our children achieve success, we may actually be doing them a great disservice. In the quest for success, our children have become less compassionate, less empathetic, and less responsive to human need. With a pressing emphasis on achievement - whether academic, athletic, or otherwise - we have failed to support the social, emotional, and moral growth that is required for holistic success.

So what is a parent to do? While I have attached the link (found [HERE](#)) to this article for your reference, I can assure you that a primary goal here at SJCS is an emphasis on kindness. We may fail every day in small and big ways, but every day we try again ... remind again ... and model again. Not only is kindness required for holistic success, it also paves the path to holiness.

From the High School Director

We live in a remarkable age. The advent of the internet, and then just as importantly the development of the smartphone, have put, in a certain sense, the sum total of human knowledge at our fingertips. Every day I type something into a search engine and in a matter of milliseconds I have, if not answers, at least information that can inform my answer. The breadth of information is astonishing, and with some sifting and evaluation the depth of the information can be so as well.

That's the thing, though. It requires sifting through information and evaluating what you're looking at. Search engines *appear* to do that for you, but in reality the internet is giving you the information (webpages) in a certain order based on search algorithms, popular usage, and as I've recently learned, how much some people/firms are willing to pay.

Now, what does all this mean for a school, and one with about 500 Chromebooks in it at that? We have an opportunity (and really, the responsibility) to teach students about *information literacy*. That is, we have to help them develop the capacity to sift through what's available to find what they need. That's a tall order in its own right, but it's not even the most important part of what we do. St. Joseph's is committed to the proposition that asking the right questions is just as important as getting the right answers. That's part of the value proposition at St. Joseph's. We're teaching our students to ask the right questions by grounding them in the greatest works of literature ever produced, by exposing them to philosophy and history, by making sure that science and math are not treated as if they were separate from moral questions. **That kind of education is not only possible in today's world, it's essential.** Our sons and daughters are not just passive recipients of knowledge. Their brains are constantly sifting, comparing, synthesizing, and rejecting bits of information. All that activity isn't done in a vacuum. That's why the community in which you choose to educate your child matters.

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.

Re-enrollment for 2020-2021

Re-enrollment is open through March 5, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. To complete our online re-enrollment process, you will access our Family Portal through your existing login. If you do not have a login, please follow the instructions for creating a Family Portal Login listed below.

To access Family Portal Online:

- Please go to www.factsmgt.com
- Select **Parent Log In** from the menu bar and **FACTS Family Portal** from the drop-down menu.
- Type in your username and password. If you have forgotten your username or password, please click on the link provided.
- After logging in, click on **Apply/Enroll** in the left menu.
- Click on the **Enrollment/Re-enrollment** link.

Flexible Tuition

- Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, St. Joseph's Catholic School is moving to Flexible Tuition pricing for both the Middle and High School. Flexible Tuition, which has been in place in the high school for a few years now, offers individualized tuition rates for families based on a family's documented financial ability to pay.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, the Flexible Tuition rates for the Middle School will range from \$2,100 - \$13,950, and for the High School, the range will be from \$2,400 - \$15,655. Any family that believes it is unable to pay the full price (which is set based upon the real cost of St. Joseph's to educate its students) is invited to apply for an individual rate. That rate will be determined based upon a strictly confidential analysis of the family's financial position with the assistance of FACTS, an independent, third-party organization. To get to the FACTS application website, click [HERE](#).
- With the expansion of the Flexible Tuition program into the Middle School next year, the multi-child discounts will no longer be available to newly enrolled students. Any current student who receives the multi-child discount will continue to receive the discount under the former guidelines during their Middle School years. The school's Business Office and Financial Aid Counselor can help you with any questions you might have about this new policy and how it will work in practice for your family. The overarching goal in making the move to fully implement Flexible Tuition across all grade levels is to help ensure a way for families in all economic situations to have the opportunity for a St. Joseph's Catholic School education.

Tuition Insurance

- St. Joseph's has, for several years, maintained a no refund policy related to enrollment. After July 1 of each year, tuition is owed for the entire year whether or not the student completes the school year. St. Joseph's incurs expenses, such as faculty salaries, based on the expectation that our families will pay for the entire year and is, therefore, not in a position to cancel or reduce those financial obligations when a student withdraws.
- To help overcome some of the uncertainty for our families, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, St. Joseph's will offer an **optional** tuition insurance policy to our families. All families will have the option to accept or decline the policy during enrollment. If the family declines to purchase the insurance and their student withdraws, the family will be expected to pay tuition for the remainder of the school year. More details about the tuition insurance program are provided with your student's enrollment.

From the Parents Guild

Graduation Yard Signs- New this Year!

- Calling all senior parents! We have partnered with VIPdecals.com for you to purchase graduation signs customized to your son or daughter. These are white outdoor yard signs that are 24" wide x 18" tall and include a stand. The price for a single-side personalized sign is \$25, double sided is \$35. Get more details and check out the signs [HERE](#).
- There are three due dates and delivery is FREE to the school. You will be notified to pick up your sign via email. This is a great way to showcase your son/daughter! Plus, for every sign sold, the school will receive monies to support future initiatives sponsored by the Parents Guild, including promethan boards, iPads, water bottle fountains, etc. For questions or more information, contact [Anne Stein](#).

Many Thanks To...

Debbie Cruz for organizing another successful Used Uniform Sale.

After-Prom Donations Needed

After dancing the night away at Prom on April 25, students can head over to Spare Time (822 Congaree Rd) for games, lanes, food, fun, and prizes. We are already accepting donations. Some ideas are \$10 gifts cards (think food and gas cards) or larger prizes for our senior raffle (think college dorm gifts: Keurig, Bluetooth speakers, TV, ENO, etc.) If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact [Devon Pace](#) (864-630-9196).

Looking Ahead to the 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 on the Parents Guild Board, as committee chairs and much more. Contact [Aimee Lonergan](#) for more information.

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 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.

Sports Participation Requirements for 2020-2021

Any student participating in a sport at SJCS for the 2020-2021 school year must have a physical dated after April 1, 2020 and complete the required forms ONLINE prior to the first practice. NO PAPER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS! The required forms that must be filled out online prior to the first practice are: Pre-Participation History and Pre-Participation Sports Physical Exam, Parent Consent Form, Concussion Form, a copy of your athlete's birth certificate, and Steadman Hawkins form. All required athletic forms must be submitted through PlanetHS found [HERE](#). Information 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.

From the Fine Arts Department

Upstate High School Art Exhibit

Three pieces of student artwork will be part of the 29th High School Art Exhibit hosted by Greenville Technical College, Benson Campus in Greer. The exhibit runs from March 23-April 23 and is open to the public.

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

Fine Arts Summer Camps

Be on the lookout for more information regarding the Fine Arts summer camps in the April *News & Notes*.

Teachers Take the Stage! February Fundraiser

Thank you to all who supported the Jubilate Arts Guild "Teacher Cameo" Fundraiser. Students and parents had the opportunity to vote for a teacher to fill in the cameo role in the spring musical, High School Musical. And the winner is Karl Orbon! Congratulations - we can't wait to see you on stage. Be sure to make plans to purchase your tickets for the production.

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, May 9

No need to travel to Hollywood as the bright lights will be here when the Jubilate Arts Guild hosts "**St. Joe's Got Talent**" on Saturday, May 9 and it will be a Knight of Talent! Students, alumni, faculty, and families are all welcome to audition. Look for details about auditions to be held after Spring Break and start fine-tuning your best act. The Jubilate Knight planning committee is hard at work and welcomes anyone who would like to help with this family-fun and memorable knight. Please feel free to join them Friday, March 13 at 7:30 AM if you would like to share your talents and join in the fun. Contact [Christine Balts](#) or [Ann Gushue](#) with any questions.

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Eighth Grade & Freshman Course Selection Meetings

Mrs. Charlton met with all of the 8th and 9th grade students to review the course scheduling process and is also available to answer additional questions if needed. Any current 8th or 9th grade student who plans to submit a course appeal form is required to meet with the Dean of Student Support. Parent participation is mandatory for all course appeal conferences. Please contact [Mrs. Charlton](#) to schedule a meeting.

High School Course Scheduling

- Students in grades 8-11 met with College Counseling staff and received their course request packets for the selection of next year's courses. Students and parents may enter online course requests in FACTS Family Portal until February 27. After this date, changes in course requests will be reviewed and processed by the College Counseling Office as appropriate.
- Throughout the month of March, juniors and sophomores will meet with College Counselors to review course requests and any course appeal forms. Freshmen and 8th graders may opt to meet with the Dean of Student Support Services to review course requests and discuss any questions about the scheduling process. However, meetings are *mandatory* for any course appeals. All course appeal forms must be submitted during these counseling meetings. **March 27 is the final date to review and submit course appeal forms.**
- It is important to give your courses careful consideration at this time since the master schedule is dependent on all course requests. Once the master schedule is set, course changes will be limited.

SAT and ACT Testing

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

Juniors: Individual College Planning Meetings

Don't forget to schedule your individual family college planning meeting with your College Counselor. All juniors should meet with their College Counselor at least once before the end of April. Parents should complete the Parent Survey (link was sent to you a few weeks ago) as soon as possible.

College Match Program

In March, we will begin our College Match program with the junior students. It is important that the students know their Scoir login information.

NACAC National College Fair

- The Upstate will be hosting the NACAC National College Fair on Saturday, March 21 from 1:00-4:00 PM. The National College Fair will provide opportunities for high school students in Greenville County (and surrounding counties) to speak with admissions counselors from hundreds of colleges and universities.
- They are also looking for student (and parent) volunteers. This can be a great opportunity to interact with hundreds of college admission representatives from across the country as well as earn community service hours.
- If you are interested in volunteering, please register [HERE](#). It is recommended that students sign up for the 12:30-2:30 PM shift as that will allow them plenty of time to still attend the Fair.

College Visits

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

Senior College Acceptances/Scholarships

Please continue to share your good news and advise the College Counseling Office of college acceptances and scholarship awards. With 90% of the senior class reporting acceptances so far, they've been offered over \$5.5 million in scholarships to date.

Financial Aid Reminder for Seniors

Please make sure that you have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and (if applicable) the CSS Profile. Both of these forms were available beginning last October and many schools have February and March deadlines. The federal government, along with the colleges to which you applied, requires you to fill out the FAFSA form in order to receive federal aid and financial aid packages.

From the Development Office**2020 Gala Update: Serengeti Knights: One Village United in Christ!**

By now, you should have received your Save the Date for our 2020 SJCS Annual Auction Gala. It's hard to believe we are less than two months away! Our sincerest thanks to Sharman Armstrong, our Gala Committee Graphic Designer, who did a fabulous job creating our beautiful Save the Date card and forthcoming invitation. Our parents, students, faculty, and staff are diligently preparing for Friday, April 24 by assembling silent and live auction items and preparing to vibrantly transform our gym into the lively savanna of *Serengeti Knights: One Village United in Christ*. Come mingle with friends, enjoy the entertainment, dine on the delicacies of Table 301, and dance the night away. The evening will also include live and silent auctions. Tickets will be available for purchase the week of March 16. Be sure to get yours right away... there are only 500 available!

Where Does The Money Go? The Annual Auction Gala solely benefits tuition assistance at St. Joseph's. It is a core belief of our school, and our late founding Board Chair, Margaret Ann Moon, that no student should be turned away because of financial need. "If this is who God sends us," she said, "we have to provide." A student body comprised of varying backgrounds has created the rich educational and formative experience that has earned St. Joseph's Catholic School national recognition for excellence and established us as a pillar in the Greenville community.

Wondering how to get involved?

Silent Auction Donations: If you are interested in donating a basket or silent auction item, please contact [Donna Frank](#) to donate or simply drop your donation off to [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Live Auction Donations: Our HS classes will again be contributing towards a specific Class Experience. If you have an experience that would benefit one of our other grade levels, please email Live Auction Co-Chairs: [Tara Ann Garrett](#) or [Shannon Cole](#).

Wine Donations: If you have any bottles of wine you would like to donate to the Gala Wine Pull, please drop off in the Development Office.

Volunteer: Consider volunteering for fun and fellowship! This is a great way to meet new people and to support this wonderful event. To volunteer, please email [Michelle Dumit](#).

Sponsorship: Multiple levels of sponsorships are still available ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Contact [Kevin Meyer](#) in the Development Office for more information

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 February 1, an impressive 97% of faculty and staff and 40% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the **6th and 7th grades** which are 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. Please contact [Kevin Meyer](#) with any questions, download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) or give [online](#) today!