



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!

As we turn the calendar to October and the wonderful fall temperatures, I want to thank you for your vigilance with respect to keeping COVID-19 out of the school. I appreciate you taking the time each morning to complete the Magnus Health Screening App before your sons and daughters come to school. I'm also grateful for how forthcoming you have been in communicating with the school when you have had concerns about a potential exposure or symptoms your child may be experiencing.

The teachers and staff also have been doing an amazing job keeping students masked and physically distanced. It hasn't been easy. Most middle and high school students think they are invincible, and their need for social contact is real and essential for their mental health. As you've probably heard, we have had to resort to assigning students a physically distanced seat at lunch. Even then, when the moderator turns his or her head, the students inch closer and closer. It can be a little bit of a push and pull to keep them apart. I find myself saying "you're too close" a lot these days!

All of these efforts have been worth it, however. We are six weeks into the school year and five-day-a-week, in-person education is still intact with zero positive cases. Moreover, fall athletes are enjoying competing in Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Swimming, Volleyball, and Football.

All this is to say that now is not the time to drop our guard. I was struck by what WSJ columnist Peggy Noonan said over the summer about needing to figure out how to live fully human lives with COVID-19 because it's going to be with us for a while. Her words helped bolster my resolve to come back to school full-time in August. Masks, physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, good contact tracing, and quarantining infected and exposed individuals continue to be shown to be the most effective ways to keep COVID-19 from spreading in communities. So, as we move toward the end of the first quarter, I want to ask all of our school families to please keep up your vigilance when it comes to these precautionary practices.

Speaking of keeping vigilant, we have decided to give students and staff the day off on October 30 instead of having our annual Team Day Competition. This is disappointing because Team Day is a good opportunity for Household bonding and for simply having a good time together, but we couldn't figure out how to do that under COVID-19 restrictions. Taking October 30 off will give us a 5-day Fall Break because Monday and Tuesday, November 2 and 3 were already scheduled to be off for the election. Please do keep in mind when making family plans for that weekend that there is a home football game on the evening of October 30.

Before closing, I did want to mention some of the opportunities for spiritual growth that continue to be available for students. While we don't have a space large enough to hold weekly All School Masses, Father Duncan is offering an optional Mass in the St. John Paul II Center at 12:20 PM each Wednesday. We've been encouraged by how many students are coming to Mass. Almost every physically distanced seat in the center is full. High School Campus Ministry (aka GS) has moved outdoors to the tents each Wednesday evening to allow for social distancing for all the students who are attending. There were so many students a couple of weeks ago that they had to use two tents! While not exactly a tent revival, many students have come to rely on those Wednesday evening gatherings for a weekly reminder of God's loving presence in their lives. And then, every Friday afternoon, Father Duncan comes to campus to hear confessions after school in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Speaking of Masses, I did want to mention that we are planning to add House Masses on Thursdays at 1:50 PM during

Study Help on a rotating basis beginning in October (exact date TBD). The idea is that each of the four Houses (you'll recall that we subdivided all the Households into four Houses) will have Mass together once a month. Look for more information about how this will work from our Student Activities Director, Mrs. Keitt Brace.

Finally, I want to remind you that St. Joseph's now employs both a MS Counselor ([Mrs. Courtney Vaughn](#)) and a HS Counselor ([Mrs. Greshan Charlton](#)). Please don't hesitate to reach out to them if you have any concerns or questions about how your children are coping during these trying days. They and our entire SJCS team are here to help in any way that we can.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: for Cade Hagan on the passing of his great grandmother.

With love and prayers,
Keith Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

College Counseling Town Hall Meeting, September 30

On September 30 at 6:30 PM, Chris Gruber (Vice President/Dean of Admission & Financial Aid at Davidson College) will meet virtually with the College Counseling staff to discuss various topics regarding college admissions in today's COVID-19 world. We are going to try to record this session so that we can share it with all of our senior families. Although you will be able to ask questions during the live virtual meeting, we are encouraging parents and students to submit questions to us in advance so that we can try to address everyone's questions and concerns. To submit questions, complete the Google Form found [HERE](#).

Annual Christmas Wreath Sale, October 1-30

- It's time for the Annual JAG Christmas Wreath sale. Check out the beautiful offerings of wreaths, door sprays, centerpieces, and tabletop trees at Mickman Brother's [Gift It Forward](#). **Enter the Code: STJOSESC001** and our St. Joseph's Fine Arts Department will receive \$8.00 for each item ordered.
- Hailing from the Mickman Brothers Christmas Tree Farm in Minnesota, all items are crafted by hand and conveniently and carefully shipped to your doorstep or anywhere in the 48 contiguous states. *That's right, you order online, and it will arrive directly on your doorstep (or the doorstep of your loved one states away).* Each order will invite you to leave a personal note to the recipient by designating their respective name and address on the online order form.
- For bulk/company/client orders please contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office. *Please note: This sale will run October 1-30.* Shipping begins the week of Thanksgiving. Questions? Contact [Amanda Warlick](#). What a great way to spruce up your Christmas decorations or send a surprise to a loved one in another state - while supporting SJCS Fine Arts.
- The Jubilate Arts Guild will also be holding a wreath sale contest opportunity for our students. Encourage your friends and family to purchase a wreath and credit the sale to you. The more wreath sales credited to your name, the greater the chance of winning an Amazon gift card. Just remind them to include your name when they place their order.

Senior Graduation Supplies Info Meeting, Week of October 5

SJCS is again partnering with Herff Jones to provide our seniors with their cap and gown, graduation announcements, and other graduation supplies. Seniors will receive information packets during Theology class the week of October 5. Parents are asked to please take a few moments to look over the information your senior brings home. An email will be sent to all seniors and parents with more details about placing orders for graduation supplies. Orders may be placed online [HERE](#). Extra packets will be available in the College Counseling Office (Room B208).

Admissions Applications for 2021-2022 Open on October 5

If you have a child who is interested in applying for admission for fall 2021, or you know someone who may be interested in applying, our online applications will open up the week of October 5. Priority testing dates are Saturday, January 9, 2021 OR Saturday, February 6, 2021. You sign up for one date when you complete the application. There is no preference given to either of these dates. Applicants who test in January are not given priority over those who test in February. These are the best dates to test because these applicants will get the first look and be the first to receive their admissions

notifications (around March 15). In addition, rising ninth grade applicants who test on either of these two dates will be in the running for one of two academic merit scholarships (St. Joseph's Scholar). We do offer a third testing date each year, and that date is March 13, 2021. Some rising sixth grade applicants will be eligible to compete for our merit and need based [Margaret Ann Moon Middle School Scholarships](#) by testing in January, February, or March. All testing begins at 8:30 AM and a completed application must be on file prior to testing. Questions? Contact [Barbara McGrath](#).

Tuition Referral Plan for 2021-22 Begins October 5

Many thanks to all the SJCS parents who employed the new Student Recruitment Tuition Credit Program introduced this past school year. We greatly appreciate you referring families to the school. For the 2020-21 school year, over half of all new student applications were referred by current SJCS families. For those parents who referred students to us for this current school year, the \$500 tuition credit will be issued on your November statement after the student you referred has attended classes for one quarter. This program is ongoing and we hope that more SJCS parents will choose to take advantage of this for 2021-22 recruitment. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Financial Aid Night for Senior Families, October 8

On Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 PM, Melissa M. Barnette, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Furman University will be conducting a Q&A general Financial Aid meeting for our senior families. We will be sending out some information for families to review earlier that week. Melissa Barnette will then host a live meeting via Zoom to answer questions and provide clarification on topics such as 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 FAFSA for this year's graduating seniors.

MS ACT Aspire Testing, October 14

All MS students will participate in an ACT Aspire Periodic assessment on Wednesday, October 14. The ACT Aspire is a national, standardized test that is aligned to college readiness benchmarks and will help us to chart student growth toward these benchmarks in four specific content areas - English, Reading, Math and Science. This will be the first in a series of periodic assessments that will take place over the course of the year. Middle school students should prepare for this assessment by eating a good breakfast, getting a good night of sleep, bringing a fully-charged Chromebook and presenting a positive attitude to the morning. Dismissal will be at 12:05 PM.

PSAT Testing for Freshmen, October 14

The PSAT 8/9, the first in the College Board's SAT Suite of Assessments, will be administered to all **freshmen** at school on the morning of Wednesday, October 14. Students will not go to Household but should report directly to their testing room by 7:50 AM and will be dismissed at 12:05 PM. They should bring two #2 wooden pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. Testing room lists will be posted at school. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9 is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school.

PSAT Testing for Sophomores & Juniors, October 14

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to all **sophomores and juniors** here at school on Wednesday, October 14. Students will not go to Household but should report to their testing room by 7:50 AM and will be dismissed at 12:05 PM. Testing room lists will be posted at school. Students will need to bring two #2 wooden pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. Many of our AP courses require a minimum score on one of the PSAT sections as a prerequisite, which will affect both sophomores and juniors when they register for classes for next year. For juniors, this test is also called the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) and it is the only way to be considered for National Merit scholarships. Students can prepare by taking advantage of Kaplan's PSAT Prep Live program, which consists of FREE live online sessions [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

SAT Testing (for Seniors who registered), October 14

The SAT test will be administered on Wednesday, October 14 to seniors who registered ahead of time. These seniors should report to their testing room by 7:50 AM and will be dismissed at 12:05 PM. Testing room lists will be posted at school. Students will need to bring two #2 wooden pencils and their scientific or graphing calculator. **Seniors not taking the SAT will not have school that day.** Questions? Contact [Melissa Broering](#).

Schedule Change on October 15

Due to PSAT testing, Thursday, October 15 will be a Mon/Tue/Fri schedule with all seven classes and a 3:00 PM dismissal.

Junior Rings Info Meeting, October 20

SJCS is again partnering with Herff Jones to provide our students with their St. Joseph's class ring with the Custom Knight Mascot. Juniors will receive information packets during lunch on Tuesday, October 20. An email will be sent to all Juniors and parents with more details about placing ring orders. Orders may be placed online [HERE](#). Extra packets will be available in the College Counseling Office (Room B208).

Case Study Program for Junior & Senior Families, October 29

We are excited to inform you that Simone Stover from the University of Chicago will be conducting a live virtual Case Study Workshop with our junior and senior families on Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 PM. Case Study Programs are an engaging and effective way to discuss the college application process and are a great way for parents and students to understand how colleges conduct the "Holistic Review" of applicants. The evening should be a fun, experiential way for families to learn about the admissions process and appreciate the different ways in which applications can be evaluated. Please register for the event [HERE](#).

Thespians Society Annual Food Drive, Ends October 30

The International Thespians Society will host their annual food drive as a Household competition. All non-perishable food donations will go to benefit a local food pantry. More details will be announced to the student body in October.

First Quarter Grades Emailed, October 30

The first quarter (Q1) grading period ends on October 23. Parent and student access to **Gradebook** in **FACTS Family Portal** will close Friday morning, October 23, to allow faculty to enter and finalize grades for the quarter. Report cards will be emailed on Friday, October 30 after 4:00 PM.

NO SCHOOL/Extended Fall Break, October 30-November 3

Team Day was scheduled for Friday, October 30. However, due to the nature of Team Day, we have postponed this day of Household games and activities to another time in the future (TBD). Therefore, there will be no school on that day. This means that students will have an additional day added to the currently scheduled Fall Break of Monday, November 2 and Tuesday, November 3.

Household Dean & Parent/Teacher Conferences, November 4

First quarter report cards will be e-mailed on Friday, October 30. Wednesday, November 4 from 2:00-6:00 PM has been set aside for in-person Household Dean and Parent/Teacher Conferences. An email will be sent to parents around October 28 with instructions for signing up for conferences, as all conference appointments will be made online.

Prospective Parent Night, November 12

Do you know a prospective parent, possibly a relative, neighbor, or co-worker, who might like to know what sets St. Joseph's apart from the other schools? If so, please extend an invitation to our Prospective Parent Night on November 12 from 6:00-7:30 PM. This 90-minute session is a wonderful way for parents to gather more information about our programs, all in a small group setting. Several administrators will be on hand to present information/answer questions on a wide range of topics focusing on Curriculum, Student Life, Financial Aid, and more. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

HS Fall Play, November 19-22

A group of High School Theatre students are in the midst of their biggest artistic challenge of 2020 - devising an original theatrical production with masked, distanced staging! Using the current restrictions as a resource, the HS Fall Play will consist of an evening of original, student-written performances. Join the SJCS Theatre Department and this creative and innovative cast and crew for an entertaining, once-in-a-lifetime event. Online ticket reservation information will be available on the website in early November. Members of the Jubilate Arts Guild will be notified regarding early access to discounted online ticket purchasing opportunities before they go on sale to the public. Click [HERE](#) for the Jubilate Arts Guild membership form. You must join by October 30 in order for the membership benefits to apply to the fall production.

Grandparents Day is Going Virtual, November 23

With regards to COVID-19 restrictions, all Grandparents will be invited to participate in our virtual Grandparents Day on Monday, November 23. We will be sending an email with more details on how to participate and send a note to your Grandparent on our school-wide slideshow. Questions? Contact [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Semester Exams & Christmas Travel Reminder, December 14-December 18

As we near the Christmas holidays, please remember to book family travel plans for after your student's scheduled exams.

Eighth grade and high school exams are Monday, December 14 through Thursday, December 17. Make-up exams only will take place on Friday, December 18.

Attention Eighth Grade Parents

You will receive a letter from Headmaster Keith Kiser within the week about transitioning your child from eighth to ninth grade. This letter covers two important topics:

1) **“Lunch with the Leaders”** Eighth grade students are invited to sign up for lunch with Mr. Kiser and Middle School Director Wanda Jaraczewski sometime this fall. These group luncheons will serve as a halfway check point to see how your child’s St. Joseph’s career is going, as well as a great time for your eighth grader to come prepared with questions about high school next year. Questions? Email [Jennifer DeForest](mailto:Jennifer.DeForest@sjcs.edu).

2) **Eighth Grade Day:** It is not necessary that your eighth grade son or daughter “apply” for our 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, as it 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 rising ninth graders, and assists 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 Wednesday, January 13, 2021. If your eighth grader is absent on this day, he/she will need to take the high school admissions test on Saturday, February 6, 2021.

Trip to Japan 2021

Attention HS students: there is still time to sign up for the SJCS school trip to **Japan from June 21-30 2021**. A new **\$100 discount** has been added. Click [HERE](#) to see the itinerary, set up a payment plan, and sign up. Anyone who has traveled with Explorica previously also receives an additional \$100 discount. Click the “I have a voucher code>” link (located below the pricing), enter voucher code **Travel6J**. Explorica has recently expanded their generous refund and cancellation policies. Questions? Contact [Mrs. Carr](mailto:Mrs.Carr@sjcs.edu).

Spring Break Trip 2022 to The United Kingdom

Join us for a fun and engaging trip through the art, literature, and history of London, York, Edinburgh and the Highlands. See the treasures of the British Library, take a walking tour of London, and ride the Great Eye. Travel by train to York Minster, and visit Hadrian’s wall on your way to Edinburgh for High Tea at the castle and a tour of the city’s Harry Potter sites. Look for Nessie at Loch Ness in the Highlands after visiting Stirling Castle. For the complete itinerary, pricing, and payment options, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact [Mrs. Neighbors](mailto:Mrs.Neighbors@sjcs.edu).

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 7th 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 8th grade, but depending on the parish date for Confirmation, some preparation may begin in 7th grade.

NEW! Change Regarding Outerwear

We announced in June that with the change to using Lands’ End as a uniform provider, only Lands’ End outerwear would be permitted as part of the casual uniform. However, due to the many changes our students are experiencing this year, we have decided to still allow non-Lands’ End outerwear for **this year only** (it must still be school-approved outerwear, eg SJCS athletic sweatshirts). Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, **only** Lands’ End outerwear will be permitted to be worn as part of the casual uniform.

From the Middle School Director

I knew I was going to connect with the daily devotion from *Blessed Is She* after I read the first line from author Sarah Rose: "If worrying were a sport, I'd be in the Olympics. And I would take home the *gold*."

At one point or another, my family has been in training for the not-yet-acknowledged Olympic sport of worrying. At times, the training has been sporadic and uneven. Other times, I have felt like we were in the intense, final hours leading up to the big day. But there are two important lessons I have learned: 1) The things I most worried about usually didn't come to fruition, and 2) Growth comes when we face our failings.

One of the reasons I love being with middle school students is because they are truly a joy to be around. They are curious and fun. They like to learn new things, and they are trying really hard to grow up. They are really honest ... sometimes too honest ... and they just want to be accepted, loved, and feel like they belong. While this may seem simple, it isn't easy. And, for some, the level of anxiousness they feel has grown into a training ground for needless, endless worry. As parents, we can help them.

Sarah Rose finished her daily devotion post by saying, "I can root myself in good soil." Your children and your family are in good soil. You chose the St. Joseph's Catholic School community for any of a number of reasons, and the truth is that - whatever the reason - you are now in a place where your children can and will grow. Now that our routines are established and the newness of school is gone, you may start to see or hear about some very normal middle school things - forgotten ID's, a low test grade, Chromebook violations ... and the list goes on. I ask you to trust the process of accountability. If your child earns a lunch detention, they will survive. I promise. If they get a low grade on an assignment or test, stay calm and steady. Help them work through the process of self-reflection, which is an incredible predictor and motivator of future success. If they become frustrated with a situation at school, role play the potential conversation that could take place. All of these experiences serve to build adaptability, flexibility, and resilience. While it may sting in the moment, our children will discover they can weather adversity and not only survive, but thrive.

We are with you on this journey. Please continue your prayers for the St. Joseph's community.

"Search me God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." **Psalm 139:23-24**

From the High School Director

Leon Kass is one of the most influential public intellectuals of the last 50 years. Primarily known for his work in bioethics, he held an endowed chair at the University of Chicago. In the academic world, it doesn't get a whole lot better than that. He trained some of the best, most accomplished, scholars in the country and his influence continues to grow.

It was odd, then, that near the end of his official career he began writing about romantic relationships. Why would a man in his position suddenly start giving advice about dating and marriage? When asked, Kass said that as good as his students were (super high scores on the relevant tests, multiple languages, etc.), a surprisingly high number of them could not seem to manage their lives. He was a few years ahead of his time, but he was basically saying that his students had not learned "to adult." They were smart, but deficient in some pretty important ways.

At St. Joseph's, we want our students to score high on the relevant tests. We want them to excel in their coursework and to be prepared to shine at the next level of their education. I'd love to hear that some of them went on to do graduate work at the University of Chicago! We also want them to learn to act like adults, and in particular we want them to learn to advocate for themselves. Self-advocacy is one of the most important skills we can help our students develop. This includes elements of common courtesy such as greeting someone when they greet you, and looking them in the eye as you do so. It also means learning to approach a teacher when they need to ask for help. **One of the best things we can do is to expect our students to speak up for themselves in constructive ways.** Encourage your students to go to teachers directly when they're confused or frustrated about a classroom policy or outcome. This is one of those issues where we learn it best by actually doing it. Practice is the best way to overcome the intimidation factor many students feel about talking to an authority figure. It's perfectly fine for a parent to grease the wheels, so to speak, by sending the teacher an email letting them know that their daughter or son would like to speak to them. (I sent such an email just last night.) But then leave room for the student to present the issue face-to-face. Going to the Household Dean is another good step, especially if the question is on a more general level. The Dean may not know every point on a colleague's quiz, but she or he may still be able to promote self-confidence, another key part of advocating for self-advocacy. This is a life-skill that will serve them well for years into their future, and that's one of the best things about learning in this community.

From the Athletic Department

Home Football Parking & Guidelines

Please see weekly email from the Athletic Director for guidelines to ticketing and parking for home Varsity Football Games.

Winter Sports Try-Out Dates

Wrestling

November 2: Time TBD

Coach: [Rick Morris](#)

Boys JV & Varsity Basketball

November 2-4: 3:30-5:30 PM

Coach: [Paul Asinessi](#)

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball

November 2 & 3: 5:30-7:30 PM

November 4: 1:30-3:30 PM

Coach: [Natalie Satterfield](#)

Middle School Girls Basketball

November 7: 9:00-10:30 AM

November 9 & 10: 3:30-5:00 PM

November 11: 1:30-2:30 PM, Cuts made

Coach: [Meby Carr](#)

Middle School Boys Basketball

November 7: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

November 9 & 10: 3:30-5:00 PM

November 11: 1:30-2:30 PM, Cuts made

Coach: [Greg Simms](#)

Cheer (All Grades)

November 3: 3:30-5:00 PM

November 4: 1:30-3:30 PM

November 5: 3:30-5:00 PM

Coach: [Jessica Reynolds](#)

Sports Participation Requirements

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.

Knights Booster Club

Thank you to everyone who has already joined the Booster Club this year. We are well on our way to our goal of 100% participation! Our athletic program needs our Booster Members more than ever during this unprecedented time. Even if we cannot have full stands of cheering fans this year, our student athletes count on our Boosters to provide the financial support to help us continue our program of excellence. 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. Please support our Knights and join the Booster Club [HERE](#).

- Over the last several years the Booster Club helped purchase: new baseball and football scoreboards, storage system for athletic uniforms and equipment, new flooring and dumbbells for the weight room, new benches for the tennis courts, new chairs for our teams in the gym, repair work on gym bleachers, enhancements to the stadium concession stand, State Championship and senior banners, iPads for concessions, Pep Band t-shirts, and annual coach's appreciation dinner.

From the Fine Arts Department

Theatre Crew Opportunity

Students interested in getting involved with our after-school Crew, which helps to support the theatre productions, should contact [Ms. Teresa McGrath](#). The crew schedule varies, but is usually scheduled after school three days a week and on Saturdays. Also, a Shop Safety Certification class will be offered this fall for HS students. Contact [Ms. Teresa McGrath](#) if you're interested in this training session.

Volunteers Needed

Please contact [Ms. 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

Involvement Opportunities

- There is still time to join the Jubilate Arts Guild and Support the SJCS Arts. View all the membership levels and benefits [HERE](#). Your generous support and membership will help us fund another exciting year of productions, concerts, and exhibits. Questions? Contact [Christine Balts](#) or [Amanda Warlick](#).
- The Jubilate Arts Guild is still in need of some board members to support our Fine Arts Department and programming. The following roles are currently vacant: Secretary, Membership (VP Elect), Tech Week Meal Coordinator, Concession Coordinator, Concert and Art Show Coordinator, Ways and Means, Sponsorship/ Program Ads. If you are interested in any of these roles, or the opportunity to share your time and talents to support the SJCS Arts, contact Jubilate Arts Guild President [Amanda Warlick](#) for more information.
- If you have not purchased your Red Door Ornament, order forms can be found [HERE](#).

Jubilate Knight for the Arts, January 23, 2021

Have you started to think about what talent you will share at this year's Jubilate Knight for the Arts? Maybe it's something on stage, but perhaps your talents are best shared helping with creating this major fundraiser for the SJCS Fine Arts Department. Either way, be sure that you have **Saturday January 23, 2021** blocked on your calendar for this fabulous annual event showcasing the talented students, faculty, staff, and families here at St. Joseph's. Preparations for this family-friendly event are getting started. To join the planning committee, contact [Christine Balts](#) or [Amanda Warlick](#).

From the Parents Guild

With Sincere Thanks

The Parents Guild would like to thank the following volunteers for helping to get the school year off to a great start:

- **Eva Demas** and **Mug and Muffin Café** for generously feeding all our faculty and staff at the Welcome Back Luncheon
- **Jackie Zannino** for creating labels for the faculty/staff Welcome Back Kits
- **Liz Daly-Korybski** of Liz Daly Designs for providing mask minders at a significant discount in our faculty/staff Welcome Back Kits
- **Debbie Cruz** for organizing the Used Uniform Sales
- **Kristen Armaly** for designing and organizing our Fall Spirit Wear Sales

We appreciate the efforts and dedication from all of our volunteer coordinators and the many volunteers that give their time and talents to make our events at SJCS a success. There are many volunteer opportunities to become engaged in the SJCS Parent Community. To view or fill out the form, click [HERE](#).

From the Business Office

More Lunch Order Options

Flik Dining Services is excited to announce that starting on Monday, October 5 you will no longer need to pre-order lunches/Household snack. You can continue to pre-order or you can add funds on your students Flik account like you did in the past. You can may send in money (cash or check) to the school with your student OR add funds to your MySchoolBucks.com account. In order to help maintain social distancing between students, no cash or checks will be accepted during lunch service.

Any funds you previously had on your [MySchoolBucks](#) account can be used to pre-order or for tuition or incidental charges. All lunches are \$5.25

Pre-orders for each student can be placed through the FACTS Family Portal and charged to your school account. Previous balances from "My School Bucks" have been credited to your FACTS account.

To pre-order lunches:

- Go to your FACTS Family Portal (It must be the parent's account, not the student account)
- Select Student
- Select Lunch
- The weekly calendar will appear. Select the date at the top for the week you are ordering for and you will see your lunch choices
- Click on "+ Create Web Order" at the top in the blue box and,
- Fill in the quantity you want to order for each item/day and then click "Order Items" to place your order.
- Repeat this process for each student ordering lunch.

All orders must be in by 5:00 PM on Wednesday for the entire following week. For example, lunch for the week of October 5, 2020 must be in by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Tuition Credit Program

Thank you to many of our school families for employing our new Student Recruitment Tuition Credit Program this past school year. We greatly appreciate you referring families to SJCS! This program is ongoing and we hope that more SJCS parents will choose to take advantage of this for 2021-2022 recruitment. As a reminder, click [HERE](#) to read about the program, and note that the \$500 tuition credit will be issued on your November statement after the student you referred has attended classes for one quarter.

From the Development Office

Annual Fund

Our goal this fiscal year (July 2020–June 2021) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. We will track participation numbers by grade level throughout the year, starting in October. **Our faculty and staff are leading the way this year with over 90% participation and \$27,500!**

Helping families afford a St. Joseph's education is a foundational principle to our identity as a Catholic school. The Annual Fund fulfills this responsibility by providing approximately 6% of the school's overall budget. It accounts for 75% of the funding that is not covered by tuition. These dollars are raised every year through the generosity of our community. 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](#) today, or make an [online donation](#)!

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

SCOIR

Junior and senior students and their parents are encouraged to make use of our college counseling platform, SCOIR. You can access SCOIR [HERE](#) for personalized college search information, career planning help and other college related items. Contact [Heather Najmabadi](#) or [Emily Butler](#) in the College Counseling Office if you have lost your registration code.

Parents of Seniors

- It's that time of the year when deadlines are fast approaching for admissions and scholarship applications. Remember that the faculty members who write letters of recommendation need as much advance notice as possible to craft your students' recommendation, and for the College Counseling staff to compile secondary reports, transcript records, and send all related information, etc. We strongly encourage all students to meet with us to review their applications and essays as this will allow us to put together the best possible packet for them. It is incumbent upon the seniors to make sure they give us adequate notice (ideally, four weeks in advance of the deadline) on requests. Please follow-up with your son or daughter today to make sure they get on top of their deadlines and college admissions 'to do' lists, and have them get their requests in to us as soon as possible.
- Also, make sure your student is checking the Scholarship and Upcoming Events sections of the College Counseling page on the website as well as the new COVID-19 College Admissions tab. These pages are updated on an ongoing basis as we receive information.