

October 2, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Grandparents Day; MAP Scores; Spirit Night; Carpool signs; Playground Volunteers; Parish Basketball; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: "God gives the nuts, but He does not crack them." German Proverb

If only the right opportunity were to come along, we think to ourselves; we could make a real success of things. We look with envy at others we see as being more successful. They must have gotten a big break somewhere along the way. Chances are that we already have more opportunities than we realize. It's up to us to start recognizing these opportunities and taking advantage of them. This means working hard to turn opportunities into success. Ultimately, the responsibility for my success is on me, no matter what circumstances I face or difficulties I must overcome. The Daily Book of Positive Quotations by Linda Picone.

This week talk with your children about the power of making the most of the opportunities they are given.

Grandparents Day: We are excited to welcome our Grandparents to campus on Friday, October 7. The day will start with a light breakfast for Grandparents only. Breakfast will be hosted in the cafeteria beginning at 7:30 and concluding at 8:45. At 8:45, Grandparents will be asked to make their way to the classroom of their youngest grandchild. All grandchildren will meet the grandparents outside the youngest child's classroom. Between 8:50-9:00, all grandparents and students will make their way to the gym for the Prayer Service. There will be student performances after the Prayer Service. After the performances, all students and grandparents will be dismissed to the youngest child's classroom. There will be casual classroom visits. These visits can last as long as needed. For those grandparents with multiple children, we will announce when it is time to move on to the next classroom. When the grandparents transition to the next classroom, please leave the child whose room was just visited in the classroom. After visiting all the classrooms, there will be an opportunity to sign out all grandchildren for the day by revisiting the rooms. Our grandparents' day will end any time after 10:30. All students who have not already been checked out early will be dismissed at noon. There is no extended care.

Here are a few items to help the day flow smoothly.

First, please communicate with the grandparents about the grades of your children.

Secondly, please have grandparents park on the blacktop (playground); they can enter the gates off Blossom Street. There will be handicap parking along the curb of the blacktop and in front of the school.

Lastly, if grandparents are going to check out their grandchildren early, they will need to have a photo ID. Early dismissals and sign-outs will take place in the classrooms.

MAP Scores: Your child's MAP scores will be in a sealed envelope in tomorrow's Monday Folder. This assessment aims to help teachers know what each student is ready to learn. They can target their instruction and strategies to fill in gaps in learning and know when a student is prepared to move forward. We take MAP three times a year (fall, winter, and spring) to monitor academic growth. The report you received shows your child's score (blue bar) compared to those currently in the Diocese of Charleston schools (orange bar) and compared to a national normed grade level group (yellow bar). It also shows a breakdown of areas within math and language arts. Your teachers will review these scores during parent-teacher conferences, and if you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact Lisa Leonard at leonard@stjosdevine.com.

Spirit Night: Spirit Night at Boca Grande Burritos - October 12 from 4 to 8 pm. Want to skip a night of cooking and support our school? Boca Grande Burritos is a locally owned & operated fast-casual restaurant in the heart of Forest Acres. Stop by 4525 Forest Drive, 2A (across from Trader Joe's) on 10/12 between 4:00 and 8:00 pm, mention St. Joseph's, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the school. To order ahead, call 803-834-4076 or order online - <https://www.bocagrandesc.com/>. If you order online, be sure to mention St. Joseph's when you pick up! Thank you for your support!

Carpool signs: At the beginning of the year, each family was given signs to display their family name for carpool pick-up. Please be sure to place the carpool sign on the passenger side of your windshield. If possible, please attach it to the **passenger sun visor** for best visibility and *leave it displayed until your child is in your car*. Some families use rubber bands to attach to the visor or clip it to a skirt hanger to hang it. Thank you for your help with this.

Playground Volunteers: With the cooler temperatures coming, we are excited to bring back everyone's favorite volunteer opportunity... Playground duty!

Volunteers can be any mom, dad, or grandparent who would enjoy coming on campus to help keep an eye out and play with our student community during recess. There is no recurring commitment- you can sign up once or as often as your schedule permits!

All school volunteers must complete Safe Haven/Background check paperwork and a brief online class. Please contact Mrs. Reedy in the office for more information.

If you would like more information or be included in the signup, please email lkdowndy84@gmail.com

Parish Basketball: Please use the link <https://www.stjosephcolumbia.org/youth-athletics> to access the application for the parish youth basketball program for grades 2nd - 12th. The application must be completed by October 7.

Important Upcoming Dates: Below are some important events to be aware of in the coming days:

No School: The school will be closed on Monday, October 10. There will be Extended Care.

Student Pictures: All students will have individual pictures taken on Friday, October 14. This is a dress uniform day.

2:00 Dismissal: We will have a 2:00 dismissal on Monday, October 17. Extended Care will be open.

No School: The school will be closed for a teacher workday on Friday, October 21. Extended Care will be open.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us – *"Serve one another with the gifts you have received."*

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
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