

December 18, 2022

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Keyboards; Run With the Saints 5K; Divine Auction; Spirit Night; Used Uniform Program Updates; Donations and Event Sponsorship Opportunities; 2023-2024 Re-enrollment; 529 Plans; Spread the Word – Open House Events; Ecumenical Prayer Service; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: Be blessed by our most precious Christmas gift, and then pass on that blessing to those you encounter.

Keyboards: All students in grades 3-6 will need a Bluetooth keyboard by January 17, 2023. The keyboard should be compatible with iPad 8th generation devices. You can pick one up for under 15 dollars.

Run with the Saints 5K: Mark your calendars for the 8th annual Run with the Saints (RWTS) 5K and 1-mile Fun Run. The races will take place on Saturday, January 28th. This event is a Midlands favorite and one of SJCS's largest fundraisers. Please sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpsclgnReg-9f.asp> and remember to include your \$5 coupon code, SAINT5. All 5K runners will receive a race t-shirt if they register before Friday, January 6th. Runners who register after January 6th are not guaranteed a race t-shirt. These t-shirts are a favorite of all of our students and families! This year we are planning to offer a prize for the class with the highest student participation (more details to come)! Be on the lookout for a flyer that will be coming home in Monday folders on December 12th.

Divine Auction: Save the Date for the 2023 Divine Auction! Please mark your calendars to join us at our Annual Divine Auction Friday, February 3rd at Carolina Park (the same place as last year). We will have food, drinks, silent & live auction items and DJ VooDoo Child! We will also have Host Families again this year. Check out our website (<https://Divine23.givesmart.com>) or contact Auction Chair Margaret Asay for more information (margekd@aol.com).

Spirit Night: Spirit Night is planned for Tuesday, January 10th from 4:00 - 10:00 pm at Home Team BBQ. Stay tuned for more details!

Used Uniform Program changes: We are excited to announce the launch of our revamped Used Uniform Program in 2023! See the attached flyer for an introduction.

Donations and Event Sponsorship Opportunities: Please find in the attached document details on how to support Saint Joseph Catholic School through your donations and/or event sponsorship. There are many options and funding levels to consider. If you would like to contribute an amount or in a format not provided, please let us know. We welcome and are grateful for your contributions in any amount, and we will gladly work with you to ensure the best experience and outcome for you and your company.

If you have questions or need additional information, please reach out to Roxanne Ancheta, Sponsorships Chair, at (843) 687-4299 or uscrox@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of our school!

2023-2024 Re-enrollment: It is hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about re-enrollment for the next school year. The Advisory Council and Parish Finance Council have approved the school budget.

The school will open re-enrollment for current families on Wednesday, January 4th. **Returning families will have until January 27th, to reenroll current student(s) and/or submit an application for a sibling to be**

given priority. A \$160 re-enrollment fee (per family) is due upon re-enrollment. Upon submission of Online Enrollment, a family has until April 3, 2023, to withdraw their enrollment with no cancellation penalty. Any application or re-enrollment fees paid are non-refundable for any reason, regardless of the date of withdrawal. Between April 3, 2023, and May 1, 2023, any family wishing to void their tuition contract will owe a contract cancellation penalty of \$1,000 per student. After May 1, 2023, if a student is withdrawn for any reason, the remaining tuition and consumable fees through the end of the academic year must be paid in full.

If you have not completed the enrollment process by January 27th, your child will no longer be guaranteed a spot for the 2023-2024 school year. On January 28th, the school will begin accepting applications from new families for the 2023-2024 school year. There will be a \$100 late fee assessed for re-enrollment after January 27th.

529 Plans: A 529 plan is a savings plan that encourages education savings for qualified education expenses: college, vocational, or other post-secondary learning. South Carolina 529 plans can also be used to pay tuition at K-12 private schools - up to \$10,000 annually.

Funds can be deposited and then withdrawn for qualified school tuition after 60 days. Start planning now and you could pay March's tuition with your 529 accounts.

Unlike a traditional savings account or bank account, your money grows tax-deferred in a 529 account and qualified distributions are federal tax and state tax-free. **South Carolina has two state plans to choose from: the Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan and the Future Scholar 529 Advisor Plan.**

You can find more information about both college savings programs at www.futurescholar.com or by consulting a financial advisor. South Carolina taxpayers can claim a tax deduction on the full amount of their 529 plan contribution. And for many, a 529 plan can be used to transfer wealth. Contributing to a 529 plan lets grandparents or other contributors reduce the size of their taxable estate while helping them fund a grandchild's or family member's education. It's even possible to make five years' worth of contributions in a single year, up to \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for married couples) and still get the gift tax exclusion.

Spread the Word – Open House Events: We have several upcoming events that might be of interest to prospective Saint Joseph families. I ask that each of you think about someone you could invite to these events. We know that the best way to advertise our school is for our families to share their great experiences.

5th and 6th grade Open House

Wednesday, January 11th - 6:00pm

Future Saints Start Here

A special informational session for prospective 4K and 5K families.

Thursday, January 19th - 6:00pm

Group Tours and Meet the Principal

Come meet our principal, take a group tour of our campus, and get a taste of student life.

Tuesday, January 31st - 8:30 am - 10:30 pm

Thursday, February 2nd - 12:00 am - 2:00 pm

Individual Tours and Meet the Principal -- Any time by appointment

Please pass along these dates and information to any potential new saints you may know.

Ecumenical Prayer Service: Each year, we enjoy a celebration with ministers, pastors, and rabbis from the churches and synagogues that our students attend. We have not been able to meet in person for several years (we shared video messages with our students), but we are hoping to host an in-person prayer service in January once again. This is an excellent opportunity to bring together our school family and faith. If your family attends a place of worship other than St. Joseph Church, please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/sJT6QT9cqy> so that we can invite your minister, pastor, or rabbi to be part of our service.

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

January 4	Classes resume – 1 st day of 3 rd Quarter
January 9	2 nd Quarter Report Cards emailed home
January 9	MAP winter testing starts
January 10	PTO Spirit Night – Home Team BBQ – 4:00-10:00pm
January 11	5 th & 6 th grade Open House – 6:00 pm
January 16	No School – MLK Day

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
Principal
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