

January 1, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

**Items in this newsletter:** Thoughts for the week; Classes Resume; Extended Care; New Staff; Keyboards; PTO; Run With the Saints 5K; Divine Auction; Spirit Night; Used Uniform Program Updates; 2023-2024 Re-enrollment; 529 Plans; Spread the Word – Open House Events; Ecumenical Prayer Service; and Important Upcoming Dates.

**Thoughts for the week:** I hope that in the coming year, God Almighty will protect you and your family from evil and guide your hearts toward meaningful paths. Happy New Year!

**Classes Resume:** Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

**Extended Care:** The school will host extended care on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00a-6:00p.

**New Staff:** We are excited to announce that Mrs. Marguerite Pittman will be the interim teacher during Mrs. Temple's maternity leave. We are excited to have Mrs. Pittman join the Kindergarten team. Mrs. Pittman is a state-licensed teacher who was a long-time teacher at Saint Joseph who retired after the 2020 school year. During her time at SJCS, she taught Kindergarten and was the school's Technology teacher. She also has been an interventionist for reading and math in public schools. She has been a long-time member of the Saint Joseph parish. Her 1<sup>st</sup> day will be Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please help me welcome back Mrs. Pittman.

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

**PTO:** The PTO would like to remind everyone that our two biggest fundraisers for the school are quickly approaching in the new year. Our Run with the Saints 5K is Saturday, January 28, 2023 and our Divine Auction is Friday, February 3, 2023! We are beyond excited to see everyone at both of these amazing and fun events!

There have been a few school-wide correspondences in the past month regarding ways to support both of these events. Please see the attached document for details regarding the different levels of giving for our Run with the Saints 5K, the Divine Auction or both!

**The first giving deadline is January 6<sup>th</sup>** for the dual event sponsorship or 5K race **IF** your family name or business logo will be displayed on the official race T-shirts. Otherwise, sponsorships can be accepted up through the week prior to the race (**1/20**) for the Run with the Saints. And the Divine auction sponsorships can be accepted through the week of the auction (**1/30**).

**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/gpscrlgnReg-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 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto: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.

**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 4<sup>th</sup>. **Returning families will have until January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup>, your child will no longer be guaranteed a spot for the 2023-2024 school year. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](http://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.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Open House**

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm

**Future Saints Start Here**

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

Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - 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 31<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 am - 10:30 pm

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 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 <sup>st</sup> day of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
January 9	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> 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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