

January 15, 2023

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; No School; Keyboards; 4K -5K Open House; Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Masses; 2023-2024 Re-enrollment; Used Uniform Program; PTO Update; Run with the Saints 5K; Divine Auction; Host Families; Spread the Word – Open House Events; MAP Testing; Ecumenical Prayer Service; and Important Upcoming Dates.

Thoughts for the week: “We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

No School: All school facilities will be closed on Monday, January 16th, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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.

4K-5K Open House: Thursday, January 19th - 6:00pm

Future Saints Start Here — Meet and Greet for prospective 4K and 5K families

- Meet our fantastic early childhood faculty
- Visit our nurturing classrooms
- Learn how your student can become one of our tiny saints!
- No RSVP needed

Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Masses: National Catholic Schools Week is from January 28th to February 3rd. The school and Parish will kick off the week with Saint Joseph school students filling the liturgical roles at each weekend's Masses on January 28th and 29th. All students are asked to attend one of the four weekend Masses in their dress school uniforms. All students who attend one of the recognition Masses will get a coupon for a dress-down day on Monday, February 6th.

Please see the attached volunteer to sign up your student(s) to fill a liturgical role at one of the Masses. All volunteer forms must be submitted to the school office by Friday, January 23, 2023.

2023-2024 Re-enrollment: The Advisory Council and Parish Finance Council have approved the school budget.

The school opened 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. A \$100 late fee will be assessed for re-enrollment after January 27th.

Used Uniform Program: Get ready for St. Joe's Clothes to open this month with our first Buyback Day on **Tuesday, January 24th**! Click [HERE](#) for information on the buyback process, new program guidelines, pricing, and FAQs. Interested in helping out on Buyback Day or joining the Used Uniform Committee? Volunteers are needed on the day of the Buyback to help with buying back uniform items from parents. You don't need to commit to the entire day- we need morning, lunchtime, and afternoon helpers for shifts lasting about 2 hours. We also need volunteers to join the committee and help with getting the new program up to speed! Email stjoesclothes@gmail.com to volunteer!

PTO Update: 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 these fantastic and fun events!

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/gpscr1gnReg-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 plan to offer a prize for the class with the highest student participation!

The 1st 300 registrants will receive a Stanley mug!

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! Check out

our website (<https://Divine23.givesmart.com>) or contact Auction Chair Margaret Asay for more information (margekd@aol.com).

Host Families: We will have Host Families again this year. This is a great way to get involved and support the auction! Check out our website (<https://Divine23.givesmart.com>) or the flyer for more information. Contact Auction Chair Margaret Asay (margekd@aol.com) to donate an item to auction, host a Party with a Purpose or for more information.

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.

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 am

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

PowerPoint from the 5th and 6th Grade Open House on January 11th - [5th and 6th Grade Open House - Jan 11](#)

MAP Testing: 1st 3rd and 6th grades will be testing this week. Here are a few things students and parents can do to prepare for MAP testing:

Please refrain from scheduling any appointments for students during testing. Students who are late will not be able to take the test with their class and will need to make up the test on Friday.

Make sure your students ***get plenty of sleep.*** Going to bed a little earlier can help ensure a good night's sleep. Being well-rested will give your children an extra energy boost for test day.

Provide a nutritious breakfast. Eating protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.) rather than a sugary donut will help students perform better. (Too much food can make them feel sleepy, so do not overdo it!)

Be sure your child gets some *exercise after school* to keep their energy up.

Remind children to *double-check their work on the test*. They can catch mistakes if they take the time to proofread answers carefully.

Encourage your children to do their very best, but do not place too much emphasis on the test.

Please contact the school if you have questions about MAP testing.

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), we are excited to host an in-person prayer service on January 27th 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 16	No School – MLK Day
January 23 rd	Penny Wars starts 2 pm dismissal
January 25 th	Student Dress Down Day 4
January 27 th	Re-enrollment ends Ecumenical Prayer Service- 9a Penny Wars ends
January 28 th	Run with the Saints 7:30-10:30 CSW Mass 5:30
January 29 th	CSW Mass 8:00 CSW Mass 10:30 CSW Mass 12:15

CSW January 30th -February 3rd – More information coming soon.

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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