



Dear St. Joseph Catholic Academy families,

It has been another very strong year of learning and growth at SJCA, with many positive spiritual, academic, athletic and community accomplishments. I realize that this letter is long, but often times the impressive outcomes at SJCA go unheralded. As the 2018-2019 school year officially closes, please bear with me as I share just a sample of the many good things that have happened this year.

LEADERSHIP:

- New principal Matt Rizzo has done an incredible job leading the Middle School this year. His commitment to high quality instruction had a positive impact on our students and staff and will continue to do so for many years to come.
- In the Business Office, Deanna Foley is a valuable addition to our team, working diligently on insurance, compliance and other human resource issues to support our staff and school families.
- Four of the six original members of the SJCA leadership team are entering their tenth year of service at SJCA, with decades of professional experience both here and at other institutions. We are truly blessed to have such stability, dedication and continuity in leadership.
- Over 50% of our staff has been here for five years and 25% of our employees have been with us since the inception of SJCA, many of these staffers serving SJHS or St. Mark since well before the opening of the Academy.
- Lower Campus Principal Kerstin Santarelli is beginning her tenth year at SJCA and for the past four years she has also provided her expertise to the Archdiocese serving on the Superintendent's Advisory Board.
- This fall, I begin my 31st year of service to the St. Joseph community. While the years have gone by quickly, I am forever grateful to be a part of this innovative, faith-filled, outstanding school.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND SERVICE:

- Centered in Christ and the Eucharist, we were blessed to celebrate over 80 Masses across our two campuses this school year. Thank you to all the priests who made these Masses possible.
- Every SJCA student from kindergarten through high school had a faith-filled retreat experience, learning to more fully know, love and serve God.
- Inspired by the Catholic example of their peers and teachers, several members of the SJCA community professed their faith this school year, coming into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Exemplifying our mission to transform the world, all SJCA students engaged in well over 10,000 hours of meaningful service this year to help others in our community and beyond.
- Similarly, our staff celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee with a day of service at *Feed My Starving Children*.
- Several SJCA seniors traveled to the Dominican Republic for the Senior Mission Trip while the rest of the class worked locally at Habitat for Humanity, the Shalom Center and other impactful local causes.
- Our students across all levels have raised both funds and awareness for countless worthy causes including the Assisi Special School in India, sarcoma research, and leukemia research.

ACADEMICS:

- SJCA high school students continue to outpace their peers locally, regionally and nationally with some of the highest average ACT scores and AP pass rates in the area. The Class of 2019 is no exception:

Class of 2019 ACT results	SJCA Top 10%	SJCA Top 30%	SJCA Top 50%	SJCA Average	National Average	State Average	KUSD Average
Average ACT Score	32.2	29.9	27.6	23.5	20.8	20.5	18.7*
National Percentile Rank	98%	93%	86%	71%	50%	50%	38%

*KUSD Average ACT Score from 2018, which is the most recent average published.

- The 70 members of the class of 2019 earned over \$7.2 million in college scholarships, far surpassing the per student average award for any other school in the city of Kenosha.
- In addition, our graduating seniors were admitted to many other selective and notable colleges and universities across the United States and even overseas, including the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of Notre Dame, Xavier University, Pepperdine University, Oberlin University, University of Illinois, Marquette University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Indiana University, Penn State University, the University of Minnesota, Carthage College and the Paris School of Art.
- These outstanding outcomes are not happenstance, but the result of our comprehensive, sequential curriculum, our collaborative faculty and our preschool through high school model of education.
- All SJCA students from kindergarten through 8th grade benefit from the acclaimed Lucy Calkins reading and writing curricula, supplemented by classroom libraries purchased through generous Annual Fund and auction donors.
- SJCA continues to increase our STEM offerings:
 - AP Physics was successfully added to the high school curriculum this year.
 - Middle school students have the opportunity for extensive hands-on learning, building wind turbines, dissecting frogs, and engineering artificial hands.
 - Our 8th graders participated in the Hydraulic Fluid Power Challenge competition at the Milwaukee School of Engineering this fall, with one of our teams taking first place overall.
 - Partnering with students from Carthage College, SJCA fourth graders explored nature this spring, studying the macroinvertebrates found in local water samples and identifying common plants.

FINANCES, DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES

- Through prudent budgeting, strong fiscal management, and diligent financial oversight, SJCA once again had positive cash flow and met our budgetary goals for the eighth year in a row.
- SJCA gratefully received \$481,105 from our local parishes this year, and returned over \$200,000 of this amount back to our families in the form of parish tuition discounts.
- A very generous donor continues to improve our Lower Campus facility, upgrading classrooms, infrastructure and the exterior of the building. We cannot adequately convey our gratitude for this kindness.
- In our ongoing efforts to ensure the highest levels of security, SJCA applied for and received two Wisconsin Dept. of Justice School Safety Grants this year totaling over \$60,000. In addition to other things, this grant money will be used to secure all entry points as well as the perimeter of both campuses.
- The SJCA community donated over \$440,000 to this year's Annual Fund campaign and our annual auction netted over \$190,000. These funds impact every SJCA student by keeping tuition affordable, enhancing programming and adding to the

general operating budget. Thanks for your ongoing generosity and support.

ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- High school athletes had another fine year, with many teams earning conference, sectional and regional recognition.
- Once again, the SJCA Girls' tennis players excelled in the state tournament, bringing home the Division Two Doubles title and the Singles state runner up honors.
- This year, our Middle School fielded 19 teams in 9 different sports, offering students the opportunity to increase their skills or to learn a new sport.
- Over 250 SJCA elementary students participate on a multitude of school teams in a variety of sports.
- The Lower Campus provides a wide array of student clubs and activities, including Coding Club, STEAM Club, Chess Club, Homework Club, Bowling Club and Intramural Club.
- Similarly, every Upper Campus student is involved in clubs, which are imbedded in the school day. Students can participate in everything from badminton club to digital art club, from running club to astronomy club, from crocheting club to engineering club and a myriad of other options.

Again, thank you for your commitment to St. Joseph Catholic Academy and for entrusting us with your students. We take this responsibility very seriously, always striving to meet the needs of every student and family. Enjoy the summer and we will see you on August 26th for the start of the new school year.

Best regards,

Robert Freund

St. Joseph Catholic Academy
President/Principal