



Leadership Structure Update

Dear SJCA Community Members,

Since inception, the St. Joseph Catholic Academy mission has been *"Centered in Christ, St. Joseph Catholic Academy builds scholars, leaders, and stewards who will transform the world!"* In support of that mission, the Board of Directors has completed a comprehensive review of the Academy's leadership structure.

Following extensive discussion, leadership assessment, stakeholder input, and consultation with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office for Schools, the Board of Directors has approved a new leadership model designed to strengthen academic excellence, student formation, Catholic identity, organizational effectiveness, and long-term sustainability.

This approach creates greater accountability, strengthens leadership depth, and allows each leader to focus on the areas where they can have the greatest impact on students and families.

The Academy's leadership structure is organized around four key areas of focus:

- Mission & Institutional Stewardship
- Academic Excellence & Strategic Growth
- Student Formation & Campus Life
- Financial Stewardship & Operational Excellence

Matt Rizzo

Head of Student Formation & Campus Life

This appointment reflects the Board's deep appreciation for Matt's years of dedicated service and leadership. During his tenure, SJCA experienced meaningful growth in its Catholic identity, community engagement, strategic direction, and institutional strength -- including becoming the first PreK-12 school in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to earn Exemplary Recognition for Mission and Catholic Identity. More importantly, his leadership has had a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the future of the Academy.

In his role, Matt will provide leadership at the Upper Campus in the following disciplines:

- Student culture and formation
- Discipline and restorative practices
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Student leadership development
- Campus life and student engagement
- Faith-based service and stewardship initiatives

Heather (Whyte) Connolly '88

Head of Academy & Strategic Growth

Heather brings more than thirty years of educational leadership as a teacher, principal, and district administrator. Most recently, she has served as Regional Coordinator of Elementary Leadership and Learning for Kenosha Unified School District, where she supervises school leaders, mentors administrators, leads school improvement initiatives, and supports strategic planning across the district. As both an accomplished educational leader and a lifelong member of the SJCA community, Heather brings a unique combination of professional expertise and personal commitment to the Academy's future.

Heather's combination of educational leadership, strategic planning expertise, and lifelong commitment to SJCA uniquely qualifies her to help lead the Academy through this next chapter of growth while preserving the mission and traditions that define our community.

In this role, Heather will provide Academy leadership for:

- Academic excellence and instructional leadership
- Strategic planning and organizational development

- Enrollment growth and retention
- Admissions and marketing
- Community engagement and alumni relations
- Accreditation and continuous improvement
- Leadership development and accountability

Working in partnership with campus principals and the Head of Student Formation & Campus Life, Heather will help ensure that academic excellence, Catholic identity, and organizational effectiveness remain closely aligned throughout the Academy.

President Search

This organizational shift places SJCA in a position of stability as we begin a thoughtful and deliberate search for our next Academy President.

Under this new leadership model, the President will serve as the Academy's chief ambassador and mission-centered leader, focusing on Catholic identity, advancement, fundraising, donor development, community partnerships, and long-term strategic vision.

In Christ,
SJCA Board of Directors

WE ARE ONE.

"Centered in Christ, St. Joseph Catholic Academy builds scholars, leaders, and stewards who will transform the world."

Upper Campus

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