



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Building Wisdom and Faith Through Service to God

August 2022

Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Families-

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I am excited to welcome all our SJS families as we prepare our students to grow in wisdom and faith through service to God.

We open the school year *Refreshed, revived and renewed by "faith, love and hope."* (1Thess. 1:2-3). With this as our theme for the year, we eagerly look forward to the first day of school, and are excited to welcome back our parent volunteers! Furthermore, our energized PTO Board is hard at work planning many events to help refresh, revive and renew our amazing community.

In addition to resuming our normal school operations, the following initiatives have been identified to foster spiritual, academic and social-emotional growth for all our students, reflecting the SJS tradition of meeting the individual faith formation and academic needs of our students.

- Continue strengthening our Catholic identity by exposing our students to the rich traditions of the Catholic Church, encourage participation by all students in school Mass, Adoration, Stations of the Cross and service projects, particularly through our partnership with Catholic Charities.
- Continue to broaden the opportunities for student growth in STEM and STEM-related experiences, incorporating new STEM materials during instruction. Specifically, this year we look to integrate an "outdoor classroom" focusing on gardening and environmental sciences.
- Continue to develop on-going differentiated instruction initiative to meet the diverse learning needs of our students, specifically this year adding a Certified Academic Language Therapist to support students with dyslexia.

Furthermore, as is the case in all Diocesan schools, SJS will introduce MAP Growth testing as our standardized measure of student growth. The decision to move away from SCANTRON was made at the Diocesan level and reflects the belief that MAP has greater validity and reliability. Additionally, MAP supports our on-going initiative to improve differentiated instruction, providing teachers with clear roadmaps for individual student growth.

We have many reasons to be grateful, and I know we all join together in a chorus of thanks be to God that we are no longer dealing with the heavy burden of the COVID pandemic. Recognizing that COVID is still with us, please use [this link](#) to read our updated COVID plan. In the event of a change in health emergency status, St. Joseph Catholic School will comply with recommendations from our governing bodies.

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It remains for me an honor and a privilege to serve the SJS community. I am humbled by the hard work of our outstanding teachers and staff. I am forever thankful for the partnership with parents and the unwavering commitment of our friars to provide the best environment for our students.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any service, please let me know.

Denise Rutledge
Principal