

SPRING 2024

ACADEMY CONNECTION

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY
DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH



Welcome



A message from our President, Mrs. Natalie Newville:

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over, but here we are! It has been a transformational year for SJCA, and the progress that has been made is outstanding. As we close out the year, it's exciting to see what we've accomplished together. Even in my short time at SJCA, it is wonderful to see the community coming together to strengthen Catholic education locally.

We have had a full calendar this semester, and I am thrilled that we are able to share all of the events, programs, and successes that we have had. While all of this has been going on, we've also been planning for next year. Enrollment is open, and the growth we are seeing within our campuses is exciting! I am especially looking forward to the Consecration of our Campuses on May 13th. We are asking for the intercession of our Blessed Mother on behalf of SJCA. We hope that parents and parishioners will be able to join in this special event.

The success of the MO Scholars program through the Bright Futures Fund has also made a huge impact on SJCA, but that program is only successful thanks to the contributors to the program. Participants can reserve tax credits, equal to 100% of an eligible contribution (not to exceed 50% of the donor's state tax liability for the tax year the credit is claimed). What does that mean? You can designate a portion of your Missouri taxes to go to Catholic education! Follow the QR code for more information, to reserve your tax credits for 2024, or to see if your family is eligible!



It's been a whirlwind of a semester, but my family and I are grateful for the chance to be back in St. Joseph and advocating for Catholic education in our community. We look forward to continuing to partner with all of you to see great successes for our scholars!

Natalie Newville



St. Joseph Catholic Academy
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St. Joseph, MO 64506

President:
Natalie Newville
Controller:
John Hapak
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Amy Robertson

Academy Updates



Starting next year, each K-8 campus will be using the same math textbooks and program, contributing to a comparable education at each location and an easier transition to LeBlond for high school! The elementary teams collaborated to choose the new program, and the processes that have been created will ensure a smooth experience in the future as more subjects are streamlined. Religion/Theology textbooks will also be the same.



Thanks to a generous grant from the FIRE Foundation, the St. Joseph Catholic Academy will have a Special Education Coordinator during the 2024-2025 school year! The Special Education Coordinator will manage special education at each of the SJCA campuses. The Special Education Coordinator will be responsible for writing SEPs, meeting with parents, and working with the St. Joseph public school district. Additionally, they will consult teachers and guide them on best practices for supporting students, providing accommodations, and will assist them with creating inclusive lesson plans. We are thrilled to have this new resource available within our Academy!



SJCA is hiring elementary, middle, and high school teachers! Our campuses enjoy a faith-filled environment with small class sizes, administrative support, and strong relationships. Our Academy had a 97% teacher retention rate last year, and as an additional benefit, beginning next year, all full-time certified teachers will receive a full tuition scholarship for their children who attend school at any SJCA K-12 campus.



For more information and to apply, follow the QR code!



All-Academy Mass

The All-Academy Mass with his Eminence, Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. was held on January 31st as part of the SJCA celebration of Catholic Schools Week! Gathering together as an Academy for this special Mass was a joy, and something we look forward to every year. At SJCA, we are cultivating exceptional scholars to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. Our scholars grow in their faith in a variety of ways, from attending weekly Mass, daily theology classes, and regular reconciliation. We are blessed to have priests and sisters who are active in our schools and build relationships with our students, as well as provide opportunities like Stations of the Cross and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



Festival of Arts



Our scholars did an amazing job at the 2nd Annual Festival of Arts! Having the entire Academy together for one event was so special, and it was obvious how hard each scholar worked. With recitations from every grade, plus music, art, and science fair projects, the entire Academy was able to celebrate the arts together. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped plan the event! Save the date for next year's event on March 11, 2025.

Middle School Geography Bee



The SJCA Middle School Geography Bee was held on March 6th at Bishop LeBlond High School! Each K-8 campus had a participating team, and the LeBlond Academic Team helped keep score, while Mr. Holtz, LeBlond social studies teacher, hosted the event.

Congratulations to all of our scholars!

Team Results:

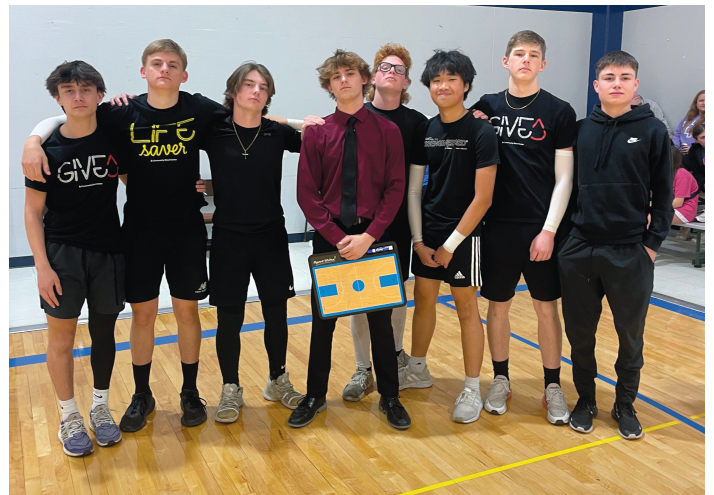
- 1st: St. Francis Xavier School
- 2nd: Saint James Catholic Parish & School
- 3rd: Cathedral of St. Joseph School

Individual Results:

- 1st: Patrick, St. Francis
- 2nd: Emery, Cathedral
- 3rd: Genevieve, Cathedral

Dodgeball Tournament

It was another successful Dodgeball Tournament, raising funds for the SJCA Middle School Athletics program! Scholars at all grade levels formed teams and battled it out to see who would be victorious. Special thanks to the Student Experience committee, who planned the event. It was a lot of fun having so many SJCA families together for this long standing tradition!



Alumni Updates

Are you a graduate of one of our Catholic Schools? The Alumni Association has expanded to include graduates of Christian Brothers, Sacred Heart, and Bishop LeBlond!

As a kick off to this exciting change, the Alumni Board had their first meeting with members of the Christian Brothers in April. It was a beneficial brainstorming session to talk about how to reach our alumni, and fun events to host in the future. Alumni from 1949 to 2005 were able to network and socialize after the meeting, and they are all looking forward to the future!



The Bishop LeBlond Volleyball program had an alumni tournament on April 6th. 16 alumni came back to LB to play, with 40 spectators. Afterwards, they had a social at Hi-HO, where they were also able to chat with the Alumni Board. This fun tradition is one that past players look forward to each year!



The Gene Clark Memorial Alumni Golf Tournament will be held on May 24th. Follow the QR code to register today!

The Alumni Basketball Tournament will be held on May 24th and 25th. Follow the QR code to register today!



***Graduate? Get a promotion? Get married or have a baby?
Follow the QR code and send us your life updates for the next issue of
the Academy Connection!***

Prayer Breakfast



The 2nd Annual Prayer Breakfast was held on January 31st at Our Lady of Guadalupe. As the signature fundraising event for the Academy, the Prayer Breakfast is an opportunity for the community to learn about SJCA's impact on Catholic schools in our community, and be part of this important initiative!

At this year's event his Eminence Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. opened the event with a prayer, and shared about the strides SJCA has made in the St. Joseph community. Board Chair Pat Modlin and SJCA President Natalie Newville gave updates on the Academy, and talked about the future plans for Catholic education.

The keynote speaker, President Minnis from Benedictine College, shared an inspiring message about the transformation Benedictine experienced after consecrating the campus to Mary 15 years ago. The Bishop LeBlond Choir performed and SJCA campus volunteers helped out at the event!

The Academy is so grateful to the community for supporting Catholic education! Save the date for next year's Prayer Breakfast on January 29, 2025!

2024 Sponsors:

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of St. Joseph
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Special Thanks To:

Blessings
St. James Cafeteria
SJCA Campus Volunteers



Save These Dates

SJCA Graduations

St. Francis Kindergarten Signing: May 9, 3:30-5:30 PM

St. James Kindergarten Signing: May 9, 7:00 PM

Bishop LeBlond Senior Graduation: May 10, 6:00 PM

St. Francis 8th Grade Graduation: May 14, 7:00 PM

St. James 8th Grade Graduation: May 15, 5:00 PM

Cathedral 8th Grade Graduation: May 15, 7:00 PM

St. Giana Pre-K Graduation: May 17, 2:00 PM

Bishop LeBlond Alumni Week

Alumni Golf Tournament: May 24

Alumni Basketball Tournament: May 24-25

2024-2025 LeBlond Alumni Events

Hall of Fame: August 17

Homecoming: September 27

Holiday Basketball Tournament: December 27, 28, 30

Alumni Golf Tournament: May 23, 2025

Alumni Basketball Tournament: May 23-24, 2025



The materials, printing, and binding of Academy Connection is done by the gracious donation of ProServ of St. Joseph.

**SJCA Night at
the Mustangs is
June 6th!**

