



St. Gianna Early Childhood Center
Cathedral of St. Joseph Grade School
St. James Grade School
St. Francis Xavier Grade School
Bishop LeBlond High School



Formed on a Foundation of

FAITH & LEARNING

For more than 165 years, the people of St. Joseph have supported and benefitted from Catholic education. Today, Catholic schools in St. Joseph provide excellent Christian moral and academic instruction, along with vibrant student activities, at **St. Gianna Early Childhood Center**, the **Cathedral of St. Joseph Grade School**, **St. James Grade School**, **St. Francis Xavier Grade School** and **Bishop LeBlond High School**.

This high-quality education has built a legacy of young people prepared to live lives worthy of their Christian callings and contribute to the vitality of St. Joseph. The scholars of **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** come from many different backgrounds. Across generations, scholars' entire families have built legacies of faith, learning, love and service through their participation in Catholic parishes and schools.



Enhancing Catholic Education in St. Joseph

In 2021, the Catholic schools of St. Joseph began operating as **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** with the mission of cultivating exceptional scholars to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. From its beginning, SJCA took action to:

- **CONTINUE HIRING**, retaining, and developing the best teachers available
- **INCREASE EFFORTS** to showcase our Catholic identity and ensure our scholars are equipped with the highest moral values for lifelong success
- **ENABLE SCHOLARS** to reach high levels of academic performance
- **EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES** for extracurricular programs and service activities

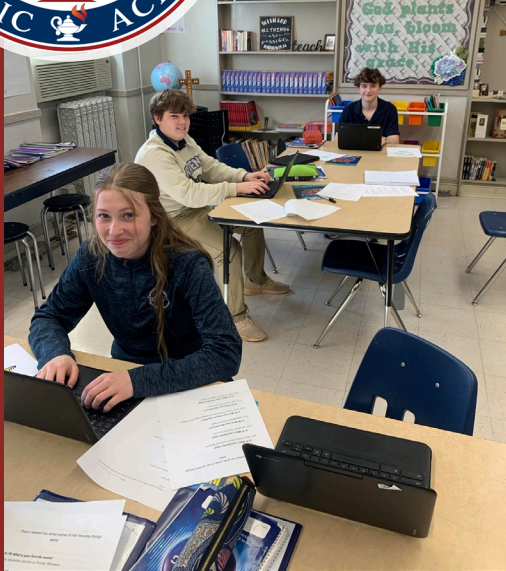
St. Joseph Catholic Academy deepened the spiritual foundation of scholars by consecrating all five school campuses to Jesus through Mary and coordinating faith retreats across all SJCA schools.

To enhance instruction, SJCA implemented quarterly grade-level collaboration and professional development sessions for teachers. **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** updated math and theology curricula at the elementary schools. More recently, SJCA hired a Special Education Coordinator, enhancing support for diverse learners.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy established an arts festival, fostering creativity and engagement across all the campuses and launched a robotics program in all three elementary schools and the high school, promoting STEM education. SJCA expanded the middle school sports program to include cross country, archery, and cheerleading, while setting up K-12 theater productions, fostering creativity and teamwork among scholars.

Now, **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** is preparing to launch the SJCA choir in the 2024-2025 academic year, further expanding arts opportunities for all scholars.

The families of our dedicated teachers now benefit from free tuition within SJCA, reinforcing the retention of these essential professionals.





“ We had every intention of enrolling our daughter in public school, but we enjoyed our experience at St. Gianna Early Childhood Center so much, we decided to enroll her at Cathedral. I’m very glad we did. “She’s exposed to God and religion and practices public speaking in Mass. Along the way, we all became Catholic. We always believed in God, but it was important for us all to be able to take Communion together, so we’re all members of Cathedral Parish now.”

—Cathedral of St. Joseph Parishioner & Middle School Parent

Inadequate Facilities Threaten High-Quality Catholic Education

While scholars and families are growing in their faith and exciting progress is being made, the schools of **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** perform their work in physical places in desperate need of repair.

Three issues require immediate attention. At LeBlond High School, the lack of air conditioning results in school closures when the temperature is excessively hot. Rain penetrates the roof and doorways and must be captured by buckets and towels. The lack of an accessible grade school leaves St. Joseph Catholic schools unable to demonstrate their commitment to the education of scholars with special needs.

Across SJCA schools, security, electrical, lighting and flooring improvements are needed. SJCA signage and painting fall short of presenting the welcoming and professional image that embodies our commitment to high-quality education. The LeBlond High

School chapel functions in a meeting room adapted for worship purposes while the high school parking lot suffers from increasing deterioration.

The expectations of families choosing Catholic schools call for spaces that enable scholars to build, create and perform. Many young people look to their school for the provision of nutritious lunches. LeBlond High School lacks facilities that meet these requirements.

Inadequate and antiquated facilities are compromising the delivery of high-quality academic instruction, support for extracurriculars, and the development of faith for our scholars.

Further, poor facilities make recruiting students and retaining teachers challenging. Without the vital improvements described in this plan and as years progress, the future of Catholic education in St. Joseph would be threatened.



Building a Place for **EDUCATION & FORMATION**

St. Joseph Catholic Academy seeks to change the state of school facilities by addressing **these basic needs**:

- Improving the **heating and air conditioning** systems at LeBlond High School
- Making one of our grade schools **fully accessible**
- Replacing the **roof** at LeBlond High School

If resources permit, **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** would also like to make the following improvements.

At LeBlond High School:

- Constructing a **new cafeteria**
- Upgrading the **worship and performing arts spaces**
- Acquiring **technology**
- Improving **accessibility**
- Repairing and resurfacing the **parking lot**

Across all SJCA campuses:

- Constructing maker spaces for robotics and other **science and technology** programs
- Upgrading **electrical, lighting and security systems**
- Replacing **flooring**
- **Repainting** and adding **signage**

SJCA has received cost estimates of approximately \$10.1 million for these improvements.

Catholic families have looked to SJCA schools for the development and formation of their children for generations. Supporting **St. Joseph Catholic Academy** so these basic improvements to our schools can be made will ensure Catholic education exists for current scholars and those who will follow them.



St. Joseph Catholic Academy

3529 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph MO 64506

(816) 375-5180

natalien@stjoecatholicacademy.com