



SJS Highlights

Third Trimester 2020

A Note from our Principal

When we started out this school year, we were celebrating the completion of our renovations and addition. No one could have predicted that we would finish out our school year in an unprecedented way with Away Learning. Our teachers and staff rose to the challenge and went above and beyond to keep our high standard of learning going and our students on track.



Our teachers and staff met virtually every week to collaborate on best ways to communicate with families and deliver instruction digitally. They provided daily lesson plans, targeted instruction and regular class or individual student sessions via Zoom.

We are incredibly grateful to our parents and guardians for their support as they had to step into teaching or supervisory roles that they did not anticipate. Most importantly, we are proud of our students for their hard work and perseverance during this unique time.

We miss our school community and look forward to the day when we can all be together again in person. We are all praying for an end to this crisis and a return to the "brick and mortar" in the Fall. While we don't know what the future holds, we are preparing for various scenarios and will move forward in alignment with State, CDC, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Diocese of Joliet guidelines.



As we close out this year with uncertainty to what the Fall will look like, we are excited about the future of our school because of the incredible students, families, teachers, staff and parishioners who make up our amazing St. Joseph family and go above and beyond to continue the 110-year tradition of excellence in Catholic education!



Whether learning took place in school or away, we are incredibly proud of all that our students accomplished this year and are excited to share with you some highlights from the third trimester. We congratulate all our students, especially our 8th graders, as they graduate from SJS and move on to high school. We wish them continued success in their academics and extracurricular activities.

May you all have a safe, healthy and blessed Summer and continue to pray for a safe return to St. Joseph School in the Fall.

Rita Stasi
Principal

School Highlights

Preschool



Eve the Comfort Dog

Eve the Comfort Dog came to PreK to help the students learn about pets and pet safety. The kids had a great time learning with her and giving her lots of pets! Thanks, Eve, for being such a good girl!

Daddy Dino Night

The Dad's and Dino Dig Night was our last event at school. The students and their dads learned all about dinosaurs, took part in mini-digs, made their own dino tooth, sorted species by carnivore, omnivore, and herbivore, got to look at real dino fossils, and so much more.



Celebrating our PreK 4s

Our amazing team of Preschool teachers held a Farewell and Pizza Delivery parade for our Preschool graduates! The teachers delivered pizza kits, graduation caps and certificates for our beloved students. There was a lot of smiling and love felt!



Our PreK 4s held their graduation ceremony via Zoom. As each student's name was announced, their parents congratulated them at home, the students

showed their diploma, and everyone cheered! The teachers played *Pomp and Circumstance* as they came onto Zoom wearing their graduation caps. God bless them as they move up to Kindergarten next school year!

Grade School



Kindergarten Science

While studying the science of gravity and force, Kindergarten conducted a marble and ramp experiment. Students paired up to build their own unique ramps using pool noodles and blocks. They made predictions on whether the height of the ramp would change the speed and distance the marble rolled. In addition, they predicted what would happen to the marble when it encountered a cup at the bottom of the ramp.

They also held a Science Day in which four different science experiments were conducted with the assistance of parent volunteers. Students enhanced their engineering skills by building structures with toothpicks and marshmallows, took the sound challenge by guessing which objects were hidden in eggs based on their sound, practiced being chemists with balloons and baking soda, and studied how carbon dioxide gas bubble are formed.





Dental Health

Dr. Carolyn Bronke and her associate visited the Kindergarten class to help the students understand the importance of dental health. They learned surprising facts about how many times a day to brush their teeth, the effects of too much sugar on teeth, and what happens during a visit to the dentist. The students got a chance to ask lots of questions, and Dr. Bronke brought goodie bags for the students practice good dental health at home.

1st Grade STEM

During STEM time on a cold wintry day, 1st graders made a Hot Chocolate Stand using their choice of Legos, Duplos, unifix cubes, wooden blocks, or a combination of any of these materials. Their designs were varied and functional, and they had fun!



Lucky Charms Graphing

2nd graders put their graphing skills to the test by sorting and graphing Lucky Charms marshmallows!

Biography Book Reports

During this trimester, our 2nd graders worked on biography book reports. Most of them presented their reports virtually, thanks to Zoom. Many of the students dressed up as the person they were presenting. They did a great job and were very creative!



Growing Pizza

Our 2nd graders had fun learning about making a pizza! Did you know it takes much longer than 30 minutes to grow a pizza?!

Lenten Prayer Hands

To prepare for Lent, 3rd graders contemplated their Lenten promises and made prayer hands with their Lenten prayers inside.



NY Times Kids' Section

3rd graders really enjoyed the *NY Times* kids' section this year! They read articles from the publication to identify the differences between a news story and an opinion article. Then they wrote their own news feature articles on a topic important to them. They also enjoyed reading the issue about choosing a job that fits your personality.



Unique Landforms

In Social Studies lessons, 3rd graders created their own landform islands in the shape of something unique to them. They had to fill the island with different landforms and write about each area of their island.





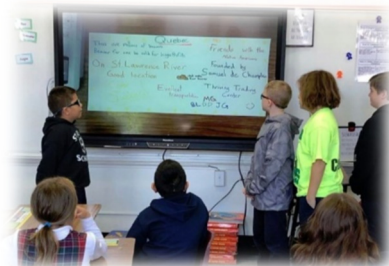
Hunger Challenge

Our 4th and 5th graders joined youth and educators around the world to investigate how hunger affects education and development and support both emergency relief and long-term solutions for hunger-related issues like malnutrition and food insecurity. The Hunger Challenge is the latest annual challenge by Students Rebuild, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation that mobilizes young people to take action on some of the world's most critical problems. Our 4th and 5th graders participated in the challenge by creating an artistic rendering of "A Recipe for a Virtuous Person". For each piece of artwork we submitted, the Bezos Family Foundation donated \$6 to programs aimed at alleviating malnutrition and hunger-related issues for tens of thousands of children worldwide. We are proud of our

students for their effort in creating and submitting 90 recipes which helped raised \$540 to address hunger and malnutrition all over the world!

Colony Persuasive Ads

5th graders worked on creating advertisements persuading people to come to their colony from the early 1600s. They found ways to write about the areas to make them more appealing using what they learned about the area. The favorite was the Jamestown "mascot" – the mosquito!



Middle School



Roman Oscars

6th grade Social Studies classes finished a project called "The Roman Oscars." First, each student signed up for an important figure in the history of the Roman Empire and researched that figure. Second, they acted as that figure, intermingling with the class to tell everyone why they deserved the nomination for a particular category. Some of the nomination categories were for "Best General," "Best Emperor," "Worst Emperor," "Best Contributor to Christianity," and others. Third, after collecting evidence from each participant, they returned to their seats and voted for the

nominees using Google Forms. Finally, a small ceremony was held in which the "Oscar" winners were announced and given a certificate, in lieu of a golden statue.

Blackout Poetry

The students in 7th grade Language Arts class did some blackout poetry for one of their End of the Year projects. Students had to make poems out of already written texts and 'black out' whatever words they did not use. The 7th graders could choose from their favorite songs, books, or even speeches. Every year, the students are creative with the texts they choose and the poems that they create from them. It was great to see that the creativity remained, even when doing the projects at home!



Coding Projects

Middle School students did Coding projects from home. 6th grade did a block program and wrote an interactive quiz. The 7th and 8th graders wrote a BASIC program using LOOPS, number and string variables to write a survey.



SJS Girls' Ensemble "Virtual Choir" Video

Members of the SJS girls' ensemble made a "virtual choir" video using one of what would have been their VIP concert songs, "Just Like Fire." The girls rehearsed the song at their homes then individually recorded themselves singing the song. Music teacher Mr. Horneman compiled the videos and worked with a video editor, who stitched the videos and voices all together over the backing track to create the choir sound. Although we weren't able to have the

VIP concert this year, we hope that next school year, our students can all sing together in person.

Spotlight on the Class of 2020



Confirmation

On Sunday March 8th, our 8th graders and Religious Education students received the sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations to our Confirmandi – may the Holy Spirit fill you with increased faith and ability to witness Christ in your life. Special thanks to Bishop Pates for being our minister of Confirmation.

Class Tubing Trip

In March, the 8th grade class took a trip to Villa Olivia in Bartlett to go tubing. They had a great time!



8th Grade Parade

In celebration of our 8th graders for their dedication, hard work, and accomplishments, a group of teachers and staff did a car parade for the SJS class of 2020! Each 8th grader received a yard sign to publicly acknowledge their success and achievements at St. Joseph School.



Graduation

The Lord blessed us with a beautiful day to celebrate our 8th graders with an outdoor graduation ceremony. Parents watched from their cars and at a safe distance while the graduates came together with Mrs. Stasi, Ms. Feeney, Father Al, and Mrs. Lyon to receive their diplomas.



Congratulations Class of 2020!

The entire SJS community wishes you continued health and success as you start high school. While you are becoming Broncos, Friars, Mustangs, Redwings, and Trojans, we will always be proud to call you Crusaders!

Virtues/Faith Formation

Parish Food Pantry Food Drive

Over several weeks, several grades hosted food drives for the St. Joseph Parish food pantry. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect food and other needed items to help out those in need. There were boxes outside the church doors and families could drop off at their convenience. We are so proud of our school community. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Weekly Staff Rosary

Even when sheltering in place, our parishioners are always on our mind. Each week parish staff prays the Rosary together via Zoom meeting for our St. Joseph family and for everyone in the world to stay safe and healthy.

All-School/Children's Masses

In keeping with our tradition of All-School Mass on Tuesdays, Father Al and Mr. Horneman recorded Mass for our school and parish families to participate in from home. Special thanks to Mrs. DelMonaco on the piano, Mrs. Pattanayak for planning, and Will Schelli for filming the Masses.



First Communion Retreat

Every year our 2nd Graders and their parents gather for a retreat to prepare for the sacrament of First Communion. Each family brings a loaf of homemade bread to share and they learn and reflect on why communion is so important as a member of the Catholic Church. It is something we look forward to every year in teaching our faith!

Middle School Daily Prayer Meeting

Middle School Science teacher Deneen Wojtasiak held a daily prayer meeting every weekday during Away Learning. The group would talk about their days or weekends and then pray for their intentions with the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory Be*. The group also did the Novena request from Father Belmonte and prayed for the list of Diocesan intentions.

Awards

Downers Grove Junior Women's Art Contest

Congratulations to 7th grade student Madeline J. Madeline's drawing was entered into the Downers Grove Junior Women's Art Contest. The Committee had 40 entries to judge. Madeline received Second Place for all Seventh Graders who entered from Downers Grove Private and Public Schools. Her picture of a colorful whimsical dog reflects her love of dogs. The winning pictures will be displayed at the Downers Grove Bank. This is the second time in recent years that an SJS student has won the competition!



Class of 2020 Awards

During the Class of 2020 Graduation ceremony, students were presented with awards for academic, service and leadership achievements. Congratulations to Charlie K. and Chloe M. who received the American Legion Award for Distinguished Achievement in Scholarship and Service; Patrick C. and Jackie M. who received the St. Joseph School Award for Academic Scholarship and Leadership, and Tommy W. and Michael R. who received Montini High School Academic Placement Scholarships.

Events



THE ROARING TWENTIES
FEBRUARY 22, 2020

Roaring Twenties Gala

Our annual fundraising event was held at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge. The Gala Committee put together a fun and festive evening that included appetizers, a four-course meal, dancing, and a fun photo booth! Thank you to our sponsors and donors who contributed to a wide variety of live and silent auction items. Additionally, there were several buy-in options and Raise the Paddle for STEM equipment and materials. Thanks to your support of SJS and the Green & White Gala, we raised funds to help support school security and technology enhancements along with tuition assistance.

Teacher Highlights

Baby Slisz

Congratulations to 4th and 5th grade Social Studies teacher Lindsey Slisz on the birth of her son Charlie on February 29. We wish Mrs. Slisz all the best in her new role as a mom!



Baby Knightly

Congratulations to 2nd grade teacher Krissy Knightly who welcomed baby Annie Mary on March 21. Big brothers Jimmy and Ryan are loving having a baby sister! Best wishes to the Knightly family!



National Honor Society Recognition

Congratulations to SJS 1st Grade teacher Jane Krueger on her recent induction to Omega Nu Lambda National Honor Society! Miss Krueger has been taking online classes at Western Illinois University to earn her Masters in Education, with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction. She says that her experience as an online student has helped her greatly with teaching her students through Away Learning these last couple of months. She is a wonderful example of hard work and perseverance and we are blessed to have her teaching and mentoring our 1st graders and directing our Extended Care Program!



Athletics Highlights

Basketball Champs



8th grade boys basketball team went 13-1 and claimed the DuPage Parochial League 8A White Division Championship!

Both of our 5th grade girls teams won their championship games! Way to go Crusaders!

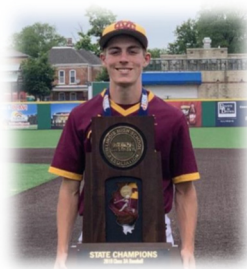


CRUSADERS
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Alumni Highlights



Nick Wind (2016) will be continuing his academic and football pursuits at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.



Henry Sipchen (2016) will be continuing his academic and baseball pursuits at Lawrence University.



Kylie Boyer

Each month students from Montini Catholic High School recognize a Student of the Month. The school nominates “those students who make our school a better place”. Congratulations to SJS alumnae Kylie Boyer (2016) and Sara Severin (2019) for their recognition in December and January!

Kylie Boyer was Salutatorian for the Class of 2020 at Montini High School. She will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall and plans to major in Pre-professional Studies (Pre-Med).



Sara Severin



Grace Jaworski

Grace Jaworski (2016) won the Downers Grove North Outstanding Science Student of the Year award for 2019–2020. Next fall, Grace will be attending Creighton University studying Biology in the Honors Program to pursue a Pre-Med degree.

Joslyn Boyer (2015) was named to USA Volleyball's Collegiate National Team. A freshman defensive specialist at the University of Iowa, Joslyn was selected for the U.S. Women's Collegiate National Team – Anaheim team, a 28-player roster comprised entirely of current collegiate players. Boyer joins the team as a libero/defensive specialist.



Joslyn Boyer



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