

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

May 22, 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

As we move towards summer, we are busy finishing projects and units while celebrating spring. The middle school spent time Friday exploring a large-scale trebuchet as students got to witness first-hand the culmination of an ongoing Siege Engines elective class. Kindergarten took an afternoon walk around the block with Mrs. Colley and Mrs. Perez, naming the colors of the flowers that they passed in Spanish. Second graders are busy painting sun/moon watercolors in celebration of the warmer weather.

May is the month of Mary, and the students are gathering once each week during May to say the Rosary in her honor. The two remaining rosaries this month are Wednesday, May 23rd at 2:30, and Thursday, May 31st at 2:30. All are welcome to join us.

We are also planning on ways that our students can send off our faculty with heartfelt St. Joseph memories. Due to slow enrollment and smaller class sizes along with the increasing costs of employee benefits, we are unable to hold onto some of our staff members. Others are moving on to the next chapter of their lives. Meanwhile, student projects are underway to say "*bon voyage*" to people who have meant so much to us over the years.

I'd like to say thank you to all of the parents who have reached out to talk about all of the changes that are happening. We will do our best to keep you updated as plans solidify. Stay tuned!

Deb Dewar, Principal  
St. Joseph Catholic School

## Classroom Transitions

Next year, the fifth grade will be incorporated into some of the class rotations of middle school.

This program will be instrumental in meeting the changing needs of our young adults. Fifth graders will be taught social studies from Mrs. Appleton, Religion from Mr. Librande, and Science from Mrs. Day. This will give students access to the challenge of departmentalized instruction and the additional expectations that keep students engaged and advancing, while assuring that they have the guidance and nurturing that they need through these transitions.

We have small enough class sizes in middle school projected next year to be able to be flexible with some of our scheduling. Science, social studies and religion will be taught to a blend of seventh and eighth graders, and a stand-alone sixth grade. They will both learn the eighth grade curriculum this coming year, and the following year will learn the seventh grade curriculum. This is the easiest way to meet the needs of all the students without shorting anyone any teaching time. Language arts will be taught to a blend of sixth and seventh graders, with an eighth grade stand-alone class. Eighth grade literature choices and writing expectations are different enough that this is the best choice for meeting the needs of the students.

Our students are growing faster than traditional models can keep up with, and it is up to us to rise up to meet the demands of growing students. We feel confident that the transitions will happen smoothly, and will benefit the needs of our students greatly. This team of teachers work together strongly, and will provide an optimal learning experience for your children.

## Parent Club



We will be starting a Parent Club late this summer, to kick off the new school year. We are looking for parents who want to be involved in any way in the life of St. Joseph. We are hoping to have a forum for you to be able to help out with what's most important to you, while we build our sense of family. When we're all in this together, everything works so much better! We're talking about holding more events that will bring us together as a community, both as fund raisers and just to celebrate our children. Stay tuned for more details. Want to get involved from the very beginning? Drop us a line and let us know!

## Calendar

Wed May 23 Rosary 2:30 in the gym

Mon May 28 Memorial Day - No School

Wed May 30 Lynch Scholarship presentation after Mass

Thurs May 31 Rosary at 2:30

Friday June 1 Middle School Social Event 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Wed June 13 Graduation Mass and reception

Fri June 15 Field Day, Last Day of School

## Weekly Prayer Corner

As your children grow, to help strengthen our Catholic faith and the values of our traditions, we would like to offer a weekly family activity to build in your understanding and practices together. This week's activity: Once a week, have a Bible story time, during which your child reads a Bible story (from a children's Bible or a regular Bible) either to you or to his/her siblings.



## SLE of the Week

Next week's SLE of the Week is: Shows self-discipline, accepts correction, and is accountable for personal choices. We can work on this every day:

- I can sit quietly and attentively in class.
- I can get my work done without being reminded.
- I can admit when I did something wrong, and work to make it better.
- I can learn from my mistakes, and try to build better habits.
- I can do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

These are skills that can be difficult to build as we grow up, but when we can show growth in these areas, it really shows maturity!