

FALL 2023

ACADEMY CONNECTION

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY
DIOCESE KANSAS CITY/ST. JOSEPH



WELCOME BACK!



**ALL INVITED TO
HOLY HOURS**

**BOOKS AND
BASEBALL**

**K-12 CAMPUSES
AWARDED THOUSANDS
FROM SAFETY GRANT**

**GRANDPARENTS
HONORED**

FIRST DAY TRADITIONS

Welcome!

Hello Friends and Family!

We hope this Autumn season finds you well. As you settle into the cooler days and school events, we wanted to share the first installment of the Academy Connection.

This magazine is for you! Those of you who may have onced walked the halls of one of the campuses, those of you who are wondering more and more about a Catholic education for someone you know, or those of you who want to find a way to support our mission of cultivating exceptional scholars to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

Each issue will recap events and accomplishments that are unique to our Academy. It supports our mission and vision to continue to provide a Catholic education to students in our community.

But we need your help!

By sharing with you, we hope you share with others and feel moved to engage! Below is a link to give to the Academy, whether it's a one time donation or a pledge for continued support.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and/or our website as well!

Thank you and God Bless!



Pastoral Message



A Message from Fr. Stephen Hansen, Interim-President and Pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph

We've now completed the first year of the St. Joseph Catholic Academy, an academy rediscovering Catholic liberal education. The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education writes "Catholic liberal education is the cultivation of faith and reason for full human flourishing. Based in the liberal arts and sciences, this educational vision that was developed by the Catholic Church was the gold standard of formation for centuries."

Drs. Karen Kroh and Karen Hopson are overseeing the implement of the rediscovery, and we began the year with all the faculty gathering for talks by staff from Benedictine College who work with their new master's program designed to form teachers to advance Catholic liberal education. Dr. Hopson then presented our first concrete step... recitations and poetry... that will take place across all grades in the Academy campuses this year.

There is a true feeling of collaboration happening. As interim president of the Academy I've had the privilege to visit with teachers – the most important protagonists in the schools – parents, students, and principals. At the weekly principal meetings there is cooperative and joyful exchange with each other and Drs. Kroh and Hopson. Those meetings make me think of the theme of the school year, Joyfully Catholic.

I want to thank the teachers and staff at the school, the Board members, diocesan school office, and the many benefactors that make our schools possible. I also want to thank those working in the MOScholars office for their tireless work to help close to 100 students here in St. Joseph take advantage of this new scholarship opportunity. Parents, thank you, too, for your tireless cooperation with us in aiding you as the primary educators of your children!

On October 9, 1859, the life of a Belgian immigrant named Adele Brise was forever changed. It was on that day she received her third apparition of the Blessed Mother in Champion, Wisconsin, who identified herself as the Queen of Heaven. Our Lady's specific request of Adele was to pray, make a general confession, and to gather the children, teaching them what they needed to know for salvation. May Our Lady help us at the Academy and all the schools in our Diocese!

First Day of school Traditions

Academy

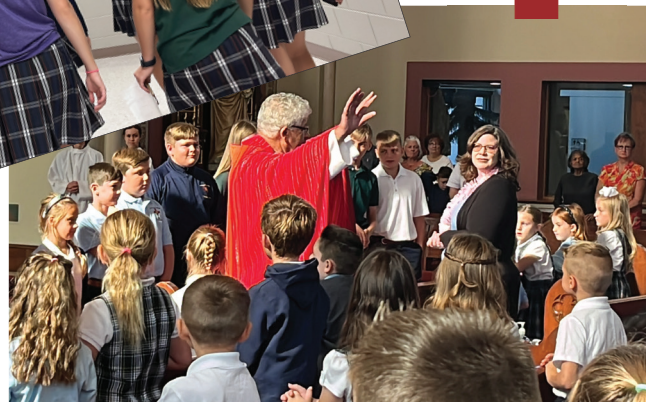
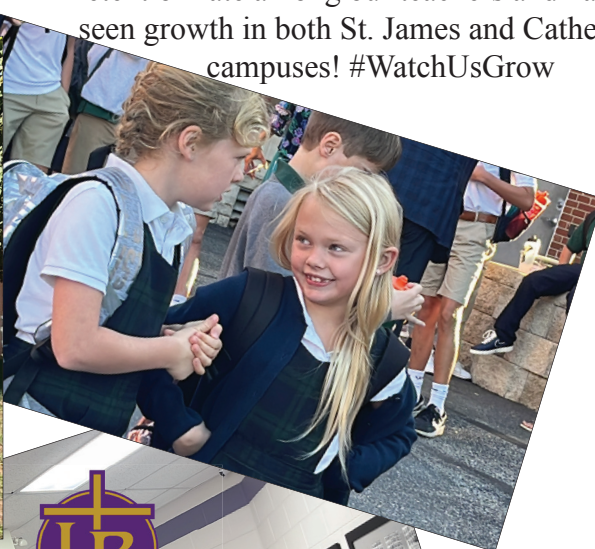
It's that time again!

Fresh pencils, new bookbags and rekindling friendships after a long summer! School has begun!

The Academy family of five campuses welcomed over 735 students from 6 weeks to 12th grade this fall!

Each campus hosted a variety of back to school events and first day traditions, from All school Masses to bagpipes and group photos.

We are truly blessed to have had a 97% retention rate among our teachers and have seen growth in both St. James and Cathedral campuses! #WatchUsGrow



Safety grant funds awarded to SJCA

Through the Missouri Safety Grant Program, our K-12 campuses (Bishop LeBlond, Cathedral, St. Francis Xavier and St. James) received thousands of dollars to assist with safety needs at each campus!

We want to share the good news!

How did the campuses apply?

The safety grant program was targeted to support school safety improvements, including physical security upgrades and associated technology in school facilities (e.g., door locks, monitoring systems), bleeding control kits, and automatic external defibrillators.

What kind of improvements will children and parents notice?

Each campus took inventory of their current school needs and developed a ‘wish list’ of items. The grant accepted items that included enhanced entrance security, safety glass on windows, health and first aid kits and supplies, AEDs for the campuses. In total, over \$163,000 dollars was awarded and will be used to enhance the overall safety environment at each campus.

What’s the benefit?

As we all know, our children are precious! So while the benefit is our peace of mind that our children are in buildings that are secure, it also benefits the teachers and staff members of each campus by allowing them the ability to focus on the education and formation of each student without distraction.

Who do we thank?

The principals and staff worked to meet the application deadline and to provide the necessary documentation, including estimates and bids for certain safety improvements. Let them know how much you appreciate their love and care for your children! #WatchUsGrow

Holy Hours offered up for Academy staff, students and families

It was a promise Fr. Hansen made to himself years ago. “If I ever have a school at my parish...”

Now, as interim-president of the St. Joseph Catholic Academy he oversees five campuses, which makes his promise even more impactful.

During the school year and now during the summer, there is the opportunity to pray for the staff, students and families in the chapel of the Cathedral of St. Joseph during school hours.

The idea originated by a woman who lived in a city where a school shooting had occurred. She decided that while students were in class, she would be in the chapel...praying with Our Lord.

The tradition that began a couple of years ago at Cathedral has now expanded as all the Catholic schools in St. Joseph became a part of the Academy family.

Interim President Fr. Stephen Hansen says, “Any parishioner, family member or friend is always welcome to come sit and pray with Jesus.”

Sign up by emailing adoration@cathedralsj.org or watch the bulletin or website for a spot!

Christ Jesus, Pray for Us!





Discover Catholic Schools Week
Nov. 12-18, 2023

Nov. 12 Discover Your Parish Family

Nov. 14 Discover Parents

Nov. 16 Discover Communities

Nov. 18 Discover Alumni

Nov. 13: Discover Students

Nov. 15 Discover Educators

Nov. 17 Discover Donors

Catholic Schools

United in Faith and Community

This fall the Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph in partnership with NCEA, will be promoting and educating our communities about the importance and value of Catholic schools! This is our chance to share with others the great things that are happening on our campuses and the exciting future the St. Joseph Catholic Academy has planned!

Each day promotes a different aspect that united, creates our Catholic culture! Events around the campus will include displays and conversations with current family members and with key stakeholders. We will host open houses at each campus including a mommy and me session about preparing preschoolers for kindergarten and inviting 8th graders to learn more about Bishop LeBlond High School.

Get involved through discovering a campus, offering up your time and talents or taking part in the Alumni Pickleball Crawl! #WatchUsGrow

SJCA Middle School fall sports see great attendance and winner bracket placement!

It's been another successful season for St. Joseph Catholic Academy fall sports. This year, 23 players signed up for MS football and that was matched in numbers with 23 volleyball players. New this season, thanks to parents stepping up to coach, cross country had 3 Academy scholars competing.

Families and friends can follow along on the schedule and scores at the www.stjoecatholicacademy.com/middleschool page that provides a link to the MSHSAA league website.

Sign ups for the winter sports for girls and boys basketball are in full swing and match ups can be found on the same link.

Say thanks to a coach or official, if you see them! They work tirelessly to help introduce your young players to the challenges and rewards of being a scholar athlete!

For more information, contact the Middle School Athletic Director, Tyler Turner by email at tturner@cathedralsj.org



**How do I help? We have several ways--From prayer to donations!
 Reach out to the administrative offices to find out more--816-375-5180! Thank you!**

Celebration



Celebrating Grandparents

Across the Academy, students invited their grandparents to share a Mass, a meal or an activity...sometimes all three! Here a few photos celebrating our generations! ...cultivating exceptional scholars to know, love and serve Jesus Christ!



SAVE THE DATE!
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SAVE THE DATE!

SJCA
SCHOOL BELL BREAKFAST
JAN. 31st
Watch for Details!



Summer Academy event helps buy books



This summer at the Catholic Schools Books & Basesball Night at the St. Joseph Mustangs, the 50/50 earnings purchased books for the three elementary campuses.

Rally of the Mustangs made an appearance at each school, delivering the books and celebrating reading with the students!

Principal James Hosler reads one of the books to a group of students at the event! Along with Principals Kent McEnaney and Darin Pollard, we thank all the families able to join us that evening!



On the cover: Fr. Stephen Hansen is the Interm-President for the St. Joseph Catholic Academy. He is welcoming students at his parish school, Cathedral. Shown with him is Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Trish Supple.

Merit Scholar at Bishop LeBlond



Meet Remi Zoubek, senior, and also among 1600 National Merit Scholar SemiFinalist!

Earlier this fall, The National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist were announced and Remi was among those featured in the local media.

The National Merit Scholarship program awards over 7,000 scholarships that total nearly \$28 million.

About 95% of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing and approximately half of the finalists will win a scholarship and earn the Merit Scholar title.

For Remi, this means more options for higher education. "I'm hoping to (secure) scholarship money for college because I want to go to Notre Dame."

For her principal, Miss Kimberly Huss, this recognition aligns with what she sees from the senior on a daily basis. "She shares her gifts and talents through her involvement in a wide variety of activities," Huss said. "The entire Bishop LeBlond community would like to congratulate Remi for this distinguished honor."

Remi now enters into the semi-finals! Good luck Eagle!



Alumni! Where are you?
alumni@stjoecatholicacademy.com



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3529 Frederick Ave.
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Up to Date



Want to help a student attend a Catholic school in St. Joseph? It's as easy as paying taxes! Find out how you can divert your tax dollars to Bright Futures Fund, managed by the Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph. Log on to: BrightFuturesFund.org

<p>Diocese school Theme for 2023-24 Joyfully Catholic! (Yes, we are!)</p>	 <p>KANSAS CITY - ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM <i>Teachings for life.</i></p>
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St. Joseph Catholic Academy
Interim-President: Fr. Stephen Hansen *(on front cover)*
Controller: John Hapak
Communications: Julie Love Smith

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