

September 5, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; No School; Charleston Wrap Fundraiser; MAP Testing; Car Stickers/Magnets; Early Dismissal; New Faculty; and Part-Time Position.

Thoughts for the week: *Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.* ~ Samuel Beckett. We will fail, more often than we care to think. We can learn from our failures....and we're still going to fail in the future. The key is to fail in new ways, not to keep repeating the failures we've already experienced. I won't get discouraged by failure but will try to make sure that when I fail, it's because of something new, not because I'm stuck in a rut." ~ The Daily Book of Positive Quotations by Linda Picone. Take time this week to talk with your children about how you deal with failure and how it makes you the person you are. Make it a great week with your actions, words, and thoughts!

No School: The school will be closed Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day. Classes will resume Tuesday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m.

Charleston Wrap: Our Charleston Wraps fundraiser is in full swing! Thank you to all that have already registered their child and shopped! We encourage you to spread the word and invite family and friends to shop online with your student's participant code. Please register your student at www.charlestonwrapstore.com. Our organization ID is 15787. We want this fundraiser to be a HUGE success!

Everyone LOVES a dress down day so we have decided to award the class with the highest participation a dress down day! Thank you again for your support! Happy Selling!

MAP Testing: 5th and 6th grades will test this week. Here are a few things students and parents can do to prepare for MAP testing:

Please refrain from scheduling any appointments for students during testing. Students who are late will not be able to take the test with their class and will need to make up the test on Friday.

Make sure your students ***get plenty of sleep.*** Going to bed a little earlier can help ensure a good night's sleep. Being well-rested will give your children an extra boost of energy for test day.

Provide a nutritious breakfast. Eating protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), rather than a sugary donut, will help students perform better. (Too much food can make them feel sleepy, so do not overdo it!)

Be sure your child gets some ***exercise after school*** to keep their energy up.

Remind children to ***double-check their work on the test.*** They can catch mistakes if they take the time to proofread answers carefully.

Encourage your children to do their very best, but do not place too much emphasis on the test.

Please contact the school if you have questions about MAP testing.

Car Stickers and Magnets: If you would like a Saint Joseph car sticker or magnet, please email Mrs. Seezen at rseezen@stjosdevine.com and she will send it home in your saint's backpack. You can also stop by the office any time during school hours to get one.

Early Dismissal: We will have a 2:00 dismissal Monday, September 13th. Extended Care will be open until 6:00 pm.

New Faculty: We are excited to welcome eight new faculty members this year. Here is a little information on each of them:

Jordan Baker – Spanish Teacher

Ms. Jordan Baker earned a B.S. Interdisciplinary Major in Biology/Spanish from Newberry College. She has participated in many different forms of education ranging from teaching Sunday school at her hometown church to her college internships teaching Spanish-speaking Americans how to speak English. When she's not teaching, Ms. Baker enjoys spending time with her dogs.

Katie Bennett – Homebound teacher

Mrs. Katie Bennett earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Virginia Wesleyan University where she played college lacrosse. She is currently completing her Masters degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. She has taught Special Education as well as pre-k through third grade. She grew up in Ellicott City, Maryland, and is a Baltimore Orioles fan. She enjoys trips to the beach and spending time with her husband and three daughters Charlotte, Reagan, and Allie.

Jennifer Branham – 3rd Grade

Mrs. Jennifer Branham says that teaching is her passion. She has taught many ages and subjects over her years of teaching, from 3K to 6th grade. Most recently, she served a classroom of two as she was a homeschool teacher to her two sons, Parker, and Adrian. Prior to homeschooling, she was the school librarian at Sandhills School. She has experience and training with Orton-Gillingham reading methods. In addition, she was a technology liaison for several years in Richland 2 schools and taught at Forest Lake Elementary. She has a master's degree in teaching

from the University of South Carolina. She is extremely excited to be back in the classroom here at SJCS as a 3rd-grade teacher!

Christy Cook – Technology Teacher

Mrs. Christy Cook is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a B.A. in Secondary English Education and a Master of Library and Information Science. She has 24 years of experience in public education and is currently pursuing a Master of Religious Leadership (MARL) degree from Lenior-Rhyne and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina campus. Her passion is equipping and empowering learners to achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. When she is not reading a great book or socializing with friends and family on her screened porch, or around her fire pit at Lake Wateree, she volunteers at church, travels, or trains her rescue dogs.

Cynthia Fruth – Music Teacher

Ms. Cynthia Fruth is returning to her native South Carolina after spending 30 years in Dallas, Texas. Growing up in Camden, she developed her passion for music early, studying piano and organ. Ms. Fruth double-majored in Organ Performance and Choral Music Education at Winthrop University then taught in Clover, where she was York County District 2's "Teacher of the Year." After receiving her Master of Music Education degree from Winthrop, she moved to Dallas for doctoral study at the University of North Texas. Ms. Fruth taught at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, where she had an award-winning Honor Choir. She served as organist/choirmaster at many churches throughout her career, spending 23 years at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dallas. Ms. Fruth is excited to return home to her family and to join her new family at Saint Joseph!

Amanda Greene – Catapult Interventionist

Mrs. Amanda Greene has been in education for 7 years and counting. She studied at the University of South Carolina where she earned her bachelor's degree. She has served as a Special Education Teacher in Richland 2 and Lexington 5. Mrs. Greene is excited to join the SJCS as an Interventionist through Catapult Learning.

Laura Oliver – 4K Teacher

Mrs. Laura Oliver is excited to join SJCS as a 4K teacher with Mrs. Walker this year. Mrs. Oliver started her preschool career in Richland One as a Montessori Instructional Assistant and is thrilled to be able to combine her Montessori background with traditional concepts all while encompassing her Catholic beliefs. Mrs. Oliver has a B.S. in Management from Clemson University, and she lives in Forest Acres with her husband and three daughters, the youngest of whom attends St. Joseph. Her family loves going to the beach, swimming, and playing games.

Kim Riley – 5K Teacher

Ms. Kim Riley is joining our faculty as a Kindergarten Teacher. Ms. Riley is excited to begin her ninth year as an educator. She received her undergraduate degree in English and Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of South Carolina, and she is certified in Elementary Education. She has two children attending the University of South Carolina. Her son Deven is a rising junior, and her daughter Arden is a rising sophomore. She enjoys live music, travel, and 80's movies. She says she is thrilled to become a part of the Saint Joseph family!

Part-Time Position: The school is seeking a part-time Instructional Assistant. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us - "Blessed are we". Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Donavan F. Yarnall, Ed. S
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