

August 29, 2021

Dear Saint Joseph Catholic School Community,

Items in this newsletter: Thoughts for the week; Student Council; PTO Shirts; CN Football Tailgate; COVID Update; Back to School Night; Charleston Wrap Fundraiser; After-school Activities; Labor Day closing; Health and Safety of Our Community; Hurricane Preparedness; and Early Dismissal.

Thoughts for the week: Please take time to use the link below to watch a fantastic video about Mindset: *Stop Blaming, Complaining and Making Excuses*. When watching the video, please replace Coach/Leader with Parent and replace Team with Family. I believe this is a great video and a great reminder of how we should approach each day and this school year.

<https://coachesinsider.com/baseball/mindset-stop-blaming-complaining-with-alan-stein-jr-8/>. Set the tone for your family and our community! It is the little things we do that show how God is in us, with us, and working through us.

Student Council: We were excited to induct 36 5th and 6th grade students into our Student Council this week. To be eligible for Student Council, students must be in fifth or sixth grade, demonstrate leadership potential, perform to their academic ability, and consistently demonstrate our school JOSEPH character traits. Students must maintain a C+ and above in all subjects to be considered for and participate in Student Council. Student Council applicants completed a summer service project of 10 plus hours. Congratulations to our new Student Council members!

PTO Shirts: PTO T-shirts are now available for purchase online! Click the link to order - <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/TP21ABP71H9W7/checkout/BCNFVWRBAINMKPG7ZFS54GTM>. Ordering closes next Friday, 9/3. T-shirts will be delivered to students the week of 9/20. Your student(s) may wear these shirts on their PE day.

CN Football Tailgate: Make plans to join the SJCS community and CN community at the CN football tailgate Friday September 3rd. Free hot dogs and drinks at the tailgate – SJCS students get into the game for free! See the attached flyer for more information.

COVID Update: The Diocese of Charleston hosted a medical zoom meeting for all Diocesan schools and parishes regarding COVID and the Delta variant last week. Based on the information from the meeting, Saint Joseph Catholic School will put the following recommendations into place.

1. Students will not eat in the cafeteria – students will only eat with their grade level and whenever possible outside/in breezeways.
2. We will continue to have school Masses on Fridays – however, we are going to split the grade levels into two groups.
 - a. 6th, 5th, and 4th
 - b. 3rd, 2nd, 1st, and K

- i. 4K will not attend Mass, however Monsignor Harris is working on special religious instruction for these classes.

These groups will attend on alternating weeks. When they are not able to attend Mass in person, they will watch a Mass in their classroom. All students should continue to wear their dress uniforms on Fridays.

3. We will only allow parents to attend Mass if their child is reading, singing, altar serving, or getting a special award. Parents must sit in the designated parents' section.

Back to School Night: The school administration along with the Advisory Council, faculty; and staff have made the decision to forgo having our Back-to-School Night. Our teachers report that they were able to share so much information during our newly formatted Meet the Teacher event that they no longer need an additional open house. The teachers will be sharing more information via email, including a Course Expectation packet for each subject, and any major events or projects that will be completed during the year. Please be on the lookout for this important email. Do not hesitate to reach out to the teachers or the school office staff if you have questions.

Charleston Wrap: The PTO needs your help! Charleston Wrap catalogs are going to be sent home tomorrow, Monday, August 30th. The sale runs until Tuesday, September 21st. The fundraiser is all virtual this year. 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. As always, the PTO thanks you for your support!

After-school Activities: The school has partnered with several vendors this school year to provide a fantastic offering of after-school activities. Please find a detailed list of vendors and a description of the services attached to this email.

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.

Health and Safety of Our Community: When possible, please refrain from large group gatherings. If you socialize in large groups, please wear your masks. Other best practices that can be implemented this weekend and every day are the three Ws: **W**ear your mask, **W**ash your hands often, and **W**atch your distance. Thank you for your support- we really want to keep Saint Joseph Catholic School learning in-person. When in doubt, please keep your child/ren home!

Hurricane Preparedness: During hurricane season, please be aware of school policies regarding weather-related school closings. We always keep a close eye on weather forecasts and make decisions regarding school closing as soon as we can. We will always communicate those closings to you with a text, phone call, and email. We do not follow Richland County School District 1 and we do not always close when other Columbia area Catholic schools close, however the Columbia Catholic schools try to make this decision together. If we do have to close the

school, we will follow our virtual learning guidelines to send home schoolwork so weather-related days will not need to be made up at the end of the year.

Early Dismissal: We will have a 2:00 dismissal Monday, September 13th. Extended Care will be open 2:15-6:00.

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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