Opening Prayer

Direct, we beseech thee, O Lord, all our actions by thy holy inspiration, and carry them on by thy gracious assistance so that every prayer and work of ours may begin always from thee and through thee be happily ended.

Prayer from the Divine Office
Thank you!

Without the ongoing financial, spiritual and volunteer help from the K of C, the St. Joseph Regional Catholic School would not be as successful as it has been over the past several years.
School History - The Early Years

Late 1950s Msgr. Cornelius Cahill recognizes the need for a parochial school to educate the children of the parish.

1958 Construction begins

1959 First students are welcomed by two nuns belonging to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Only two of the classrooms are used initially for grades one and two.

1963 One class for each of the eight grades is filled.

Mid 1960s St. Joseph School had an entire unoccupied floor. Rented to SSD. The district completes construction and furnishes the entire floor. Two years later St. Joseph School reclaims this space to accommodate a second class of each grade.
School History - Continued

**Mid 1960s cont.** Third floor is added to house the nuns only to be followed by a decline in those entering religious orders. Eventually the convent is converted for school use (library, offices, art, music, etc.) Holy Family Chapel remains to this day and is used regularly.

**1964** First lay teacher is hired. Additional lay teachers hired each year thereafter.

**Mid-Late 1960s** Parents line up early in the morning each year to secure spots for their children.

**1973** Conversion from Parochial to Diocesan School

**1970s - 1990s** School continues to thrive in academics and sports. Kindergarten moves into the building in the late 1980s.
2000s - Enrollment begins to decline for a number of reasons. Preschool moves into the building.

2009-2017 - High turnover in administration - 8 different principals.

2015 Catholic School Management invited to consult and help develop a 5 year strategic plan to improve the school and grow enrollment. Included in plan:

- Facility improvement
- Accreditation
- Financial Stewardship
- Strong marketing and public relations
- Robust Technology

Many of these things were started in 2016 and have been achieved.
2017- present St. Joe’s begins to rebound and declining enrollment trend is reversed.
The Past Four Years

2017- present Contributing Growth Factors include:

● David Thibault, Superintendent of Catholic Schools and his team at the Catholic Schools Office have been very supportive.
● The Bishop has visited many times and has continued to support us.
● Full-time Marketing and Development person hired.
● NEASC Accreditation achieved in 2018.
● Fr. Marc Montminy returns to Saints Mary & Joseph parish as and takes an active interest in the school.
● Ongoing support from the Knights of Columbus.
The Past Four Years

Enrollment

June 2017 Only 96 students registered for the 2017-18 school year

2017-2018: 115 students
2018-2019: 125 students
2019-2020: 137 students
2020-2021: 168 students*
2021-2022: 175**

*waitlist exists    **anticipated based on current registrations
Facility Improvements - Capital Campaign - Phase I
$140,436

2017 Installation of New Floor in Gymnasium
Gifts from the Community - Salem School District

$0

Desks, Desks, and More Desks!
Gifts from the Community - Salem School District

Tables and Chairs too!
Our Catholic Identity and Charism

Not just a school community, we are a family.

Thank you Brady Quinn for choosing St. Joe’s for his Eagle Scout project.
Our Catholic Identity and Charism

Not just a school community, we are a family.
Technology

Spring of 2018

20 new Chromebooks purchased to replace antiquated desktops for technology lab and classroom use.

Technology plan implemented to stay ahead of the curve in adding/replacing as needed.*

*Currently there are 40 Chromebooks (20 for the technology lab and 20 on a mobile cart for classroom use).
2018 Capital Campaign - Phase II
$65,646

The Playground Project approved during summer months and installed at start of new school year.
2018 Capital Campaign - Phase II

The Playground project approved during summer months and installed at start of new school year.
Technology Upgrades - FACTS SIS

New Student Information System (SIS)
Provides a one-stop for parents and school personnel

Staff Home Page
Technology Upgrades - FACTS SIS

Parent Home Page
Technology Upgrades - FACTS SIS

Parent Home Page with Daily Announcement

Thursday 3/4/21

Thursday, March 4, 2021

St. Germaine

If the will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead. Luke 16:31

Have you let Jesus into your heart?
Technology Upgrades - FACTS SIS

Additional Features

- **Communications**
- **School Alerts**
- **Linked to financial accounts**
- **Links to Google Classroom**
- **Classroom/Faculty pages**
Technology Upgrades - FACTS SIS
New Summer Program Added 2019

Summer Fun Program successfully introduced in 2019
New Summer Program Added 2019

Registrations for 2021 have begun
2019-20 Capital Campaign - Phase II

The Installation of the outdoor learning area and planting beds.
Cafeteria Kitchen fully renovated last summer (despite pandemic)

- New (or refurbished appliances)
- More efficient food storage
- Fresh paint
- New drop ceiling - *(Thank you Steve!)*
- State of the art hood exhaust and fire suppression system
Other Facility Improvements/Maintenance

- Gym floor cleaned and refinshed (maintenance)
- Emergency exit stairs from auditorium were repaired (Diocesan emergency safety grant)
- Energy efficient LED Lighting installed throughout the building (through an energy grant and 0% financing)
- Outdoor lighting installed replacing defunct fixtures for added security (as part of grant)
- Several broken/faulty windows and screens replaced - for enhanced fresh air circulation (COVID mitigation)
Other Facility Improvements/Maintenance

Additional wood chips were delivered and spread on playground area to keep within safety standards.

It required two deliveries of wood chips, and two Saturday mornings.

The volunteers included parents, teachers, and students, who “chipped” in.
COVID Challenges Addressed

We have had in person instruction since the beginning of the school year

- Within two days of statewide shutdown in March 2020, our students were online for remote learning.
- PPP Loan applied for and received with Diocesan help
- CARES Act funds coordinated with SSD
- Back to school committee - worked throughout the summer and continues to meet on as needed basis
- Capped class sizes, daily screenings, mitigation protocols
Safe enough for a Very Special Visitor
Other ways the Knights have helped

- **Ongoing presence on our School Advisory Board**
- **Always ready to volunteer**
- **Help network throughout the local community**
- **Word of mouth promoting the school**
- **Individual contributions**
St. Joe’s Efforts to reciprocate

We are always ready to help in any way possible!

- Coats for Kids project
- Recruiting Dads to join
- Participating in Annual Essay Contests
- Word of mouth promoting the Knights and acknowledging their contributions
- The school will be participating in the Rosary project for the canonization of Fr. McGivney
Next Big Project - New Capital Campaign

Bringing the Building up to Fire Code

● Creating “Safe Zones” in the building’s two stairwells
● Installation of sprinkler systems in stairwells
● Fireproofing all stairwell entry/exit points 6 or 8 total (2 extra are roof access and principal’s office).
● Estimated cost $100,000 - $140,000.
● Amount raised to date $35,000 with another $65,000 projected by spring.
Next Big Project - New Capital Campaign

Reasons

- Fire Marshall has been extremely patient with us
- One school and one church have already been shut down for similar reasons
- Diocese is on board with our phased approach
- Should have more than half the funds by June
Our Financial Future - There will always be challenges

• Changes in Diocesan Support

• Cost of educating a student ($8,269) vs. tuition ($6,296)
  Catholic education is meant to be affordable; difference is made up through fundraising.

• Maintaining an older facility

• Salaries/benefits
Financial Future - ways to help

- **School fundraisers - Annual Auction (Text “Auction21” to 76278 to participate)**
- **Write a check today**
- **Pledge to Annual Appeal**
- **Grants, financial aid scholarships etc.**
- **Support School Choice**
Finally...

Thank you for partnering with us to improve our school so we can continue educating our students and evangelizing our community!