

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

April 20, 2018

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

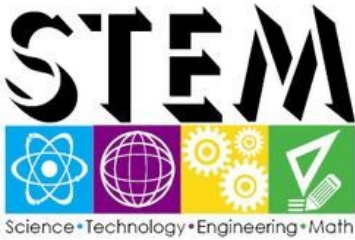
*Our accreditation Self Study work continues as we have completed all of the narratives and submitted it to the Archdiocese this week for review. Thank you to the parents who came in this past Tuesday to read and edit chapters. Your work is valuable, and we are grateful. We have just completed Chapter Four - the Action Plan, in which we used the data and analysis from our study to determine the big-picture goals that will further enhance student learning. Goals are focused on student faith formation as well as student academic growth, and include specific strategies for implementation. We also have goals that have stemmed from our In-Depth Study in Math.*

This Action Plan will be an important guiding document for us over the next six years as we continue to focus on improving student learning. One of our goals is to increase the training and implementation of our new Technology Plan, so that teachers can fully integrate technology into core classes, increasing high achievement of all students. Our next goal is to increase the professional development of our teachers in instructional methodologies, in order to continue to meet the changing needs of all students. Our last main goal is to expand regular use of school systems already in place in order to individualize instruction for students. We have started a number of new programs this year, including increased diagnostic work with the STAR testing system, implementing the STAR Flow 360 program, comprehensive use of School-Speak, backward-design lesson planning with Rubicon Atlas, and target work with PLC groups. While we are successfully finishing our implementation year, we would like to spend the next two years improving what we can to better serve our families. Our main Math goal from the In-Depth Study is to build our fact fluency and spiral review programs, raising our expectations and our skills to improve student learning and give us the time we need for hands-on projects in Math.

This is a big order to fill, and one that will take a lot of work. However, we have already started down these pathways, and are eager to grow and become stronger. The one thing that I have been struck by the most since coming to St. Joseph Catholic School is the complete commitment of our faculty to grow and learn. They have what it takes to take our children into the 21st century. Everyone brings different things to the table, and everything gets shared. We learn from each other, we stretch ourselves, and we shine all that knowledge and experience down on the students in our charge. It's a duty that we take very seriously, and I am blessed to be a part of such a strong community.

Deb Dewar, Principal  
St. Joseph Catholic School

## STEM Textbooks



Teachers have received copies of the Physical Science section of our new science series, and the excitement is spreading! Connecting the Next Generation Science Standards to lessons that are easily understood is the secret weapon of these new books. And the best part is that it comes with all of the activi-

ties and experiments that bring science to life! Some students are already benefiting from the new science challenges in the classrooms. We can't wait to show off what we've been testing and measuring! [Our next big experiment will be on display at the Academic Showcase and Open House on Thursday, May 3rd at 5:30 pm.](#) Mark your calendars, because this should be a blast!

## Benefit Gala/Auction

Don't miss out on attending this year's auction! There are some exciting items to be won: weekend getaways, dinners, flight to Newport, and so much more!

**Purchase your dinner tickets by Wednesday, April 25th and earn 5 PIE hours!**

Enjoy a fabulous evening while supporting St. Joseph Catholic School.



## Spring Concert

Students in St. Joseph's Music Classes are busy preparing for our annual **Spring Concert** to be held **Thursday, May 10 at 6:00 PM.** ([Gym doors will open at 5:30 PM.](#))

Students should wear appropriate, "concert" attire. Dresses and skirts for girls are acceptable, but should be worn with shorts underneath for sitting on the risers. Long pants are fine, but shorts/cargo shorts are also permitted. Shirts may not have "messages" on them, but prints/designs are permitted. Shoes may be any style that may be worn SAFELY when moving about on the risers. Some classes will be permitted to bring "accessories" appropriate to the song that they will be singing. (sunglasses, hats, etc.)

Please have your student(s) report to their individual classrooms by 5:45 PM on the night of the concert.

We hope that you will be able to join us!

## First Communion

Mrs. Borrego's second grade class will take part in the Sacrament of First Communion on Sunday, April 29th at 10:00 am. Second grade families have been busy all year preparing for this amazing opportunity, and we are excited to watch them go through this wonderful celebration. The following Wednesday, May 2nd, our First Communicants will share this celebration with the whole school, as they come dressed in their finest to celebrate the



## Academic Showcase & Open House



We can't wait for this year's Academic Showcase! We will have writing samples and science experiments to show off, among other things. Classrooms will be open for students to take tours from 2:30 to 3:00 on Thursday, May 3rd. And then, that evening, invite the whole family to come and visit. We are open from 5:30 to 6:30 for families to tour the projects. We are also welcoming new and prospective families. So get out those Ambassador Cards (for that \$1000 savings!) and bring an interested friend!

## Calendar

Calendar:

- Saturday, April 28 Masquerade Ball Gala Auction 5 pm
- Sunday, April 29 First Communion Mass for school students 10 am
- Tuesday, May 1 Outdoor School begins for sixth grade
- Thursday, May 3 Academic Showcase and Open House
- Friday, May 4 Half Day, Star Wars Spirit Day - 2 cans, mid-trimester
- Tuesday, May 8 Teacher Appreciation Day!
- Thursday, May 10 Spring Music Concert at 6:00 pm (students arrive at 5:45)
- Sunday, May 20 Deacon Stephen Kenion's first Masses as Deacon: 6:45 am and 10 am, with a Reception at noon in the cafeteria
- Monday, May 28 Memorial Day, no school
- Wednesday, June 6 Stephen Lynch Scholarship Awards (in place of Mass - priest retreat)
- Wednesday, June 13 St. Joseph Eighth Grade Graduation Mass and Reception
- Friday, June 15 Field Day, Last Day of School