



# COMMUNIQUE

THE MAGAZINE OF ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Spring 2020



*“Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams.” ~ Pope John XXIII*

*Celebrating Dr William Fitzgerald, St Joes Second President,  
and the Legacy he has Imprinted on our School.*





Dr Fitzgerald sporting his maroon and gold bowtie at the 2014 Sister Catherine Fanning Awards Dinner

## *We Grow Together. Together for Others.*

St Joseph High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory community that educates and motivates young women and men to live purposeful lives as ethical leaders committed to the common good of all.

Located on a 56-acre campus, the school enrolls over 800 students from more than 30 towns in Fairfield and New Haven counties.

## Board Members

St Joseph High School is a self-governing institution within the Diocese of Bridgeport. The Board of Directors is committed to advancement and achievement in Catholic college preparatory education.

### CHAIRPERSON

**Christopher Wilson P '08, '10, '14**  
Stonehill Capital Management, LLC

**Dr Steven Cheeseman P '23**  
Superintendent of Schools, *ex officio*  
Diocese of Bridgeport

**Fr Michael Jones**  
Episcopal Vicar  
Development Office  
Diocese of Bridgeport

**John Gschwind P '14**  
Rexel USA

**Kenneth Martin '95 P '21, '23, '24**  
Co-Owner, Colony Grill

**Andrea Maldon '89 P '19**  
Lone Pine Capital, retired

**Patrick O'Keefe P '07, '11**  
O'Keefe Controls Company

**Deacon Patrick Toole P '14**  
Episcopal Delegate for Administration  
Diocese of Bridgeport

**Michelle Whitlock P '17, '20**  
Ogilvy Health

**James Woods P '96, '98, '00**  
Venman & Company, Inc

**Dr William J Fitzgerald**  
Head of School, *ex officio*





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Head of School

Dr William J Fitzgerald, MDiv,  
MEd, PhD

## Principal

Nancy DiBuono, MAT

## Chief Financial Officer

Linda Batten P '10, '13, MBA

## Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction

Scott Clough, MAT

## Assistant Principal, Athletics

Kevin Butler, MA, RAA

## Director of College & School Counseling

Tim Nash, MA

## Dean of Student Life

Margo Sheehan '09, MA

## Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

Jessica Costa, MBA

## Director of Advancement

Aimee Marcella, MS

## Associate Director of Advancement

Sasha Davila Russell '01, MA

## Associate Director, Marketing & Communications

Maria Martinez, MA

## Articles

### 04 Creating a Legacy

A timeline of Dr Fitzgerald's impact on  
St Joseph High School

### 10 Curriculum Innovation

St Joes powers STEAM education to  
the next level

### 14 Athletic Champions

Celebrating our student-athletes, Hall of  
Fame nominees, and expanding athletic  
curriculum

## Inside

### 02 From the Head of School

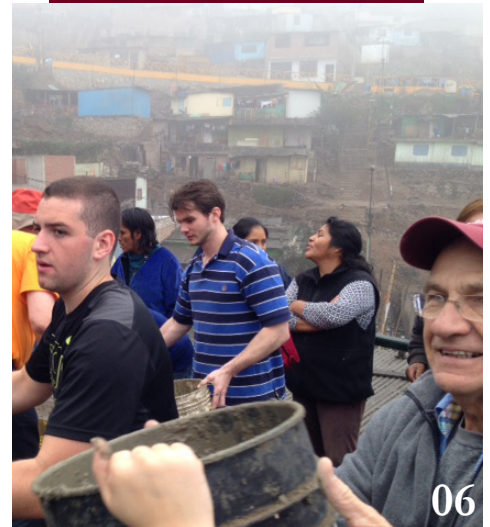
### 12 Engineering Spotlights

### 17 Gym Renovation

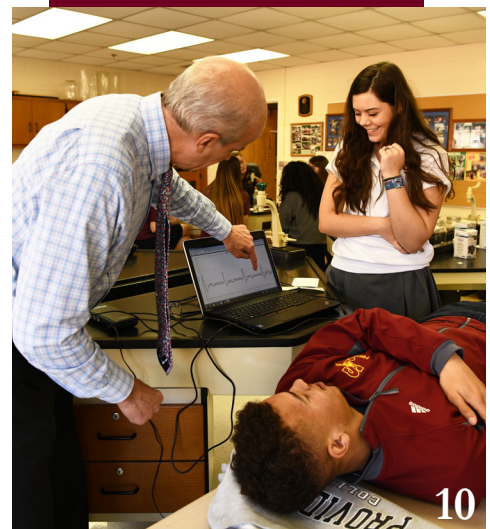
### 18 Investing in the Arts

### 25 A Note from David Klein

### 28 Alumni News



06



10



18

## PASSING THE TORCH

### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

*Mr Chris Wilson P '08 '10 '14*

As you will read in the pages ahead, in preparing for Dr Fitzgerald's retirement on June 30, 2020, we devote this Communiqué to celebrating Bill's twelve years leading St Joes. You will be reminded of a long list of achievements including people, places, and programs. Bill's legacy is certainly one of accomplished leadership, but interspersed within the big milestones that mark our history are the everyday interactions, with a teacher, with a student, cheering from the sideline, speaking from a stage, or kneeling in prayer. It is in these everyday interactions that Bill's warmth, kindness, and Christian example help foster the feeling that St Joes is "home".



*Dr Fitzgerald with Mr Wilson at Accepted Students Night (2016)*

St Joes is blessed with many dedicated, outstanding, long-serving faculty members, most pre-dating Bill. But all have benefited from

Bill's guidance, mentorship, and mutual trust. Almost all administrative leadership positions have been professionally recruited by Bill in a deliberate evolutionary goal for continuous improvement. Running a school well takes great people; Bill recruited, trained, and supervised an outstanding team.

Despite being less than seven years old, it is hard to imagine St Joes without the beautiful O'Keefe Academic Center. The Wellness Facility and the sports facilities have been improved to the point of being almost unrecognizable to a graduate of only ten years ago. The expanded, well-landscaped campus has made St Joes a pride of the neighborhood. Bill's vision and managerial oversight worked to make these dreams reality.

All the improvements that you will read about herein have been accomplished to benefit our students through Bill's sound management, the Board's oversight, and our skilled team – and equally through your generous donations, which are critical to our ability to keep St Joes accessible and affordable. St Joes maintains ample reserves to cover a rainy day, while growing financial aid every year to welcome families that would otherwise be unable to afford enrollment.

As chair of the board, I am happy to report that St Joes is flourishing. The school is fiscally sound, fully enrolled, responsive to the needs of our students and teachers, and guided by a talented and professional Board of Directors. The Board's full responsibility for governance, granted by the Diocese almost three years ago, has brought with it several advantages. The most important is the responsibility to ensure excellent leadership, including continuity of leadership. While we celebrate Bill, we are confident that St Joes will continue to grow under the able and experienced leadership of David Klein. David has been very engaged at St Joes as we plan for transition. He will feel like a familiar face when we formally welcome him as our new President on July 1, 2020. Meanwhile, we can be confident St Joes will continue to be blessed with superb leadership.

*Chris Wilson*



## A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

### “IT’S BEEN A PRIVILEGE”

*Dr William J Fitzgerald*



*Incoming President, Mr David Klein (Right), tours the school with Dr Fitzgerald*

To my St Joes Family,

When Sr Anne Denise SSND, my high school principal, heard that I had become a high school principal, she said, “Well, he ought to be good at it. He spent enough time in my office learning how.” I didn’t learn a lot about institutional finance and such from Sister, but I did learn how to treat people. Over the last four decades, those early lessons in patience, encouragement, compassion, forgiveness, and Sister’s unflagging confidence in God’s grace has served me well, and in turn, those whom I have had the privilege to serve at St Joes.

St Joes is special. “It Takes a Village” should be filmed here. When I think of the strategic plans, the campus master plans, the feasibility studies, capital campaigns, technology initiatives, college curriculum planning, diocesan policy directives, I realize Peter Drucker is right, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.” What prevails are our values. Our core values of faith, learning, service, and family drive St Joes—and our parents are the great sponsors of those values. I won’t soon forget the Andrzejewskis’ talks at Accepted Students Night. They told the St Joes story—three grads, one alumnus, and one mom who has all the enthusiasm of a convert. I’ll take full credit for the Ivy and Catholic-Ivy league acceptances (*academics matter!*), but the truth is, it’s a great faith we have in each other. Together, for others. We are a remarkable community of believers.

Pope John XXIII said, “Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams.” This has been the calling card at St Joes. Sr Catherine Fanning, Monsignor Richard Shea, Mr Dick Bishop—all faced forward and handed on a high performing Catholic college prep school to the next generation. And when Mr David Klein walks through the doors on July 1, he will find an engaged, faith-based community—faculty, administrators, staff, coaches, parents, and most of all, the students—all ready and willing to take St Joes to the next level.

David will find St Joes in good hands. The Board of Directors, our administration, our programs, and especially our faculty who engage our students in meaningful, ethical conversations day in and day out—all are focused on the Catholic school mission: Faith *and* Reason. Science *and* Tradition. Family *and* Friends. St Joes is and will continue to be a remarkable community of believers.

It’s been a privilege. I pray I have been responsible. I’ll always keep St Joes in my thoughts and prayers.

Godspeed,

*Dr. Fitz* —



# LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD



Bill has embraced the culture, values and mission of the St Joes community since day one. Over his tenure, Bill has contributed greatly to the success and continuous improvement of St Joes.

Thank you, Bill, for all that you have done for our amazing school community. You and your warm smile will certainly be missed. Wishing you all the best in your next chapter.

~ **Andrea '89 (Board Member) & Jonathan Maldon '89, Alice '19**

Bill knows Catholic education. He described in our strategic plan "The soul of our faith-based school emerges from the shared life of teachers, families, students and administration working and praying together".

~ **Dr Claire Paolini, Assumption Catholic School; Retired Dean, SHU**

Dr Fitzgerald has been incredibly supportive of both my athletic and artistic career at St Joes. Rarely was there a girls soccer game where he wasn't on the sidelines cheering us on! Dr Fitzgerald takes a genuine interest in every concert, play, and game day because he sees the passion in the student body. His kind and supportive presence will be missed at St Joes.

~ **Julia DiCesare '20**

Dr Fitzgerald is an inspirational leader of a community that balances rigor with support, innovation with tradition, and development with service. He will be missed.

~ **Aimee Marcella, Director of Advancement,**

**2012**

Dr Fitz cuts the ribbon on the O'Keefe Media Center



**2008**

Dr Fitz joins St Joes as the school's second President



**2012**

St Joes celebrates 50 years of continued excellence

**2016**

The Francis Xavier Immersion Program is created, with trips to Ecuador, Peru, and China



**2017**

Completion of the Wetlands & Nature Boardwalk, which allows for outdoor study and mindfulness trails



Bill is everyone's biggest supporter. He does not micromanage his staff and faculty; he encourages everyone to try new ideas or programs for the betterment of the school. The trust he has in all of us is what makes him such a strong leader.

~ **Kevin Butler, Assistant Principal for Athletics**

We have worked with Bill on the Assumption Board for 10 years.

Throughout his time on the board, Bill has expanded our vision, tested the old norms, enlightened us on academic excellence, and ensured that we had a learning environment that support Catholic values.

He is like the popular TV commercial – "Good is not Good enough". He always looks for a better way – always testing the "we always do it that way" approach.

~ **Mike Byrnes, Assumption Catholic School Board, Finance Chair**

I remember when I first ran into Dr Fitzgerald at Vines & Steins. I told him how thankful I was for the great job he was doing with our kids. I was so proud of their academic achievements and the fact that they both had immersed themselves in the St Joes family. He told me that he could not take credit for that. He went on to say that he had a great staff that was passionate about the work they did and that my wife and I obviously did something right in raising them. I think the family atmosphere at St Joes is Dr Fitzgerald's greatest legacy. He goes out of his way to speak to each family at any event he attends and always greets you with a friendly and welcoming smile. He is an example I try to follow when I come across new families at the school. My family is grateful to Dr Fitzgerald for welcoming us to the community.

~ **Manuel and Odette Espailat, Matthew '20, Bianca '21**

Congratulations Bill!

Your wisdom, wit, and boundless energy have enhanced the St Joseph community beyond the wildest hopes and dreams of the Board when we first met you so many years ago. I wish you good health and much happiness in life's next chapter.

~ **Fran McGettigan, Board Member, Member Emeritus, Brian '99, Caitlin '01, Kellie '05, Kevin '08**





We feel fortunate and blessed that our children were able to attend St Joes under Dr Fitz's watch. Dr Fitz's innovative leadership expanded and elevated the standards of the curriculum while maintaining the family and faith based environment, which is the primary reason why so many have chosen St Joes. Thank you for your years of dedication.

~ Rich '85 and Cindy Andrzejewski,  
Isabel '17, Jude '18, Mari '20

My father, Robert O'Keefe, and I were on the committee that interviewed Bill for the position of president.

The media center addition was just moving into the fundraising stage. I asked Bill three times if he had any experience with fundraising for a project of this magnitude. Each time he responded with a rambling circuitous retort that dissembled the question. He was smiling the whole time.

On the way home that night I pointed out to my father how Bill had avoided answering my question each time I asked it. He said, "I noticed that but I don't think he can help it, he's Irish".

Well then, said I, "Two votes for Fitzgerald!"

~ Patrick O'Keefe, Board Member  
Katherine '07, Kristin '11

2018

Completion of the Health & Wellness Center; introducing a new Fitness for Life curriculum



2018

St Joes expands! Students begin to attend class in our renovated convent



2018

Cup of Joe Café - St Joe's student-run, non-profit coffee shop officially opens



2020

Dr Fitz is awarded the 2020 CASE Chief Executive Leadership Award

Congratulations on a job well done. It's great to see St Joes doing so well. Enjoy retirement. It's fabulous!

~ Richard A Bishop, St Joes Former Principal and First President,  
Kathleen '00

St Joseph High School has flourished under the strong leadership of Dr Fitzgerald. His expectations for this wonderful faith-based community have always been high. His forward looking approach has empowered the school to grow and excel in all areas. I have admired his devotion to the values of faith and family and his consistently student-centered approach as he championed any endeavor that would advance the mission of St Joseph High School. He has certainly left his mark and left the school in the best possible position to continue to meet the challenges of the future. I wish Bill and Susan many happy years of retirement filled with health, happiness, and grandchildren!

~ Linda Batten '10, '13,  
Chief Financial Officer

Dr Fitz is an extremely welcoming presence who is willing to work with students on issues that affect them most and is always looking for ways for our community to continue growing.

~ Peter Spinelli '20

In the time I've worked with Dr Fitzgerald, it is clear to me that he is a respected leader in Catholic secondary education. I will miss him and I've certainly enjoyed working with him!

~ Tim Nash, Director,  
College & School  
Counseling

Dr Fitz and I have grown very close over the past few years. His compassionate and determined personality are part of what makes him such a great leader. As a co-founder of Cup O' Joe, I always looked forward to our coffee shop meetings so we could update Dr Fitz on our progress and discuss future business plans. I consider myself very lucky to have developed such a personal relationship with him and I am happy to call him a mentor.

~ Brooke Robinson '20





*Dr Fitzgerald during a service trip to Peru in 2014*



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

*Dr Fitzgerald's Impact - from a Staff Member, Student, Parent, and Alum*

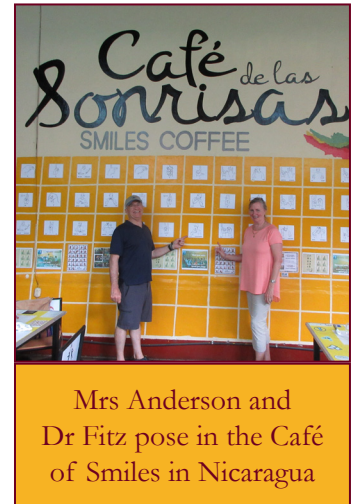
*Maureen Anderson, Faculty Member, Director of Extracurricular Programs*

**16 Trips Since 2014 | 6 Countries | 5 States | 224 Students Impacted**

Dr Fitzgerald's view of college preparatory education reaches far beyond MLA format, Calculus, and lab reports; his ideal college preparatory education is one that motivates young women and men to live purposeful lives as ethical leaders committed to the common good of all. In 2013, he quantified the intangible exercise of intentional, mindful cultural study with the development of the Francis Xavier International Baccalaureate Program.

Immersion Trips offer a unique perspective for our students as they take time to experience the lives of our sisters and brothers around the corner and around the world. They listen and learn from individuals and families; take excursions to monuments for meaningful history lessons; and engage in conversation to hone world language skills. Undoubtedly, students' lives are changed as they step out of the familiar and venture into a new world-view as global citizens.

Confronted with authentic, global experiences, students explore significant challenges facing humanity such as housing needs, access to education, political infrastructure, and religious tolerance. Preparing future diplomats, entrepreneurs, and social justice agents within a community centered in Catholic values ensures peaceful voices of innovation will always be in great supply. While the lives of our students and those they serve are emphatically impacted, the overwhelming benefit of Dr Fitzgerald's mission to empower young men and women through authentic and life-changing global experiences will only be compounded with time.



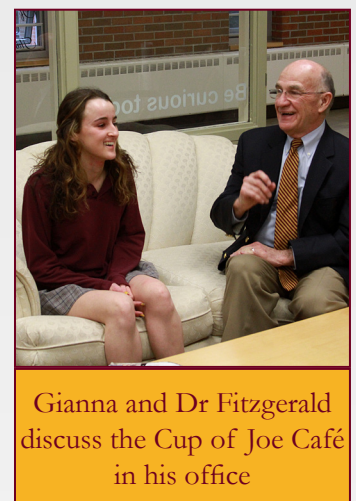
Mrs Anderson and Dr Fitz pose in the Café of Smiles in Nicaragua

*Gianna Caruso '20, Immersion Trip Participant*

In 2017, I attended the Immersion Trip to Nicaragua where Dr Fitzgerald and his wife served as chaperones. One of the first things I remember is how approachable he was; immediately I was eased by his humor and kindness.

Bird book in hand, Dr Fitzgerald advised us to be mindful during our experience and to take advantage of cultural exploration. I was in awe of his effortless influence in grounding our group's mission and further impressed by his encyclopedic knowledge of historical sites, ecology, and culture; our adventure was made exponentially more interesting as he shared his expertise with us.

After we returned, Dr Fitzgerald helped us to implement a plan to ensure our experience would make a lasting difference. He helped us write a business plan, order inventory, and renovate the Cup O' Joe Café to support Café de las Sonrisas in Nicaragua. Dr Fitzgerald is an exceptional educator, leader, friend, and business partner. He stops in the Café every morning for his black cup of coffee, to check in on us, share a smile, and tell us to "go learn something". His leadership brought my immersion trip experience full-circle and I am ever grateful for his impact on my life. My admiration for him spans far beyond his role within our school; I aspire to be as inspirational, intentional, and thoughtful as he is.



Gianna and Dr Fitzgerald discuss the Cup of Joe Café in his office



Michelle's daughter, Adele '20, discusses college options with Dr Fitzgerald

### *Michelle Whitlock, Board Member, P '17, '20*

My first impression of Bill Fitzgerald was an address he gave at an academic awards event in 2013 during the pre-admissions process for my son, William '17. I was immediately struck by his thoughtful, articulate portrayal of the merits of St Joes, with warm words of advice for families in the transition process. Indeed, our decision to commit to the school was in part cemented by Bill's oratorical power, which conjured fond memories of my Jesuit professors. "Yes!" I thought, "That's exactly the kind of person I want educating my son." William has now graduated and my daughter Adele '20 will graduate this May.

I've had the good fortune to work closely alongside Bill – first as a member of the Parent Association, and more recently on the school's Board of Directors. Along the way, I have come to appreciate some essential things about him that may elude the casual observer – including his stealthy, Boston-bred, "wicked" sense of humor. But

importantly, for me as a parent, Bill models a humility that is rooted in service and is refreshingly judgement-free. Reflecting on the mission of the school, Bill once told us, "We are always responsible to God and conscience." I think that perfectly encapsulates what he believes to be the mission of the faculty and staff: to steward – with grateful hearts – each student placed in their care. It is not to press or contort them into a prefabricated academic, spiritual, or social mold, or to pass judgement when they (inevitably) fall short. Bill sees what is beautiful in each young man or woman, not what is missing or deficient.

As a result, he is as proud of each of them as he is of his own children, and will enthusiastically recount tales of their accomplishments and progress. If I were drafting a college recommendation for Bill, as he has done for countless seniors over the years, it might start thusly: "I couldn't be more pleased to recommend to you a truly outstanding academic and ethical leader, who has inspired thousands of young people by living an authentic, full-body commitment to justice and service." Because we live in a world that is increasingly eager to coerce, condemn, and complain, Bill's boundless capacity to love and accept is all the more remarkable. It is at the heart of the legacy he will leave each of our Cadets.



John poses with Dr Fitzgerald at our 2019 Maroon & Gold Gala

### *John Corrado '11, Alumni Volunteer*

Dr Fitz embodies everything that is unique and special about St Joes. From the moment he walked through the doors when I was a freshman in the spring of 2008 to working with him as Alumni Association President to introduce Career Day and the Futures Internship Program, Dr Fitz has always put the students first. Whether it was advising and leading, cheering and celebrating, or mourning and comforting, he has been a constant guiding light for students walking through the doors of SJ for twelve years. Working with him on various levels as an adult has brought a new level of respect for the tireless work he does – work that he often doesn't take credit for. A man of faith, humility, and a deep love of Catholic education, Dr Fitz has made a lasting impression on students, parents, staff, and benefactors alike. I am extremely honored to know him throughout these past twelve years and wish him nothing but the best in his well-deserved retirement!





## Dr Fitzgerald Wins 2020 Executive Leadership Award

St Joseph High School is proud to announce that Dr Fitzgerald has been selected as the winner of the 2020 Council of Advancement for the Support of Education (CASE) **District I Chief Executive Leadership Award**. This award recognizes CASE member institutional heads, presidents, chancellors, or other campus chief executive officers for outstanding efforts in promoting and supporting education and institutional advancement.



Dr Fitz's motto, "Together, for others", has encouraged a tradition of selfless service among students and staff that has since extended to the global community. His determination to secure a sustainability model over and against market trends has been consistent, deliberate, and strategic. His enthusiasm for the mission and the vision of St Joseph High School is valued by those who work alongside him, as well as colleagues in the field of education.

The award was presented to Dr Fitzgerald on March 12, 2020 at the Westin Copley Hotel in Boston, MA.



# AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCIENCE

## The Evolution of the Science Department

by Dr Dan Walsh, Science Department Chair

The grand rule of nature is “evolve or go extinct”, and it is probably equally applicable to education. Over the past five years we have intensified both the depth and breadth of our science program: more students are taking science AP courses and advanced electives than ever before. Increasing scheduling flexibility during junior and senior years now allows pre-college science majors to graduate St Joseph High School with five, or even six years of science preparation, advanced laboratory training, and experience. This has resulted in St Joes graduates obtaining competitive undergraduate science research positions as early as their freshman year in college.

Historically, we have had a high percentage of St Joes graduates enter the medical sciences, and our graduates continue to excel in that field. More recently, science-related engineering and technology courses have diversified and expanded our program to the extent that next year it will spin off a new Innovation and Technology Department. The recent addition of an AP Environmental Science course coupled with boardwalk access to our campus wetlands has expanded our environmental/conservation science strand. While we continue to offer a strong core in the basic sciences of biology, chemistry, and physics, upper class students can now emphasize and explore strands of courses that align more closely with their intended college majors and eventual careers. Our science program has evolved, and will continue to evolve to track the constantly changing educational, college readiness, and future career environments.



42%



*42% of SJ graduates pursue a college major in medical science*

6



*Cadets have access to 6 lab spaces including an innovation studio and wetland boardwalk ecology lab*

5



*The average SJ graduate earns 5 credits in science compared to the state average of 3*



# Introducing a New Curriculum Strand Focused on Technology & Innovation

by Scott Clough, Assistant Principal, Curriculum & Instruction

If the true purpose of education is to foster the ability to critically think, analyze, explore, and create, than what better way to attain this goal than to offer courses intentionally designed to do just this?

Freshman year, students will begin a new course called IDEA (Innovation, Design, and Engineering Applications) which is a project-based technology rich course. Collaborative, inquiry-based learning will assist the students with the skills needed to be successful in high school and higher education. Many other innovative and technology focused classes can also be taken such as Robotics, Coding, Engineering Design Project, Software Development, and Aviation and Flight Science.

Innovation does not stop with students. Faculty have had professional development on ways to incorporate innovative ideas and projects into the curriculum to engage the learner of today. The English Department has used specially designed video games and interactive blogs to involve the student. It is also common in St Joes to see robots and drones enhancing the curriculum.

## New Courses

- » IDEA: Innovation, Design, and Engineering Applications
- » Robotics and Automated Systems
- » Principles of Engineering
- » Principles of Computer Coding; App Development
- » Engineering Design Project
- » Software Development and Integration
- » Aviation and Flight Science
- » Technology & Innovation Capstone Project

## Making the Most of Four Grants Awarded by Foundations in Education

### Putting the “A” into STEAM Education

In support of our art, theater, and music programs, new technology will propel our course offerings to include Graphic Design I and II, Theater and Set Design, Music Engineering, and more. The infusion of such technology further prepares students for careers in directing, drafting, media editing, graphic, industrial and product design, multimedia arts and web design.

### Math In Motion

Cadets will use the 8TI Innovator Rover to experience math by adding a physical dimension to verbal, symbolic and graphic representations of their critical thinking and analytical skills. The 8TI Innovator equipment enables students to become more collaborative and innovative as they explore different ways to move the Rovers while collecting data with CBR2s.



### Aviation & Flight Science

This course will enhance student skills in critical thinking, public speaking, task management, and effective communication.

Through extensive ground school studies and strenuous flight training on highly-realistic simulators, graduates of this course will experience a significant portion of the same training civilian and military pilot candidates receive in flight school.

### ImmerseMe Language Program

The “ImmerseMe” Virtual Reality Language Learning program will connect Cadets to locations across the world to practice conversation skills with native speakers. These virtual reality experiences will simulate authentic conversations allowing students to develop listening comprehension, fluency, and accuracy in pronunciation of their chosen world language.

# By Her Own Design

## Rosemarie Skawinski Chaves '74 Shares Her Journey From the Halls of St Joes to Drafting Tables at Avco Lycoming

by Aimee Marcella, Director of Advancement



In 1974, the halls of St Joes had a similar rush as they do today. Books in hand, uniform in place, it was just as important then as it is now to be on time and ready to learn. Rosemarie Skawinski Chaves, looks back on those years fondly, and with gratitude for the guidance of Mr Albert Giglio, who at that time was the Head of the Math Department. “Mr Giglio recognized my potential and drew it out of me, which helped me believe I could do anything I wanted to do”. At St Joes, Rosemarie earned an award for excellence in mathematics, joined the National Honor Society, and earned a varsity letter in Chess. She credits her parents with giving her a strong, positive foundation that led her to achieve. “I was a product of St Michael the Archangel Parish School in Bridgeport, and always knew I wanted to go to St Joes. When it was time to choose a high school, my parents told me I could go wherever I wanted to go, and they worked hard to make that happen for me”.

Following her intellectual curiosity, Rosemarie gravitated to pursuits that applied her skills with problem solving. Engineering, specifically design thinking, spoke to her. She went on to study industrial design, earning a degree from the University of Bridgeport. In the male-dominated world of engineering, she often found herself the only female in her class. This carried with her well into her career as a Technical Illustrator at Avco Lycoming, Stratford’s famed army engine plant. She remembers that time as a “learning experience”, where she often found herself the only female in the room or in the department. “No one was my age, and they were often hesitant to include me. But, I held my ground; often reminding them I wasn’t going anywhere and that I was the one with college degree when many of them did not have one”.

Where many of her male counterparts resisted technological advances, she embraced them. “I took it on, knowing that becoming computer literate with these first technological programs would be beneficial.” As a forward-thinking talent in the field of industrial design, she worked over two decades at Avco – her favorite design remains the AGT (Automatic Gas Turban) 500 for the Abrams Tank, which was instrumental in the Gulf War conflict.

Happily retired now with her husband Angelo, a retired colonel whom she met at a military ball, you can often find Rosemarie out and about cruising the backroads in one of her prized corvettes. Retirement has also inspired her to give back; she started the Rosemarie Skawinski Chaves '74 Scholarship in 2018, to encourage women to engage in engineering fields. It is awarded to a student currently enrolled at St Joes who intends to pursue a career in engineering. “My parents gave me the opportunity to go to St Joes, and I know the sacrifices they made to do so. I want to give back the blessings I was given, and share the faith that St Joes gave me to believe in myself”.

*Feel inspired to contribute to a scholarship and change the life of a St Joes student?  
Contact Aimee Marcella, Director of Advancement, [amarcella@sjcadets.org](mailto:amarcella@sjcadets.org).*





# Looking Toward the Stars

## Teddy Smith '20 Launches 'LIFT OFF', an Engineering Program for Elementary and Middle School Children

by Jessica Costa, Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

The landing page at [liftoffengineering.org](http://liftoffengineering.org) greets visitors with a quick reminder of how vast the universe truly is. With a starry photo background, Stephen Hawking's inspiring words span the page, "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet." Teddy Smith has designed the page to inspire the student he was eight years ago. The program he's built to support innovation in young minds is bound to astound.

Teddy is an aspiring rocket scientist, fascinated with innovative engineering. In his free time, he is occupied with building and racing drones, flying RC planes, and launching model rockets. His love of rocket science developed in the engineering program at St Joes and has solidified his career path, but was sparked years ago in his elementary school Mad Science Club. When Teddy learned of a funding deficit threatening his former elementary school science club to disband, he felt passionately that he could not let the future generation of innovators and colleagues go without the gift he'd been given. That's when "Lift Off" took off and Teddy founded his own program.



*Teddy poses in front of a landing page for his website*

Designed to be hands-on, interactive, and collaborative, Liftoff Engineering is an educational outreach program structured for students in elementary and middle school. While the program is STEM based, the skills learned are vital to every discipline, which provides students valuable takeaways for every subject.

Teddy has enlisted the help of his peers to ensure that Liftoff Engineering is a program run by students, for students. Scaffolded and structured, projects are designed to build upon existing knowledge while challenging students to engage in new skills. By the end of the program, students are able conceptualize and solve their own engineering problems.



*"Teddy is so well prepared. He's great with the kids, and they are really enjoying the program!"*

*~ Pam Robertson, Program & Volunteer Coordinator, Sterling House Community Center, Stratford, CT*





# A Celebration of Champions

## 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees

*April 25, 2020 - Register: [sjcadets.org/halloffame](http://sjcadets.org/halloffame)*

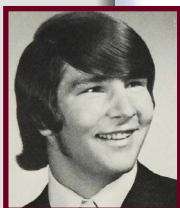
### Mr Walt Trojanowski

#### Class of 1972

Football (Captain)

- 2-time All-MBLAC
- New Haven Register All-State
- Played Football at UB
- Coached Football at SJ
- Track (Captain)
- Qualified for Javelin in State Open

SJ Senior Athlete of 1972



**Athlete**

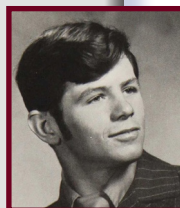
### Mr Marty Dempsey

#### Class of 1973

Football (Captain)

- 5th in Most Rushing Attempts in a Season
- 2nd in Most Touchdowns in a Game
- NY Daily News All-Star
- New Haven Register All-State Team

Baseball; Swimming



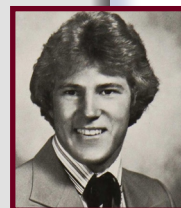
**Athlete**

### Mr Jay Polydys

#### Class of 1978

Football (Captain)  
Baseball (Captain)

- Career records at graduation in hits, RBIs, triples, homeruns, and stolen bases
- 2-Time All-League
- 2-Time All NY Daily News
- Played baseball at UNH



**Athlete**

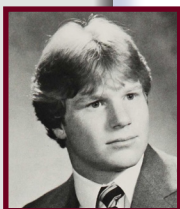
### Mr Bruce Perry

#### Class of 1984

Football

- All-MBLAC
- Co-MVP
- All CT Post
- All-State New Haven Register
- Records at

graduation: Most TDs in a game, season and career; State Record of Most TDs in a Season



**Athlete**

### Ms Joelle LePardo

#### Anderson

#### Class of 1985

Basketball

- 2-Time All-MBLAC
- All-State
- 1,000 pt scorer

Softball

- 3-Time All-MBLAC
- MBLAC MVP
- All-State



**Athlete**

### Mrs Jennifer Luzietti

#### Spana

#### Class of 1987

Basketball (Captain)

- All-MBLAC
- 2-Time All-ACC
- Bridgeport Post All-Region
- 2nd Team All-State

Softball (Captain)

- State Championship Team
- Volleyball (Captain)
- State Championship Team



**Athlete**

### Mrs Jessica Schloth

#### Sgalardi

#### Class of 2010

Soccer

- 3-time All-FCLAC
- 2-time CT Player of the Year
- 3-time All-State
- 2-time All-New England
- 2-time All-American
- 2009 Gatorade Player of the Year



**Athlete**

### Mr Craig Avery

(posthumously)

- Served as a constant figure at SJ since the '90s
- Member of the Touchdown Club
- Served on hiring committees
- Was active in fundraising, field setup, and overall field projects
- Father of Keith Avery '99



**Friend**

### 1980 Baseball Team



**Team**

- Class S State Champions with an 8-1 victory over New London High School
- 21-5 record (lost 4 games by 1 run each)

# 2020 Student-Athletes Take Center Stage



**Mike Morrissey '20**  
*New Haven Register*  
*Player of the Year*



**Jack Wallace '20**  
*Gatorade Player of the Year*



**Varsity Football Team**  
*2019 Joseph W Kelly Award*  
*Undefeated Season; 2019 Class L Champions*



**Maddie Fried '21**  
*All-American*



**Jaden Shirden '20**  
*CT High School Football*  
*Player of the Year*



**Girls Gymnastics**  
*Earned second place in the FCLAC in their*  
*inaugural season as a stand-alone team!*

## SJ's Largest Mid-Year Signing Day: 18 Student-Athletes!



As of March 2020, St Joes has honored 18 student-athletes who will be continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level! The student-athletes were surrounded by friends, family, teammates, and coaches as they signed their respective letters of intent. We wish them all the best as they continue their journey.

- Ian Argento, Volleyball, Div I  
Penn State University
- Kayla Clark, Track, Div I  
Elon University
- Ashley Collins, Soccer, Div III  
Western New England University
- Cole daSilva, Football, Div III  
Union College
- Will Diamantis, Football, Div II  
Stonehill College
- Payton Doiron, Softball, Div II  
Bentley University
- Gabby Gatto, Tennis, Div III  
Union College
- Charlie Horton, Softball, Div I  
Fairfield University
- Lily Ivanovich, Lacrosse, Div I  
Monmouth University
- Sean Keane, Lacrosse, Div III  
Clark University
- Bella Moore, Crew, Div I  
Bucknell University
- Mike Morrissey, Football, Div IAA  
Central Connecticut State University
- Mike Mulligan, Lacrosse, Div II  
Catholic University
- Ryan Novitski, Baseball, Div III  
Bowdoin College
- Cayden Porter, Football, Div III  
Western New England University
- Davee Silas, Football, Div IAA  
Sacred Heart University
- Schuyler Tomey, Gymnastics, Div I  
Quinnipiac University
- Louis Tuccio, Track, Div III  
Tufts University



# A FORWARD THINKING APPROACH TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION

by Kevin Butler, Assistant Principal for Athletics

Under the guidance and support of Dr Fitzgerald and our board of directors, the athletic department has seen immense growth, both in program developments and brick and mortar projects over the past seven years. Dr Fitzgerald has recognized the expansion of collegiate opportunities afford to students boasting a strong athletic resume and has therefore created the platform for their success here at St Joes.

Dr Fitz's visionary outlook and continued support for athletic opportunities ushered in much needed facility enhancements to serve not only the interscholastic athlete, but the entire student-body and staff. Four interscholastic teams were developed to capitalizing on our expanding student body with a diverse array of athletic talents. As a welcomed fixture on the sidelines, he can be seen cheering on our Cadet athletes as they strive to win every day.

## *Under Dr Fitzgerald's Leadership, the Athletic Department has:*

### **Added Interscholastic Programs**

- Women's Field Hockey
- Women's Golf
- Men's wrestling
- Women's Gymnastics

### **Enhanced Facilities**

- New upper turf field
- Health & Wellness Center
- Baseball field renovation
- Softball field drainage system
- Gym renovation

### **Elevated Curriculum**

- 4 new electives



*Schuyler Tomey '20 will be attending Quinnipiac University. She has committed to participate in the University's Division I Acrobatics and Tumbling Team. Schuyler also placed 2nd during the FCIACs for All-Around.*



*Students Cheer During "Battle of the Classes"*

# NEW COURSES IN HEALTH & WELLNESS

by Alisha Thresher, Director, Health & Wellness Center

Whether it is learning what to eat before a game, proper lifting techniques, or understanding the effect exercise has on your body, our St Joes community is ready to learn more. Beginning Fall 2020, we are pleased to announce the addition of four new semester-long electives elevating the Physical Education Curriculum.

- **Intro to Strength and Conditioning** will take an in depth look at the effects of exercise on the body. This course will prove beneficial for students who are interested in pursuing a career field in exercise science or strength and conditioning.
- Our **Personal Health and Fitness** course is a hybrid health and physical education course. Students will gain the knowledge and skills to maintain a healthy lifestyle including exercise, nutrition, and recovery.
- **Nutrition** is quickly becoming one of our most sought-out classes. Students will learn the importance of macronutrients, how culture and society affect our eating habits, healthy weight management, diet-related diseases, and how nutritional needs change throughout our life.
- Lastly, our **Body Flow** course will place an emphasis on various principles of yoga, pilates, tai chi, meditation, and basic stretching. Students will gain an understanding of the connection between the spirit, mind, and body.

At St Joes, we strive to prepare our students for success in their careers. With an increase in jobs in the healthcare, exercise science, and nutrition fields, we are excited to provide our students with these introductory courses to not only prepare for college but also create sustainable healthy lifestyle habits.



*Dr Fitzgerald frequents the Health & Wellness Center*

## Updating a Classic: St Joes Gym Gets a Refresh!

Beginning in June 2020, St Joseph High School's gymnasium will be getting a new look and feel!

The renovations, which will include installing a new floor, bleachers, basketball backboards, as well as a new air conditioning system, will be complete by the first day of classes in the fall.





# INVESTING IN THE ARTS

## Theater Training at St Joseph High School Goes Far Beyond the Classroom Walls

by Katie Cardillo, Fine Arts Department Chair

As head of the theatre program, one of my greatest joys is preparing young artists for their college auditions. During my tenure, SJ graduates have gone on to major in theatrical arts at NYU, Emerson University, UCONN, Temple University, Elon University, University of Edinburgh, and more. The college application process is always a rigorous one, but for those interested in pursuing a BA or BFA in theater, the steps are even greater to gain acceptance.

The process starts with the selection of monologues. Often times, schools require a wide array of works; from comedic modern monologues to tragic Shakespearian, and everything in between. Once the student and I pour through the varied application requirements, we select works which we feel will best highlight his/her performance strengths. The selected pieces are rehearsed, recorded, and edited for many weeks to perfection.

We enlist the guidance of successful professional alumni to counsel current students via FaceTime or Google Hangouts. We model the audition process itself and they rehearse each step, from introduction to the transition in and out of their performance pieces, to accepting criticism with grace. By the time St Joes students are auditioning at their chosen universities, they have confidence that they are fully prepared for whatever comes their way.

St Joseph High School graduates go on to have successful college careers and professional experiences. Our group of career professionals, graduates, and rising seniors become a life-long network of mentorship as the process of gaining acceptance to a prestigious program is just the beginning. Our group is in constant support of one another's auditions for Master's Degrees and/or professional careers. I consider myself blessed to be a part of these incredibly talented artists' lives and look forward to celebrating their future successes.



*1 in 8 SJ Cadets Participate in  
Drama Club Each Year*





## Driving Toward My Passion

by James McMahon, Class of 2020



**James McMahon**  
Syracuse University '24  
Theatre Major

*"If I hadn't had such a strong introduction to theatre at St Joes, I don't think it would be such a huge part of my life today."*

I will never forget the day I had to drive to Syracuse University for an audition. It was the day after *Hamlet's* opening night. I drove up to Syracuse, auditioned for the acting program (in full *Hamlet* makeup), and then drove the five hours back to St Joes for the evening performance.

Entering high school can be daunting. The different sports, clubs, and extracurriculars seem overwhelming to someone who feels as if it will define the next four years of their life. I felt this way going into my freshman year.

I didn't know who my crowd would be, but I quickly found, by auditioning for the fall play on a

whim, that I had a place in the the Drama Club.

The club transcended social barriers and all of a sudden I had friends that weren't even in my class. The environment of the club and joy of performing quickly blossomed into a passion for acting.

Four years later, I now have the privilege of being the president of the Drama Club and I hope to perpetuate the accepting nature of the students in our club.

Now, having gotten into the acting program at Syracuse, I realize that the support I received from St Joes and the Drama Club allowed me to discover my passion.



# FAITH THAT IS SECOND TO NONE

## Providing a Safe Space for Our Students to Ask the “Big Questions”

by Jordan Smith, Director of Campus Ministry

The faith community at St Joes is second to none. When I arrived just over two years ago, I knew that I was among men and women who cared deeply about the Catholic Church and for each other. I watched students give selflessly to community service projects that helped the materially poor in our local communities and around the world. I experienced true reverence at school-wide masses and, just recently, had the honor to pray with the senior class as we mourned the loss of one of our own students.

Each connection begged the question: what *more* can we do?



Last year we launched two programs: Pizza & Prayer and the Kairos Retreat. **Pizza & Prayer** brings students of all ages and backgrounds together for a communal meal, student-led testimonials, and Adoration with Music Ministry. Topics of conversation include social pressures, family, relationships, and other challenges that our students carry with them on a daily basis. Pizza & Prayer allows students to ask the *big questions* in a setting that is welcoming and non-judgemental. Consistently we have over forty students in attendance who return because it helps them live out their faith and love for one another authentically.

Our **Kairos Retreat Program** is a three-day retreat examining relationships to self, others, and God through personal testimony, reflection, and conversation. Seniors in the Peer Ministry Program are trained to facilitate small groups, which are mixed by both gender and grade level. Their leadership, coupled with the brave and honest personal reflections of their classmates, provides the platform for spiritual growth and faith formation. Most importantly, Kairos provides a real-life application of faith and friendship that is so crucial in today's world. Student response to the retreat was powerful, with one student writing: “Kairos is verbally indescribable, a truly life-changing and faith-deepening experience. It is something that will remain with me throughout my life.”

Here at St Joes we seek to provide a unique and transformative experience for our students that helps form the whole person. I'd say we're onto something great.

# THE CLASS OF 2024 IS RARING TO GO

by Jessica Costa, Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

On January 9, 2020 St Joes hosted the largest crowd ever at Accepted Students Night! More than 185 students in attendance, along with their proud parents, grandparents, and siblings squeezed in to make room on the bleachers for one another. The evening began with the Steel Pan's bright rendition of "Here Comes the Sun," elevating the enthusiasm in the room as we forgot for a moment that it was January outside.



The celebration truly began when each of our administrators took a moment to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, awards, and talents that make this year's incoming freshman class one of the most competitive to date. The class is comprised of Invention Convention winners, Geography, Spelling, and Math Bee winners, six Class Presidents, Championship Athletes, and multiple drama production leads who have donated countless hours of service to their communities.

In a little awe of this Class's accolades, our Student Ambassadors escorted their future classmates, teammates, and friends to meet faculty and staff members. The Ambassadors shared their own memories of nervous excitement at their own accepted student nights. The scene was familiar; our upperclassmen were handing on the legacy of hospitality they received four short years before.

The night concluded with current and incoming students sharing high-fives and smiles, no longer strangers, but already part of the family. As the Class of 2020 prepare to leave for colleges and universities nationwide, the Class of 2024 will continue the legacy with ease. They will become the next class president, team captain, star of the spring musical, and fill the science labs with AP Biology projects. It is the tradition of kindness from the upperclassmen to the incoming students that engenders the school culture we so proudly enjoy.



## Class of 2024 Middle Schools:

Amity Orange	Oxford Center
Ansonia	Park City Magnet
All Saints	Park City Prep
Catholic School	Ponus Ridge
Assumption-Ansonia	Ridgefield Academy
Bailey	School of the Holy Child
Bethel	Seymour
Black Rock	Side by Side
Blackham	Shelton
Christian Heritage School	Intermediate
Derby	St Aloysius
Discovery Magnet	St Andrew
East Shore	St Ann
Ezra Academy	St Augustine
Fairfield Woods	St Bernadette
Fairfield Country Day	St Bridget
Flood	St Catherine
Fraser Woods	St Gabriel
Geraldine	St James
Johnson	St Lawrence
Great Oak	St Mark
Greenwich Catholic	St Martin de Porre
Hamden	St Mary-Milford
Harborside	St Mary St Michael
Helen Keller	St Mary-Bethel
High Horizons	St Mary-Ridgefield
Hillcrest	St Rose
Holy Trinity	St Theresa
Housatonic	St Thomas
Valley Waldorf	Aquinas
Jockey Hollow	The Mead School
John Winthrop	Thurgood
Ludlowe	Marshall
Madison	Tomlinson
Middlebrook-Wilton	Unquowa
Multicultural Magnet	West Rocks
Nathan Hale	West Shore
New Fairfield	West Side Middle
Newtown	Wooster
Our Lady of Fatima	Wooster-Danbury



# CELEBRATING OUR SCHOLARS

## Highlighting Our Impressive College Acceptances

by Maria Martinez, Associate Director, Marketing & Communications

In the Communications Department, one of our biggest challenges is showcasing the weekly flood of unique student accomplishments on the field, in the classroom, in the community, across the globe, and in their faith. The St Joseph High School Class of 2020 is proving to be an exceptionally talented group that deserves a new highlight platform all their own! Each one of our Cadets is not only accepted into multiple colleges and universities, but they are offered scholarships that continually impress and grow each year.

This year's College Acceptance Highlights have become a project near and dear to our hearts. The minute we discover that a student has committed to their college or university, we reach out to them in hopes of sharing their accomplishment online via social media and on our website. Our goal is to ensure that each student knows how proud the entire community is of their achievement as we are keenly aware of preparation required to get to this point.

We have had the honor of celebrating early acceptances to UPenn's elite Nursing Program, a full scholarship recipient to Fordham University, and offers to NYU, Notre Dame, Tufts, and Villanova. We look forward to a spring semester filled with college acceptances, transition preparation, and scholarship awards. The Class of 2020 has spent the last three and a half years growing greater as well-rounded global citizens with the tools to succeed not only in college, but in life beyond St Joes.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2020 and wish them all the best as they venture forth in their college careers.

*"I've always wanted to go to Notre Dame, and I think that if I went to any school other than St Joes, I would not have been as prepared. St Joes helped me with college prep, after-school activities, and finding my place both spiritually and in the community."*

*~ Sophie Chorek '20  
University of Notre Dame*

Be sure to follow us on facebook, twitter, and instagram (@sjcadets) to celebrate with us as our Cadets are highlighted each week!



Gabriella Moore



Payton Doiron



Cate DeProffo



Louis Tuccio



Paul Fabbri



Ryan Novitski

# CELEBRATING OUR SCHOLARS

## Bringing College Options Directly to Our Students

by Tim Nash, Director of College & School Counseling



*Thanks to the following Admissions professionals on our panel: Corry Unis, Vice President, Enrollment Management at Fairfield University; Karissa Peckham, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management at Central Connecticut State University; Julia Naclerio, Senior Associate Director of Admission at Trinity College; Michael DiPiazza, Director of Undergraduate Admission at Assumption College*

The College and School Counseling team has prepared and submitted over 1,600 applications to more than 370 colleges and universities. Additionally, 200 college and university representatives have visited campus to recruit our Cadets, host interviews, and deliver acceptance decisions personally. The task of introducing our talented Cadets to a seemingly endless list of college options requires a varied approach to the right fit college search process.

A series of new initiatives over the course of this school year ensures students are aware of the wide variety of college options available. College representatives come in-person or join us via video meetings for the College of the Month program. “Coffee with Counselors” events are forums that focus on student interests. College fairs place students with admission counselors face to face.

This fall, St Joe’s College Admissions Night hosted more than 150 parents and students for an open discussion with college admission professionals. Vice Presidents, Associate Vice Presidents, and Directors of Admission offered their candid advice on topics including: visiting the college campus, return on investment, test-optional colleges, value of liberal arts colleges, career development, admission essay tips, and interviews.

College admissions is a dynamic process and St Joes will not leave our students’ success to chance. We will continue to innovate to keep St Joes on the short list of college preferred high schools.

## 2020 College Acceptances (so far...):

Arcadia University  
Assumption College  
Barry University  
Bentley University  
Boston University  
Bowdoin College  
Bryant University  
Castleton University  
The Catholic University of America  
Central Connecticut State University  
Coastal Carolina College  
Eastern CT State University  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Emmanuel College  
Endicott College  
Fairfield University  
Florida State University

Fordham University  
Franciscan University  
Georgia Southern University  
High Point University  
Hofstra University  
Indiana University  
Iona College  
Ithaca College  
James Madison University  
Johnson & Wales  
LeMoyne University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Loyola University Chicago  
Manhattan College  
Manhattanville College  
Marist College  
Merrimack College  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Monmouth University

Montclair State University  
Morgan State University  
Mount Saint Mary College  
The New School  
New York University  
North Carolina Agriculture and Technical  
North Carolina Central  
Northeastern University  
Old Dominion University  
Pace University  
Penn State  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Quinnipiac University  
Roanoke College  
Roger Williams University  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Anselm  
Saint Joseph University

Salve Regina University  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
Seton Hall University  
Southern CT State University  
St John’s University  
St Michaels College  
Stonehill College  
SUNY Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Union College  
University of Connecticut  
University of Delaware  
University of Hartford  
University of Illinois  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisville  
University of Maine  
University of Maryland

University of Massachusetts  
University of Miami  
University of New Haven  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Scranton  
University of South Carolina  
University of St Joseph  
University of Tennessee  
Ursinus College  
Villanova University  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
West Virginia University  
Western Carolina University  
Western CT State University  
Western New England  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Xavier University



## THANK YOU, DR FITZGERALD, FOR LEADING US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

*Nancy DiBuono, Principal*

It would be difficult to find anyone more committed to the mission of Catholic school education than Dr William Fitzgerald. It seems cliché to say that he leaves the school a better place than he found it, however, it is simply the truth.

Written on the window of Dr Fitzgerald's office in the main corridor is a quotation: "Be Curious Today". This simple statement sums up the advice Dr Fitz (as he is affectionately called by the students) offers the community daily. It is common to see students in his office as he engages them in some challenging, thought provoking question. He leads by example and challenges easy conclusions in favor of "outside the box" thinking.



*Mrs DiBuono and Dr Fitzgerald have worked side-by-side for the past 10 years*

Dr Fitz, a true Catholic school loyalist, believes that education involves the body, mind, and soul. He leads the faculty by discussing the importance of educating our students in the Catholic faith. He believes that our young people are tomorrow's leaders and their integrity should be the model for others. Under his leadership, students develop an awareness of the needs of others as they are encouraged to put their faith into action.

Academics are at the forefront of every discussion with Dr Fitzgerald. New courses are designed to prepare the students for higher education. Courses in innovation, coding, engineering, Mandarin, and International Relations are the result of his commitment to preparing students for the future. A true believer in the power of "creative tension", he feels it is a leader's job to ensure that no one becomes complacent. He has a natural ability to make each person strive to be better than they were yesterday.

Do you hear someone yelling, "Let's go, St Joes!"? That's Dr Fitz, a fixture at athletic and extracurricular events. Whether it be theater productions, honor society events, or lectures, Dr Fitz has constantly supported the talents and achievements of our Cadets.

I believe Dr Fitzgerald's legacy is the example of a true and sincere love of education and a thirst for constant learning. That legacy motivates our faculty, staff, and administration, who will continue his passion for academics and innovative programs. We have been blessed to have had Dr William Fitzgerald as our Head of School.

*Nancy DiBuono*

**THANK YOU, ST JOES, FOR ALLOWING ME TO  
LEAD US INTO THE FUTURE**

*Mr David Klein*



*Mr Klein learns alongside Mrs DiBuono in the SJ Media Center*

Dear Friends,

With pride and enthusiasm, I correspond with you for the first time as the next President of St Joseph High School. I am deeply grateful for this extraordinary leadership opportunity and the trust and confidence of the Search Committee, the Board of Directors, and Bishop Caggiano. I am especially thankful to Dr Fitzgerald for his gracious support during this transition. I consider it to be one of my greatest professional blessings to be selected for this role.

As you know, St Joes provides a caring, inspiring, and loving community in which young women and men grow in faith and build responsible lives of

service and leadership. With the daily guidance and encouragement of faculty, staff, and administration, St Joes Cadets learn and live our school's motto—Privilege and Responsibility. Students graduate academically and socially prepared for college, confident and appreciative for the support they received all along the way.

It is my privilege to join the St Joes family. My door is always open to students, colleagues and families. I look forward to partnering with you to fulfill the school's mission and to support, encourage, and celebrate the success of our St Joes students.

In Faith and Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DK', written over a white background.

**ABOUT MR DAVID KLEIN**

David Klein's extraordinary experience in community engagement, student services, college preparatory education, institutional advancement, financial management, and administration will serve St Joes well.

Mr Klein has served as Head of School at Norwich Free Academy (NFA) since 2011. Previously, he was Superintendent of the Madison Public Schools and Superintendent of the Regional School District in Old Lyme. He began his career as a mathematics teacher at Bishop Hoban High School in Pennsylvania. Mr Klein is a proud alum of the University of South Carolina and the University of Scranton. He holds a Master's in Secondary Education, a Master's in Education Administration, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Executive Leadership.





## Introducing our Director of Advancement, Aimee Marcella

Aimee Marcella comes to St Joes with twenty years of experience in both non-profit and higher education settings. She has worked with the American Cancer Society, CT's Beardsley Zoo, the Southport School, and Lauralton Hall.

Her last role was leading the advancement team at the University of Bridgeport. She has a passion for donor cultivation and engagement, board management, as well as creating events and strategic plans to support diverse fundraising initiatives. Aimee currently sits on Leadership Greater Bridgeport's Executive Board, and the Women's Leadership Network. She has a BA in English from Southern Connecticut State University, and an MS in Counseling from the University of Bridgeport. She lives in Oxford with her husband Tom, two middle school-aged sons (Tommy and James) and their West Highland Terrier, Rocco.



## MEET THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM

by Aimee Marcella, Director of Advancement

With almost 50 years of combined experience in fundraising, alumni and family engagement, events, and database management, the Department of Advancement at St Joes is energized and poised to serve the ever-changing development needs of our school.

Our most important focus is celebrating all that makes us a community. Through connecting the dots for young alumni, helping bring Cadet classmates together for a reunion, engaging new parents, to highlighting success stories of our graduates, one theme threads throughout: St Joes is family. Since 1962, our history has provided a strong foundation on which we rest all of our present accomplishments, and inspire us to strive for future goals.

Overall, the Advancement team supports the school's educational mission, while helping to fund institutional priorities that align with all aspects of the school. We are grateful for every gift; be it of time, talent, and/or resources. Our office is located in the brown house in front of the school; come and visit or give us a call to get involved! You can also email us at [advancement@sjcadets.org](mailto:advancement@sjcadets.org).

***Pictured Above (LtR):*** Sasha Davila Russell '01, Associate Director of Advancement; Danielle Knapp '11, Manager of Advancement Events; Maria Stickney, Manager of Advancement Services; Aimee Marcella, Director of Advancement

# CREATING MEMORIES

## 2019 MAROON & GOLD GALA

The St Joseph High School Maroon & Gold Gala was held on November 16, 2019 at The Waterview in Monroe. As our largest fundraising event of the year, the Gala raises vital funds for our scholarship and immediate financial aid needs. It is also an opportunity to honor our distinguished recipients of the Sister Catherine Fanning Awards for their dedication to both faith and family.

We are appreciative of our community members who made this event possible. Many thanks to our Maroon & Gold Sponsors, Lorraine & Chris Wilson P '08, '10, '14; as well as our Cadet Sponsors, Adzima Funeral Home and St Rose of Lima Parish.

The Gala would not be the success that it is without the time and effort of our amazing volunteers. A special thanks to our Honorary Chairs, Mary '88 & Tom Dineen P '16, '18, '21, '23; our Auction Chair, John Corrado '11; our Tuition Raffle co-chairs, Kristy Novitski P '20, Jennifer Simms P '19, '21, '23, Tammy Ryan P '20; and our Decor Chair, Amy Jacobacci Jones '01, as well as those who assisted on the committees. Volunteers like you continue to be the heart and soul of our mission, and the foundation of our community.



## *Congratulations to our 2019 Honorees:*



*Monsignor Robert E Weiss  
St Rose of Lima Parish*

Monsignor Robert Weiss, lovingly known as “Father Bob”, was an easy individual to celebrate. He is a spiritual force in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Fr Bob has long been the embodiment of Catholic values in education. At Trinity

Catholic, St Joes Shelton, St Andrews in Bridgeport, St Leo's, St Jude's, Immaculate, and St Rose -- Fr Bob has been leading young people in the way of faith and friendship all his life.

For Fr Bob, it is not about the plaques, it is about the person. We are better people for his ministry. With much gratitude, we recognize his spiritual leadership.



*MaryEllen '83 and  
Matt Adzima P '11, '14, '16*

When deciding where to educate their children, MaryEllen Morrissey '83 and Matt Adzima looked no further than St Joes. MaryEllen is one of nine siblings to know firsthand the strong sense of belonging nurtured at St Joes. Nick '11, Tom '14, and Kate '16, along with nineteen of their first cousins, are great illustrations of the virtues and values this family has helped cultivate at St Joes.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be expected.” The Adzimas never waited for the given part, but rather gave right from the heart.



# RELIVING MEMORIES

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend



01

In October 2019, hundreds of Alumni came home to Joe to celebrate their reunions, watch the Hogs play ball, and reconnect with old friends. Alumni from the Classes of 1990–99 celebrated their Decade Reunion; and the Class of 1969 enjoyed a weekend full of 50th Reunion events. During the Homecoming Game on Saturday, SJ honored our football players who have passed, including a special dedication for Jimmy Olayos '06. Jimmy passed away suddenly on June 8, 2019 while partaking in a triathlon in Long Island. We continue to pray for the Olayos family, as well as for the families of all alumni that have passed.

**01** Alumni take a walk down memory lane at the Alumni Homecoming Tent **02** Jimmy Olayos, Sr '76 and his wife, Kim, pose for a picture before making their way to the field to honor their son, Jimmy Olayos, Jr '06 **03** Carol Schultz Tammany '70 (L) poses with daughter, Erin Tammany '98 (LC) and classmates, Sean Connery '98 (RC), and Jason Manning '98 (R) **04** Jordan Dzurenda '17 (L), Thomas Dzurenda '81 (LC), and Joe Dzurenda '80 (RC), with wife Annmarie (R) **05** Members of the Class of 1969 pose for a picture while celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion year **06** Members of the Class of 1990 gathered together at the '90s Decade Reunion to celebrate 30 years since graduating



02



03



04



06



05

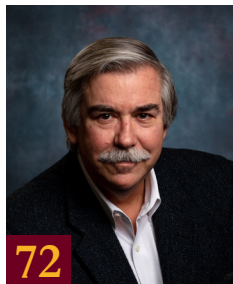


## ALUMNI NEWS

### 1960s

**Susan Constantino '66** retired in 2019 from an accomplished career in healthcare at Western CT Health Network (now known as NuVance).

### 1970s



**Mark Uhran '72** retired from NASA in 2012 as the Director of the International Space Station Division and from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2019 where he worked in Strategic Communication.



75

### Class of 1969 - 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion!

In October 2019, the Class of 1969 enjoyed a weekend of events, beginning with a casual meet & greet on Friday night, followed by a lovely dinner and dance reception on Saturday at Mill River Country Club, and ending with a Sunday Mass and breakfast reception at St Joseph High School.

Thank you to the Class of 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Co-Chairs, **Barbara Mercer Panek** and **Stephen Silder** for all of your hard work in putting the weekend together. A special thank you to the rest of the committee who gave their time to help Barbara and Stephen in their efforts for a successful weekend.



75



75

On October 03, 2019, **Dianne Curry Anderson '75**, and her husband, Scott, traveled from California, where they currently reside, to the East Coast for a 3-week adventure. Their adventure included a stop at St Joes, where Dianne reunited with three of her classmates, **Jim Luchansky '75**, **Lynn Dalton Mallon '75**, and **Michelle Renaud Armstrong '75**. After Dianne's stroll down memory lane, the couple headed to New York for a couple of days before traveling to Vermont. In Vermont they took part in a 6 day/5 night Fall Foliage Bicycle Tour in Sojourn. They ended their adventure in Montreal before returning to California.

### 1980s



80 87

On November 18, 2019, **Eileen Scully '87**, visited the halls of St Joes for the first time since she graduated. Eileen is the founder and CEO of The Rising Tides, a consulting firm that makes workplaces better for women through assessment and advisory services. She is the author of *In the Company of Men: How Women Can Succeed in a World Built Without Them*. In November 2019, Eileen joined Fairfield County's Community Foundation as a Steering Committee Member. Eileen is pictured with long-time friend, **Joe Dzurenda '80**.



**Peggy Griffin Jaetekar '80** stopped in Venice on the way to Naples, FL to visit Norm DeTullio.

Over the new year, **Shawn Flores '80** went on a 4-day hunting excursion. He stayed warm in the 20 degree weather by wearing his Marine Corps gear that still fits 13 years post-retirement.

### 1990s

#### '90s Decade Reunion!

Alumni from the Classes of 1990 – 1999 kicked off Homecoming weekend on Friday, October 18, 2019 at the Courtyard Marriott in Shelton to celebrate their reunion year.

Thank you to our '90s Decade Reunion Committee, **Sue Kmec Ennis '90**, **Lorrie-Anne Monte '92**, and **Diana Ramos Rainho '92**, for all of your hard work to make the night fabulous.



99

On Monday, November 25, **Dana Ganssle Ellis '99** stopped by SJ, while on a visit from Colorado, to speak with students about their career goals. Dana is a studio leader and architect at rowland+broughton architecture and urban design. The former SJ Dance Team Captain also operates The Dance Initiative out of The Launchpad, a space for the arts, in Carbondale, CO.



99



## Alumni Spotlight: St Joes Welcomes Ken Martin '95 to its Board of Directors

At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, St Joseph High School welcomed **Ken Martin '95** to its Board. Ken is an alumnus and long-standing volunteer and supporter of St Joes. He serves on the Facilities Committee, on the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, and is a member of the Touchdown Club.

Ken is co-founder of Colony Grill Development, which owns and operates multiple family-oriented pizza restaurants with nearly 300 employees. In addition to his support of St Joes, Ken also sits on the Board at the McGivney Community Center in Bridgeport and is a trustee at St Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull.

"I love St Joseph High School (and found love here)," Ken says. "I am deeply honored to serve on the board of directors. I am excited for what the future holds at St Joes and grateful for what the past has inspired."

After graduating from St Joes, Ken earned his BA in English from Providence College. After college, he worked in New York as a producer and writer at NBC Sports, where he won a National Sports Emmy Award for his efforts at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games. In 2004, Ken returned to Connecticut to pursue hospitality-based entrepreneurship. In preparation, he studied at the French Culinary Institute in New York City before he and his partners took over stewardship of Colony Grill in 2009, a brand that dates back to 1935.

Ken and his wife, **Ailis '95**, met at St Joes. They have five children: Kenny '21, Eliza Jane '23, Jack '24, James, and Edmund.



*"I have such a strong appreciation for St Joseph High School, so serving on the board is a privilege and responsibility that I treasure as both a former student and a current parent of three cadets."*





## ALUMNI NEWS

### 2000s



01-07

On October 12, 2019 in Northern, CA on a beautiful ranch venue in Acampo, **David George '05** married his fiancé, Emilia. St Joes Alumni were in attendance and excited to show their SJ Pride! Pictured from Left to Right: **John George '07**, **Kevin Nealy '05**, **Chris Stock '05**, **David George '05**, **Rachael George '01**, **Mike Mizzone '05** (kneeling).



05

In December 2019, **Christopher Pia '05** was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman of the Town of Stratford Town Council for the next two years.



06

**Alyssa Tiberio Altorelli '06** and husband, Dr Myles Altorelli welcomed their second daughter, Stella Grace, on January 6, 2020. Their older daughter Ellie (3 years old) is thrilled to be a big sister!



08

Cadet Couple, **Alyssa Lesko Zavadesky '08** and **Eric Zavadsky '08**, welcomed their baby girl, Emerson Margaret, to the world on July 30, 2019. Alyssa earned her PhD in Pharmacy in 2014 and currently works for Evolent Health as a Clinical Pharmacist. Eric earned his MBA in 2014 and is now a Product Manager for Aetna/CVS.



08-12

On October 26, 2019, **Sean Upton '08** married his fiancé, Rosa, in Mexico. The marriage was officiated by **Father Eric Silva '08**. Multiple Alumni were in attendance. Top Row, from Left to Right: **Michael Egan '08**, **Father Eric Silva '08**, Rosa Upton, **Sean Upton '08**, **Kelly Upton '12**, **David Lodice '11**, **Sarah Dias '08**, **Corinne Stockmal '12**. Bottom Row From Left to Right: **Katie Tripp '08**, **Kevin Collins '08**, **Brian Lodice '08**, **Bryan Pollack '08**, **Maureen Spellman '08**.

### 2010s



10

In Fall 2019, **Jessica Mazal '10** was engaged to Andrés Lapadula Pittier, a graduate of Trinity Catholic. The pair were introduced to each other many years ago by **Father Sam Kachuba '01**. Andrés proposed where they met at the Sacred Heart University Chapel. They plan to marry in August of 2020 at St Pius X Church in Fairfield, where Father Sam is Pastor.



10 11

**Cayla Liptak '10** and **Laura Bellows '11** participated in and completed the first ever Lululemon 10k in November 2019. Both Cayla and Laura live and work in San Diego and were thrilled to compete in the inaugural race.



11

Former SJ Golf Team Member, **Rick Dowling III '11 (L)**, was honored by the Connecticut State Golf Association (CSGA) on December 5, 2019, as Amateur Player of the Year.

Photo Credit: CSGALinks.org



16

On Tuesday, November 26, 2019, **Ray Jia '16** presented to Mr Pardee's AP Environmental Science Class and the Go-Green Club about relative college majors, and in particular about Landscape Architecture. Ray is a Landscape Architect Major at Penn State.



# Alumni Events & Engagement:



## Save the Date: Homecoming and Reunion Weekend October 16-18, 2020

During Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2020, we will be celebrating the **Class of 1970's 50th Reunion Year**. In addition, we will be going to a new model of reunion fun by also celebrating anyone who graduated with a 0 or 5 at the end of the year. If you are a member of the **Class of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015** and want to help with reunion planning, please contact [alumni@sjcadets.org](mailto:alumni@sjcadets.org).



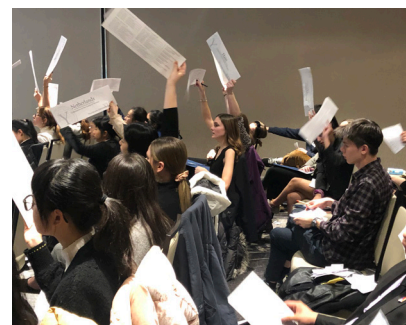
## Class of 1990: Join Us on June 27, 2020

Bob Studley is organizing the SJ '90s Rules 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner at 6:00pm on June 27, 2020 at Vazzy's Four Seasons in Stratford. For more information on how you can help out, please email Bob at [bstudley@email.com](mailto:bstudley@email.com). You can also join the Class of 1990 Facebook Page by searching "St Joes Class of 1990".



## Volunteer During Alumni Events

All Alumni are encouraged to get involved. Whether it's helping with registration at various events, setting up and taking down, or hosting a student intern at your place of business, we want you to stay connected! Learn more at [sjcadets.org/stayconnected](http://sjcadets.org/stayconnected).



## Calling All Alumni Involved in Civics

Are you actively involved in your local government? We want to know about it! The Alumni Office is looking to put together a bipartisan panel to speak to students about getting involved locally. Email [alumni@sjcadets.org](mailto:alumni@sjcadets.org) with your information.



## Alumni - Stay Connected - Share Your News

Did you start a new job, get a promotion, or complete your degree?

Did you get married or have a baby?

Did you get together with your old friends from SJ?

We want to know -- share your news!

Visit [sjcadets.org/stayconnected](http://sjcadets.org/stayconnected) or email [alumni@sjcadets.org](mailto:alumni@sjcadets.org)

# *Thank* YOU

## I ♥ SJ

GIVING  
DAY 2020

St Joseph High School's I Love SJ Giving Day 2020 was an incredible success thanks to the participation, contributions, and engagement from our **students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends!**

Thank you for showing your love for St Joes.  
With your support, we continue to grow into great!



**200+**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

**\$67K**  
...AND  
**COUNTING!**

**Missed Out?**  
**Donate Today!**  
[sjcadets.org/  
ILoveSJ](http://sjcadets.org/ILoveSJ)





ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL  
2320 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Follow @SJCadets!



[www.sjcadets.org](http://www.sjcadets.org)

## 2020 Upcoming Events

<b>April 1</b> Spring Open House	<b>May 28-30</b> Commencement Activities
<b>April 8</b> Admissions Info Session	<b>June 16</b> SJAA Golf Tournament
<b>April 25</b> Hall of Fame	<b>September 23</b> Admissions Info Session
<b>April 28</b> Grandparents Mass	<b>Fall 2020</b> Vines & Steins
<b>April 30 - May 1</b> Spring Musical <i>The Addams Family</i>	<b>October 16-18</b> <b>Homecoming &amp; Reunion Weekend</b> Class of 1970 – 50th Reunion <i>0s and 5s Reunions</i>
<b>May 8</b> Admissions Info Session	<b>October 25</b> Fall Open House
<b>May 14</b> Fine Arts Night	<b>November 21</b> Maroon & Gold Gala
<b>May 21</b> Admissions Info Session	

SJ CADETS...IT'S TIME TO COME



# SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming Weekend  
October 16-18, 2020

*Class of 1970 • 50th Reunion*

*Reunions for Classes Ending in 0 or 5*

*Homecoming Game & Alumni Tent*  
October 18 | 1:30PM | Dalling Field

To be involved in reunion planning, email [alumni@sjcadets.org](mailto:alumni@sjcadets.org)