



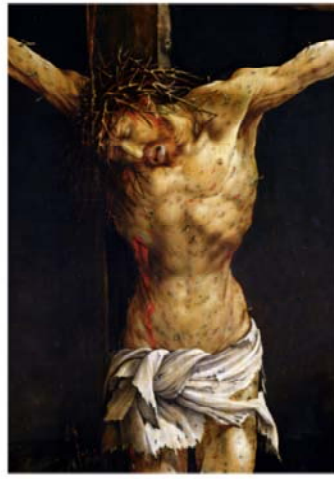
2018-2019 Theme

"For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus..."

-Ephesians 2:10

Good evening and welcome to Meet the Teacher Night. Thank you for being here in time for the general session. Even more so, thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters' education to us.

Gracious Father,
We pray for your Holy Catholic
Church.
Fill her with all truth, and with all
peace.
Where she is corrupt, purify her.
When she is in error, direct her.
Where in anything she is amiss,
reform her.
Where she is right, strengthen her.
Where she is in want, provide for
her.
Where she is divided, reunite her.
For the sake of Jesus Christ your
Son our Savior. Amen



In these days of horrific news about the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, I want you to know that we view your child's safety to be our first priority. We have policies and procedures in place to ensure that safety. We are taking a comprehensive approach to responding to the crisis in the Church which includes: education for our students, praying for the victims of the abuse as well as for priests. Should you or your sons and daughters ever have a safety or boundary concern, I hope you would reach out to us immediately so that we can address the matter.

I've chosen to open the general session tonight with a prayer that some of us are committed to saying for the healing of what is broken in the Church. Please stand to join Father Duncan as he leads us in this prayer.

New Directors of the Middle & High School

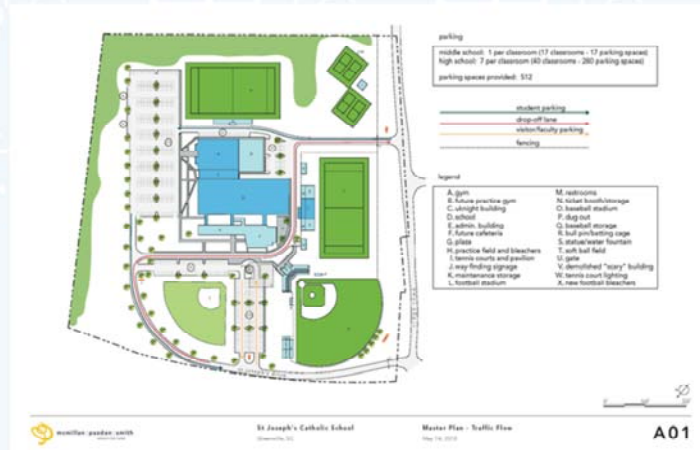


I hope the school's 26th year is off to a good start for your family. We began the new school year with a new administrative structure. For the first time we now have a director of the high school and a director of the middle school. I'd like for each of them to take a minute or two to introduce themselves to you so you can put a face to the name if you don't know them....

Essentially, what this new structure means is that the buck stops with Wanda in the MS, and with Steven in the HS.

The success of our fall sports teams has been fun to watch. The new locker rooms are getting rave reviews as are the classrooms on the second and third floor of the UKnight building. Thank you to all who have made that possible through your generosity.

SJCS Facilities Master Plan



We spent the better part of last year reviewing and updating our long-term Facility Master Plan. The board gave its blessing to this plan during their annual retreat in May. The plan, which, of course, is subject to change according to God's will, maps out the capital improvements we hope to make in the next 20 years. We've subdivided these projects into four phases, with Phase I beginning this year. We are calling this Phase 1A.

Phase 1A: 2018-19 School Year

- Remove 'Scary' Building
- Dugouts and Batting Cage for Baseball Field
- Lights on the Tennis Court

Phase I A & B (see next slide) will be done without a capital campaign but we will be asking for some targeted support from our baseball and tennis families to help offset at least some of the cost of these projects.

Phase 1B: 2019-2020

- New Boulevard Entrance, Parking Lot and Circle



Here you can see the new boulevard entrance off St. Joseph's Drive, the new parking lot next to the baseball field, and the circle at the top near the admin building.

Master Plan Highlights

- **Phase #2 - Capital Campaign**
 - New student center/cafeteria
 - Elevator and renovations to admin building
 - New road around front of school, continuing between the football field and the middle school, and connecting to the MS parking lot

Target Date for Completion: 2025

This phase will require a capital campaign that will probably get under way in 2022

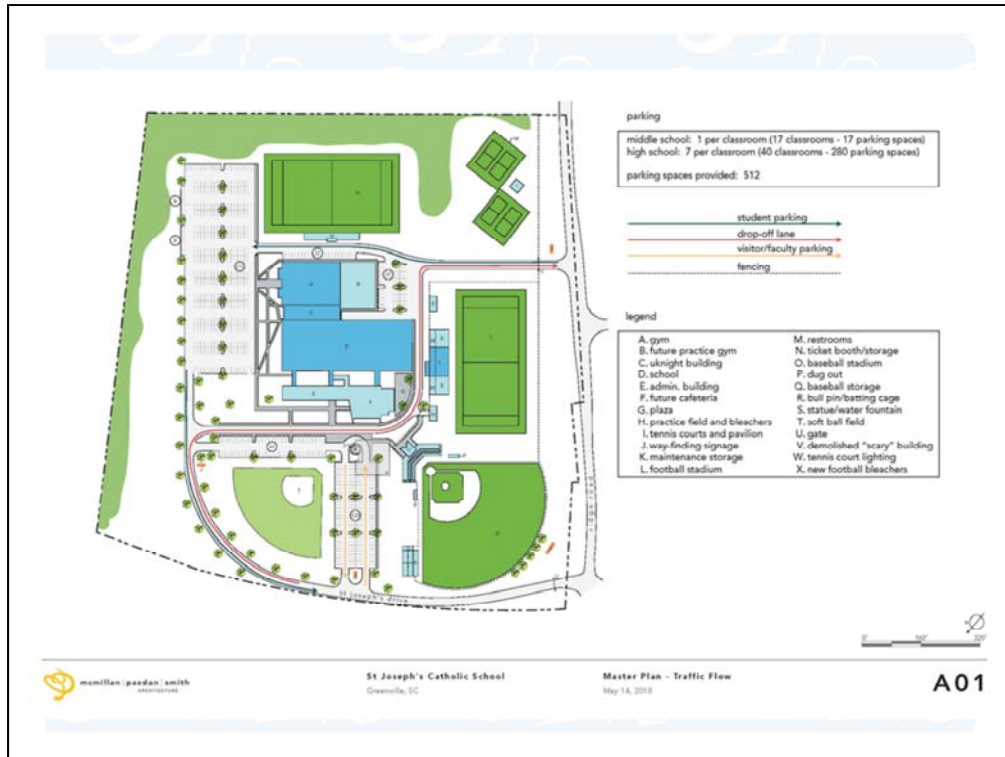
It features a new Student Center/Cafeteria and a roadway that will run from the front of the school then between the football field and school building and finally connecting to the MS lot.

This new road will allow us to establish new traffic patterns that will hopefully reduce the log-jam on St. Joseph's Drive and Ridge Road as well as separate student and parent traffic.

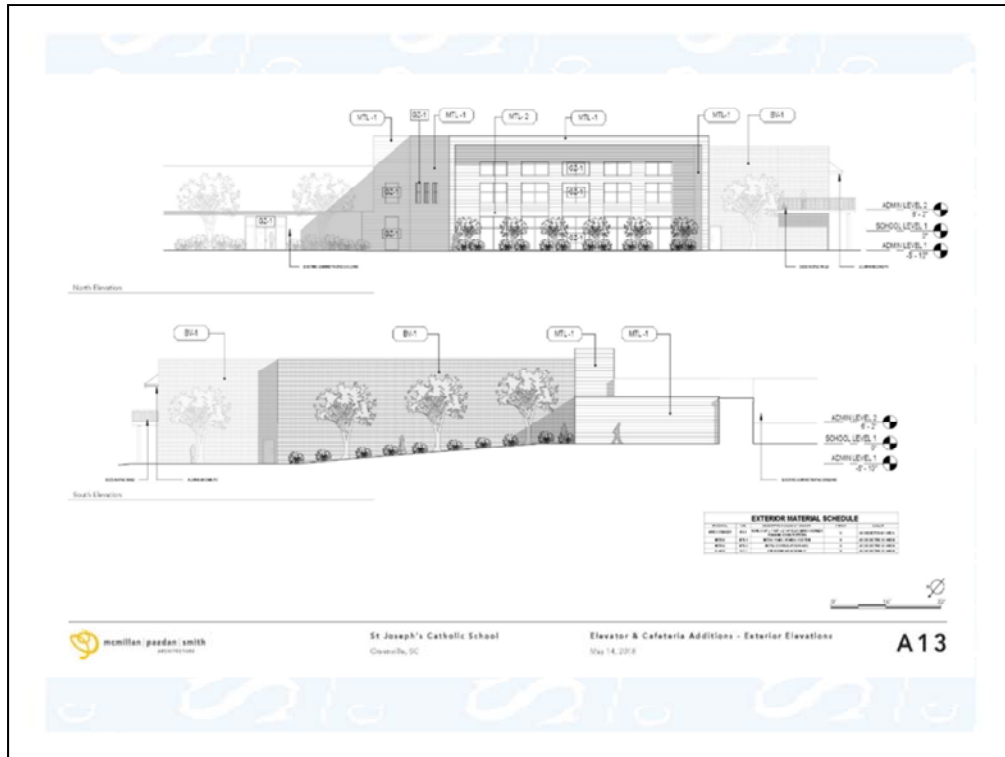
We hope to have these projects completed by 2025 school year, which is when our current 6th graders will be seniors.



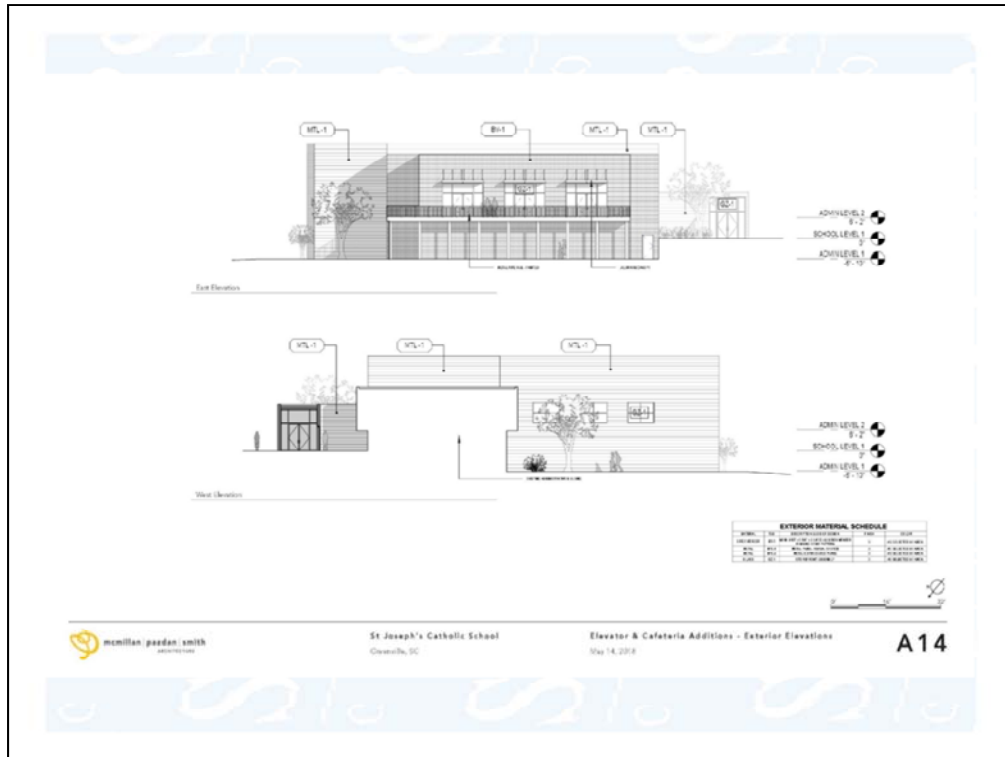
This is a rendering of the new Student Center.



Overview/map of the campus. Please take note of the location of the new Student Center and road.



Front elevation view of the new Student Center. The new entrance to the admin building will be to the left of the Student Center.



This is a side view of the new Student Center. A nice feature of this building is that there will also be a 2nd floor entertainment space and hardscape for tailgating and outdoor events. The fact that the kitchen will be located in this new building will make it very convenient for school social events.

Master Plan Highlights

- Phase #3
 - Renovate and reconfigure HS science labs
 - Extend practice field and move softball field
 - Expand student parking lot

Target Dates for Completion: 2027-2029

We hope to be able to do these Phase 3 projects without a capital campaign. We hope to be in a position to undertake them in approximately 10 years from now.

Master Plan Highlights

- **Phase #4 - Capital Campaign**
 - Auxiliary gymnasium to include coaches offices, weight room & football locker room
 - Convert former weight room and football locker room into classroom space
 - Build ticket booths, baseball grandstand, and expand seating on the football field

Target Dates for Completion: 2035

This phase will require a second capital campaign. The hoped for completion date of Phase IV is 2035.



This is a rendering of what the baseball stadium could look like when Phase IV is complete.

Educating iGen



For the remainder of our time this evening, I would like to turn our attention to our day to day work with our students, your sons and daughters. This generation of students is being known variously as Generation Z or, I think, more descriptively as iGen, because they are the first generation to spend their entire adolescence with an iPhone.

We are spending a lot of time as a faculty and staff thinking and talking about the kids in our classrooms. For those of us who have been here for a while, we have noticed that the students are different from the kids who were in our classrooms even just 5 to 8 years ago. And Dr. Twenge's description seems right on target to our experience. But, see if you agree. *(A video of Dr. Twenge's talk about iGen was shown from YouTube.)*

I think that there's little doubt that these devices are changing us, as a growing collection of literature is beginning to document.

As a faculty, we are asking: what do we need to do to effectively reach, educate iGen kids?

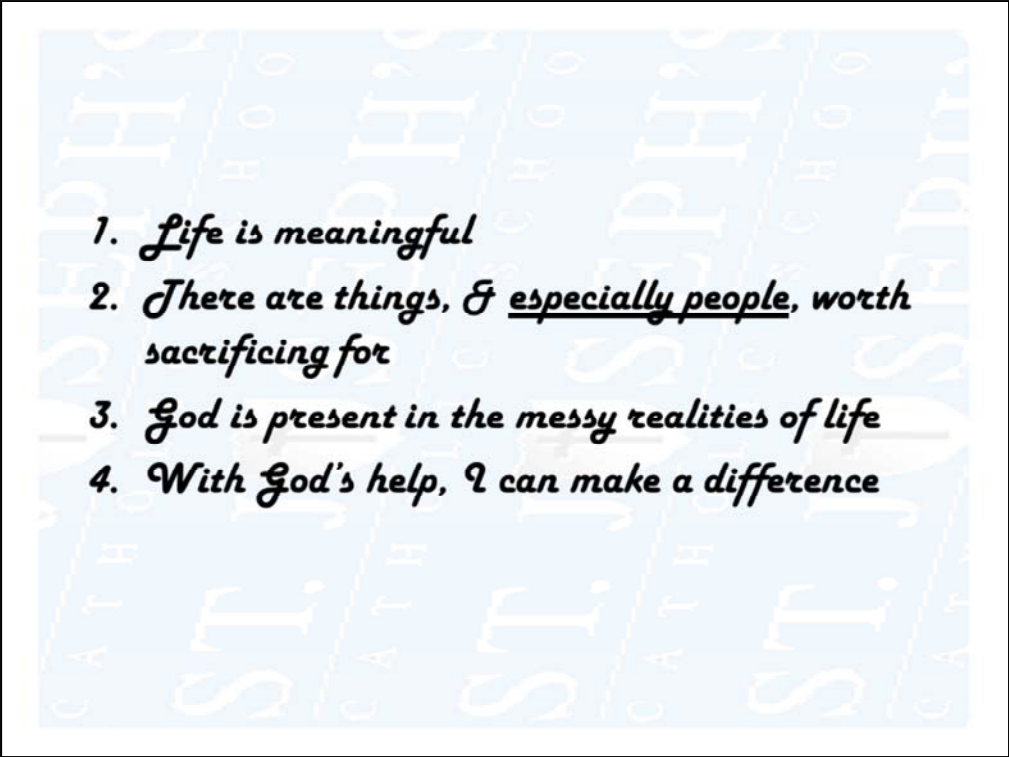
The things that are getting our attention are the following: Feelings on loneliness. More depressed. More anxious. More suicidal. Growing up more slowly. Less willing to take risks. Less religious. Less spiritual.

This makes us ask: What are the most important lessons we can teach students at SJCS?

What are the most important lessons learned at St. Joseph's?



The answer: Lessons and experiences that help students discover the meaning of existence – not just abstractly, but one's personal meaning and purpose.

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1. *Life is meaningful*
 2. *There are things, & especially people, worth sacrificing for*
 3. *God is present in the messy realities of life*
 4. *With God's help, I can make a difference*

Life does have meaning; and there are things/people worth sacrificing one's time and energies for – our kids need to realize that there is something bigger than themselves, worth giving oneself to. Father Duncan has been talking in Mass the past couple weeks about what worship means. He explained the term worship literally means worth-ship, making a big deal of someone. For our kids to grow up happy, they need to get out of their two-dimensional, self-absorbed world and get into the messy stuff of 3rd dimensional reality. Because it is there that they will find purpose and God.



2018-2019 Theme

"For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus..."

-Ephesians 2:10

I don't think it's too dramatic to say that our kids face a daily existential crisis... that is, a crisis of being, meaning, and purpose, which is why I chose the theme that I did for this year. I don't think iPhones are the reason for that crisis. The crisis of meaning is the ultimate human problem, faced by every person in every generation. I see the iPhones more as drug to escape the tough questions that surface in silence and boredom.

We live and teach at a time when many no longer believe that each human person is a unique creation by a good and loving God. Lacking the certainty of an identity and meaning given by God, they are left to 'create' themselves according to their preferences and desires. The necessity to self-create is reinforced through social media where one's worth is judged by the number of 'likes' and 'followers' one has.

I chose this theme to keep in front of us/them the truth that we are each God's handiwork, or as other translations more descriptively put it, God's 'craftsmanship' or even 'artwork'. Would that we could help our students realize that they are wonderfully made (see Psalm 139) by a God who looks on each one with an affirming love which says: *You are precious in my eyes, cherish, and wanted.* There's lots of evidence that this gaze is being passed on to our kids.

Consider the following things I witnessed in the first few weeks of school.



Agape Sunrise Service: What gets a kid out the door at 6:30 AM to be at school by 7 AM for a student-led prayer service? A drive for meaning and belonging.



MS Kids at Daily Mass: What would motivate 30 middle school students to skip lunch in the cafeteria to attend Mass with Father Duncan? The same thing!



Football Team at the Salgado's: Even sports mean something more than winning at St. Joseph's. Last Friday night, for example, football had a tough loss at Liberty HS. Many key players were injured. It was hard to watch, but how they responded was inspiring. I watched the kids rally around the injured players on the sidelines and I was very moved by one of the managers/trainers helping the star running back, who had been injured, off the field at the end of the game. I wish I would have taken a picture. It was priceless.

This is a picture of half the team at the Salgado's house visiting with Marcos who broke his ankle in the game the week before.

SJCS/Parent Partnership

- **Let's work together for our iGen kids**
- **Volunteer opportunities abound**
 - Campus Ministry
 - Parents Guild
 - Athletic Boosters
- **Parents in Prayer - Thursdays at 1:30 PM**

Let's partner together to help iGen find the meaning and God in the realities of their lives. There are many ways for you to become involved in the life of the school.

SJCS/Parent Partnership

- Annual Fund Campaign

- Thank you for your support in 2017-18!
 - 66% of parents made a donation helping us raise \$525,000!!!
- 95% of Faculty & Staff have contributed \$24,000
- 100% Board Participation in the AF
- AF Campaign: Fall 2018
- AF Goal: 100% Participation/\$475,000 raised

Another important way to partner with the school is by supporting the Annual Fund which makes it possible for kids to come to SJCS who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity. Which is why I always want to keep it in front of you.

Generally, we are only able to provide about a third of the dollars requested for financial aid. Our 2018-2019 Annual Fund Campaign will begin soon. We are asking for 100% participation. It's not the amount of the gift that matters most, rather the solidarity of providing for those who otherwise couldn't attend the school. You'll note that 95% of our faculty and staff have already pledged their support for this year's Annual Fund.

ARRIVE CURIOUS. GRADUATE READY.





BRING A FRIEND DAY

Tuesday, November 6th

Morning Session 7:30 AM - Lunch
Afternoon Session Lunch - 3 PM

Students currently in grades 5-7 are invited to experience a half-day in our middle school.

Register online at sjcatholicsschool.org in early October

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 11th

1 PM - 3 PM

You are invited to discover St. Joseph's! Hear testimonials, tour the campus, and meet many of our teachers, coaches and parents.

Admissions packets for 2019-2020 will be available.

100 ST. JOSEPH'S DRIVE • GREENVILLE, SC 29607
www.sjcatholicsschool.org • (864) 234-9009 • admissions@sjcatholicsschool.org

Please help us spread the word about SJCS! There are two very important events in November: MS Bring a Friend Day and Open House.



Please put an Open House car decal on your car!