



Dear Families,

It is hard to believe it is already February. While the shortest month of the year, it is no less action-packed for our students, faculty, and staff!

We are excited to celebrate Black History Month and Catholic School Week. This Friday, we help kick off Black History Month with Mass. Our Black Student Union (BSU) has planned a month full of activities such as door decorating, a Black History Month arts and craft project, as well as an assembly featuring our choir, dance team JD4L, and some karaoke! We can't wait to see all their plans come to fruition. This year Catholic School Week will be celebrated in several ways including student reflections, cards to our founding partners Sister of Christian Charity, and a food drive.

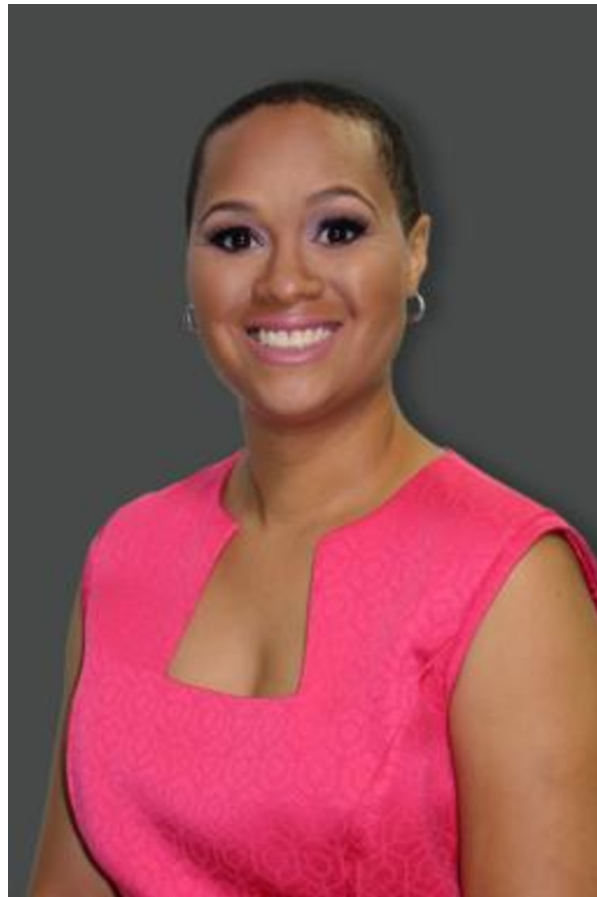
It's always exciting when our Seniors take their Senior Portraits. This year that will be on February 23 and we can't wait to see how beautiful our Senior class is. We are so proud of the young women they have become.

We are incredibly impressed with our student-athletes as they start the CPC Basketball Tournament. Help us cheer on our Cougars!

On February 2nd, Groundhog's Day, we are anxiously waiting to see if the groundhog sees his shadow or not. I hope I'm not the only one excited he doesn't see his shadow so we know that Spring will be on its way!

Your partner in education,

Lunch and Learn with Amazing Women



Chief Meteorologist Rhonda Lee of KOTA/KEVN in Rapid City, South Dakota joined us at the first Jo Lunch and Learn series on January 26th.

Ms. Norington-Joseph, Jo Student Life and Partnerships Manager, created a new series for all students. "Our goal for the Lunch and Learn series is to explore a variety of hot topics that impact our community; social justice, family, career, college, girl-talk, and more. To kick things off we had a sensational guest that was sure to please, Meteorologist Rhonda A. Lee.

She's fierce, outgoing, successful, and has been in the news for standing up for her principles and "natural hair" when she got fired for speaking up for herself. Our students were able to join in virtually and learn about loving one's self and how social media impacts beauty image. Ms. Lee discussed her career choice, working in

television and the impact it's had on her, as well as what she's doing to inspire the next generation of "Girl Bosses."

Basketball Senior Night



"Senior night was filled with amazing Cougar support felt from all of the spectators and the student/faculty section. All brought good vibes, excitement, and energy into the building which helped the Cougars defeat Phoenix Military Academy and improve to 11-9 on the season. All of our Senior basketball players played an amazing game and displayed the most enjoyment I've seen all season. Last but not least, we thank the parents, friends, and players for all of their help decorating and making this a wonderful evening! Go Cougar basketball!" - Coach Jones

Did you miss the game? Check it out on the [NFHS Network](#)! Visit their site and create your free account. Search for Josephinum Academy in the search bar and you will find our main page. Select ON DEMAND, then click the game you wish to view. Our Senior Night game was on January 27th.

Virtual Winter Event



On January 20th we were honored to host award-winning designer, marketer, and brand storyteller Stacie Thompson, who was the featured speaker at [Josephinum's annual Winter Event!](#)

Now the founder of [Ovie](#), a celebrated startup revolutionizing how we address food waste through technology, Stacie is an entrepreneur, Chicago-area business leader, and woman redefining what it means to leverage technology for good.

It was wonderful to hear her inspiring story and have her connect with a panel of Josephinum Academy students who asked questions and shared observations about the presentation. Together, we will continue to create opportunities to encourage our students as they become the leaders, changemakers, and visionaries of tomorrow.

You can view the video of Stacie Thompson and our students [here](#).

Campus Ministry Update

Sacred Heart Student Leadership Program

Maya Carreto Silva '25 and Maite Carreto Silva '25 participated in the two-part virtual Upper School Student Leadership Program: Leading our School Communities with Hope, Joy, and Faith. They joined students from around the Network to develop leadership and dialogue skills. Thank you for representing our community, Maya and Maite!

Network Summer Service Program

Applications for the Network Summer Service Program (NSSP) are due Tuesday, February 8th. For more information and the application packet, email Ms. Forbes at laura.forbes@josephinum.org

Class Retreat Dates

Freshmen Retreat - February 11th

Sophomore Retreat - March 10th

Junior Retreat - April 28th

Senior Retreat - April 11th - April 12th

More information and permission slips will be distributed in students' Theology classes.

Email Mr. Chavez at ruben.chavez@josephinum.org for more information.

JD4L Performs at Senior Night

"JD4L had a great time performing at Senior Night!", exclaimed Ms. Bartholomew, Jo Head of Admissions and JD4L Coach. This group is so incredibly talented and passionate about dance. It is a pleasure to see their creativity on display in rehearsals, and their dedication and love for their art is just undeniable when they get to perform for an audience. The energy from their Jo community takes them to the next level. JD4L boosts Cougar pride, and who doesn't love to see a team that loves what they do!?"

Did you miss their performance? Check it out on the [NFHS Network](#)! Visit their site and create your free account. Search for Josephinum Academy in the search bar and you will find our main page. Select ON DEMAND, then click the game you wish to view. Our Senior Night game and JD4L performance were on January 27th. JD4L performance starts at 29:15.



Counseling Update

We are pleased to announce that:

- ♥ 81% of students have successfully submitted a FAFSA application.
- ♥ 84% of students have applied to at least one college.
- ♥ 319 applications have been submitted to 131 different colleges!
- ♥ 27 students have already been accepted to at least one college!

In addition, the following Jo students were named 2022-23 Illinois State Scholars:

Ilani Diaz
Diana Mejia-Munoz
Natalie Rodriguez



Click to learn more about our [**Student Services and Counseling Department**](#)

Sports Update

The Chicago Prep Conference tournament will begin on February 3rd. This is our end-of-the-season conference tournament for basketball. Please wish our basketball players good luck when you see them this week!

The IHSA state playoffs begin Saturday, February 12. Time TBD. We will keep you posted.

Our soccer and softball tryouts will be held on 2/28, 3/1, and 3/2 from 4 pm - 6 pm. All participants must have an updated sports physical on file in order to try out. Students can double-check with Mr. Ziolkowski to find out if they have an updated one on file. To learn more about our sports program please visit [**here**](#).

Check out the Jo on the go!



"Josephinum Academy offers something special! By cultivating and navigating each student's unique talents, and challenging one another to reach new heights as leaders in our community, students at the Jo achieve success in college and beyond. We are a proud community of young women strengthened by compassion and knowledge. In a current time of great disconnection, Josephinum is doing just the opposite. Josephinum Academy is the place to find your voice and celebrate as a community."

- Kathryn Bartholomew, Head of Admissions

Have you seen our ad? If so, snap a photo and share it on social media with #Josephinum so we can see all the various areas being exposed to the Jo!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

01 - 28 - Black History Month

01 - 04 - Catholic Schools Week

03 - Drive, Dine, and Dream Student and Family Event 4:30 - 6 p.m.

03 - CPC Basketball Tournament begins

12 - IHSA Basketball Tournament begins

21 - Presidents' Day - **No School**

23 - Senior Portraits

23 - Admissions Open House 4 - 6 p.m.

28 - Soccer and Softball Tryouts

March

01 - 02 Soccer and Softball Tryouts

07 - Midterm week

11 - P/T Conferences

14 - 18 - Spring Break - **No School**

23 - HerStory

25 - Senior Portrait Retakes

April

15 & 18 - Easter Break

27 - *The Revenger's Tragedy* opening

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Explore our online resources including information on [Schoology](#).



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773-276-1261

Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart | 1501 N. Oakley Blvd., Chicago, IL 60622

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