



July 15, 2023

Dear Saint Joe Students in the Classes of 2024, 2025 and 2026:

Welcome back for the 2023-24 school year! I look forward to seeing your smiling faces and supporting you through the next step in your high school journey. Through a shared commitment to our core values — *Reach Higher, Build Family, Serve with Joy, Discover Our Gifts, and Act with Kindness* — I am confident that we will have a fantastic year.

This year's featured core value is *Build Family*. As you begin a new school year, consider how you can help us *Build Family*. What does that look like in your interactions with teachers, staff, and classmates? How might you support others? How will you demonstrate respect, kindness, and empathy? God's love is abundant, and we have the ability to share that love with others. I challenge you to do so in all of your interactions, not just with your immediate friend group. How will you make a positive difference at Saint Joe as we *Build Family* together?

We will have many opportunities to pray together, grow in virtue, and build our relationships with God and each other. In addition to monthly All-School Masses, mass will be held at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel two to three times per week. I invite you to fully engage in your faith journey enriched by the Holy Spirit and under the patronage of Saint Joseph.

We will implement a new attendance policy this year that limits the number of times you can be absent from a class and still earn credit. We also have new procedures in the nurse's office related to the administration of over-the-counter medication. Please see the insert in this mailing for more information. This will also be reviewed during orientation.

This year you will also have the unique and exciting opportunity to help Saint Joe choose a new nickname and mascot! We look forward to choosing a name that will represent our values and spark school spirit. We will share more information on the process once the school year begins.

Start of School Information:

- **Lunch and Learn for Class of 2024:** August 2 - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Counselors will present information on the Common Application. Students should bring their laptop to start working on their Common App during and after the presentation.
- **Laptop Pick-Up:** Students who did not keep their laptop for the summer may pick it up on August 11 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the iHelp Desk and on August 14 from 7:30-8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.
- **Student Orientation:** August 14 and 15. All students report to school at the regular start time of 8:15 a.m. and go through their classes in the morning. After the morning schedule, two grades stay for afternoon activities and two grades are dismissed. Please see the enclosed schedule and take note of your early dismissal day.
- **Road Construction:** LaSalle Avenue is under construction through at least September so plan your route to school accordingly. We will share pertinent information in Soundings and on announcements as we receive it.

Prior to the start of the year, spend some time thinking about your goals and what steps you need to take to get there. A lot can be accomplished by simply working hard with purpose and passion, and you might even win a *Gritty Award* for your efforts! Beyond your individual goals, I ask that you seek ways to help us *Build Family* and maintain a school climate that is positive, joyful, welcoming, supportive, and inclusive. Have a great rest of the summer!

God Bless and Go Saint Joe!

Mr. John Kennedy, Principal