

Onward,



With Purpose



2024 - 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Onward, With Purpose

St. Joseph High School Strategic Priorities | 2024-2026

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The Adidas logo, consisting of three white stripes and the word "adidas" in white lowercase letters, is printed on a dark grey backpack.The St. Joseph High School logo, featuring the words "ST JOSEPH" in yellow above a large red "SJ" monogram, with "HIGH SCHOOL" in yellow below it, is printed on a dark grey backpack.

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.



The future of St. Joseph High School is not just a plan on paper; it is a collective vision that we will bring to life together.

3 | *Message from the President*

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to unveil the St. Joseph High School 2024-2026 Strategic Priorities: a visionary roadmap designed to propel our beloved Catholic school onward, with purpose. At its core, these priorities embody our determined commitment to academic excellence, fortified by a comprehensive curriculum review and the addition of innovative educational programming. We are a proudly Catholic community and confidently committed to our Mission and resolute in the traditional core values that define the school community and daily culture on campus.

Counseling initiatives, rooted in empathy and foresight, are poised to refine our students' transition to high school and enhance their four-year experience. We strive to empower students not only academically but emotionally and socially as they prepare for college and beyond. Students at St. Joes are known and cared for, not by happenstance, but because of the Cadet-centered programming operationalized by devoted professionals.

In the realm of marketing and enrollment, our strategy is personal and intentional. We seek to bolster long-term enrollment sustainability by harnessing data-informed decision-making and expanding market reach to reinforce the value proposition and proven endurance of the SJ brand.

The SJ legacy carried forward by each new class is further complemented by the important work of Institutional Advancement. Beyond mere fundraising efforts, the goal is to secure sustained support for aspiring Cadets with the creation of a major gift

program, realignment of fundraising priorities, and an enhancement of our alumni relations initiatives.

The infusion of technology throughout our academic landscape is not just about upgrading infrastructure—it's about preparing our students for a future where technology is seamlessly integrated in their learning journey. Through professional development opportunities and strategic investments, we ensure that our faculty and students navigate the everchanging digital landscape with confidence and integrity.

Beyond academics, our commitment to a vibrant campus extends to the physical spaces that shape our community. Recent restroom renovations and the future revitalization of our tennis courts are tangible expressions of our dedication to providing an environment that nurtures growth, collaboration, and excellence. Our Capital Campaign beacons much more to come.

In closing, as we embark on this transformative journey, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. St. Joseph High School's future is not just a plan on paper; it is a collective vision that we will bring to life together. Thank you for being partners in the journey of Catholic faith, education, and growth.

In Faith and Fellowship,

David J. Klein
President

In the ever-evolving landscape of college preparatory education, St. Joseph High School stands as a beacon of academic excellence and faith formation.

Over the past several years, St. Joseph High School has undergone transformative changes, propelled by a commitment to advancing the college preparatory experience while remaining anchored in our Catholic identity. The strategic decision to secure an independent governing model has paved the way for significant milestones—from curricular vision to the infusion of technology across campus. These endeavors have not only enhanced the educational environment but have also solidified our status as a community where faith, innovation, and learning converge.

As we stand on the cusp of a new chapter, these 2024-2026 Strategic Priorities represent a collective vision forged through months of consultation, analysis, reflection, and collaboration with faculty, staff, board members, parents, students, and administration.

These priorities are not a mere blueprint; they are a dynamic roadmap that underscores our commitment to academic excellence, student development, and sustainable growth. St. Joseph High School will continue to nurture an environment where students not only learn but also develop into well-rounded individuals prepared for the challenges of the future. In the pages that follow, we invite you to explore the details of this vision—a testament to our dedication to the continued elevation of St. Joseph High School for all Cadets past, present, and future.



Build a Foundation in Faith

St. Joseph High School's strong Catholic Identity serves as a guiding influence within each of the Strategic Priorities outlined hereafter. We demonstrate our Catholic values through service, faith formation, and leadership opportunities for all members of the St. Joseph High School Community. It is our mission to ensure that all graduates develop a moral compass that places God's love, human decency, and goodness above all else.

PRIORITIES

- Cultivate spiritual growth and Catholic faith formation by providing age-appropriate experiences for students, strengthening faith-based connections among staff, and enriching the impact of student retreats to deepen their relationship with God.
- Increase community service engagement by diversifying our service portfolio, organizing student-led initiatives, empowering Peer Ministers as faith leaders, launching the "St. Joseph, the Worker" program, and celebrating outstanding student commitment to service.
- Foster a compassionate and empathetic community by expanding peer mentoring opportunities and improving access to pastoral support and resources for all students.
- Implement regular assessment mechanisms to evaluate the impact of Catholic faith formation and community service programs, using data and feedback to continually refine and align them with the evolving needs of the school community.



Cultivate Academic Distinction

Our Curriculum & Instruction Strategic Priorities will propel St. Joseph High School into a transformative era of educational excellence. Initiating a comprehensive analysis, we will meticulously review and elevate the course curriculum to better align with faculty talent, student interest, and optimal preparation for college. In pursuit of elevated standards, dedicated efforts focus on improving standardized testing scores, forming a Data Team, and integrating essential skills into the curriculum. Continued team collaboration and innovative leadership training for faculty will further amplify our commitment to academic excellence and prepare SJ Cadets to excel and succeed in college and beyond.

PRIORITIES

- Utilize student feedback and faculty expertise to refine elective courses, continually assess program effectiveness, and adapt offerings to align with emerging educational trends.
- Expand Advanced Placement (AP), College Level (CL), and Early College Experience (ECE) programs, support faculty development in teaching rigorous courses, and enhance access for all students.
- Increase advanced STEM courses, cultivate industry partnerships for practical learning experiences, and secure grants to support digital and hands-on learning tools.
- Refine the Summer Accelerated Course Program by expanding course offerings to include credit-bearing courses for middle school students, providing greater curriculum flexibility for current Cadets, and offering additional onboarding opportunities to boost grade 9 students' academic and social confidence.
- Integrate cultural field trips and site visits into curriculum, develop critical thinking through pre and post-trip activities, expand extracurricular programs, and empower student leadership in designing and executing educational initiatives.

By aligning our course offerings with student interests and faculty expertise, we aim to instill a love of learning. These initiatives will elevate standards, enhance learning experiences, and cultivate a caring, collaborative environment where every student can thrive at SJ and beyond.

Nancy DiBuono, Principal



Prepare for College & Beyond

The College & School Counseling Office is poised to usher in a new era of personalized student support with the enhancement of our developmental school counseling curriculum. A thorough analysis of outcome data from classroom sessions and student surveys will further refine our approach, ensuring adaptive and effective strategies. Our professional and experienced School Counselors are committed to providing comprehensive counseling services that empower every student to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

PRIORITIES

- Enhance the Grade 9 transition skills program by integrating counseling, peer mentorship, and academic resources; and utilize parent and student feedback to guide curriculum development for grades 10-12.
- Improve accessibility through on-demand video tutorials and customized programming, facilitate early communication about new college-level courses and electives, encourage participation in academic enrichment programs, and regularly update students on research projects and independent study opportunities.
- Integrate career exploration into the 10th-grade curriculum, elevate Career Fair activities for mentorship and networking, and offer workshops on professional etiquette.
- Strengthen campus-wide wellness initiatives promoting self-care, stress management, and resilience, and empower students to confidently pursue their goals and aspirations.



At St. Joseph High School, we help young women and men make the most of their high school experience.

So much more than typical college prep, St. Joes prepares students to meet the challenges of the collegiate world and beyond through an experiential education that starts with aspirational academics and grows between the textbooks and the classrooms; between students and faculty mentors; between the locker room and the field; between faith, friendships, and family.

Form Champions & Student Leaders

The strategic pillars for athletics and co-curricular activities aim to elevate the student learning experience by integrating competitive athletics, leadership opportunities, and teamwork. We are committed to offering a diverse array of sports, clubs and activities that reflect student interests and their future goals. Through these initiatives, we strive to provide students with enriching opportunities that develop the student athlete, motivate personal growth, propel academic achievement, and inspire ambition and self confidence.

PRIORITIES

- Expand the variety of student clubs, intramural programs, campus traditions, and activities based on student feedback and career aspirations.
- Offer enrichment opportunities in fields such as sports journalism, videography, and marketing. Utilize the athletic and arts speaker series to help students envision their future and connect with successful professionals.
- Enhance college and university opportunities by collaborating with the college and school counseling office to leverage athletic talent.
- Provide collegiate-level strength and conditioning training to support the performance goals of all student-athletes.
- Increase professional development for coaches and moderators to promote mental health and harness CIAC policy changes to improve team success.





A vigorous technology curriculum cultivates students' critical thinking, analysis, and creativity, further building and refining capabilities acquired from core academic subjects. These courses secure long-term success post-graduation, enriching their abilities and readiness for a technology-centered future through collaborative, inquiry-driven, and hands-on learning opportunities emphasizing practical application and ethical awareness.

David Lasecki, Director of Technology

Harness Transformative Technology

The goals of St. Joe's technology department are designed to create a cutting-edge learning environment. Aiming to enhance connectivity, the school plans to upgrade technical infrastructure, extending the reach of learning environments beyond physical classrooms. A comprehensive plan for classroom technology replacement is in place, while continuous investment in the latest programs ensures cohesive integration of multiple web platforms for an optimal user experience.

PRIORITIES

- Extend learning environments beyond classrooms to include the Wetlands Boardwalk, athletic fields, and outdoor spaces; increase bandwidth capacity for reliable digital resources, multimedia content, and online collaboration tools.
- Provide continuous professional development for faculty and staff in technology integration and pedagogical skills, enhance the Technology Help-Desk for student engagement and internships, foster an innovative classroom culture with diverse digital tools, and promote cybersecurity awareness and responsible digital behavior.
- Offer curricular opportunities in computing applications, AI technologies, and ethical considerations; facilitate virtual simulations, online labs, and interactive platforms to supplement classroom instruction, expand blended learning with online tools and systems.
- Prioritize continuous improvement through stakeholder feedback and annual technology plan evaluation and updates.

As the largest co-ed, Catholic high school in Connecticut, St. Joes gives all students the opportunity to learn and connect across cultures, religions, and borders in a faith-based community that joyfully welcomes all students.

That's why we say at St. Joes Cadets are on a mission: to be the best they can be and maximize their gifts and talents.



Engage Future Cadets

The Marketing and Enrollment Management priorities focus on enhancing the school's mission by attracting and enrolling students who exemplify strong values and academic excellence. This office is dedicated to expanding the school's legacy through targeted marketing efforts and innovative enrollment practices, and a commitment to accessibility, ensuring that talented and value-driven students are welcomed into the St. Joseph community. By continuously refining our outreach and admissions methods, we aim to sustain and grow the vibrant, mission-aligned student body that defines St. Joseph High School.

PRIORITIES

- Broaden scholarship offerings to attract and retain talented community members, assess student financial needs comprehensively, and collaborate with the Advancement Team to secure increased tuition assistance funds.
- Establish consistent market research channels and gather feedback to inform strategic planning, formalize the collection and analysis of enrollment data to anticipate market trends, and share insights with key stakeholders.
- Leverage distinctive strengths in the competitive landscape to attract and retain new audiences, enhance the SJ brand through positive testimonials, and utilize diverse marketing channels effectively.



Invest in the Future

The Office of Institutional Advancement is dedicated to executing the mission of St. Joseph High School while providing expertise and leadership in securing private and public financial resources. The Advancement team guides fundraising to support special projects, the annual fund, student scholarships, the endowment, and other campaign initiatives. The engagement of our Alumni is paramount to our mission, sustainability, and multi-generational growth and success.

PRIORITIES

- Establish an Alumni Leadership Board for strategic planning.
- Strengthen Alumni milestone celebrations through increased community events, and expand the Annual Alumni event calendar for broader geographic accessibility.
- Implement a comprehensive communication strategy to reach all donor audiences effectively.
- Align Advancement Office operations with market trends and best practices, evaluate long-term goals to enhance office effectiveness, structure, and resource allocation.
- Realign fundraising priorities to support the Capital Campaign while personalizing donor engagement to maximize impact and support campaign goals effectively.



Redefine our Landscape

St. Joseph High School's Facilities Department is committed to modernizing and optimizing the campus environment. As we plan forward, we envision a multifaceted space that thoughtfully integrates a Student Commons (dining and gathering space), a new Athletics Gymnasium, and additional Performing Arts Facilities. Concurrently, a comprehensive short-term plan outlines the renovation of our current building ensuring a refreshed infrastructure by September 2024.

PRIORITIES

- Complete the development of the schematic design documents to advance the Campus Master Plan and improve campus infrastructure; collaborate on updates aligning with adaptive space reutilization efforts; and design the Community Commons Project with new communal, performance, and athletic spaces.
- Schedule renovations for public areas, restrooms, and hallways by the end of the 2024 school year to ensure readiness for the September 2024 opening, and evaluate facilities and grounds to support currently thriving and developing athletic programs with sustainable solutions.

St. Joseph High School †

JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL



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RESPONSIBILITY

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