



IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES & INFORMATION FOR THE CLASS OF 2029

Class of 2029 Placement Testing

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Main Office entrance

Math: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Mandatory for all incoming freshmen

All incoming freshmen will take the Math Placement Test. Please visit the Class of 2029 page on the SJA website to access the link to register!

Makeup Date: Tuesday, April 1, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

World Language: 10:15-11:15 a.m.

This test is optional.

Incoming freshmen who have taken Latin, French, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish and would like to test into a higher level of one of these languages must take a placement test.

Please visit the **Class of 2029 page** on the SJA website to access the link to register!

Makeup Date: Tuesday, April 1, 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Enrollment Deadline:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Families that have completed their enrollment contract and enrollment checklist in Finalsite Enrollment will be emailed their daughter's recommended course listings on Saturday, April 5.

For complete course descriptions and the Course Sequence Chart, visit the Class of 2029 page on the SJA website.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Kara Kelpé at kkelpé@sja1840.org.

FRESHMEN WELCOME NIGHT!

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

6:00 p.m.

**PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER**

Join SJA administrators, counselors, academic department chairs, and coaches as we review the expectations and schedules for spring and summer, as well as important information about Athletics, summer camps, and enrichment opportunities.

The school Registrar will also walk everyone through completing their course selection form.



COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

Congratulations on your daughter's acceptance into St. Joseph's Academy!

As students prepare for their time with us, two decisions need to be made regarding freshman Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) coursework. All students are required to take one full credit in Computer Science and Engineering during their four years at St. Joseph's Academy. This is usually met by taking the required 0.5 credit Computer Science Applications course plus one additional semester-long CSE course.

We have noticed an increasing number of students are coming in with advanced skills in Computer Science. If your daughter is interested and has previously participated in computer programming (coding) courses, she may be eligible to advance to a sophomore-level CSE course. Students wishing to do this should do the following:

- › complete the CSE skill survey via the link provided in the Survey section below
- › provide a link to a portfolio of her completed projects (see Portfolio section below)

The survey and portfolio submission must be completed by March 28, 2025.

THE SURVEY

In this survey, students will rank themselves on the key skills covered in the required freshman Computer Science Applications course, including the following:

- › staying safe and protecting her digital reputation while using technology.
- › using a presentation tool like Google Slides, Canva, or PowerPoint to create a visually pleasing presentation, including speaker notes, inserted video, transitions, and voiceovers.
- › creating a video from a storyboard and script using basic editing techniques such as combining clips, adding sound, and titles. (ClipChamp is used at St. Joe.)
- › carrying out library, internet research, and digital citizenship skills. (MLA formatting is used at St. Joe and our library subscribes to a number of databases for student use.)
- › creating a program incorporating commands, variables, functions, loops, conditional code, operators, and algorithms. (Sphero robots and Code.org are used at St. Joe to introduce and develop coding.)
- › correctly presenting data in a table and on a graph. (Google Sheets and Microsoft Excel are two programs used at St. Joe for these projects.)

[Computer Science Skills Survey](#)

PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION OF SKILLS

Students who wish to advance place must also prepare an online portfolio presentation of their skills for the Computer Science & Engineering Department (CSE) members. This will determine if advancing out of Computer Science Applications is the best decision.

The portfolio presentation should contain four items produced for her work during eighth grade:

- › a Canva, Google Slide, or PowerPoint presentation which she has created, based on library research,
- › a movie which she has produced on an academic topic,
- › a programming project which she has completed, and
- › a correctly formatted table and graph she created using Google Sheets or Office Excel.

A link to the portfolio should be emailed to Carrie Hill at chill@sjal840.org by March 28, 2025.

COURSE SELECTION

Students who are eligible to advance will be asked to choose between two options to fulfill their required 0.5 freshman CSE credit:

- › Principles of Engineering Design
- › Computer Essentials and Operating Systems
- › Video Production 1
- › Broadcasting: St. Joe Studios
(This is a zero-hour class that will require students to meet before school 2-3 times per week and may require attendance at certain school functions/activities.)

The descriptions for these, and all courses, can be found in the SJA Curriculum Guide on our website.

Additionally, during freshman year, Robotics is available to students who join the JoeBotics team! This team was the first all-female FIRST Tech Challenge team in Missouri and has qualified for the FIRST Robotics State Championship for six of its seven seasons. Students who join the JoeBotics team do not have to enroll in the Robotics course, but it will fulfill the additional 0.5 credit of the required 1.0 CSE credit required for graduation.

Once the surveys and portfolios have been reviewed, you will be emailed about your placement. In the meantime, please feel free to email any questions or visit with CSE Department Chair, Carrie Hill, during the Incoming Freshman Welcome Night.



CARRIE
HILL

CSE Department Chair
chill@sjal840.org



THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

All freshmen at SJA are required to take a Fine Arts course. Students have the choice of four courses (each .5 credits). To help best place students in appropriate classes, we ask that they complete the Fine Arts survey in the green sidebar on the left.

This survey is intended to get an idea of a student's background and interest in Fine Arts. It is not necessary to have experience in any of the Fine Arts areas. We know you will enjoy learning in the class you take!

Freshman Fine Arts courses

FA Drawing & Painting I: Students will be introduced to a variety of projects and media with an emphasis on drawing and painting. By the time the student finishes this course, she will have a strong foundation and firm understanding of different media and techniques for future electives. Students will be required to purchase some art materials.

FA Freshman Chorus: Freshman Chorus is a performing ensemble that studies the techniques of singing through various styles of music. Basic music theory and sight singing are also studied. This ensemble performs at both the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Students do not need prior singing experience to be a part of the Freshman Chorus. Students should have a desire to sing and be able to match pitch.

FA Acting I: This course allows students to explore basic acting techniques, including improvisational theatre games, geared at increasing concentration, relaxation, listening, stage voice, collaboration, and creativity. Students will learn proper theater etiquette and elements involved in critiquing a theatrical performance. Character development, stage blocking, line memorization, and play analysis will be explored through scene work. Additionally, this course will provide the foundation that will prepare students who are interested in taking advanced

courses in the theater. Students do not need prior acting experience to enroll in this course.

FA Instrumental Ensemble: Students will develop individual musicianship through ensemble experience and exposure to a widely varied repertoire. The group will have one performance each semester. Mandatory attendance and participation at both concerts are required to receive credit for the course. The Instrumental Ensemble accepts students with previous experience in middle school band, or orchestra experience on violin and cello. Piano students are limited and only by audition. [This course meets twice a week from 7:15-8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.](#)

Prerequisite: proficiency with your instrument and instructor/departmental approval; student must provide her own instrument.

PE Dance 1: Dance I for freshmen is for PE credit only. This is an introductory overview course that is designed to explore dance as an art form. Students will study dance conditioning, ballet, jazz, and modern dance. Emphasis will be on beginner dance technique, movement exploration through guided improvisation, and dance history.

Prerequisite: none



For more information regarding the SJA Fine Arts program, please contact:



DAVID
KOWALCZYK

Department Chair
Fine Arts
dkowalczyk@sja1840.org



INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

Band and Orchestra students:

Do you have previous experience playing in a band or orchestra?

We invite you to join our Instrumental Ensemble class!

Earn Fine Arts credit in our program that meets two mornings per week. Current students play a wide variety of music and have a lot of fun along the way. They would love to have you join them in the fall!

Students will develop individual musicianship through exposure to a widely varied repertoire. The group will have one performance each semester. Mandatory attendance and participation in the semester-end concert/performance are necessary to receive credit for the course. Students who have not played in a school band or orchestra program are accepted only by audition. Piano students are limited and only by audition. The ensemble does not use guitars.

Students provide their own instruments.



**MARVIN
MEDCALF**

Instrumental Director
mmedcalf@sja1840.org



**DAVID
KOWALCZYK**

Department Chair
Fine Arts
dkowalczyk@sja1840.org



Winter Instrumental Ensemble & Voice Recital, Dec. 2023



WORLD LANGUAGE

AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

PLACEMENT TESTING: Saturday, March 29, 10:15 a.m.

SJA offers placement tests for those planning to register for Spanish, French, or Latin. Students who have had previous significant experience in these languages are strongly encouraged to take a placement test. This diagnostic tool will help determine the most appropriate course level when registering for Spanish, French, or Latin. For questions concerning previous experience in Mandarin, please contact the department chair, Heather Hughes at hhughes@sja1840.org.

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE SELECTION: Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.

During the Class of 2029 Freshman Welcome Night, you will be asked to indicate your language preferences with your course registration paperwork. We do our best to place students in their first choice, but please note there is no guarantee that everyone will be able to study their first-choice language as a freshman. If you have questions, please contact the department chair, Heather Hughes, before that night at hhughes@sja1840.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many years of language must I take at SJA?

A minimum of two consecutive years of the same language is required, but all world language teachers recommend four years for maximum language proficiency and college applications.

What if I can't take my first choice language as a freshman?

On the rare occasion that this happens, you will likely be placed in your second-choice language. Students usually end up thriving in their second-choice language and are excited to continue studying beyond freshman year. Some students even choose to strengthen their college resume by adding their first-choice language as an elective later. Academic counselors and world language teachers will walk you through all the details if this occurs.

Can I take two language courses at the same time?

Yes! If your schedule permits, two languages are encouraged, but most students do not have room in their schedules to choose electives until sophomore year or later.

Are there extracurricular activities connected to world language in which I can participate?

Each language has an honor society where students have the opportunity to do outside activities to enhance their learning of the language. There are certain requirements for each honor society that students must meet to receive recognition at graduation. Students who meet these requirements will receive an honor cord to wear at graduation.

Are there international trips in which I can participate?

Our world language teachers partner with outside educational travel companies to provide travel opportunities, while our Global Education department also offers international travel experiences. Not all students at SJA participate in these outside opportunities.

For more information regarding the SJA World Language program, please contact:



HEATHER HUGHES

Department Chair
World Language
hhughes@sja1840.org



WORLD LANGUAGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

FRENCH

Why French?

French is spoken by more than 300 million people on all seven continents. Fluency in French gives young adults a competitive edge in the job market due to France's large international economy.

Why French at SJA?

The French program at SJA builds real-world communication in the target language through fun, relevant, and engaging activities. Students will learn about the French-speaking world and ways to use their language to communicate in different settings.

Yearly trips to France and Europe offer many opportunities to enhance language skills and cultural perspective. Eligible students can earn up to 9 hours of college credit, 3 years of honors credit, as well as AP credit.

Our French Honor Society (Société Honoraire de Française) offers many opportunities for communication and cultural enrichment outside of the classroom.



*For more information
regarding the
SJA French program,
please contact:*



LEIGH
LaMONICA
llamonica@sja1840.org

French Courses Offered at SJA:

- *French I*
- *French II*
- *ACC French III*
- *ACC French IV*
- *AP/ACC French: Language and Culture*



WORLD LANGUAGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

MANDARIN

Why Mandarin?

Unique possibilities exist for those who learn Mandarin, as it is the most spoken language in the world; Mandarin is the language of over 1.2 billion people. St. Joseph's Academy has had numerous scholarship recipients of the US government-sponsored NSLI-Y program for Mandarin, and 95% of SJA Mandarin students decide to take all four years of coursework. Many continue their language learning at university, and some students even change career paths to seek Mandarin-based opportunities.

The thought of learning Mandarin can be scary simply because most people don't know much about it. Every language has its challenges and pleasures, and every language requires dedication and consistent hard work. In Mandarin, the writing system is not alphabet-based, but there are no verb conjugations, no verb tenses, no noun/adjective or gender/number agreement, and no plural nouns. There are also over 5,000 years of culture to explore and enjoy!

At SJA, Ms. Hughes breaks information down so it can be easily understood, including the complex writing system. Writing characters (the basics begin in level II) is an ancient art form that will impress even your most academic friends! With Mandarin, both temporal lobes of the brain are used (alphabet languages only use the left lobe). The unique tonal sounds of the spoken language employ areas of the brain not used in English. Characters are written in all four directions activating neural pathways in working, thinking, and spatial memory. Math skills also play a part in writing, as it involves counting, grouping, ordering, and identifying similarities and differences.



For more information regarding the SJA Mandarin program, please contact:



HEATHER HUGHES

Department Chair,
World Language
hhughes@sja1840.org



SJA is a member of the National Mandarin Chinese Honor Society, and Mandarin III and IV are honors courses. We offer trips to Taiwan and Beijing, China. Be courageous, set yourself apart, and sign up today!

Mandarin Courses Offered at SJA:

- *Mandarin I: Mandarin and Chinese Multiculturalism*
- *Mandarin II: Mandarin and Chinese Multiculturalism*
- *Honors Mandarin III*
- *Honors Mandarin IV*



WORLD LANGUAGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

LATIN

Latin is...

- the basis of nearly 60% of English vocabulary and grammar.
- a key to understanding almost every “Western culture” and language.
- an UNdead language!

Latin helps to...

- improve English vocabulary, boosting performance on SAT/ACT.
- develop both creative and abstract thinking.
- prepare students to succeed in both Arts and STEM careers, especially in the fields of law and medicine.
- allow students to “hack into” and quickly learn other languages when they are older, such as French, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese.

Latin classes at SJA...

- emphasize reading & writing, with minimal speaking or listening.
- follow an ongoing series of stories featuring historical figures and fictional characters, then transition to reading authentic literature from the ancient world.
- explore daily life, culture, religion, history, and technology throughout the Roman Empire, including Rome, Pompeii, London, Athens, & Alexandria.

Latin students at SJA can...

- take Latin I, Latin II, Classical Mythology, ACC Latin III, ACC Latin IV, and AP Latin.
- join the Latin Club and Latin Honor Society to celebrate Roman culture, history, and language.
- participate in trips to Italy and Greece.

*For more information
regarding the
SJA Latin program,
please contact:*



RYAN ALSOP
ralso@sjal840.org



HANNAH DECKER
hdecker@sjal840.org

Go to the links below to learn more!

[Why Learn Latin?](#)
[The Latin Advantage](#)
[National Junior Classical League](#)



WORLD LANGUAGE AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

SPANISH

For more information regarding the SJA Spanish program, please contact any of the faculty below:



CHRISTINA AUBERRY

cauberry@sja1840.org



DR. ARLENE GALVE-SALGADO

agalve@sja1840.org



SARAH HARRINGTON

sharrington@sja1840.org



EMMA RUETER

erueter@sja1840.org

Why Spanish?

Spanish is spoken by 500 million people worldwide and with over 40 million speakers, it's the second most spoken language in the United States. Fluency in Spanish allows one to communicate with millions of people and can complement any career.

Why Spanish at SJA?

Authentic resources such as movies, videos, magazines, TV programs, and prints are used, and there are daily opportunities to engage with peers in an energetic setting. Our Spanish curriculum is vibrant and based on relevant cultural topics of particular interest to high schoolers. All Spanish instructors have studied abroad in Spain, Mexico, Central America, or South America. Eligible students can earn 4 years of honors credits, up to 13 hours of college credit, as well as AP credit.



Our National Honor Society (*Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica*) offers multiple opportunities to use your Spanish skills outside of the classroom.

Spanish Courses Offered at SJA:

- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- ACP Spanish III
- Honors Spanish Culture through Literature and Film
- ACP Spanish IV



SJA FRESHMAN COURSE SELECTION FORM 2025-2026: Class of 2029

NAME: _____

Directions: Use this sample registration form to prepare for **Course Registration on Tuesday, April 8, 2025**. Required (standard) courses are in the left column; advanced course options for that subject area are on the right. Some advanced courses require a placement test and specific requirements for each advanced course are noted. Families that have completed their Enrollment Contract and Enrollment Checklist in the SJA Parent Portal by noon on Friday, February 28, 2025, will be emailed their daughter's recommended course listings on Saturday, April 5, 2025.

REQUIRED (STANDARD) COURSES	ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS
<p>ACADEMIC and PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APD Freshman Experience</p>	
<p>COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: <input type="checkbox"/> CSE Computer Science Applications</p> <p>Optional courses that may be taken as <u>additional</u> CSE courses: <input type="checkbox"/> CSE Robotics* <i>* meets after school</i></p>	<p>COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: If you were recommended for a sophomore-level Computer Science and Engineering course, please select the course you want to take next year.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CSE Principles of Engineering Design <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Essentials & Operating Systems w/Internship <input type="checkbox"/> Video Production I</p>
<p>ENGLISH: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EN Literature and Composition</p> <p>Optional course that may be taken as an <u>additional</u> English course: <input type="checkbox"/> EN Special Projects in Journalism* <i>* meets before school and produces the school newspaper, The Voice</i></p>	
<p>FINE ARTS: Please rank each course in the order of preference: Note: Due to class size, 1st choice is not guaranteed.</p> <p>_____ FA Acting I _____ FA Art I: Drawing and Painting _____ FA Freshman Chorus _____ FA Instrumental Ensemble*</p> <p><i>* meets 2 times per week before school and is a full-year course.</i></p> <p>I am interested in upper-level drawing and/or painting classes after freshman year: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>MATH: <input type="checkbox"/> MT Algebra IB <input type="checkbox"/> MT Algebra I</p>	<p>MATH: If you were recommended for an advanced math course, please select the course you would like to take next year.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MT Algebra I Accelerated <input type="checkbox"/> MT Honors Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> MT Honors Algebra II Trigonometry</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Select one (1) PE course <input type="checkbox"/> PE Physical Education* <input type="checkbox"/> PE Dance 1* <i>*When taken with Freshman Chorus, these courses meet both semesters.</i></p>	
<p>SCIENCE: <input type="checkbox"/> SC Biology B <input type="checkbox"/> SC Biology</p>	<p>SCIENCE: If you were recommended for an advanced science course, please select the course below. <input type="checkbox"/> SC Honors Biology</p>
<p>SOCIAL STUDIES: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS American Government</p>	
<p>THEOLOGY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TH Sacred Scripture, Our Story</p>	
<p>WORLD LANGUAGE: Please rank your first two (2) choices only with a 1 or 2. Note: Due to class size, 1st choice is not guaranteed.</p> <p>_____ French _____ Latin _____ Mandarin _____ Spanish</p> <p>In middle school, I took at least one year of (<i>circle all that apply</i>): French Latin Mandarin Spanish</p>	<p>WORLD LANGUAGE: If you took the World Language placement test, please select the level you want to take next year.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WL French I <input type="checkbox"/> WL Mandarin I <input type="checkbox"/> WL French II <input type="checkbox"/> WL Mandarin II <input type="checkbox"/> WL Latin I <input type="checkbox"/> WL Spanish I <input type="checkbox"/> WL Latin II <input type="checkbox"/> WL Spanish II</p>