

Joliet Catholic Academy

Inspiring Growth in Knowledge and Faith Since 1869



Co-sponsored by the Carmelites and Joliet Franciscan Sisters

We are a Microsoft Showcase School!

WELCOME TO JCA!

The JCA family has been grounded in tradition and inspired by faith for 155 years at the center of Catholic education in Will County.

Students at Joliet Catholic Academy have many opportunities to succeed. Angels and Hilltoppers are challenged in the classroom, expected to serve within the community, tested on the playing field, and embraced by the missions of the Carmelites and Franciscans.

JCA's holistic approach to education, centered in the school's faith-filled curriculum, creates an educational experience that encourages success. The goal of the Joliet Catholic Academy family is to prepare young men and women for college and for life. Join the JCA family and become part of A TRADITION that is second to none!



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academic excellence is one of the hallmarks of Joliet Catholic Academy.

After moving through our educational program, students are well prepared to attend the college of their choice. JCA's diverse curriculum offers students an individualized education based on their strengths, providing them with the opportunity to achieve their maximum intellectual potential. Students are placed in the academic program that best meets their needs based on their academic strengths.

13:1

Student-to-Teacher
ratio

75%

of students scored a "3" or higher
on AP examinations earning
college credit in 2024

Nearly 50% of the Class of 2024
earned AP and college dual credits
while attending JCA

100%

of the Class of 2024 are
attending the college/university,
trade, and vocation school of
their choice

Four-year college/university - 83%

Two-year college - 13%

Vocational school/military/
work force - 4%

Academic Distinction

\$17 million+

The Class of 2024 earned
over \$17 million in college
scholarships

3

Over the past five years
three JCA students have
achieved a perfect score on
the ACT

29

students in the
Class of 2024 were named
Illinois State Scholars



CURRICULUM PLACEMENT

Accelerated/Honors Prep

Directed at the highly academically gifted and talented students who enjoy the challenges of a demanding program of studies.

Upper College Prep

Provides students with a fundamental understanding of the basic skills and discipline they need to achieve success in college.

College Prep

Furnishes students with the understanding of basic skills and the ability to master these skills to better prepare them for further academic study.

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit

Advanced Placement courses are offered to juniors and seniors in English III, English IV, Spanish, French, U.S. Government, Pre-Calculus, Computer Science, Calculus, Biology, Physics, Microeconomics, European History, U.S. History, Chemistry, and Statistics. Dual Credit courses are offered in Education 101, English 101 and 102, Personal Finance, Precalculus, Psychology II, and Statistics.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center compliments the Joliet Catholic Academy college preparatory curriculum by creating an environment of equal access for students with documented learning challenges.

Students entering this program will be receiving supplemental instruction one period per day in a small group setting with an emphasis on the academic content of their college preparatory classes.

Academic Department Overview

Counseling

The Counseling Department provides a student focused program that is developmental, comprehensive, and preventative, providing an educational process that cultivates and challenges all students to be lifelong learners growing in faith, knowledge, understanding, and service. The Counseling Department is comprised of two College and Career Counselors, two generalist School Counselors, a Student Services Counselor, and a Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

English

The mission of the English Department is to teach a philosophy that exceeds a high academic level, one that challenges students to examine and interpret the human condition and the inter-relatedness and responsibility of all people. The goal is to help students connect literature to the human experience by strengthening problem solving and critical thinking skills so that students have superb decision making abilities and a sense of self-worth. The department also offers courses in AP English Literature as well as a Writing Lab for students during advisory period for one-on-one consultation regarding essays and research papers.

Fine Arts

JCA believes the arts are an important part of the high school experience. The arts make a real contribution to the intellectual, expressive, emotional, and creative growth of a person. Angels and Hilltoppers are required to earn credits for graduation in both Art and Music. Students are also given the opportunity to become involved outside the classroom setting with extracurricular activities such as exhibits, field trips, and musical performances.

Math

The Math Department boasts a team of excellent faculty members eager to share their knowledge and challenge students in their studies. The department's "Formula for Success" includes an Eighth Grade Math Program for accelerated learning, a Math Lab designed to provide supplemental tutoring from JCA math teachers, Dual Credit courses offered for college credit, and Advanced Placement courses in Calculus and Statistics.

Physical Education and Health

The Joliet Catholic Academy Physical Education and Health Department helps students to apply and maintain knowledge, understanding, and behaviors of lifelong physical fitness, health, recreation, and sport. These courses educate students on the importance of nutrition, exercise, health risks and handling of emotions.

Science

JCA's Science Department is staffed with accomplished faculty members who have experience at both the high school and collegiate level. Multiple subject labs provide hands on learning to help students understand phenomena in the world of science. The department utilizes technology in the classroom through virtual dissections and labs. The department also offers Advanced Placement courses in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics.

Social Studies

Students taking social studies classes have a unique opportunity to expand their worldview and learn from outstanding faculty who have more than 150 years of teaching experience combined. Courses are offered in Business, Government and International Relations, U.S. History, AP European History, AP U.S. Government, AP U.S. History, and AP Microeconomics.

Theology

The JCA Theology Department roundly supports the Christological framework as created by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. Our faculty emphasizes individual growth and development with students, fostering understanding of faith and personal vocation. Theology classes are steeped in JCA's Franciscan and Carmelite traditions, which provide opportunities of growth in faith and knowledge.

World Language

JCA students are challenged to think differently, broaden their learning spectrum, and become exposed to new cultures, expanding their worldview. French and Spanish courses are offered to students. Different approaches to learning such as opportunities to travel abroad and National French and Spanish contests will entice students to continue their foreign language studies throughout all four years of high school. Advanced Placement courses in Spanish and French are offered.

To learn more, visit www.jca-online.org/academic-departments

Technology in Academics

At Joliet Catholic Academy we understand the importance of education and technology working hand in hand to enhance the learning experience, preparing students for a successful future. JCA seeks to challenge all students with a rigorous curriculum, utilizing state-of-the-art technology and the most current trends in curriculum integration.

INNOVATION RESEARCH CENTER

JCA opened the state-of-the-art Warning Innovation Research Center in Fall of 2021, where students have access to cutting-edge tools only seen in the finest universities. The IRC encompasses the entire second floor northeast section on campus. It includes collaborative learning pods, robotics and engineering lab, broadcasting studio, open flexible seating, technology help desk, and two “powerhouse” labs. These labs allow students to experience cutting-edge programming in AP Computer Science, Engineering, and Graphic Design. Students also have access to charging stations, 3D printers, laser cutter, robotics, drones, and more. This is JCA, “where tradition meets tomorrow.”

The JCA Tech Club meets weekly in the newly renovated Innovation Research Center one day each week where students hone their eSports skills as they enter the incredible world of competitive gaming. The Robotics and Engineering Club is also available to broaden the minds of those interested in technology. The club is currently 3D printing and assembling prosthetic hands for children in need.



MICROSOFT FOR EDUCATION

JCA's 1:1 environment is based on the Microsoft/Windows 11 Platform. All student computers have Microsoft 365 which gives students access to the full Microsoft suite of programs, including OneNote, One Drive, Outlook, Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Sway, and many more Microsoft applications.

WHY MICROSOFT?

The tradition of academic excellence continues with JCA's dedication to the opportunities Microsoft brings to the students of JCA. As a college prep school, it is essential that students learn the programs and platforms that they will encounter at the university level and in the workforce. The Teams platform, that students utilize daily to communicate and collaborate, remains the top industry standard for top universities and is the same platform used by 91 of the Fortune 100 companies.

The tradition of academic excellence at JCA has always been remarkable; the technology at JCA is enabling students to thrive, succeed, and uphold that tradition in this new tomorrow.

MICROSOFT SHOWCASE SCHOOL

JCA reached a new level of distinction in September of 2023 when it received word that it had been named a Microsoft Showcase School for a consecutive year. **JCA is one of only four Microsoft Showcase Schools in the state of Illinois and one of 36 schools in the United States.** “Microsoft has recognized your institution as a Showcase School, an elite group of schools that exemplify the best of teaching and learning in the world today. Only a few institutions earn this designation.” JCA will function as an example for other schools of how Microsoft technology and 21st century teaching and learning can transform the learning environment.

JCA is also extremely proud to be home to seven of the 30 Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEE) in Illinois. These experts are selected through a rigorous application process. MIEEs are described as, “self-driven educators who are passionate about teaching and learning, who inspire students with creative thinking, and work in a truly collaborative spirit to share their learning with the world.” These teachers embody the spirit of teaching and learning here at JCA.

College Matriculation

Among other colleges and universities, JCA graduates have excelled in continuing their education at these prestigious and well-known institutions.



Arizona State University-Tempe
Auburn University
Augustana College
Ball State University
Baylor University
Bellarmine University
Belmont University
Benedictine University
Bradley University
Butler University
Carroll University
Carthage College
Clemson University
Columbia College Chicago
Cornell College
Creighton University
Dartmouth College
DePaul University
Drake University
Eastern Kentucky University
Eastern Michigan University
Elmhurst University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Fordham University
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Grand Valley State University
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana State University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Iowa State University
Joliet Junior College
Kansas State University
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lewis University
Lindenwood University
Loras College
Loyola University Chicago
Marquette University
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Millikin University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Montana State University
North Central College
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oklahoma State University-Main Campus
Pittsburg State University

Purdue University-Main Campus
Quincy University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Saint Louis University
Saint Mary's College
Saint Norbert College
Saint Xavier University
Samford University
South Dakota State University
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
St Catherine University
St. Ambrose University
Texas A & M University-College Station
Texas Christian University
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
United States Air Force Academy
United States Military Academy
United States Naval Academy
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Dayton
University of Denver
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Rhode Island
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of South Florida-Main Campus
University of Southern California
University of St Francis
University of St. Thomas (MN)
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Wisconsin
Valparaiso University
Washington University in St Louis
Western Illinois University
Western Kentucky University
Western Michigan University
William Penn University
Yale University

FAITH AND FAMILY

What sets Joliet Catholic Academy apart from other area high schools is the spiritual atmosphere, revealed through the continuing Catholic-Christian tradition formed by its Carmelite and Franciscan sponsors.

In support of JCA's mission to Inspire Growth in Knowledge and Faith, each student is required four years of religious studies, as well as an opportunity for a comprehensive spiritual life program provided by our Campus Ministry department.

Campus Ministry implements programs that contribute to the spiritual welfare of the entire JCA community, developing a Roman Catholic environment that fosters opportunities for a deep, personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ through the charisms of the Carmelites and Franciscans.

JCA offers students a variety of ministries and formative programs to enrich their faith and character development.

LITURGICAL EXPERIENCES

- The Mary, Our Sister Chapel allows space for daily reflection and prayer as well as gathering and celebrating. The chapel, renovated and dedicated in 2018, is both the physical and spiritual centerpiece of faith formation at Joliet Catholic Academy. The chapel, which brings together aspects of both the Carmelite and Franciscan spiritual traditions, contains seating for 450, and is adorned with historical pieces that highlight JCA's history and tradition, including original stained glass windows from the original Joliet Catholic High School chapel. The centerpiece of the chapel is the large San Damiano cross, a replica of the cross from the chapel where St. Francis of Assisi began his ministry.
- Students also have opportunity for community worship with All-school Masses held at least monthly, as well as on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Individual freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior class masses are held throughout the year, affording the chance for students to create class unity and celebrate together.
- Reconciliation and Holy Communion are available throughout the year to bring spiritual enrichment into students' lives.
- A vibrant retreat program is offered through the guidance of our faculty and under the direction of our Campus Ministers. Day long retreats are provided each year to underclassmen while seniors participate in our Kairos retreat program, an off campus stay over retreat which is intended to act as a capstone to their spiritual growth at JCA.



300+

Kairos retreats since 1975.
JCA is a pioneer in developing
the Kairos retreat

Mass

All-school Masses are
once per month and/or on
Holy Days of Obligation

60

Minimum number of Christian
Service hours completed
by each student in their
four-year career at JCA

15,000+

service hours completed
by the Class of 2024 in their
time at JCA



CHRISTIAN SERVICE

JCA students complete a minimum of 60 hours of Christian Service throughout their four-year careers, working both within the school and the Joliet community to directly impact the lives of others.

RETREATS

- Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and the JCA faculty and staff all participate together in an annual day of renewal.
- Kairos will be offered to students during their senior year.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

JCA has a tradition of winning state titles, national championships and sportsmanship awards.

Athletics plays an important role in developing the discipline and competitive spirit required for academic success while cultivating future leaders. There is no greater feeling than running on the field, taking the court, walking on the course or cheering in the HillZone as an Angel or Hilltopper.

Athletic Achievements

37

State/National Championships

67

Former/Current Professional Athletes

27%

of the Class of 2024 is continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level in

11

different sports

10

IHSA State Final representation from 13 of our 23 programs

Back-to-Back

IHSA Baseball State Champions





2023-2024 ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Girls Tennis: Doubles State Finalists

Boys Golf: Individual State Qualifier

Girls Cross Country: Individual State Finalists

Boys Cross Country: Individual State Finalist

Football: Class 5A State Runner-Up

Dance: State Finals

Cheer: State Finals

Boys Swimming: Individual 200 Free

Girls Wrestling: 2 Individual State Qualifiers

Boys Wrestling: 11 Individual State Qualifiers

Boys Wrestling: 6 Individual State Placers

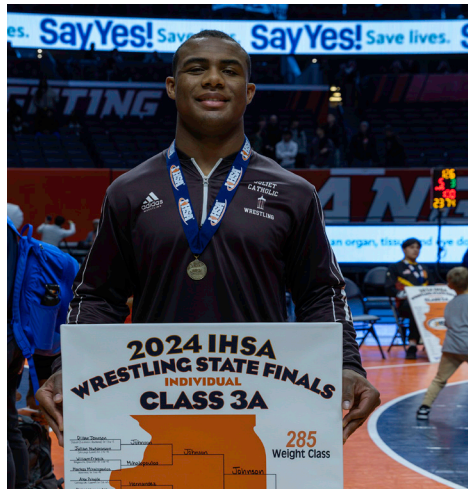
Boys Wrestling: Individual State Champion

Boys Wrestling: Dual Team State Finals

Girls Track: Individual State Qualifiers

Boys Track: Individual State Qualifiers

Boys Tennis: Individual State Qualifiers



“EXPANDING OUR LEGACY”: COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

The JCA family consists of over 600 current students, their parents and families, faculty and staff, and over 24,100 alumni, led by the Franciscan Sisters and Carmelite Priests.

The “Onward Together” Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 marked the culmination of several campus upgrades at JCA, including the “Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future” campaign, which raised over \$1.5 million for new windows, updated Wi-Fi infrastructure, the installation of air conditioning throughout campus, and the additions of Heritage Quad and the Mary, Our Sister Chapel. In addition, the Strategic Plan saw the completion of the Innovation Research Center, renovation of the cafeteria and chemistry lab, and security upgrades to the main entrance at JCA. All of these spaces allow students and families within the JCA community to gather and celebrate our rich traditions.

Dr. Jeffrey Budz, the JCA Board of Members, and the JCA Board of Directors are excited to continue the progress of “Onward Together” with the recently announced 2023-2028 Strategic Plan: “Expanding our Legacy.” Joliet Catholic Academy is at a pivotal moment in our storied history. Since 1990, over \$28 million in campus improvements have taken place due to the generosity of alumni and friends. We continue to look towards the future, with plans to upgrade the outdoor athletic complex: a multi-purpose turf field and stadium, tennis complex, softball and baseball fields, track and field complex, parking expansion, and stormwater management upgrades.

Our vision is as follows:

“Joliet Catholic Academy is a school of opportunity: a beacon of light for all. We live Carmelite and Franciscan values, think critically, partner with families, engage the community, and champion Christian Servant Leadership, while igniting passion and enthusiasm for life’s journey.”



94%

of students participate
in extra-curricular activities

#1

JCA's Key Club was
recognized at the state level
in its division for the best
single service project

40+

clubs offered at JCA



CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Art & Literary Magazine
 Bass Fishing
 Big Buddies / Little Buddies
 Broadcasting Club
 Chess Club
 Clash Royale
 Cooking Club
 Drama Club
 Econ Club
 Euchre Club
 Fall Play
 French Club
 Future Teachers of America
 Gardening Club
 Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter
 Hillzone
 History Club
 International Thespian Troupe 1046
 Intramural Sports
 Key Club
 Math Team
 Medical Science Club
 Ministry Music
 National Art Honor Society
 National English Honor Society
 National French Honor Society
 National Honor Society
 National Math Honor Society
 National Spanish Honor Society
 Open Mic Club
 Pickleball Club
 Psychology Club
 Robotics Club
 Scholastic Bowl
 Spanish Club
 Spring Musical
 Student Ambassadors
 Student Council
 Tech Club
 Tri-M Music National Honor Society
 Victory View Newspaper Club
 Vocal Ensemble
 Women's History Club
 Women's Science Club
 Yearbook

Leveraged Financial Aid

With Leveraged Financial Aid at Joliet Catholic Academy, an excellent Catholic education has never been more accessible. Increases in financial aid opportunities have led to increases in enrollment and freshman applications in three of the past four school years.



Granting access to a high-quality, Catholic education to more families

AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Annual Tuition Payment is \$14,425.00

Scholarship	Total Tuition	Monthly Payment (10 months)
\$0.00	\$14,650.00	\$1,465.00
\$1,442.50	\$13,207.50	\$1,320.75
\$3,606.25	\$11,043.75	\$1,104.38
\$7,212.50	\$7,438.00	\$743.80
\$10,818.75	\$3,821.25	\$383.13

MERIT BASED AID



TOP ENTRANCE EXAM SCORES

Incoming freshmen must take the entrance exam at JCA on **December 7, 2024** and score above the 90th percentile to earn scholarships up to \$2,000 off freshman year tuition.

TUITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payments can be made via credit card or automatic bank transfers. Other options are available and arranged through the Business Office. JCA offers a variety of payment options:

Full payment
Bi-annual payments
Quarterly payments
Monthly installments

**Additional fees apply including fundraising, athletic participation, books, and laptop. A complete list of fees can be found online at www.jca-online.org.*

SCHOLARSHIPS



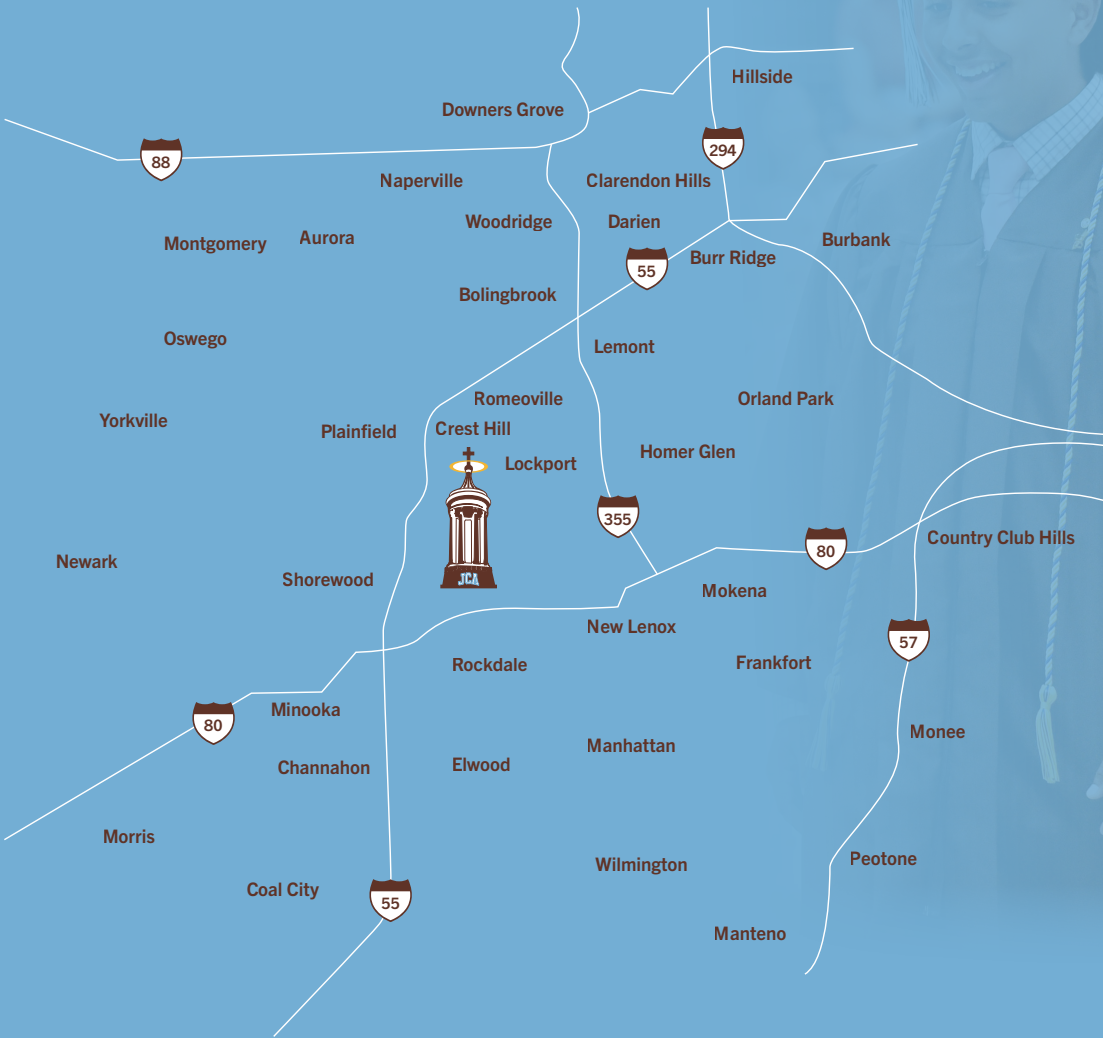
Scholarships range from \$500 up to 75% off tuition through the JCA Endowment and Catholic Education Foundation.



HERITAGE AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Leadership scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 off tuition, renewable for all four years of high school. Requires submission of a 500-word essay and interview process. Students must register to attend JCA before the spring Online Freshman Registration Deadline.

JCA Students Come From Many Places



BUS ROUTE/INFORMATION

Joliet Catholic Academy is located on the west side of Joliet, near the communities of Shorewood, Plainfield and Minooka/Channahon. Because of the easy accessibility to Will, DuPage, Grundy and Kendall counties, JCA pulls students from a wide variety of neighboring towns.

As a result, JCA provides transportation options for students according to interest. The most common methods of commuting to JCA are buses and car pools. Many students ride one of several bus routes with round-trip service through Naperville, Plainfield, Shorewood, Bolingbrook, Romeoville and Joliet. Bus routes are determined annually based on ridership. For a School Bus Transportation Agreement, contact JCA's Business Office.

A good number of JCA students also are a part of car pools or drive themselves to school each day. The JCA Admissions Office works with families to connect car pools and the JCA Administration contracts with First Student Bus Company to run several routes (based on interest and family usage):

- **Naperville/Plainfield route:** Round-trip service for students with stops as far north as 75th Street traveling east and west of Route 59 to various subdivisions, south down Route 59 through Plainfield into Joliet.
- **Shorewood/Joliet route:** Round-trip service for students as far west as County Line Road and as far south as Interstate 80 through various subdivisions in Shorewood and Joliet.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION COST

\$1,100 one time; or two installments of \$600.00
(September and December) total \$1,200

2024-2025 ADMISSIONS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fridays, September 2024 through April 2025 7th and 8th Grade Shadow Days	Tuesday, December 31, 2024 Priority Financial Aid Deadline (FACTS)
Sunday, November 3, 2024 Open House 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Saturday, March 1, 2025 Kazma Family Foundation Scholarship Deadline
Thursday, November 14, 2024 Open House 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Saturday, March 1, 2025 Online Freshman Registration Deadline
Wednesday, December 4, 2024 Pre-Entrance Exam Workshop & Parent Information Meeting 6:00 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Catholic Education Foundation Financial Aid FACTS application deadline; returning student financial aid deadline
Saturday, December 7, 2024 Entrance Exam for All Incoming Freshmen 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Friday, April 4, 2025 7th Grade Step Up Day
Saturday, December 7, 2024 Heritage Award Application Due	June and July 2025 Summer events and activity camps for incoming freshmen
Saturday, December 14, 2024 Makeup Entrance Exam for All Incoming Freshmen 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	

Contact the Admissions Office to schedule a private tour or discuss tuition and financial aid options. Visit www.jca-online.org/admissions for more information.

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Scan the QR code
for a list of the most
current events.



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