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CEEb/ACT Code 142380

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Ms. Laura Pahl, *Associate Principal*  
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**Inspiring Growth in  
Knowledge and Faith**

Co-educational College Preparatory High School  
Sponsors: Joliet Franciscan Sisters and the Carmelites

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2025-2026

Joliet Catholic Academy is a Roman Catholic college preparatory co-educational high school co-sponsored by the Joliet Franciscan Sisters and the Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. With an enrollment of 563 students and a student-teacher ratio of 12:1, personal and individualized attention is afforded to students. Currently, Joliet Catholic Academy has graduated over 28,000 alumni in the United States and abroad.

### MISSION

Inspiring Growth in Knowledge and Faith since 1869, the Joliet Catholic Academy family creates an environment that cultivates opportunities for academic excellence, meaningful service, Christian respect, and Catholic values in the traditions of the Carmelites and Franciscans.

### ACCREDITATION

Joliet Catholic Academy is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education; Cognia, a national accreditation program for achieving high level performance; and the National Catholic Educational Association.

### CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Student-to-faculty ratio is 12:1. JCA employs 82 of which 51 are educational staff members. 51% percent of the faculty hold a Master Degree or higher.

### ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is 538 high school students: 135 seniors, 147 juniors, 128 sophomores, 128 freshmen, 25 8th graders taking Math/Science. 56% percent of the student body are male and 44% percent are female. Students come from the Joliet community and surrounding areas. 64% of students are Caucasian; 21% Hispanic; 12% African American; and 3% Asian. 83% of the student body are Catholic; 17% have other religious affiliations.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

JCA is a fully accredited college preparatory high school offering a challenging curriculum that prepares students for continued education and life. Depending on the strengths of the student, he/she can be placed in classes throughout the three-tier program to best meet their needs: Accelerated Program/Honors, Upper College Prep, or College Prep.

Students must earn 25 credits to be eligible to receive a JCA diploma. Twenty-two credits must be earned through required coursework. The balance (3 credits) are earned by completing elective courses.

4 years of Theology  
4 years of English  
3 years of Mathematics  
3 years of Science  
3 years of Social Studies  
2 years of World Language (or 2-year sequence in Fine Arts or Reading)  
1 year of Physical Education  
1 semester of Computer Applications  
1 semester of Health  
1 semester of Visual Arts  
1 semester of Performing Arts  
3 credits from Electives  
Minimum of 60 hours of Christian Service

## STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Jeffrey Budz	<i>President/Principal</i>	ext. 211	jbudz@jca-online.org
Ms. Laura Pahl	<i>Associate Principal</i>	ext. 213	lpahl@jca-online.org
Mrs. Kristin Horn	<i>Director of Counseling, School Counselor (Fr/So L-Z)</i>	ext. 264	khorn@jca-online.org
Mr. Mickey Palmasani	<i>School Counselor (Fr/So A-K)</i>	ext. 225	mpalmasani@jca-online.org
Mrs. Jackie Pullara	<i>College/Career Counselor (Jr/Sr L-Z)</i>	ext. 266	jpullara@jca-online.org
Mrs. Kerri Voltz	<i>College/Career Counselor (Jr/Sr A-K)</i>	ext. 265	kvoltz@jca-online.org
Mrs. Aimee Batchelor	<i>Student Services Counselor</i>	ext. 229	abatchelor@jca-online.org
Ms. LaKisha Cameron	<i>Director of Diversity and Inclusion</i>	ext. 279	lcameron@jca-online.org
Mrs. Margaret K. Goolsby	<i>Student Records Coordinator</i>	ext. 268	pgoolsby@jca-online.org
Mr. Jared Voss	<i>Director of Admissions</i>	ext. 214	jvoss@jca-online.org

## ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL YEAR

JCA operates on a semester system, ending in December and May. The school day begins at 7:50 a.m. and ends at 2:40 p.m. Most students carry 7 classes in their academic load.

## CURRICULUM AND SPECIAL COURSES

Three levels of study are offered in academic subjects for most courses: Accelerated/Honors, Upper College Prep, and College Prep. Advanced Placement (AP) offerings provide a fourth alternative for upperclassmen. Students may work at different levels in different subjects.

An Honors Diploma requires a student to complete a sequence of 17 Honors/AP courses with no more than one grade of C per semester in any course. A sequence of 23 Honors courses and 14 AP courses are offered. AP courses include:

AP Biology	AP French Language and Culture
AP Calculus AB	AP Micro Economics
AP Chemistry	AP Physics I
AP Computer Science	AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP English Language and Composition	AP Statistics
AP English Literature and Composition	AP US Government and Politics
AP European History	AP US History

*JCA typically does not allow underclassmen to take AP classes. Students who enroll in AP courses at JCA are not required to take the AP exam in May.*

JCA Pre-Calculus, Statistics, English 101, English 102, Personal Finance, and Psychology II are dual credit courses with Joliet Junior College.

Student enrollment in Honors and AP classes is based on 8th grade placement exam results, academic performance, and teacher recommendation. **LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AP STATUS WITHOUT PLACEMENT IN HONORS CLASSES.**

JCA's Academic Resource Center specifically targets students in need of special academic assistance.

Eighth grade students can get a head start on JCA coursework by enrolling in Biology and Algebra courses. Eighth grade candidates must be approved.

## ADVANCEMENT PLACEMENT EXAMINATION

Students enrolled in AP courses are not required to take the AP exam in May. Students may take AP exams in other subject areas for which they are prepared.

Year	Number of Exams	Scored 3 or higher
2025	102	67%
2024	243	75%
2023	176	55%
2022	147	49%
2021	121	59%

## GRADING AND RANKING

All courses taken in grades 9-12 (8-12 for students enrolled in the JCA 8th-grade Biology and Algebra 1 program) are included in the cumulative GPA. All AP courses, Honors courses, and UCP courses are weighted. Joliet Catholic Academy does not calculate class rank. Please refer to the Cumulative GPA Distribution Chart below. The Adjusted GPA printed on the transcript is a cumulative weighted GPA, and the Simple GPA printed on the transcript is a cumulative GPA on a 4.25 scale ( $A+=4.25$ ). The grading scale is rigorous and is presented with quality points for weighting in the following chart.

**Important note:** JCA transitioned to a 90-100 grading scale (from a previous 93-100 scale) for the 2021-2022 school year. The new grading scale is not retroactive.

SCALE	AP	HONORS	UCP	CP
A+ 97-100	5.75	5.25	4.75	4.25
A 93-96	5.50	5.00	4.50	4.00
A- 90-92	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75
B+ 87-89	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25
B 83-86	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00
B- 80-82	4.25	3.75	3.25	2.75
C+ 77-79	3.75	3.25	2.75	2.25
C 73-76	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.00
C- 70-72	3.25	2.75	2.25	1.75
D+ 67-69	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
D 63-66	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
D- 60-62	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
F 59 or below	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## CLASS OF 2025 TEST INFORMATION

- 102 students took the ACT
- 20.4 ACT Mean for the class
- 26 ACT Mean for Honors Program students
- 28 Top 10% Mean ACT
- 22 ACT Mean score for top 50% of class
- Middle 50% Range: 16-23
- Class GPA Mean (Weighted): 3.95
- Middle 50% GPA: 4.06

## ACT SUMMARY

	Class of 2025	Class of 2024
Mid 50% Range	16-23	17-24
Mean Composite	20.4	21
Students Tested	74%	92%

# 2025-2026 CURRICULUM GUIDE

## ENGLISH

AP English III  
AP English IV  
English 101 - U  
English 102 - U  
English I - A/U/C  
English II - H/U/C  
English III - H/U/C  
English IV - H/U/C J  
Journalism / Yearbook - U  
Literature of the Holocaust - U  
Reading I - C  
Reading II - C

## STUDY SKILLS

Study Skills 1  
Study Skills 2  
Study Skills 3  
Study Skills 4

## SCIENCE

Anatomy and Physiology - U  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics  
Biology - A/U/C  
Chemistry - H/U/C  
Forensics - U  
Human Biology - U  
Physics - H/U/C  
Robotics and Engineering I - U  
Robotics and Engineering II - U

## PERFORMING ARTS

Band - U  
Beginning Handbells - U  
Broadcasting I - U  
Choir - U  
Guitar - U  
Music Appreciation - U  
Music Theory - U  
Theatre Arts - U  
World Music - U

## WORLD LANGUAGE

AP French V  
AP Spanish V  
French I - U  
French II - U  
French III - H  
French IV - H  
Spanish I - U  
Spanish I - C  
Spanish II - U  
Spanish II - C  
Spanish III - H  
Spanish IV - H

## SOCIAL STUDIES/BUSINESS

AP European History  
AP Micro Economics  
AP US Government and Politics  
AP US History  
Current Issues - U  
Economics - H/U/C  
History of Illinois - U  
Psychology I - U  
Psychology II - U  
Sociology I - U  
US Government - H/U/C  
US History - H/U/C  
US and World War II - U  
World History - A/U/C  
World War II: Global - U  
Accounting - U  
General Business - U  
Business Law - U  
Marketing - U  
Personal Finance - U

## VISUAL ARTS

2-D Design - U  
Sculpture - U  
Digital Photography and Editing - U  
Drawing Media I - U  
Drawing Media II - U  
Graphic Design - U  
Metalsmithing/Fiber Arts I - U  
Metalsmithing/Fiber Arts II - U  
Metalsmithing/Fiber Arts III - U  
Pottery Design I - U  
Pottery Design II - U  
Pottery Design III - U  
Studio Art - H

## MATH

Algebra I - A/U/C  
Algebra I, Part A - C  
Algebra I, Part B - C  
Algebra II - U/C  
Algebra II / Precalculus - H  
AP Calculus  
AP Precalculus  
AP Statistics  
Calculus - H  
College & Career Ready Math - C  
Geometry - H/U/C  
Intro to College Algebra - U  
Precalculus - U  
Statistics - H/U

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

AP Computer Science  
Computer Applications I - U  
Computer Science 101 - U  
Multimedia Design - U

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education Fr/So - U  
Physical Education Jr/Sr - U  
Life Fitness - U  
Athletic Training - U  
Health - U

## THEOLOGY

Theology I - U  
Theology II - U  
Theology III - U  
Theology IV - U

## DUAL CREDIT

Algebra II / Precalculus - H  
English 101 - U  
English 102 - U  
Personal Finance - U  
Psychology II - U  
Statistics - H

## COURSE KEY

H - Honors  
A - Accelerated  
U - Upper College Prep  
C - College Prep

## STUDENT LIFE

- JCA offers over 40 clubs and societies, which are an integral part of our mission to educate the whole person.
- 94% of the JCA student body participates in extracurricular activities.
- JCA has a mandatory-random drug testing program
- Monthly all-school Masses offered.
- Comprehensive yearly retreat programs capped by a junior/senior Kairos retreat.
- 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.
- The Class of 2025 completed over 15,000 hours of community service.

## ATHLETICS

94% of the JCA student body participates in at least one sport or activity. JCA offers 23 varsity teams in 12 sports for girls and 11 sports for boys.

JCA has a tradition of winning state titles, national championships and sportsmanship awards. The past few years have continued that tradition for the athletic department with numerous team and individual accomplishments. 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

### *2024-2025 Year in Review*

- JCA Girls' Cross Country: Team State Finals
- JCA Girls' Tennis: Doubles State Finalists
- JCA Football: Class 5A State Runner-Up
- JCA Dance: State Finals
- JCA Cheer: State Finals
- JCA Girls' Wrestling: Individual State 3rd Place
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: 9 Individual State Qualifiers
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: 4 Individual State Placers
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: Team State 3rd Place
- JCA Girls' Track: Individual State Qualifiers
- JCA Boys' Track: Individual State Qualifiers
- JCA Boys' Tennis: Individual State Qualifiers
- Doubles Team
- 29% of the Class of 2025 is continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level

## CLASS OF 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Class of 2025 graduated 137 students.
- The Class of 2025 is attending 62 colleges and universities in 19 states.
- 94% attending the college/university of their choice
  - Four-year college or university - 81%
  - Two-year college - 13%
  - Vocational school/military/work force - 6%
- \$21.8 million was offered in scholarship funds.
- 22 Illinois State Scholars

## ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1990

- 7 National Merit Scholars
- 7 National Merit Corporate Scholarship Winners
- 13 National Merit Finalists
- 15 National Merit Semi-Finalists
- 72 National Merit Commended Students
- 2 National Merit Hispanic Recognition Scholar
- 8 National Achievement Scholars
- 948 Illinois State Scholars
- 35 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 64 AP Scholars with Honors
- 109 AP Scholars

## DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

It is the policy of Joliet Catholic Academy not to report disciplinary infractions to postsecondary institutions. It should be noted that serious student infractions result in dismissal.

# College Matriculation

American Academy of Art	Indiana University-Bloomington	Saint Mary's College	University of Mississippi
Arizona State University-Tempe	Indiana University-Purdue University-	Saint Norbert College	University of Missouri-
Auburn University	Indianapolis	Saint Xavier University	Columbia
Augustana College	Iowa State University	Samford University	University of Nebraska at
Aurora University	Iowa Western Community College	San Diego City College	Omaha
Ave Maria University	Jackson State University	South Dakota State University	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Ball State University	John A Logan College	South Suburban College	University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Baylor University	Johnson County Community College	Southeast Community College -	University of North Dakota
Bellarmino University	Joliet Junior College	Milford	University of Notre Dame
Belmont University	Judson University	Southeastern Oklahoma State	University of Oklahoma-
Beloit College	Kalamazoo College	University	Norman Campus
Bemidji State University	Kansas State University	Southern Illinois University-	University of Pittsburgh-
Benedictine University	Kaskaskia College	Carbondale	Pittsburgh Campus
Black Hawk College	Kentucky Wesleyan College	Southern Illinois University-	University of Rhode Island
Bradley University	Knox College	Edwardsville	University of San Diego
Butler University	La Salle University	Spoon River College	University of South Carolina-
Capitol Technology University	Lake Forest College	St Catherine University	Columbia
Carroll University	Lake Land College	St. Ambrose University	University of South Florida-
Carson-Newman University	Lamar University	Stony Brook University	Main Campus
Carthage College	Lewis University	SUNY at Fredonia	University of Southern
Central Michigan University	Lindenwood University	SUNY Cortland	California
Clemson University	Loras College	Texas A & M University-College	University of St Francis
Coastal Carolina University	Loyola University Chicago	Station	University of St. Thomas (MN)
Coe College	Luther College	Texas Christian University	University of the Incarnate
College of DuPage	Manchester University	Texas Tech University	Word
College of Saint Benedict	Marian University	The Catholic University of America	University of Wisconsin-
College of the Holy Cross	Marquette University	The College of the Florida Keys	La Crosse
Colorado Mesa University	Marymount Manhattan College	The College of Wooster	University of Wisconsin-
Columbia College Chicago	Metropolitan State University of	The University of Alabama	Madison
Concordia University-Wisconsin	Denver	The University of Tampa	University of Wisconsin-
Cornell College	Miami University, Oxford	The University of Tennessee-	Milwaukee
Creighton University	Michigan State University	Knoxville	University of Wisconsin-
Dartmouth College	Millikin University	Trine University	Oshkosh
Denison University	Milwaukee School of Engineering	Trinity International University-	University of Wisconsin-
DePaul University	Missouri Southern State University	Illinois	Parkside
Dodge City Community College	Missouri State University-Springfield	Trinity University	University of Wisconsin-
Dominican University	Missouri University of Science and	Triton College	Platteville
Drake University	Technology	Truman State University	University of Wisconsin-Stout
Duquesne University	Montana State University	United States Air Force Academy	University of Wisconsin-
Eastern Kentucky University	Murray State University	United States Military Academy	Whitewater
Eastern Michigan University	New Mexico Military Institute	United States Naval Academy	Valparaiso University
Elmhurst University	Murray State University	University of Arizona	Wartburg College
Eureka College	New Mexico Military Institute	University of Arkansas	Washington University in
Fashion Institute of Technology	North Central College	University of Chicago	St Louis
Florida Atlantic University	Northeastern University	University of Colorado Boulder	Webber International University
Florida Gulf Coast University	Northern Illinois University	University of Dayton	Weber State University
Florida Southern College	Northern State University	University of Denver	Webster University
Florida SouthWestern State College	Northwestern University	University of Dubuque	Western Illinois University
Florida State University	Oakland University	University of Health Sciences &	Western Kentucky University
Fordham University	Oklahoma State University-Main	Pharmacy in St. Louis	Western Michigan University
Georgia Southern University	Campus	University of Illinois at Urbana-	Wichita State University
Georgia State University	Olivet Nazarene University	Champaign	William Penn University
Grand Valley State University	Pittsburg State University	University of Illinois Chicago	Wright State University-
Grand View University	Purdue University-Main Campus	University of Iowa	Main Campus
Greenville University	Quincy University	University of Kansas	Xavier University
Hobart William Smith Colleges	Reed College	University of Kentucky	Yale University
Illinois Institute of Technology	Rockhurst University	University of Louisville	
Illinois State University	Roosevelt University	University of Michigan-	
Illinois Valley Community College	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Ann Arbor	
Illinois Wesleyan University	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	University of Minnesota-	
Indiana State University	Saint Louis University	Twin Cities	