



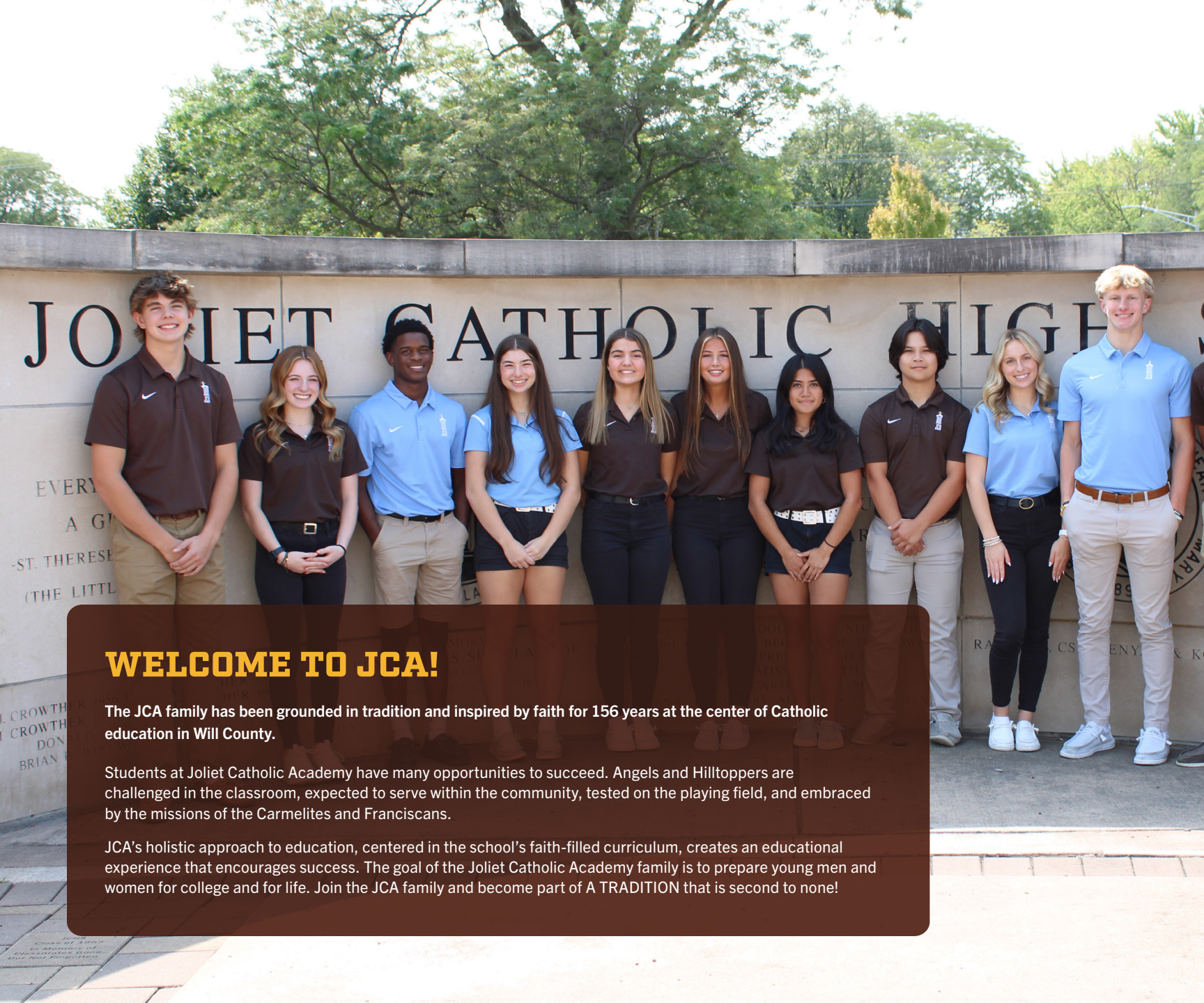
JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Inspiring Growth in Knowledge and Faith Since 1869



Co-sponsored by the Carmelites and Joliet Franciscan Sisters

We are a Microsoft Showcase School!



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WELCOME TO JCA!

The JCA family has been grounded in tradition and inspired by faith for 156 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!

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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.

12:1

Student-to-Teacher ratio

67%

of students scored a "3" or higher on AP examinations earning college credit in 2025

Over 50% of the Class of 2025 earned AP and college dual credits while attending JCA

100%

of the Class of 2025 are attending the college/university, trade, and vocation school of their choice

Four-year college/university - 81%

Two-year college - 13%

Vocational school/military/work force - 6%

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

\$21.8 million+

The Class of 2025 earned over \$21.8 million in college scholarships

3

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

22

students in the Class of 2025 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, 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.jolietcatholicacademy.org/academics/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 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, OneDrive, 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 2022 when it was named a Microsoft Showcase School. Each year, JCA goes through a rigorous reapplication process and presents evidence of excellence across multiple domains. JCA is now in its fourth year as a Showcase School, serving as an example for other schools of how Microsoft technology and 21st century teaching and learning can transform the learning environment. JCA is one of only three Microsoft Showcase Schools in the state of Illinois and one of 32 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 is also extremely proud to be home to six of the 27 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 2025 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

29%

of the Class of 2025 is continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level in

11

different sports

8

IHSA State Final representation from 10 of our 23 programs

Back-to-Back

IHSA Baseball State Champions





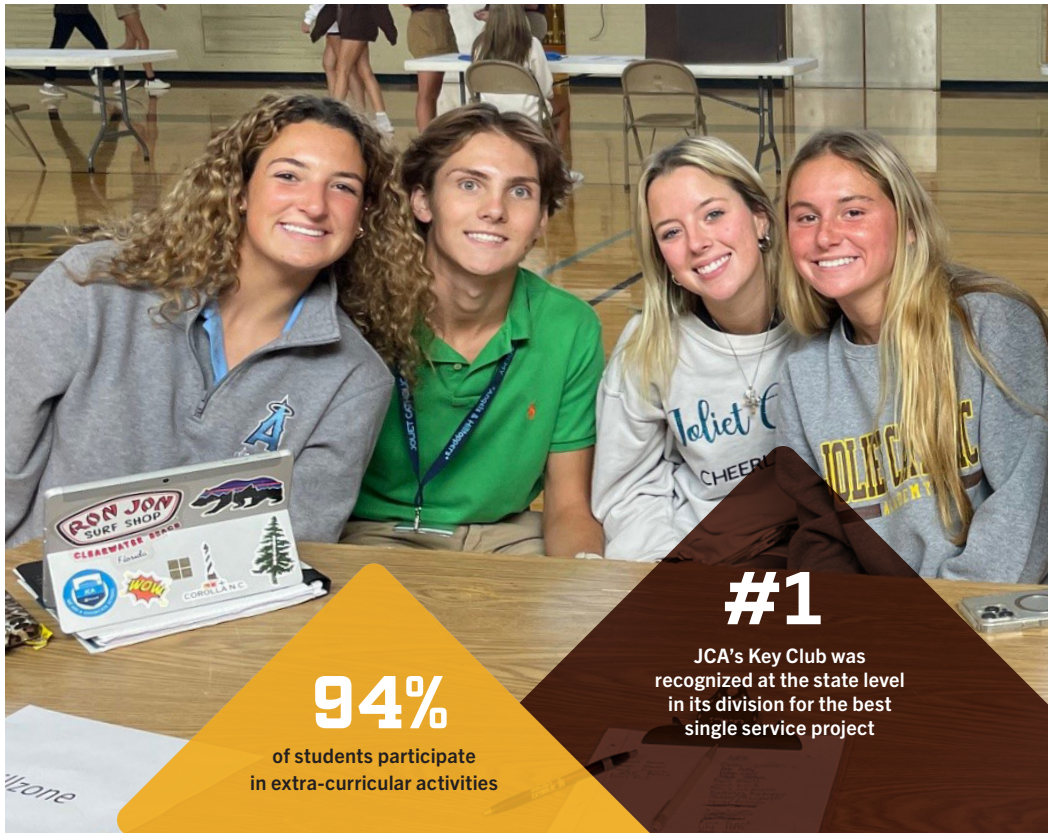
2024-2025 ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Girls Cross Country:** Team State Finals
- Girls Tennis:** Doubles State Finalists
- Football:** Class 5A State Runner-Up
- Dance:** State Finals
- Cheer:** State Finals
- Girls Wrestling:** Individual State 3rd Place
- Boys Wrestling:** 9 Individual State Qualifiers
- Boys Wrestling:** 4 Individual State Placers
- Boys Wrestling:** Team State 3rd Place
- Girls Track:** Individual State Qualifiers
- Boys Track:** Individual State Qualifiers
- Boys Tennis:** Individual State Qualifiers
- Doubles Team



CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

Joliet Catholic Academy offers more than 40 clubs, organizations, and activities that provide students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and build lasting friendships. Whether it's academic, service-based, artistic, or athletic, there's something for everyone to get involved and make the most of their JCA experience!



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

Art & Literary Magazine
Aviation Club
Bass Fishing
Big Buddy, Little Buddy
Broadcasting Club
Chess Club
Cooking Club
Culture Club
Drama Club
Econ Club
Emergency Response Club
French Club
Future Teachers of America
Gardening Club
Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter
Hillzone
International Thespian Troupe 1046
Intramural Sports
Key Club
Math Team
Medical Science Club
Music Ministry
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
Ping Pong Club
Robotics Club
Scholastic Bowl
Sewing Club
Spanish Club
Student Ambassadors
Student Council
Tech Club
Tri-M Music National Honor Society
Victory View Newspaper
Vocal Ensemble
Yearbook

THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN FOR JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

The JCA family consists of over 560 current students, their parents and families, faculty and staff, and over 28,000 alumni, led by the Joliet Franciscan Sisters and the 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.



The Joliet Catholic Academy Board of Directors is proud to announce **The Legacy Campaign**, a transformative capital initiative for the school. This \$20 million campaign encompasses the acquisition of 48 acres, including JCA's current campus and the ±8-acre Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home property, along with the construction of a multi-purpose turf field and stadium, relocation of the tennis complex, expanded campus parking, upgraded baseball and softball facilities, enhanced track and field amenities, and improved stormwater management.

In addition to these capital improvements, the campaign has already secured \$7 million in pledges to bolster the JCA endowment for tuition assistance. It also establishes the Sisters of St. Francis Legacy Faculty and Staff Fund, designed to permanently support JCA employees through bonuses, retention and recruitment of top talent, professional development, and advanced degree opportunities.

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 \$15,000.00

Scholarship	Total Tuition	Monthly Payment (10 months)
\$0.00	\$15,225.00	\$1,522.50
25% - \$3,806.25	\$11,418.75	\$1,141.88
33% (Average Award) - \$5,000.00	\$10,225.00	\$1,022.50
50% (Maximum Award) - \$7,612.50	\$7,612.50	\$761.25

MERIT BASED AID



TOP ENTRANCE EXAM SCORES

Incoming freshmen must take the entrance exam at JCA on **December 6, 2025** 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.jolietcatholicacademy.org*

SCHOLARSHIPS



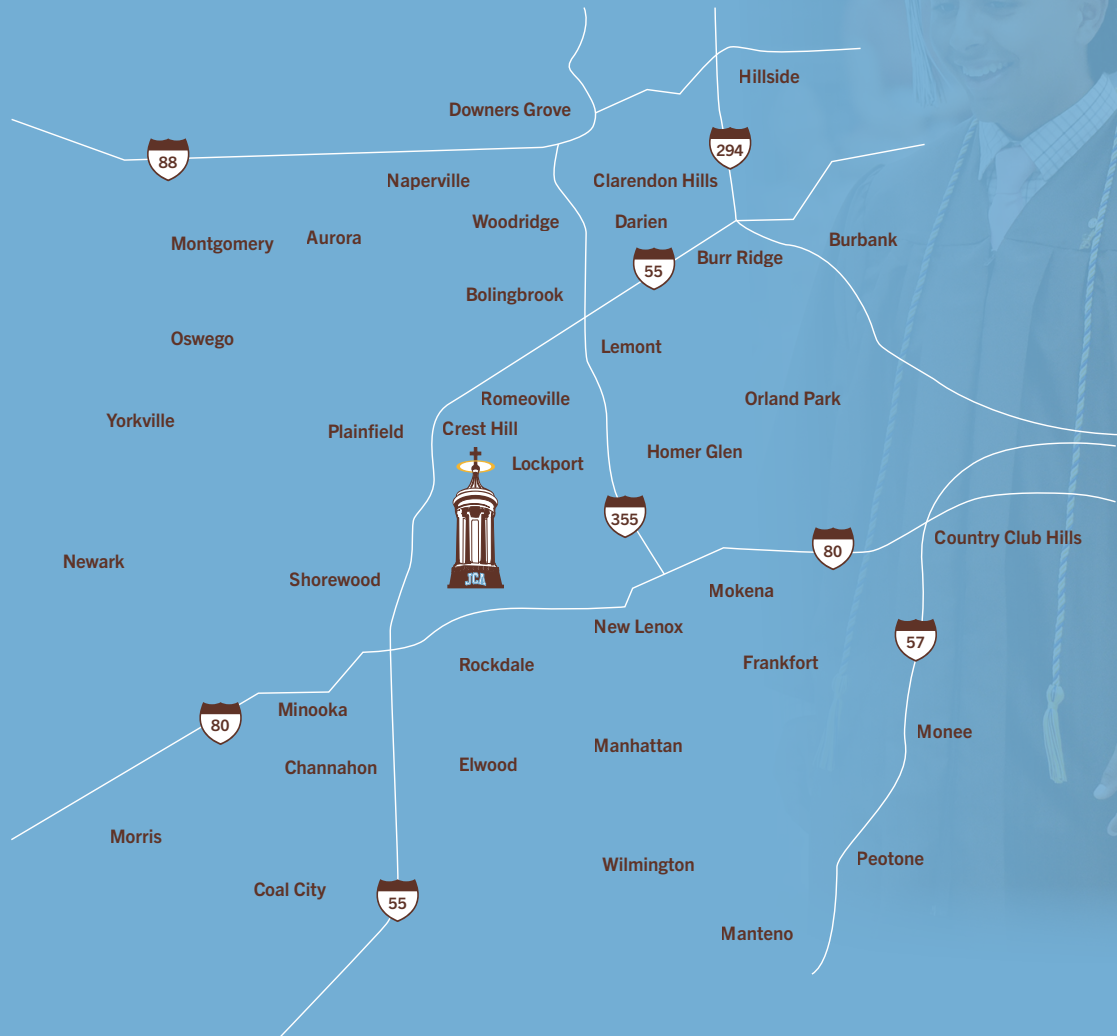
Scholarships range from \$500 up to 50% off tuition through the JCA Endowment and Catholic Education Foundation.



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

\$1,300 one time; or two installments of \$650
(September and December) total \$1,300

2025-2026 ADMISSIONS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fridays, September 2025 through April 2026

7th and 8th Grade Shadow Days

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Open House
10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. tours

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Open House
5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. tours

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Pre-Entrance Exam Workshop &
Parent Information Meeting
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Entrance Exam for
All Incoming Freshmen
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Heritage Award Application Due

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Makeup Entrance Exam for
All Incoming Freshmen
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Priority Financial Aid
Deadline (FACTS)

Saturday, March 1, 2026

Kazma Family Foundation
Scholarship Deadline

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Online Freshman Registration
Deadline

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Catholic Education
Foundation Financial Aid
FACTS application deadline;
returning student
financial aid deadline

Friday, April 17, 2026

7th Grade Step Up Day

June and July 2026

Summer events and activity
camps for incoming freshmen

Contact the Admissions Office to schedule a private
tour or discuss tuition and financial aid options.

Visit www.jolietcatholicacademy.org/admissions
for more information.

Jared Voss
JCA Director of Admissions
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Mary Ragusa
JCA Assistant Admissions Director
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Scan the QR code
for a list of the most
current events.



cognia



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