COMMUNIQUÉ

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING 2026




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PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

St. Joseph High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory community that educates and motivates young women and men to live purposeful lives as ethical leaders committed to the common good of all.

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St. Joseph High School is a self-governing institution within the Diocese of Bridgeport.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



> *"As we confidently continue On A Mission for More, we remain committed to honoring the traditions that define us, while passionately pursuing innovations that will successfully propel us into the future."*

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring from St. Joseph High School. As we move toward the final months of the academic year, our campus is filled with gratitude for the many ways our students continue to grow in faith, scholarship, and service. Rooted in our Catholic Mission, St. Joseph High School remains committed to forming young men and women who lead lives guided by kindness, humility, compassion, and truth. These values are not simply ideals for us; they are lived each day in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, on the stage, and in service to others.

This issue of the *Communiqué* is a proud reflection of the vibrant life of our community. You will read about the achievements of our alumni and current students in the arts, athletics, and academics, as well as the experiences that continue to shape them into thoughtful and capable leaders. From innovative learning opportunities in the classroom to the continued growth of our fine arts programs and the success of our athletic teams, our Cadets continue to demonstrate the dedication and character that define the St. Joes experience.

We are especially proud of the Class of 2026, who are preparing to complete their SJ journey. Through hard work and steady persistence, our seniors have earned admission to an impressive list of colleges and universities across the country. Their achievements confirm their personal dedication and the strength of an educational environment rooted in Catholic faith, academic excellence, and integrity. As we look ahead to welcoming the Class of 2030, we are confident that they will carry forward the same spirit of commitment, leadership, and pride that defines this outstanding group of seniors.

It is important that we honor the past and celebrate the present while remaining focused on the future of St. Joseph High School. Through the *On A Mission for More* Capital Campaign, we are investing in campus development, facility enhancements, and an elevated student experience. This effort will also expand tuition assistance, helping ensure that more students have access to the life-changing Cadet experience.

This commitment is also reflected in the strength of our academic program. St. Joseph currently offers 12 Dual Enrollment Early College Experience (ECE) courses and 18 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit before graduation. We are also developing a partnership with Quinnipiac University that includes 13 dual-enrollment courses currently under review for approval and implementation in the 2026–2027 academic year. In addition, we continue to expand our credit-bearing summer curriculum, allowing students to pursue advanced coursework, explore new subjects, and further personalize their academic experience.

None of this progress would be possible without the continued support of the SJ community. We are grateful to the alumni, parents, donors, faculty, and friends who believe in our mission and help ensure that St. Joseph High School remains a place where young men and women are formed in faith, challenged academically, and prepared to lead lives of purpose.

In Faith & Fellowship,



David Klein
President

LETTER FROM A GRADUATE

Benjamin Jimenez '26: "More Than I Expected"

When I arrived at St. Joes, I didn't really know what to expect. I was leaving behind friends in Brookfield and stepping into a place where I didn't know many people. If I'm being honest, I assumed I would keep my head down, focus on my own college preparatory goals, and quietly make it through high school. In some ways, I wasn't completely wrong, I did focus on my goals. But what surprised me was how quickly St. Joes became more than just a place to do that.



Like many freshmen, I came into high school a little intimidated. Social media and stories from other schools can make high school seem like a place where you have to be perfect. You need to look the right way, act the right way, and avoid being judged. I thought that would be part of my experience. It wasn't.

What I found instead was acceptance. Some students had known each other for years; others, like me, were starting fresh. What I found was that no matter where you came from, you were welcomed. There wasn't pressure to be someone else, just encouragement to be yourself.



Sports played a huge role in helping me find my place. Playing football and basketball my freshman year introduced me to teammates across all grades who quickly became close friends. They weren't just people I practiced with, they became people I relied on. Through long practices, tough losses, and big wins, those relationships shaped who I am.

High school wasn't always easy. There were moments when I felt lost or frustrated with myself. But what carried me through those times were the people around me: my coaches, teachers, teammates, and friends who believed in me, even when I didn't fully believe in myself. That's what makes this community powerful. There are people here who push you to be better while also standing beside you when you struggle. The support comes with accountability, and that balance challenges you to grow in every way, academically, athletically, and personally.



As I moved into my upperclassman years, something shifted. I used to look up to seniors who seemed confident and put together. Then one day I realized I was becoming one of them. The younger students were looking up to me the way I once looked up to others. That realization was both humbling and motivating.

By senior year, I had stepped into leadership roles I never would have imagined as a freshman. I became Captain of the varsity football team, helped lead our team to a state championship, and had the honor of being chosen by my peers to represent them. I also became a Student Ambassador, something freshman-year me would have never predicted.

If someone had told me four years ago that I would grow into these roles, I wouldn't have believed them. I came here expecting to stay quiet and simply get through high school. Instead, I leave having led my peers, built lifelong friendships, and discovered confidence I didn't know I had. That growth didn't happen by accident. It came from the lessons poured into me by teammates, teachers, mentors, and friends who pushed me, supported me, and challenged me to rise to the standard set before me.

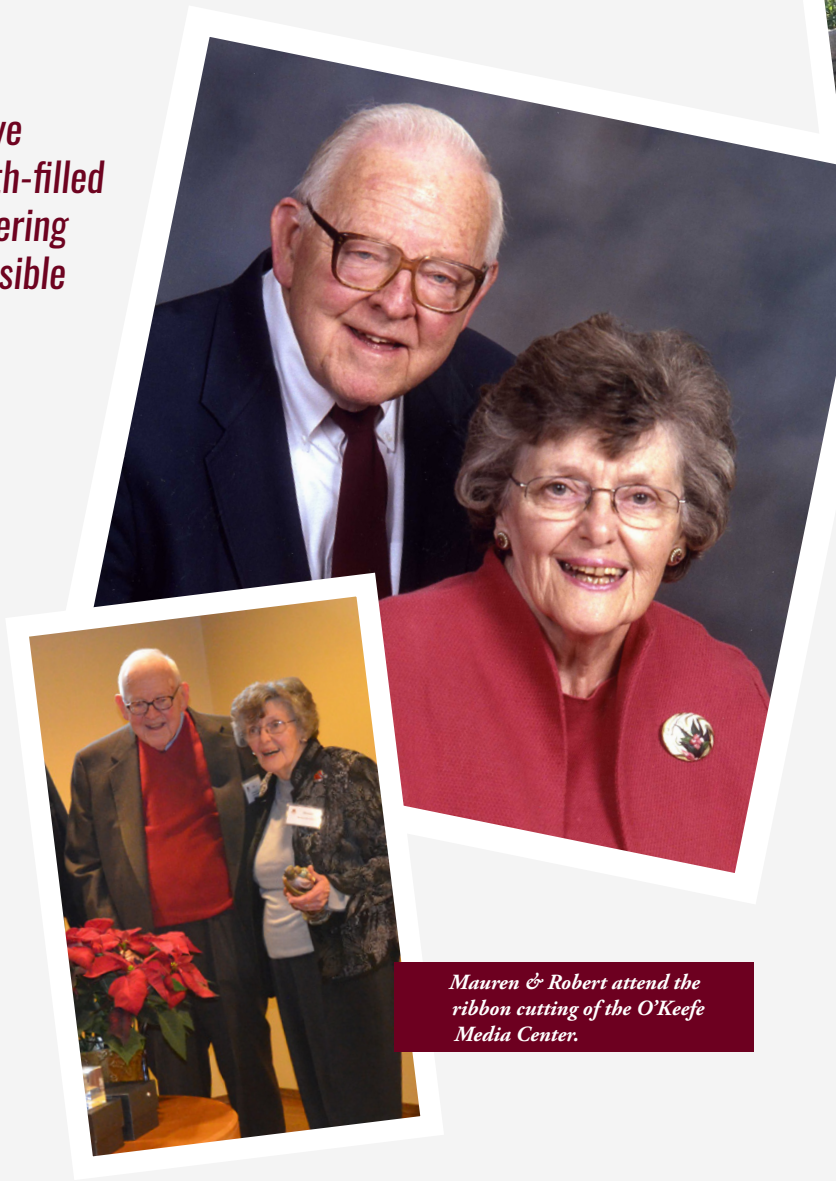


St. Joe's didn't just prepare me for what comes next. It helped me discover who I am capable of becoming.

And that is far more than I expected.

FAITH IN ACTION: THE ENDURING IMPACT OF MAUREEN O'KEEFE

For decades, Maureen O'Keefe and her family have strengthened St. Joseph High School through faith-filled leadership, visionary philanthropy, and an unwavering commitment to making Catholic education accessible for future generations of Cadets.



Mauren & Robert attend the ribbon cutting of the O'Keefe Media Center.

Earlier this year, the St. Joseph High School community lost a devoted friend and steadfast champion with the passing of Maureen O'Keefe, beloved mother of alumni Mary Butala '78 and Joseph O'Keefe '82. To describe Maureen and the entire O'Keefe family simply as friends of SJ would be to understate their enduring and transformative impact. For decades, they have stood as pillars of faith, generosity, and joyful service within our community, quietly ensuring that generations of Cadets could experience the gift of a Catholic education.

Maureen and her husband, Robert, believed deeply that access to a life-changing Catholic education should never be limited by financial circumstance. Their philanthropy reflected that conviction. Through consistent and generous support, they opened doors for prospective students and strengthened the foundation of our school.

In 2002, Maureen was honored with St. Joseph High School's Sister Catherine Fanning Privilege and Responsibility Award for Community, a fitting recognition of her steadfast commitment to faith and service.

In 2012, the family's leadership helped bring to life the O'Keefe Media Center, a vibrant hub of learning and collaboration on campus.

Five years later, they advanced their legacy by establishing the Robert F. & Maureen T. O'Keefe Family Scholarship, ensuring that future generations would continue to benefit from the same opportunities that shaped their own family.

Faith is not simply a value for the O'Keefes; it is the foundation of their lives. Her daughter, Mary, reflects that her parents' Catholic faith guided every decision they made. For her, attending St. Joes was never a question but a calling, and she recalls her years here as a profound gift. Her father served on the Board for many years, and both parents were deeply involved in school life. As is the SJ tradition, parents are integral partners in advancing the mission of SJ. The O'Keefes famously hosted cabaret fundraisers that brought the community together in spirited support of the school.

The O'Keefe family's success was built not only on faith, but on perseverance and shared purpose. While Mary was a student at SJ, the family was building what would become the highly successful company, O'Keefe Controls. "I remember having to take the bus home from school, even as a senior," she shares, "so that I could go straight to helping with the growing business." That experience of working alongside her parents instilled in her the discipline, humility, and resilience that have defined her life.







Top Left: *Caitlin Butala Beed '10, Noreen Butala '16, Kristin OKeefe Diaz '11 and Kaity OKeefe '07.*

Top Right: *Maureen O'Keefe surrounded by her gradnchildren.*

Right: *Maureen & Robert attned SJ Mass.*

When it came time to choose a high school for her own children, there wasn't any hesitation. Mary's daughters, Noreen and Caitlin, followed in her footsteps, walking the same halls, sitting in the same classrooms, drawn by the same sense of opportunity and formation that had shaped their mother.

Today, Noreen '16 serves as a Nurse in a trauma ICU unit and is pursuing a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. Caitlin '10, a graduate of Villanova University and MIT, now works as an engineer in leadership and strategy at Ford. Several of Mary's nieces also proudly attended SJ, continuing the family's deep and personal connection to the school.

Mary often returns to the words that have long defined our school: "Privilege and Responsibility." For the O'Keefe family, those words were never symbolic. It was a privilege to be part of the SJ community and a responsibility to ensure its strength for those who would follow. Their generosity flows not from obligation, but from gratitude.

Maureen O'Keefe will be remembered for her grace, her steadfast faith, and her profound love for Catholic education. While she will be deeply missed, her legacy endures in the lives of the students she helped educate, in the spaces she helped build, and in the everlasting example of service she set for all of us.

Maureen O'Keefe's legacy includes her daughter Mary (née O'Keefe) Butala, her husband John, and their children Caitlin (Alex), Timothy (Amanda) and Noreen (Jim). Her son, Patrick O'Keefe, his wife Karen (née Occhipinti) and their children Katherine, Sean (Amy), Kristin (lan), and Robert (Emma). Her son Joseph O'Keefe '82 (who remains very active in the Saint John Paul II school located in Hyannis), his wife Wendy (née Campbell), and their children Jeremiah and Loretta; and countless other family members and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.

INSTITUTING A FRIENDS OF THE ARTS PROGRAM

The Friends of the Arts Program is designed to nurture creativity, celebrate artistic expression, and strengthen the impact of the arts in our community. This initiative brings together students, families, alumni, faculty, and friends who believe in the power of the arts to inspire, connect, and transform.

"Music, Fine Arts, and Theatre, have a unique way of bringing students together. Whether they are rehearsing in a small ensemble or performing on stage, they learn to listen to one another, collaborate, and push themselves toward a shared goal. Programs like ours give students the opportunity to grow not only as artists, but also as confident, disciplined young people who understand the power of working as part of something larger than themselves."

~ Brian Miller, Director of Musical Programming



Bringing This Mission to Life:

Connection:
We will create opportunities for our community to experience the arts together: from theatre productions and concerts to gallery events and student showcases. These moments allow families, alumni, faculty, and staff to support our Cadets and enjoy the incredible work they produce.

Celebration:
We will highlight the achievements of our student and alumni artists through recognition, storytelling, and spotlights in our newsletters, social media, and school publications. Their creativity deserves to be seen and celebrated.

Service:
We will welcome alumni back as mentors, volunteers, and guides for our young artists. We also encourage current Cadets to serve as leaders within the fine arts, fostering a spirit of giving and collaboration.

Philanthropy:
We will invite our community to support Fine Arts Scholarships and the Annual Appeal (tuition assistance), helping ensure that every student has access to the transformative experiences the arts provide.

Fine Arts Alumni! Are you currently working on a creative piece? We want to hear all about it! Scan the QR Code to share.

What's Ahead as the Program Grows

- The launch of a Student Arts Council and an Alumni Arts Directory.
- Backstage Talks and Workshops led by alumni working in the arts.
- Partnerships with local galleries, theatres, and arts organizations.
- Continued expansion of fine arts opportunities both within and beyond our school community.

Where We Stand Today:

- More than 180 students participate in art classes each semester.
- There are more than 100 students in our ever-expanding music program directed by Mr. Brian Miller (just six years ago, this program had less than 30 students).
- The Fine Arts Program produces two showcases per year for our families.
- Drama Club remains the largest club on campus, with more than 100 students taking part in cast, crew, stage management, lighting, concessions, and set design.
- The Drama Club produces two shows per year - a fall play and spring musical.
- St. Joseph High School currently offers the opportunity for students to be inducted into the National Art, Music, and Thespian Honor Socieities.

CELEBRATING FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALL-STATE ACCEPTANCES





WESTERN REGIONALS:

We are proud to share that six Cadets were chosen this past fall to perform at the Western Region Music Festival - a new record for St. Joe's! Congratulations go out to singers Anna Campolettano '26, Joseph Liquigli '26, Miranda Martinez '27, and Mary Sather '27, as well as instrumentalists Emma Healy '26 and Charlotte Farrelly '26.

The festival is organized by the Connecticut Music Educators Association. Our Cadets joined fellow musicians for a two-day intensive experience that concluded with a beautiful concert.

ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL:

As the music program continues to grow, our Cadets are receiving the recognition they deserve. We are thrilled to congratulate three outstanding SJ vocalists on their acceptance into the Connecticut All-State Music Festival: Anna Campolettano '26, Miranda Martinez '27, and Mary Sather '27.

We also congratulate Mr. Brian Miller, director of our music program, whose leadership continues to elevate SJ's musical excellence. Having three students selected in the same year is an extraordinary achievement for our school, and we could not be more proud.

Selection for the All-State Festival represents the highest level of musical achievement for high school students in Connecticut and is based on a rigorous audition process that brings together the state's most talented young performers.

The vocalists performed at the festival in March 2026.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: BRIAN REILLY '13



Brian Reilly runs film production company, KT Pictures, which is in the process of releasing their next feature film, *Watching Mr. Pearson*, in select theaters. *Watching Mr. Pearson* is about a once-famous actor slipping into the fog of dementia. The film follows his attempt to reconnect with the world through performance and the friendships he makes with his caretakers.

Brian balances his career as a marketing director with building KT Pictures, the production company he co-founded in 2021 with his lifelong friend, Dillon Bentlage. The two have known each other since birth thanks to a friendship their mothers shared long before they were born.

"KT" stands for "Karen Twins," a nod to their mothers, both named Karen. Dillon's mother and Brian's mother, Karen Dunford Reilly '75, were lifelong friends, and although Brian's mother has since passed away, her spirit remains central to the company's mission. KT Pictures is, at its heart, a tribute to family, friendship, and legacy.

Thus far, Brian and Dillon have made two original feature films, one co-produced feature film, eight short films, and a six-part international web series. Many of their projects have been screened and won awards at film festivals, including SXSW, Dances with Films, and Nashville Film Festival. They recently attended this year's SXSW festival for the world premiere of their feature film, *Imposters*, directed by notable indie horror filmmaker Caleb Phillips.

Brian loves being part of a project from the first spark of an idea until its release. He treasures the moment when he can say, "I helped make this film, and now you can watch it. I hope you enjoy."

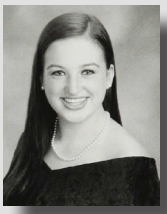


His passion for filmmaking came while at SJ in his Film & Lit class with Mrs. Broderick. There, he discovered a love for collaboration and the fundamentals of filmmaking.

Brian's advice: "Don't be afraid to think outside the box and carve your own path, don't follow what everyone else thinks you should do."

CELEBRATING FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARCELLE MORRISEY '12





From Cadet to Musical Director! This Spring, Marcelle Morrisey is returning to the halls of St. Joes, this time not as a student on stage, but as the Director for our spring production of *The Music Man*.

Twenty years ago, Marcelle stood under the stage lights in the very same show as a middle school student. Now, she'll be guiding a new generation of ambitious young performers from just off-stage, a full circle moment that feels nothing short of magical.

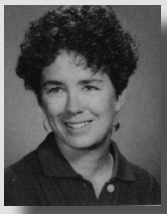
The oldest of six siblings and the granddaughter of the late, legendary SJ basketball coach, Vito Montelli, Marcelle carries a family legacy that is woven deeply into the fabric of our school. You can't walk through the halls without hearing someone share a story about the impact her grandfather had on shaping the spirit of this community. Marcelle remembers stopping by his office as a student, stealing a few minutes to visit him between classes; small moments that still mean everything to her.

Though she grew up in a big sports family, Marcelle has always been a theatre kid at heart. Her family supported her completely, cheering her on from the audience as she discovered her passion on the SJ stage. She recalls the joy of those productions - the friendships, the laughter, the thrill of performing - and says she loved every minute.

That passion led her to pursue a degree in theatre education, and she began directing musicals as soon as she could. Since then, Marcelle has built an extraordinary career teaching musical theatre from Pre-K through 12th grade, directing shows across multiple schools, and running theatre camps at Fairfield Center Stage. Her dedication to young performers is unmistakable.

Marcelle's love for SJ has never faded, and pairing that devotion with her passion for theatre education makes her a remarkable addition to our team. We are thrilled to welcome her home and cannot wait to see our students bring *The Music Man* to life under her direction this April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd. See you there!

FORMER FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: CYNTHIA RICHTER





Cindy recalls that she was very fortunate to know from a young age that she wanted to become an art teacher. First, at Endicott College, and later, at Skidmore College, she enrolled in a variety of art classes to enhance her academic experience, eventually realizing that that the more disciplines she could teach, the better a teacher she could become. She then brought her experiences and passion for art to SJ as a teacher for more than 30 years.

Upon graduation, she was a proficient instructor in the mediums of jewelry design, pottery, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and enameling. Additionally, her summer employment as a YMCA Craft Shop Director provided the opportunity to develop her skills even further. Cindy taught art in various boarding schools for nine years before landing and staying at St. Joes for 32 years.

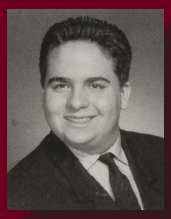
We recently asked Cindy what her favorite memory was at SJ. "It was having the opportunity to develop a strong art curriculum that resulted in student creativity and success." Some notable new courses under Cindy's direction were multi-level drawing, painting, art appreciation, and art history. During her tenure, the O'Keefe Media Center was also built and allowed for the creation of a renovated art studio and featured a new pottery program. Cindy also hosted art programs for parents in the evenings.

Cindy offers this advice to current Cadets who wish to pursue art as a career. "Do what makes you happy. Life isn't all about financial gain, it is about gaining joy from what you do every day. Diversify your portfolio and secure a job. Keep in mind that the first one may not be a forever one. Be willing to grow and to learn."

To this day, Cindy remains a steadfast supporter of St. Joseph High School and has committed her time and resources to support the expansion of our art program through our Onward, With Purpose capital campaign.

CELEBRATING FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ROB COTTO '00





Rob Cotto recently produced the documentary Stevie Van Zandt: Disciple, which premiered at The Tribeca Festival and then aired on HBO. The film was nominated for a Grammy for Best Music Film.

After being in the music industry for the last twenty years working as a Producer/ Director of Artist Relations for Neil Sedaka, Rob shares that getting this recognition from The Recording Academy for this documentary was truly an honor. The film is a portrait of a true renaissance man and passionate activist, Steven Van Zandt, and chronicles the artist throughout his remarkable career while illuminating the influential and enduring legacy he continues to have as a fervent champion of rock 'n' roll and social justice.

These days Rob holds a very busy and exciting schedule, working for Stevie Van Zandt's Renegade Nation as part of the A&R Department at the independent record label, Wicked Cool Records. He is also a writer and producer for Little Steven's Underground Garage at Sirius XM and is hosting his own weekly program on Friday nights called "Robbo At The Movies," which explores the connection between rock and roll and the silver screen.

Rob shares that his experience at St. Joes helped instill in him a strong work ethic and the responsibility that comes with doing good work. While at SJ, faculty member, Mr. Izzo supported his film writing. While taking his Journalism Class, Rob had a film review published in the Connecticut Post, and Mr. Izzo's note to Rob in his yearbook was incredibly motivational.

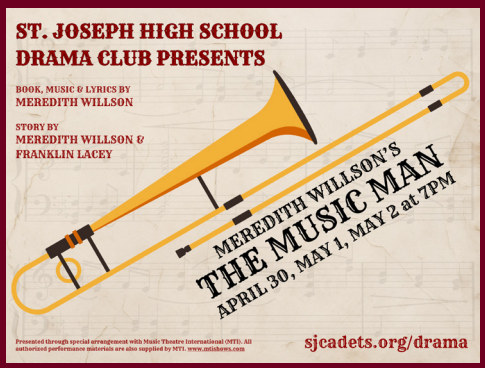
When asked what advice he would give his high school self, he shared, "Go after what you really want. Don't give up. Things will get hard. But if you believe in yourself and what you want - you'll get there."

His advice for current students: "when you go to college, go to class and take notes. Everything will be on the exam. There are no surprises. But, don't rush the process. You will miss it when its over."

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING SJ EVENTS!

Spring Musical: *The Music Man.* April 30th, May 1st, and May 2nd at 7:00PM.

The Music Man by Meredith Willson focuses on con man Harold Hill, who poses as a boys' band organizer and leader. He sells band instruments and uniforms to naïve Midwestern townsfolk, promising to train the members of the new band. Harold is no musician, however, and plans to skip town without giving any music lessons. Prim librarian and piano teacher Marian sees through him, but when Harold helps her younger brother overcome his lisp and social awkwardness, Marian begins to fall in love with him. He risks being caught to win her heart. Tickets can be purchased at sjcadets.org/drama.



Fine Arts Night. May 19th at 6:30PM.

The upcoming Spring Concert & Fine Arts Night invites the entire SJ community to spend an evening celebrating the creativity and talent of more than 200 students. The event features a gallery of student artwork, showcasing pieces from a variety of disciplines including painting, drawing, digital design, and mixed media, as well as the incredible portfolios of our AP Art students. In addition, guests enjoy live performances from our Percussion, Instrumental, and Choir students. We hope you will join us for this special evening as we celebrate the arts and the incredible work of our talented students. There is no cost to attend this event.





KINSEY SPOELSTRA '25: *From SJ to the Amazon: A Journey in Veterinary Science*

Now a pre-veterinary student at Liberty University, Kinsey Spoelstra recently traveled to Ecuador as part of a biology course, Tropical Diversity. The trip gave students the opportunity to explore ecosystems that many only study in textbooks, and for Kinsey, it became an unforgettable hands-on learning experience.

SJ Cadets are encouraged to dream big, explore boldly, and follow their passions. For Kinsey Spoelstra '25, that spirit of curiosity recently carried her thousands of miles from her college campus to the heart of the Amazon rainforest and the remarkable wildlife of the Galápagos Islands.



Kinsey's love of animals began long before this journey. Zoology has been her dream since she was little, and her recent travels gave her the chance to experience the natural world in ways she had only imagined. Her adventure began with a flight into Quito, Ecuador, followed by another flight to the Amazonian town of Coca. From there, Kinsey and her classmates traveled along the Napo River, venturing deeper into the Amazon rainforest. Their destination was Yarina Lodge, where they spent two days exploring the remarkable Yasuní Forest.



The group experienced the Amazon's incredible biodiversity firsthand, participating in night hikes through the jungle to search for creatures rarely seen during the day. One of the most fascinating discoveries? Scorpions that glow bright blue when illuminated by a black light. Kinsey encountered squirrel monkeys, toucans, frogs, tarantulas, and many other unique species along the way, including piranha, one of which she successfully caught. One moment she will always remember was sampling lemon ants straight from a tree, which she said surprisingly tasted just like Sour Patch Kids.

After their time in the rainforest, the group returned to Quito, where they explored two 16th-century churches; the intricate architecture and rich history offering a glimpse into Ecuador's cultural heritage.



The adventure continued with three days in the Galápagos Islands, where Kinsey explored the islands' extraordinary wildlife and landscapes. While visiting the Charles Darwin Foundation, she learned about the critical conservation work being done to protect the islands' fragile ecosystem and saw the nearly extinct saddleback tortoise, an experience that deepened her appreciation for protecting these remarkable species.

For Kinsey, the trip was both educational and inspiring, reinforcing her dream of becoming a veterinarian and working with animals around the world. Her time at SJ helped shape the curiosity and confidence that carried her across continents. And this journey is just the beginning. Kinsey has already been accepted into a Pre-Veterinary Equine Medicine program in Egypt, where she will continue expanding her knowledge and experience.



Her advice for current SJ students reflects the lessons she has carried with her. "Enjoy your time in high school. Get involved in sports, join clubs, and make memories with the people around you. High school is not just about achievements, it's also about growing, discovering your interests, and enjoying the journey."



JON JAZWINSKI '21: *Commissioned to Serve; Called to Heal*

With an officer's commission in one hand and a white coat in the other, Jon's path from SJ to Yale to UConn reflects a life shaped by leadership, discipline, and service. He truly lives out the SJ motto, "Privilege and Responsibility" in every step forward.

The alumni from St. Joseph High School know that SJ is way more than a place, it's a foundation. Jon Jazwinski '21, builds upon that foundation which continues to support him every single day.

Today, Jon is living in Farmington, CT, beginning his first year at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine after graduating from Yale University with a degree in biology. But long before white coat ceremonies and officer commissions, there were classrooms on the SJ campus shaping the habits, discipline, and confidence that would carry him forward.

Jon credits SJ's focused learning environment for preparing him academically, but it was the opportunities beyond the classroom that helped him grow. Campaigning for a student council officer position meant standing in front of his peers, delivering speeches, and learning to communicate with confidence. With guidance from faculty and encouragement from classmates, he developed skills that later served him well in such a competitive college, dental school, and Army ROTC interviews.

His path reflects both service and purpose. While majoring in biology, Jon also pursued military science through the Army ROTC program, fulfilling a desire to serve his country while preparing for a career in dentistry.

Since graduating from St. Joes, two milestones stand out: earning his military officer's commission and, shortly after, donning his dental school white coat, powerful reminders of how preparation meets opportunity.

Through it all, SJ's motto, "Privilege and Responsibility," has stayed with him. It became especially meaningful when he began tutoring other students, realizing firsthand the responsibility that comes with the privilege of having been supported, mentored, and prepared so well.

Jon still smiles when thinking about "Noche de Comidas," ping-pong club games, and the lasting impact of Dr. Walsh's science classes, which sparked his love for biology.

For fellow Cadets, his journey is a reminder: the lessons, leadership, and friendships formed at SJ do not fade after graduation. They grow with us — guiding us from the hallways we once walked, to wherever we walk next.

"The mindset to succeed — whether in college, the military, or dental school — is the same: learn to manage your time, and everything else will fall into place."



Above: Volunteering with the Special Olympics
Below: Sporting his service uniform



Below: Donning the white coat is a moment of triumph for every future doctor



CELEBRATING CHAMPIONS: ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE



NCAA Bound. In January 2026, St. Joes proudly honored 8 student athletes during the NCAA Commitment Day Ceremony. The full list of students, divisions, and the colleges they will be attending can be found online at sjcadets.org/news.





At the Hillhouse Variety Showcase on January 23, we had not one, but two records broken! Congratulations to **Grace Glaser '26**, who broke a 27-year-old SJ record in the 1600-meter race with a time of 5:27:97. In addition, **Charlotte Farrelly '26** broke the 600-meter school record for the second time this season!



On September 9, 2025, eight of our Fall Varsity Captains represented SJ at the **FCIAC Leadership Conference**. The event brought together more than 120 student-athlete leaders from 16 high schools, focusing on leadership development, building strong team culture, and reflecting on personal leadership styles.





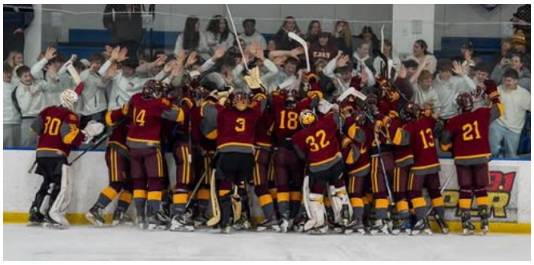
Congratulations to wrestlers, **Robbie Kammerman '26** and **Lucas DaSilva '26**. Robbie earned 3rd in the FCIAC Tournament as well as 2nd in the Class S States. Lucas DaSilva placed 5th in States.



Last fall, the Hogs celebrated a major milestone as Head Football **Coach Joe Della Vecchia earned his 200th career win** with the Cadets. Now in his 27th season leading the program, Coach Della Vecchia has built a lasting tradition of excellence at SJ, shaping generations of student-athletes and leaders through his commitment to teamwork, discipline, and pride. The milestone victory, celebrated during the November 8 game, marked another memorable moment in the proud history of SJ football.

Congratulations to Taryn Czick '27, who was selected for the 2025 Girls All-America Team! Players on this year's United Soccer Coaches High School All-America Teams were recognized for their accomplishments at a Ceremony in January.





The St. Joseph Boys Ice Hockey program welcomed **Head Coach Matt Boyhen** this past summer, and his arrival has already brought new energy to the team. With a highly competitive schedule and a clear focus on raising the standard of play, the Cadets have continued to build momentum throughout the season. A highlight came on Senior Night, when St. Joes defeated Hamden 3–2, led by a hat trick from senior captain Sammy Ceconi, and two assists by Ryan Thompson.



Meet your 2025 Girls Soccer **FCIAC CHAMPIONS**!
It was a thrilling penalty-kick victory over Greenwich (the Cadets went a perfect 4-for-4), and goalkeeper, Cailyn O'Hara '27 was named Game MVP after stopping two of Greenwich's attempts. We couldn't be more proud of this incredible team. Their determination, grit, and teamwork define what it means to be an SJ Cadet.



St. Joseph High School is pleased to welcome **Meghan Letko as the new head coach of the Girls Lacrosse program**. A Fairfield University graduate and former MAAC All-American, Letko brings strong playing and coaching experience to the Cadets, including time as an assistant at Fairfield University and head coach at Bunnell High School. Since joining the program, she has already begun preparing for the season by designing a preseason training schedule and connecting with players as they get ready for the spring. Letko looks forward to building a team-first culture and guiding the Cadets into an exciting new season.

SJ Cadets Continue to Inspire With Their Individual Awards:

All-FCIAC Award Recipients:

Soccer: Ella Bacoulis, Taryn Czick, Danika Neugebauer, Julia Nunes, Marcelo Rosa, Alexander Sari, Sara Wicker, Cloe Woodley.
Volleyball: Mary DeCaro, Sarah Lovett.
Swim: Emmy Beach, Maegan Grisanti.
Field Hockey: Mia Massey, Gianna Testi.
Cross Country: Anasofia Monteiro, Francesca Pagano.
Golf: Michael Jones.
Football: Jamar Bailey, Triston Barnes, Lameik Black, Beckett Fraczek, Sajiah Hay, Ben Jimenez, HT Jones, Finn Kilmartin, Eric Prendergast, Jake Rios, Michael Rudini, Tristan Spain, Jaylen Walker, Kyle Wicker, Will Zaccagnino.

All-State Award Recipients

Soccer: Taryn Czick, Julia Nunes.
Football: Jamar Bailey, Finn Kilmartin, Jake Rios, Kyler Wicker, Will Zaccagnino.
Swim: Emmy Beach, Maegan Grisanti.

All-New England Award Recipients

Soccer: Taryn Czick, Julia Nunes.

FCIAC Scholar-Athletes



Julia Nunes '26 is a member of National Honor Society and serves as Captain of the girls soccer team. She has garnered multiple All-FCIAC and All-State postseason honors. Beyond athletics, Julia is the recipient of the University of Saint Joseph Book Award, has co-led a fundraiser titled *Goals for Goals*, and plans to continue her soccer career at the University of Richmond.



Michael Jones '26 is a member of National Honor Society and a four-year starter on the boys golf team, where he currently serves as Captain. He's garnered All-FCIAC and all All-State honors and has committed to continue his golf career at Wesleyan University.



Francesca Pagano '26 is a member of National Honor Society and recipient of the Rochester Institute of Technology Social Sciences and Humanities Scholarship. She serves as Captain of the cross country and basketbal teams and also runs outdoor track earning All-FCIAC honors in Cross Country. She is also President of the Feelings First Club, Vice President of Women's Studies Club, and a Peer Minister.



Evan Balko '26 is a goalie for SJ's boys varsity ice hockey team, a student ambassador, and a member of Student Council. He holds a 4.0 GPA while taking all AP and honors courses. Evan also volunteers at The Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital in Derby. He plans to attend college in the fall and is still deciding on both his school and his major.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT: AN UN-REGRETTABLE LEAP OF FAITH - CAR

For Carmen Vaszquez, a quintessential SJ Mom, the journey began with one simple goal: finding the right academic and faith-based education for her son, Benjamin, one also reminiscent of the experience she had growing up in New York City.

While the commute was long, and the campus feeling far from home, there was something about SJ - the beauty of the grounds and the warmth of the community - it just felt right.

Carmen decided to take a leap of faith and that led to more than academic growth for Benjamin. It led to a true sense of belonging - for both of them.

Because Ben was the only student from Brookfield in his class, Carmen quickly realized that if SJ was going to feel like home, she needed to step in and get involved. After becoming a certified volunteer through the Diocese, she began volunteering for everything she could, and has never once looked back.

"At first, I just wanted to meet other parents and learn more about the school," Carmen shares. "Volunteering was the best way to do that."

With Ben committed to playing football and basketball - requiring long days, evenings, and weekends on campus - volunteering also gave Carmen a sense of purpose during that time. Instead of simply waiting in her car or running errands, she became part of the energy that makes SJ events so special.

"She became involved in nearly everything," remarked Maria Stickney, Manager of Advancement Events. "From our Stuff-a-Bus food drive to set-up and concessions at games to Accepted Student events, Open Houses, and Vines & Steins, Carmen was always there." She then eventually stepped into a larger leadership role within the parent community.

Carmen has cultivated four years of relationships across every corner of the SJ community and she now finds herself not just comfortable, but confident. The connections she formed has given her a deeper understanding of what makes SJ special. From that place of gratitude and belonging, becoming a Parent Ambassador felt like a natural next step.

As a Parent Ambassador, Carmen has welcomed prospective families, answered questions, and shared her own story - offering reassurance to parents who may feel unsure about making the leap - especially those who come from towns that feel further away. She understands what it feels like to commute; to be the "only one" from a town; and to wonder whether your child will truly find their place. She is proud to say that they will.

That sense of community became especially clear during one of the most difficult seasons of their lives. When her family endured unimaginable loss - losing Carmen's mother, grandmother, and uncle within just 18





MEN VASQUEZ P '26



months. It was then that SJ community stepped in without hesitation. Ben's closest friends, affectionately known as "The Fab 4," and their mothers surrounded him with support while Carmen traveled overseas to settle family matters. Football families coordinated rides and fellow parents checked in regularly. "We had only known these families a few years, but they embraced my Ben like their own," she shares.

It wasn't only fellow parents who helped carry them through. Carmen also found unwavering support from the SJ faculty and staff. Larry Ruffin and Cleave Hatton, beloved members of the Facilities Team, became steady sources of comfort for Ben; Jessica Costa and her team in Admission were always present and supportive; and during a period of unemployment when Carmen feared she could no longer afford Ben's tuition, Madelyn Pesci in Finance worked with her closely to ensure Ben could remain where he ***belonged***.

In moments of uncertainty, the SJ community showed up as family. That is what being involved at SJ gave her: a second family. And at the center of it all, Ben thrived. He grew into a confident student, an honor roll athlete, and eventually "Captain Ben," leading his team onto the field - something Carmen says she never even imagined. Now, as senior year unfolds, emotions run high. From Senior Sunrise to the final football season, she feels the weight of every "last," but also deep gratitude.

When asked what SJ taught him, Ben often says, "I learned to believe in myself. My teammates are my brothers. My teachers and coaches believe in me 1000%." Carmen mirrors his emotion completely. For their family, volunteering was never just about helping at events - it was about investing in a place that so clearly invested in them. Even now, Ben still turns to her and says, "Mom, the best decision we ever made was coming to SJ". *(Check out Ben's letter from a graduate on page 2!)*

So her advice to other parents is simple: "Attend the events. Meet the other parents. Get involved. Being an SJ parent is more than just having a child at the school - it's becoming part of something bigger".

For both of them, SJ is more than a school...it is home.





A.I. IN ACTION

Innovation, Ethics, and Responsibility in the Classroom

On January 21 and 28, the school day looked different as students stepped into an immersive AI experience that felt more like a field trip than a typical class. In partnership with MilestoneC and guided by STEM Curriculum and Instruction Specialist, Rachel Vincent, students participated in an immersive artificial intelligence experience designed to move AI from headline topic to hands-on understanding.

Artificial intelligence is already woven into students' daily lives. They encounter it on social media platforms, in music streaming services, through search engines, and increasingly in academic tools. Yet many have never paused to consider what AI actually is or what it is not. This in-school experience was designed to shift that understanding.



The session opened with an AI generated music activity that immediately captured attention. Within minutes, students were experimenting with prompts, adjusting inputs, and observing how subtle changes dramatically altered the results of curated playlists. What quickly became clear was that AI does not think or reason like a human brain. Instead, it predicts outcomes based on patterns found within large sets of data.

"It was eye opening," said Brian Matovu '28. "It sounds confident even when it is not completely accurate. You realize you cannot just accept the first answer. You have to question it."

That realization became central to the day's learning. Students explored how AI can replicate bias found in its training data, how misinformation can spread through generated content, and how over-reliance on AI can weaken independent thinking. Ethics was not treated as a separate conversation. It was embedded throughout the experience. Students were encouraged to consider not only what AI can do, but what it *should* do.

Brian reflected, "What surprised me most was learning that AI does not truly think for itself but instead draws from existing data and patterns across many sources. It reinforced for me that human judgment and reasoning remain essential, even as AI continues to evolve in the years ahead."

Throughout the session, students worked in teams to build and refine real projects using AI tools. There were no simple right answers. Instead, students tested ideas, evaluated outputs, revised their prompts, and presented their reasoning to peers. The emphasis remained on experimentation, collaboration, and discernment.

Casey Pabis '26 shared, "We talked about whether AI should make



AI is everywhere, but most people don't understand it



Today is about understanding, not just using



You will create something real with AI

decisions about people, like hiring or admissions. That conversation stayed with me. Just because technology can do something does not mean it should."

Students were also challenged to examine where AI is already influencing society, from music and art to hiring practices, social media algorithms, and academic work. These discussions helped students recognize that AI is not a distant future concept. It is present now and shaping the world in measurable ways.

Brian added, "I learned that AI can be a valuable study tool when used responsibly. It works best as a resource for guidance or reference rather than a substitute for our own work, especially since the information it produces is not always completely accurate."

Beyond technical understanding, the experience strengthened skills that extend well beyond any single class. Students practiced collaboration, communication, creative problem solving, adaptability, and digital literacy. They learned how to write clearer prompts, evaluate outputs carefully, and improve their work through revision. Most importantly, they were reminded that human judgment remains essential. Technology may generate content, but responsibility rests with the individual using it.

Introducing these concepts now is a necessity. Students are already engaging with AI tools in informal ways. Encountering artificial intelligence within a structured, ethically grounded, academic setting ensures they develop habits of discernment rather than dependency. By learning to understand AI instead of simply using it, students position themselves to navigate college level expectations and emerging career landscapes with confidence.

Experiences such as this reflect St. Joseph High School's commitment to pairing innovation with responsibility. As



Casey noted at the conclusion of the session, "It does not feel like something happening to us anymore. It feels like something we can understand."

Through thoughtful programming and intentional instruction, students are not only learning about artificial intelligence. They are learning how to lead in a world where it will play an increasingly significant role.

Scan the QR Code to listen to an "SJ Anthem" created by our students in the course. Students uploaded a few items of note regarding their SJ experiences, as well as pop culture, to use a program called Sono to create the song. Enjoy!

ONCE A CADET, ALWAYS A CADET:
Alumni Appreciation Nights Return

SJ Alumni Appreciation Nights:
This year, we were proud to reintroduce Alumni Appreciation Nights at select athletic games, bringing a beloved tradition back to campus and giving our Cadets more opportunities to reconnect with the place they once called home to celebrate SJ past while cheering on SJ future. Each event reminds us that SJ is more than a school, it's a lifelong family, connected by traditions, pride, and memories that last long after the final whistle blows.



HOCKEY GAME - NOVEMBER 2025:

The ice was alive with excitement as SJ Hockey Alumni returned in November for a special Alumni Game Night! Former teammates laced up their skates once again, reliving the glory days while enjoying a fun, friendly matchup filled with laughs, competition, and plenty of great memories. Alumni from different graduating classes came together, showing that the bond formed through SJ Hockey extends far beyond time spent on the ice. After the game, everyone gathered for food and refreshments, sharing stories about legendary games, teammates, and coaches. It was a night filled with camaraderie, laughter, and school spirit. Once a Cadet, always a Cadet.







BASKETBALL GAME - JANUARY 2026

On Friday, January 30, two generations of Cadets came together for a special Alumni Appreciation Night! The energy in the gym was electric as we proudly celebrated the 1975 Boys CIAC Championship Team and their incredible legacy at SJ. John Fitzgerald '75, Dick Shea '75, and Peter Dennean '85 (accepting on behalf of his brother Jim Dennean '75) took to the court to receive customized SJ Champion basketballs, honoring their remarkable season and championship pride. After the game, our current Cadets had the chance to talk with the legends who paved the way on that court, learning from those who helped build SJ basketball history. It was a powerful, full-circle moment connecting past and present Cadets. Following the game, a small alumni reception was held, giving them a chance to reconnect, reminisce, and continue celebrating together. Nights like these remind us that the legacy of SJ athletics continues through every athlete who wears maroon and gold.

BASEBALL GAME – MAY 2026 – JOIN US!

Join us for another exciting Alumni Appreciation Night as we celebrate SJ baseball pride and tradition!

All alumni are invited to come home to Joe, cheer on our Cadets, and be part of an unforgettable night of school spirit and connection. During this special evening, we will proudly honor the 1976 Boys Baseball State Championship Team and celebrate the heart, hustle, dedication, and teamwork that made their championship season a defining moment in SJ history.

While we shine a special spotlight on the 1976 champions, this night is truly a celebration of ALL SJ baseball championship teams — including 1980, 1985, 2013, 2019, and 2025 — and the generations of Cadets who built the proud foundation of SJ baseball.

After cheering on our current Cadets, all alumni are invited to a post-game gathering to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate the Cadet spirit that never fades.











The Ripple Effect of Giving: Honoring Those Who Make St. Joes Possible

Held in November 2025, the Maroon & Gold Gala was a true celebration of the heart and mission of St. Joseph High School. What began as an elegant evening of fine dining, lively entertainment, and spirited auctions became something far more meaningful, a powerful reminder of what our community can accomplish when united in faith and purpose. Alumni, parents, faculty, and friends gathered not simply to celebrate, but to make a difference.

The evening was filled with laughter, connection, and Cadet pride. Guests reconnected with old classmates and friends, welcomed new members into the SJ family, and enthusiastically participated in our live and silent auctions. Adding to the vibrant atmosphere was live entertainment from Tangled Vine, a well-known local band with a strong following. Their energy kept the dance floor full and brought an added spark to an already unforgettable night.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the St. Joseph Impact Award. This honor recognizes individuals who embody commitment to Catholic education and share in our passion for nurturing and empowering students. Our honorees, Joseph Dzurenda ’80, P ’15, ’17, ’20 and Jeff Babineau P ’17, exemplify the mission of SJ, serving as dedicated supporters, advocates, and role models within our community. Through their time, talent, and generosity, they truly live out their faith in action, service in love, and excellence in education.

Through sponsorships, auction donations, and event proceeds, every dollar raised directly supported Fund-a-Future. This vital initiative provides tuition assistance to deserving students, ensuring that financial circumstances never stand in the way of experiencing the exceptional academics, faith formation, and life-changing opportunities that define an SJ education.

Thanks to the extraordinary support of our community, we surpassed our fundraising goal, expanding tuition assistance and opening more doors for deserving students.

To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests — thank you. The success of the Maroon & Gold Gala reflects the strength and love of the SJ family and the shared belief that together, we can transform lives.











A Golden Return: Reunion, Homecoming, and the Heart of SJ

In October 2025, the Class of 1975 returned to campus to celebrate their **50th Reunion**!

The weekend began with a get-together at Vazzy's in Bridgeport, where classmates shared their first embraces and smiles of the milestone celebration. Conversations flowed easily as familiar voices and personalities instantly brought everyone back to their high school days.

The celebration continued at the Homecoming Game, where the Class of '75 was recognized at halftime as officially becoming 'Golden Cadets,' receiving their milestone pins.

Afterward, classmates gathered for their official Reunion Celebration at Vazzy's Four Seasons. The room radiated warmth as friendships that began in the '70s proved as strong as ever. Music, stories, and heartfelt conversations filled the night, highlighting the deep bonds that have carried this class through the decades.

The weekend concluded in the Alumni Chapel, where the class united in prayer during the Golden Cadet Mass. After receiving a blessing, alumni wandered the halls they once knew so well, revisiting classrooms and recalling moments that shaped their lives. The reunion stood as a testament to enduring friendship, shared faith, and the lifelong connection of being a Cadet. Next up - the Class of 1976!

Homecoming Game 2026

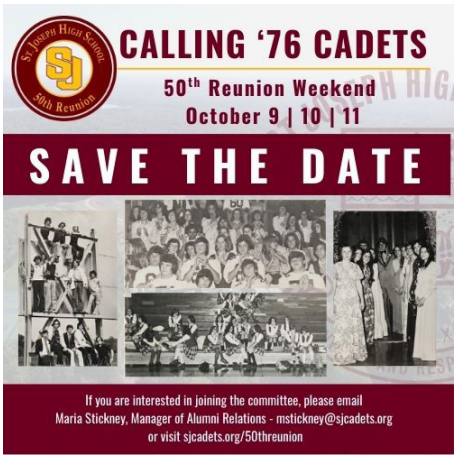
Every October, alumni return to SJ for one of the most anticipated traditions of the year: the Homecoming Football Game. This year, the Alumni Tent will debut a new vibe designed to make the experience even more memorable. Guests can look forward to classic game-day snacks, a photo booth to capture the day, and some SJ memorabilia surprises. Stay tuned for details!

Milestone Reunions

Reunions are back! After time away from hosting consistent off-year celebrations, we are thrilled to bring these gatherings back to life because our alumni are truly the heart of SJ.

This year, we're celebrating milestone reunion classes on the 1's and 6's with a breakfast right before the big game, a relaxed way to start the day.

Whether it's been five years or fifty, the stories, friendships, and memories that began at SJ continue to live in your heart. We can't wait to welcome you back to campus to celebrate the milestones, the friendships, and the Cadet pride that truly lasts a lifetime. More details are coming soon, but for now, mark your calendars and get ready to come back to where it all began.



CLASS NOTES & CADET CONNECTIONS

Celebrating the milestones, memories, and moments that continue to shape our alumni community. Want to include your Class Note for our Fall 2026 issue? Visit sjcadets.org/stayconnected.



In January 2026, **Susan Constantino '66** was inducted into the Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for Catholic artists, writers, and all sacred arts.

Kenneth Graham Esq. '66 has been reappointed for his ninth term of office by the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court to the position of State Referee for the Superior Court. He was also reappointed to his Superior Court positions of FactFinder/Arbitrator.

Daniel Keating '67 shares that he is enjoying his 8th year of retirement after 40 years as Quality Manager at a medical products manufacturing company.

Ted Schrade '67 and Maureen (Rice) Schrade recently celebrated their marriage of 50 years! Ted and Maureen are the parents of three SJ Alumni: **Chris '96**, **Tiffany '98**, and **Chad '05**.



John Cooper '69 recently met up with his friends from freshman year! The group, which included Greg Dion and Tom Hughes, met in Port Charlotte FL. John and his wife, Barbara, typically spend the month of February in Florida to spend time with friends and family.



Mindy (Palhete) Fernandes '94 shares that she and her husband are five years into their Florida chapter with their two boys (born 2016 & 2020). As wedding and portrait photographers, they both travel between CT, NY, and Florida, documenting enduring love stories beneath the palms. See their work at: makeiteverlasting.com or sunshine-boudoir.com.



Faith Ann Bailey, LCSW '96 will be presenting at the National Association of Social Workers in Washington, DC. in June regarding her community garden involvement after having received two grants in the amount of $10,000. The presentation is called "Building a Community through Gardening: Community Healing, Leadership, and Food Justice in Social Work Practice. She will also have completed her Masters in Public Health from Capella University in March.



Jaime (Hopkins) Wood '00 is in her 4th year of owning and operating Adventures by Jaime, LLC, a home based travel agency on the shoreline of CT. She curates experiences and adventures in all aspects of travel and has been part of the " Best of the Shoreline" family three years in a row. She is so grateful for her past, present, and future clients.

Thomas Noonan '02 shares that he is currently working as the legal counsel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport.



Kristina Cornut '03 opened Lily Beauty Studios. The studio was voted Best Salon in Fairfield 2025 by Bizrate. She holds an Associate's degree in Health Science, is dual-licensed in esthetics and cosmetology, and has 17 years of industry experience. Kristina prides herself on building a community-centered business with a strong emphasis on supporting women and working mothers.



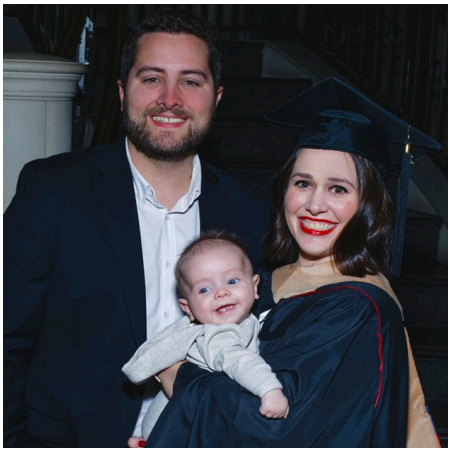
In October 2025, **Katie Bigley '08** was selected to participate on Wheel of Fortune and won!



Congratulations goes out to **Matthew Pavia '11** and Brooke Bifulco who were married on November 15, 2025 at The Bowery Hotel in New York City.We wish the best for the happy couple.



After SJ, **Ashley Ayers '17** went on to earn two Bachelor of Science degrees from Southern Connecticut State University - one in Elementary Education and one in Liberal Studies. She then went on to earn a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction as well as a Sixth Year Certificate as a Classroom Teacher Specialist. She has been an elementary teacher for the past five years, in addition to starting her own photography business. Ashley captures weddings, families, seniors, graduates, and events all over the state. "Thank you, St. Joes, for giving me the skills and drive needed to pursue two fulfilling career paths!"



Danielle (Kosturko) Scheim '11 welcomed her first child in August 2025! She also earned her MBA in December 2025.



Jessica (Mazal) Lapadula '10 welcomed her second child, Maximiliano Simón on February 2, 2026, and his 4 year old brother Sebastián is so happy! Max was baptized on March 8, 2026 at St. Pius X in Fairfield and his godparents are SJ alums **Father Sam Kachuba '01** and **Marisa Mantero '14.**



Natalie Candler '16 is executive producer and broadcaster of Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN)'s biweekly news program focused on community driven news. Natalie graduated from Curry College with a Communications/TV Production degree.

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES!

Perhaps you've begun a new job, or recently retired; maybe you've added a new addition to your family or have been recently wed; we want to hear it all! Send us your Classnote now for our Fall 2026 Communiqué and share your news with your classmates. Visit sjcadets.org/stayconnected to let us know what's new in your life!



Brooke Robinson '20 graduated from Boston University in 2024 with a degree in Human Physiology and works as a Medical Assistant in clinics in downtown Boston and Fairfield. Following six medical school interviews, she has committed to the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, beginning in August 2026.

Sofia Chaves '24 is currently a sophomore at Kenyon College, majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Law and Society. She has made the Dean's List and is a member of Kenyon's varsity NCAA Division III field hockey team. She hopes to attend law school and pursue a career in corporate law, specifically in mergers and acquisitions.

Joseph Kustra '25 made the Dean's List at Siena University for the Fall 2025 semester!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL
HALL OF FAME
ATHLETICS



The St. Joseph High School Athletic Hall of Fame celebrates the rich tradition of athletic excellence, dedication, and Cadet pride that has shaped our community for generations. This special honor recognizes former student-athletes, teams, and legacy contributors whose performance, leadership, and character left a lasting mark on SJ Athletics and the St. Joes community as a whole.

Hall of Fame inductees represent decades of Cadet history - from the 1980s through today - and are recognized for outstanding accomplishments in their respective sports. Many earned distinctions such as All-League, All-State, Connecticut Player of the Year, set school records, captured championship titles, and continued their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Yet, the Athletic Hall of Fame is about more than statistics and trophies. It honors individuals and teams whose commitment, loyalty, and sportsmanship embody the values of St. Joseph High School. Their legacy extends beyond the field, court, or track, strengthening the tradition of excellence and inspiring future generations of Cadets to carry that pride forward.

SJCADETS.ORG/HALLOFFAME



Homecoming Weekend
October 9 - 11, 2026



Friday, October 9 - Hall of Fame Celebration
An unforgettable evening honoring the legacy, achievements, and Cadet pride of our newest Hall of Fame inductees.

Saturday, October 10 – Homecoming Reunion Breakfast
We're celebrating the 1's & 6's, and our Golden Cadets with breakfast before the big game.

Homecoming Football Game – SJ vs. Westhill
With a fresh new Homecoming vibe this year, the Alumni Tent will be open during the game serving as a gathering space for our Cadets. Stop by to reconnect and cheer on SJ while enjoying a few classic game-day snacks, our Decade Photo Booth, SJ memorabilia, and dedicated alumni seating.

Class of 1976 – 50th Reunion Party
A special evening celebrating 50 years of friendship, memories, and the bond that began at SJ.

Sunday, October 11 -Golden Cadet 50th Reunion Mass
The Class of 1976 is invited to a beautiful and meaningful morning together. Enjoy a light breakfast hosted by the Alumni Office, celebrate Mass, and walk the halls of your alma mater to reminisce about the moments that shaped you.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL
2320 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

2026 Upcoming Events

April 8
Alumni Career Day

April 8
Spring Open House

April 9
Grandparents Mass

April 30-May 2
Spring Musical
The Music Man

May 17
Legacy Mass

May 19
Fine Arts Night

May 28
Class Day &
Baccalaureate Mass

May 30
Commencement for
the Class of 2026

June 15
SJAA Golf
Tournament

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