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CEEB/ACT Code 142380

Dr. Jeffrey Budz, *President/Principal*
Ms. Laura Pahl, *Associate Principal*
Mrs. Charlotte Turturillo, *Business Manager/CFO*
Mr. Jim O'Brien, *Athletic Director*

Inspiring Growth in Knowledge and Faith

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

SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-2027

Joliet Catholic Academy is a Roman Catholic college preparatory co-educational high school co-sponsored by the Joliet Franciscan Sisters and the Carmelites of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. With an enrollment of 550 students and a student-teacher ratio of 13:1, personal and individualized attention is afforded to students. Currently, Joliet Catholic Academy has graduated over 28,000 alumni in the United States and abroad.

MISSION

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

ACCREDITATION

Joliet Catholic Academy is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education and the National Catholic Educational Association.

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Student-to-faculty ratio is 13:1. JCA employs 76 of which 55 are educational staff members. 49% percent of the faculty hold a Master Degree or higher.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is 526 high school students: 141 seniors, 122 juniors, 113 sophomores, 150 freshmen, 24 8th graders taking Math/Science. 55% percent of the student body are male and 45% percent are female. Students come from the Joliet community and surrounding areas. 68% of students are Caucasian; 18% Hispanic; 11% African American; 4% Asian or Pacific Islander; 2% American Indian or Alaskan Native; and 5% Other. 87% of the student body are Catholic; 13% have other religious affiliations.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Jeffrey Budz	*President/ Principal*	ext. 211	jbudz@jca-online.org
Ms. Laura Pahl	*Associate Principal*	ext. 213	lpahl@jca-online.org
Mrs. Kristin Horn	*Director of Counseling, Counselor (Fr Q-Z/So)*	ext. 264	khorn@jca-online.org
Ms. Kisha Cameron	*Multicultural Engagement Director, Counselor (Fr A-P)*	ext. 279	lcameron@jca-online.org
Mrs. Jackie Pullara	*College/Career Counselor (Jr/Sr L-Z)*	ext. 266	jpullara@jca-online.org
Mrs. Kerri Voltz	*College/Career Counselor (Jr/Sr A-K)*	ext. 265	kvoltz@jca-online.org
Mrs. Margaret K. Goolsby	*Student Records Coordinator*	ext. 268	pgoolsby@jca-online.org
Mr. Jared Voss	*Admissions & Alumni Director*	ext. 214	jvoss@jca-online.org

ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL YEAR

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

CURRICULUM AND SPECIAL COURSES

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

An Honors Diploma requires a student to complete a sequence of 17 Honors/AP courses with no more than one grade of C per semester in any course. A sequence of 23 Honors courses and 15 AP courses are offered. AP courses include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVANCEMENT PLACEMENT EXAMINATION

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

Year	*Number of Exams*	*Scored 3 or higher*
2026	194	75%
2025	102	67%
2024	243	75%
2023	176	55%
2022	147	49%

GRADING AND RANKING

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

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

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

CLASS OF 2026 TEST INFORMATION

- 117 students took the ACT
- 21 ACT Mean for the class
- 27 ACT Mean for Honors Program students
- 28 Top 10% Mean ACT
- 21 ACT Mean score for top 50% of class
- Middle 50% Range: 18-24
- Class GPA Mean (Weighted): 3.95
- Middle 50% GPA: 3.97

ACT SUMMARY

	Class of 2026	Class of 2025
Mid 50% Range	18-24	16-23
Mean Composite	21	20.4
Students Tested	88%	74%

2026-2027 CURRICULUM GUIDE

ENGLISH

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

STUDY SKILLS

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

SCIENCE

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

PERFORMING ARTS

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

WORLD LANGUAGE

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

SOCIAL STUDIES/BUSINESS

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

VISUAL ARTS

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

MATH

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

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

THEOLOGY

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

DUAL CREDIT

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

COURSE KEY

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

STUDENT LIFE

- JCA offers over 40 clubs and societies, which are an integral part of our mission to educate the whole person.
- 94% of the JCA student body participates in extracurricular activities.
- JCA has a mandatory-random drug testing program
- Monthly all-school Masses offered.
- Comprehensive yearly retreat programs capped by a junior/senior Kairos retreat.
- Students complete a minimum of 60 hours of Christian Service throughout their four-year careers, working both within the school and the Joliet community to directly impact the lives of others.
- The Class of 2026 completed over 15,000 hours of community service.

ATHLETICS

94% of the JCA student body participates in at least one sport or activity. JCA offers 24 varsity teams in 13 sports for girls and 11 sports for boys.

JCA has a tradition of winning state titles, national championships and sportsmanship awards. The past few years have continued that tradition for the athletic department with numerous team and individual accomplishments. Athletics plays an important role in developing the discipline and competitive spirit required for academic success while cultivating future leaders. There is no greater feeling than running on the field, taking the court, walking on the course or cheering in the HillZone as an Angel or Hilltopper.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- 38 State/National Championships
- 67 Former/Current Professional Athletes

2025-2026 Year in Review

- JCA Girls' Cross Country: Individual State Qualifier
- JCA Girls' Tennis: Doubles Team State Qualifiers
- JCA Dance: 1A State Champions
- JCA Cheer: State Qualifier
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: 10 Individual State Qualifiers
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: 7 Individual State Placers
- JCA Boys' Wrestling: Dual Team State Qualifier
- JCA Girls' Track: Individual State Qualifiers
- JCA Girls' Track: Individual State Champion
- JCA Boys' Tennis: Individual State Qualifiers
- 17% of the Class of 2026 is continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level

CLASS OF 2026 ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Class of 2026 graduated 133 students.
- The Class of 2026 is attending 57 colleges and universities in 16 states.
- 92% attending the college/university of their choice
  Four-year college or university - 83%
  Two-year college - 9%
  Vocational school/military/work force - 8%
- $19.1 million was offered in scholarship funds.
- 19 Illinois State Scholars

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1990

- 7 National Merit Scholars
- 7 National Merit Corporate Scholarship Winners
- 13 National Merit Finalists
- 15 National Merit Semi-Finalists
- 72 National Merit Commended Students
- 2 National Merit Hispanic Recognition Scholar
- 8 National Achievement Scholars
- 17 School Recognition Award
- 967 Illinois State Scholars
- 40 AP Scholars with Distinction
- 68 AP Scholars with Honors
- 122 AP Scholars

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

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

College Matriculation

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