

August 8, 2024

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

Dear St. Joseph Catholic Academy Community,

As we stand at the threshold of a new academic year, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt welcome to each one of you. Welcome back to St. Joseph Catholic Academy!

The beginning of a school year is a time for new beginnings, renewed aspirations, and the promise of growth. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for entrusting us with your children's education. This is a responsibility that we take to heart, and I assure you that our team of educators is passionate about fostering a love for learning and providing a safe and supportive environment for your child's development.

I am excited to work alongside our dedicated staff and collaborate with our supportive parent community to create an enriching and fulfilling educational experience for all our students. Your partnership is integral to our success, and I encourage you to join us in our upcoming orientation and various events planned throughout the year.

I am also excited to announce that we will be launching a new communication platform through the OURCO app. This app will enhance communication between parents, students, faculty, alumni, and administrators, giving you a stronger voice through surveys, polls, and more. You will receive an email in the next few weeks with a link and invite. Should you require assistance, please let us know. We are happy to help in any way we can. Students will have the opportunity to join as well once school begins, and their teachers will guide them in using the app as a class.

School will officially reopen on Wednesday, September 4th for all students entering kindergarten through eighth grade. Students in Grades K to 4 will report at 8:30 a.m. and be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. Students in Grades 5-8 will report at 10:00 a.m. and be dismissed at noon. On Thursday and Friday, September 5th and 6th, all K-8 students will report by 8:00 a.m. and begin staggered dismissals: kindergarten at 2:35 p.m., first to third grades at 2:40 p.m., fourth to fifth grade at 2:50 p.m., and sixth to eighth grades at 2:55 p.m.

On September 4th, all students will be admitted through the main lobby. Beginning Thursday, September 5th, Grades K-6 will enter via the main lobby and Grades 7-8 through the yard entrance on 43rd Street. Our parent orientation will take place on September 12th at 6:00 p.m. Please consult the academy calendar on Google for additional information about events and activities throughout the year.

As a reminder, it is academy policy that students are not allowed to bring personal electronic devices to school. Each student has access to an academy-supplied electronic device during school time. All work completed during the school day on academy devices can be saved to the cloud and accessed on personal devices at home. Smart watches are not permitted. While we do everything possible to keep students away from social media platforms during the academic day, we have no control over how they use social media at other times. Since social media is a major part of communication today, we will do all we can to teach and encourage responsible use of these platforms and ask you to continue to diligently monitor their use at home.

This year, I would like to remind everyone that cell phones should NOT be used in school. We will ask teachers to collect cell phones at the beginning of the day during homeroom, and phones will be returned to students at the end of the day. Being seen with a cell phone during the school day will result in detention. Please see the revised handbook for new information. I want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation. The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority.

I look forward to a year of growth, learning, and shared successes. Together, let us continue to inspire and shape the future leaders of tomorrow.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful start to the school year!

Warm regards,

Lucy Alaimo