

in Gold and Blue
Horizons



Thanks
FOR THE MEMORIES
**145TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**



St. Joseph Catholic Academy
Horizons in Gold and Blue

**News from
the St. Joseph
Community**

A PUBLICATION OF

A publication of
St. Joseph Catholic Academy
Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn
SPRING Issue 2026
Volume 8/Number 2

A Message from

THE PRINCIPAL

HORIZONS IN GOLD AND BLUE · SPRING 2026



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear St. Joseph Catholic Academy Families, Alumni, and Friends,

Each year when we reflect on the life of our academy community, I am filled with gratitude for the people who make St. Joseph Catholic Academy such a special place. Our families, alumni, parish community, and local business supporters continue to play an important role in helping our academy grow and thrive. Because of you, we are able to provide an exceptional educational experience rooted in faith, academic excellence, and a strong sense of community.

This year has been an exciting one at SJCA as we continue to expand opportunities for our students. One of our initiatives is Activity Hour, where students can explore their interests through more than ten different offerings including chorus, robotics, chess, basketball clinic, book club, yearbook committee, service club, public speaking and more. Programs like these allow our students to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop friendships.

We are also excited to welcome some of our youngest learners through our VIP and Me Program, which takes place on Mondays and Thursdays. This special class allows toddlers and their caregivers to experience the SJCA community while participating in music, arts and crafts, gross motor play, and early skill-building activities in a warm and welcoming environment.

Beyond the school day, our students are enjoying new opportunities such as Young Creators Club, an afterschool soccer program, and an upcoming Easter production in collaboration with the director of the Hellenic Cultural Center. Also, we are proud to continue our partnerships with organizations like Stages on the Sound and the Amy Marshall Dance Company, bringing theater, dance, and the arts to our students.

Academically, we remain committed to challenging and supporting every learner. Our enrichment programs continue to grow, including Algebra 1 to qualifying eighth graders, and we are exploring the introduction of peer tutoring to further support student success. Our faith remains at the center of all we do through monthly liturgies, daily prayer, and service opportunities that put faith into action. Our buddy program between grade levels helps to teach responsibility and cooperation. All of our programs serve to help our students grow not only academically but spiritually.

As we look to the future, our mission remains the same: to provide a nurturing environment where children are inspired to learn, lead, and serve. Continuing this work would not be possible without the generosity and support of our community. Whether through prayer, volunteering, partnerships, or financial contributions, your support truly makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for being a valued part of the St. Joseph Catholic Academy family. Together, we will continue to build on our strong tradition while creating new opportunities for the next generation of SJCA students.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Lucy Alaimo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Alaimo". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Principal

A Message from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

If you are reading this message, I know that St. Joseph Catholic Academy holds a special place in your heart. I know that you appreciate the faith, values, and academic excellence that are the hallmark of our institution. Maybe you are a seasoned alumnus who has followed us through the years, kept up with our story, and is immensely grateful for the foundation that St. Joe's was able to provide you? Or you are a more recent graduate with those same feelings? Maybe you are the parent of one or more children who graced our halls and today fondly recall their first days here and how proud you are of what they have become? Maybe you are the parent of a current student who is benefiting from a first-rate education while participating in some of the most interesting, sophisticated, and engaging extracurricular activities with classmates whose families share the same values and vision as you? Perhaps you are a parishioner with a passion for Catholic education? Perhaps you are an interested person who has heard about what we do and wants to know more about how we do it and why? No matter who you are - we say first and foremost - Thank you!

Our academy was built by you!

- By your hopes, dreams, and aspirations!
- By your constant support and encouragement!
- By your everyday sacrifices that help make St. Joe's the best it can be!

Many of our alums regularly contribute financially to St. Joe's - some faithfully for many years. This is not only a testament to their generosity, but also a profound statement about the positive impact that our academy impresses on its graduates. We are most grateful for the help of our graduates. I am pleased to report that our level of contributions is far ahead of most other Catholic academies. Yet, regrettably only a small percentage of our graduates participate. Wouldn't it be wonderful if ALL proud alums followed the lead of our regular contributors and made a modest contribution to the place that laid the groundwork and helped shape the good people they are today?

Please consider your contribution as "paying it forward!" Many of our alums benefitted from little or no tuition when they attended since religious nuns or brothers worked for nominal pay years ago, and subsidized help for families was prevalent as a result. Now would be a good time to repay - just a little, perhaps to help today's needy families so that they, too, may experience the kindness shown to you and your family.

Why is this important? Well - St. Joe's tries its very best to keep tuition to an absolute minimum, but this means that we can only cover about 85% of our yearly operating costs. Thankfully, schools and academies get some government help for services they provide, and we make it our duty to apply for applicable grant funding, especially for technology and STEM. Additionally, all academies receive some assistance from the Diocese, and our parents do a great job with fundraisers. Finally, we rely on the generosity of the alums to close the gap - a gap that is getting wider by the day.

Over the years, many, many Catholic schools have closed - seven more this year alone in our diocese. We are committed to seeing that St. Joseph Catholic Academy must not close. It is our Board's mission to ensure that our doors remain open to educate the next generations and provide them with the tools to approach life with the highest values, respect, integrity, and academic rigor. However, we simply cannot do it without your help. Please tell your friends; please tell your families; please tell anyone you know that is able to help - that St. Joseph Catholic Academy is a school worth their investment. The dividends are immeasurable for them - their communities - and the Church itself. What a great way to do God's work by educating youngsters in need. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, and future generations will have you to thank! May God bless you always.

Leo Cinquemani

Leo Cinquemani
Chairman, Board of Directors



Cognia Follow-Up St. Joseph Catholic Academy was reaccredited for a term of seven years by Cognia during the 2023-2024 academic year and will be submitting a mid-term report of progress this year. Cognia is a global nonprofit improvement organization whose mission is to offer accreditation, assessment, and professional services to educational institutions within a framework of continuous improvement. Cognia is comprised of a network of 36,000 public and private institutions in more than 85 countries, thus bringing a global perspective to advancing teaching practices and student learning.

In its culminating accreditation findings for our academy, the engagement review team published a report that included an Index of Education Quality (IEQ) of an impressive 334. Cognia's IEQ network average is 253.

The Cognia findings set the academy on its continuous improvement journey that includes a strategic plan – a roadmap designed to guide the academy to a future of innovation and growth within the overall fabric of a robust Catholic identity - ever mindful of our mission to educate the whole child – nurturing intellectual, spiritual, and personal growth.

To these ends, we established several Catholic identity and academic excellence goals. In terms of Catholic identity, we have sought to increase opportunities for faith formation, to incorporate occasions to put faith into action through service, and to strengthen the bonds between the parish and academy communities. Academically, we have committed ourselves to enhancing differentiated instruction to support every learner as well as establishing professional learning communities (PLCs) within the faculty to enhance their professional development.

The well-being of every learner continues at the core of our mission and the culture of our academy.





Teachers meet regularly in PLC groups to discuss best practices and teaching strategies.



The traditional arrangement of students seated in long rows has been contemporized to group seating that encourages discussion and cooperative learning.



Prioritizing differentiation and providing individual support to learners helps to ensure that all students reach their highest potential.

NEW INITIATIVES

Young Creator's Club meets once a week after school and gives students an opportunity to develop their artistic and creative talents.

VIP and Me brings toddlers between 20 and 36 months old to school with their caregivers for early socialization and preschool learning and fun.

Soccer meets after school twice a week for children in kindergarten and up.



VIP and Me



Young Creator's Club



Soccer

WHAT MAKES US CATHOLIC?

Over fifty years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published a document, *To Teach as Jesus Did*, to identify the following three major components of religious education in Catholic schools across the country: Message, Community, and Service.

It is one function of a Catholic school to teach children to bear witness to the Gospel through their words and actions and to teach the doctrines of the faith. At St. Joseph, all students are taught about the Catholic faith in Religion class and are taught to practice the Christian imperative to love others as found in John 13:35. It is a second function of a Catholic school to build fellowships rooted in the faith. At St. Joseph, the children experience their faith through community as reflected in daily communal prayer that begins and ends the day, in the Eucharist at monthly liturgies, and at various religious activities including the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. The third function of a Catholic school is to teach children to put their faith into action through service to others. At St. Joseph, the students are afforded many grade-appropriate opportunities to practice their faith, and it is a core component for eight graders to document service hours to be eligible for graduation in June. The Faith in Action Committee of the HAA (Home-Academy Association) brings the children and their parents together on activities that benefit others, e.g., sending well wishes to hospitalized children, donating essentials to young moms and their infants at The Bridge to Life Center in Queens, and supporting various food and clothing drives, including support for the St. Joseph Parish Pantry that helps feed needy families from St. Joseph and neighboring parishes.

In short, knowing the faith, experiencing it through community, and putting it into action are three essential elements of what makes us Catholic.



ALUMNI REUNION CELEBRATING 145 Years of Excellence

Thanks
FOR THE MEMORIES

On April 12, 2025, over two hundred alums along with members of the administration and faculty gathered in the gym to celebrate the 145th Anniversary of St. Joseph Catholic Academy/School. Our legacy began in 1880 with the establishment of St. Joseph Parochial School by the parish and the Congregation of Sisters of St. Dominic – Amityville. Over the years since then, many hundreds of children received their academic and spiritual foundations at St. Joseph – going beyond graduation for further studies leading to successful careers and fulfilling lives. In September 2012, the parochial school transitioned into an academy maintaining the school traditions while making new ones over the last fourteen years. Those present on April 12 were able to reconnect with former classmates in the place it all began for them and continues to hold the fondest memories until today. Those of us still connected to St. Joseph as administrators and faculty/staff members are keeping the legacy alive for the next 145 years.





Family

HEART TREE

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we celebrated the blessing of being part of the St. Joseph Catholic Academy community, and participated in a special project, WE ARE SJCA: ONE FAMILY, MANY HEARTS. Hearts were displayed in the lobby as a heartwarming reminder of our love, gratitude, and unity as one SJCA family.



Our Family Tree stands in the academy lobby representing faith, friendship, and family spirit.



Sentiments of appreciation and connection from our SJCA families.

S.T.E.M.

AT THE ACADEMY

One of several co-curriculars offered each week as part of a fifty-minute activity period is robotics. Students in teams of two begin by constructing base robots that can be maneuvered by hand-held controllers. Afterwards, students go on to build the more complex clawbot which allows for lifting and moving plastic blocks by the robot. The next step involves programming the basebot and clawbot to allow autonomous movement by the robot and the more complicated clawbot. Through this lengthy process, in addition to being fun for them, the students are learning about mechanical and program logic – getting the robot to do what it is programmed to do.

In the fall, we held the first S.T.E.M. A-Thon at the academy involving students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Each class had the opportunity to visit the lab to participate in several hands-on activities and view table exhibits – which included chemical reactions, rockets in motion, and using controllers to maneuver the basebots that had been created by the robotics teams



Robotics teams in action



S.T.E.M.

Celebrating CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW)

We celebrated Catholic Schools from January 26 to January 30 with several special activities through out the week. We held an Open House for prospective families each morning. Focusing on academics, we began on Monday with an afternoon Math Bee. Tuesday's theme was Celebrating Diversity by allowing the students to dress in clothing representing their countries of origin. Wednesday was School Spirit Day, and students were allowed to wear new school merch or clothing in the school colors of gold and blue. On Thursday, we celebrated vocations with a visit from our pastor and members of the diocesan office and careers by allowing the students to dress up in clothing representative of their future career aspirations. Thursday also included the final round of a seventh-grade entrepreneurial project/competition. The week ended with an Appreciation Day. Parents were invited to visit classes, offered refreshments, and were treated with their children to Brain Challenge in the gym – a fun gameshow that tested their mental and physical agility.

CSW SEVENTH GRADE ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECT

The aim of the project was to teach children how to start and operate their own small ice cream business. Teams of seventh graders were formed and tasked with writing a business plan that included identifying necessary resources, creating a menu and setting prices, designing a structure from which to sell their products, and creating a media ad campaign on the Internet and social media. After a first round elimination, four teams remained on Thursday of CSW to present their plan and sell ice cream. Students in the lower grades used play money to purchase actual ice cream from the vendors during lunch. A panel of judges that included the pastor and several teachers rated the presentation and two groups tied to win the competition. Diocesan TV reps were on site to interview a student representative from each group and taped the event which appeared on the Currents News program on diocesan television.



Friday Brain Challenge.



Celebrating Diversity.



Ice cream project



Career Day.

REVITALIZING *the* ACADEMY-HOME CONNECTION

The HAA (Home Academy Association) was established when St. Joseph School transitioned into an academy in 2012. Over the years, traditions and new activities have brought teachers, administrators, and families together to celebrate community and strengthen partnerships between home and school.

Among the HAA activities are an annual radio bingo, bakes sales, the trunk or treat event at Halloween, Christmas and spring plant sales to give the students a chance to purchase gifts for family members – to name a few. This year several parents accompanied the eighth graders on an educational field trip to Philadelphia.



Herta Fuchs (1944 Alum) rides the mechanical bull at Radio Bingo.



Trunk or Treat volunteers



Trunk or Treatsters



Parents and teachers working together to make radio bingo a fundraising success.



Students ready to purchase goodies at lunch



Parents and eighth graders off to Philly.



Dessert Buffet



Home-made cupcakes



Eighth graders at the statue of movie hero Rocky Balboa.

A l u m n i C o n t r i b u t i o n s

H e l p i n g t o S u p p o r t S t. J o s e p h

We are thankful to everyone that has contributed to the development efforts of the Academy since its inception in 2012 through January 2026. Listed are the 167 alums and other friends, vendors, and parishioners who donated in the period from September 2025 through January 2026. Our current students who are the direct beneficiaries of your generosity send you their deep gratitude and very best wishes.

1944
Fuchs, Herta C.

1946
George DeRosa
Beverly Ilchert
Patricia McLaughlin
(deceased)

1947
Dorothy Groat

1948
Margaret Rohan

1949
John Gallagher
Edward Hardy
Patricia McGrath
McNulty (deceased)
Patricia Harkin Rice
Rita O'Neil
Robert Wintermeier

1950
William P. Hawkins

1951
Catheine S. Adams
Cornelius J. Colliins
Jr.
Neal P. Gillen

1952
Jay Baxter
Rosaleen Harkiins
Savage
Barbara McAllister
Thomas F. Murphy
Elizabeth A.
Padula-Vrondis

1953
John Coleman
John Gozdziwski
Thomas J. Lynch

Walter J. Morley
Edward Silk

1954
Carolyn Barrett
John G. Griffin
James J. Keating
Barbara McCabe
Mary McGrattan
Frank Muldoon
Silk, Kathleen

1955
Robert C. Kohler
Dennis P. Lucey
Victor F. Marsh
Charles McQuade
James F. Reilly
Edmond N. Roeder
Barbaara. Young

1956
Timothy Foley
Michael S.
McCormack
Shelagh H. O'Brien
Thomas Shay

1957
Jim Candia
Patrick Gaudett
Carole Gessler
James M. Lawler
Michael J. Lynch
John Neglia
Jacqueline Smith
Patricia Zampella

1958
Margaret M Allen
John J. Healy
Mary Ann Moran

1959
Eileen M. Kline
William Lucadamo****
Christine Fitzpatrick
Maynard
Paul C. Novak
Paul Ostachowsky
Robin L. Richmond
Margaaret Kearney
Sullivan (deceased)
Anthony Terraccino
James J. Quinn EsQ

1960
Catherine Fulton
Nelson
Edward A. Hattauer
James Quail
Steve & Monica Stanis
Vlkovic

1961
Dituri, Joan
Errico, Donald
Lynch, John`

1962
John M. Dionisio
Kathleen Quinn Jappe
Anna Jaklitsch
John J. Lynch
Joan Fitzpatrick
Marren
Katherine O'Sullivan
McDonald
Robert Pellechi
Sheila O'Sullivan
Priola

1963
Joseph J. Dillon
James R. Farrell
Thomas M. Feeney
Linda Rohdieck Killian

Eileen M. Kline
William Lucadamo****
Christine Fitzpatrick
Maynard
Paul C. Novak
Paul Ostachowsky
Robin L. Richmond
Margaaret Kearney
Sullivan (deceased)
Anthony Terraccino

1964
John Barnickle
Steven M. Bertone
Charles Gozdziwski
John Gozdziwski
Maureen O'Sullivan
Hanna
Jane Magno-Anna
OFS
Msgr Sean G.Ogle
John Primiani
Margaret Sullivan

1965
Gregory McHugh**

1966
Angela Bauer
John G. Nicolich
Kathleen Padala
Linda(Schatz)Smith

1967
Andrew Bainton
Kathlen Choquette
Douglas F. Schlatter
Phillip G. Scimeca
Mary E. Stanis

1968
Kathleen Boylan
William Flannery
Joanne Horgan
Philip Lenoach

Ann Marie Schubert
Geraldine Schwartz
Leonard D. Smith

1969
Edward L. Hardy
Edward Christman
Antonia R. Kelly
Pamela Marin
Rev. William Sweeney

1970
Mark Arning
Michael J. Baratta
Robert Lozzi
Natalie Serventi

1971
Robeert Bolebruch
Carmelo Carlino
Jim March
Andrew J. Romano

1972
Andrew Castellaneta
Eilien B. Ciorciari
Mary Ann Fassula**
John J. Jordan
Joseph T. Puglia *

1973
Donna Casamassa
LaCovaro
Jim & Mary Hallahan
Duthie

1974
Peter Bolkart
Dorothy Dimeo
Vestbom
Frances
Filipich-Pergamo
Marilyn Goll
Richard Horak
Christine M. Pecoraco
Elizabeth Girardi
Schoen
Connie H.
Micari-Seltenreich

1975
Andrea Chevalier
Charles Corr
Petrina Di Gangi
Anna DiVigilio
Nicholas Griparich

1976
Stefan Chevalier
Thomas J. Colgan

1977
Roman Benke
Brian DeVale **

1978
Anne Bavaro
Oswaldo Sanchez**

1980
Yvonne Wojcicki

1981
Thomas P. Butler

1983
Patrick Ferguson
Marc Zupicich

1985
Renata Pestic**

1986
Frank Nuncio

1990
William Aho**

1994
Jacqueline Barkoutsis

1999
Richard Battista

FRIENDS

Anna Chelbak
James Nicholas(friend
of Davila family)

**PARENT OF
FORMER STUDENT**

Bozena Rief

**SPOUSE OF
FORMER STUDENT**

Mrs.Laurie O'Connor

**ST JOSEPH
CHURCH DONORS
(\$25 or more)**

Mr. & Mrs. David
Agudo

M. & Mrs. Louis
Alaimo

Ms. Cynthia Alfonso

Ms. Michelina

Annarumma

Issac Andon &

Carolino Cabera

John Brendel

Mr. & Mrs. Frank

Buscio

Henry Cachia

Father Vincent

Chirichella

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph

Dipietro

Mr.& Mrs. Joseph

Dirico

Richard V. Donohue

Yvonne Elhassani

Herta C. Fuchs

Mr.&Mrs. Kevin

Gallagher

Ms. Dorothy Groat

Raymond & Pa

Kretschmar

Mr.&Mrs. Michael

LaCovaro

Mr.&Mrs. Lario

Lawton

Ms. Jocelyn

Maaquiran

Elodia Marco

Patricia McLoughlin

(deceased)

Robert Mendoni

Joanne Pasquariello

Mrs. J. Panagopoulos

Thomas Pinto

Yuliana Restrepo

Silvia Rivera

Deacon &Mrs. Raul C.

Ruiz

Mr. & Mrs. Edward

Saliani

Gioivanna Saracini

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas

Schubert

Mr.Robert Schroedel

Jr.

Mr.&Mrs. James

Simko

Mr. & Mrs. John C.

Smith

Mr.&Mrs. Paul Xuereb

Fran Yule-Rappa***

**RADIO BINGO
SUPPORTERS AND
DONORS**

Ahoy New York Tours

Alba Pizzeria

Astoria Dance Center

Blue Parachute Print

& Promo

Bem Brazil Jewelry

Chick-Fil-A

Club Pilates Astoria

Cold Stone Creamery

DiMaggio Dental

5 Star Soccer

Academy

Fogo De Chao

Forno Siciliano

Fort Hamilton Distillery

Gaudio's Pizza

GianPiero Bakery

My Life Nutritian

ICYP Youth Program

Il Fornaio Bakery

Inner Gaze

International Meat

Market

Jiffy Jeff's

Laundromat

Johnston & Murphy

Lilly Artsy Studio

Liquid Lab NYC

Manhattan Realty

Group

The Mark Hotel

Maspeth Federal

Savings

Metro Floral

Decorators

Millbrook Winery

Mountain Creek

Resort

Mum Feeter

Nick's Gourmet Deli

Nios Spa

Nisi Estiatorio

Oliver's Astoria

Orangetheory Fitness

Oriental Trading

Pino Prime Meat

Market

Pronto Pizzeria

Renew Esthetics

Rizzo's Pizzeria

Rosary Society of Out

Lady of Mount Carmel

Soho Playhouse

St. John's Prep

Volleyball

St. Joseph CYO

Volleyball

Tessa's Treasured

Jewels

Tootles & French

Tufino Pizzeria

Tutto Calcio

UMI Salon

Well Kept Barbershop

Wilde & Well

Acupuncture

*Corpus Christi
School Graduate

**Most Precious
Blood School
Graduate

***St. Patrick School
Graduate

****Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel Graduate

Tribute to Magaret Kearney Sullivan '63

Three of the 'Astoria Sisters' as they called themselves in the 60s, Joan Fitzgerald Marren, Maureen O'Sullivan Hanna, and Linda Rohdieck Killian, visited the academy last year to make a donation and present the academy with a lovely plaque in memory of a classmate, Margaret Kearney Sullivan who sadly passed away in 2025. They shared loving memories of their deceased 'sister' recalling her to be a lover of learning and avid reader and were representing themselves and their classmates, Jane MagnoAnna, Sheila O'Sullivan Priola, Christine Fitzgerald Maynard, and Katherine O'Sullivan McDonald. Befittingly, the plaque in Margaret's honor now adorns one of the walls in the library – a second home of sorts to her while a student at St. Joseph.



THANK YOU

to the Home-Academy Association and all the parents of former and current students who have provided their support, financial and otherwise, to the Academy.

PRSR.T. STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
HICKSVILLE, NY
PERMIT NO. 487



28-46 44TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11103
(718) 728-0724
WWW.SJCALIC.ORG

Principal
Lucy Alaimo

Board of Directors
Leo Cinquemani, Chair
Herta Fuchs '44, Vice-Chair
Neida Martinez, Secretary
Frank Lewis, Treasurer
Ivan Butkovic
Joseph D'Angelo '85
Michael LaCovara '06
Christopher Vlachic

Pastors of the Aligned Parishes
Reverend Vincent Chirichella, St. Joseph
Reverend Patrick West, Corpus Christi
Reverend Christopher O'Connor, Most Precious Blood
Reverend Monsignor Cuong Pham, Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Reverend Felix Sanchez, St. Rita
Reverend Robert Powers, St. Patrick

Horizons in Gold and Blue is published by the Development Office of St. Joseph Catholic Academy
Address Changes: Please email us at info@sjcalic.org
Web Address: www.sjcalic.org



Scan the QR code to visit our website



HORIZONS *in Gold and Blue*

Celebrating the 67th Day of School

Please follow us on Facebook!



Faith development, academic excellence, and opportunities for service learning characterize the education in our Catholic schools and academies.