

DISTANCE LEARNING REPORT

Our campus may be closed, but our SJCS community continues to thrive both academically and socially during this time of distance learning! From its initial launch, the goal of our Distance Learning Program has been to continue providing the highest quality curriculum to each of our students in a manner that is best suited for each family we serve. From Kindergarten through 8th grade, our students receiving direct instruction virtually from their teachers, keeping them on track to meet grade-level standards and prepare them for the next grade. Teachers are using Zoom, online learning resources, YouTube, Google Classroom and more to help effectively teach from a distance. All students and their teachers are connected daily through email, phone calls, group video chats and social media.

We are impressed and humbled by our SJCS families who have diligently and gracefully stepped into their new roles as educational facilitators. They receive daily communication from administration and teachers via email including lesson plans, weekly goals, an outline of core standards, plus additional resources and optional enrichment activities. It is their continuous cooperation that has made the hard work put in by our faculty and staff so worthwhile, and our program so successful!

Our Catholic faith remains at the center of our education, both in subject matter and in practice. Students' faith-centered learning has been enhanced by our weekly Family Religion Activities, and their Education in Virtue practice has provided spiritual formation as they follow in the servant-leader footsteps of Christ. As a community, we are called to be Christ's disciples – especially during these times of isolation for so many in our broader community. Our weekly community service projects have continued our mission to serve as the Body of Christ.

True to our SJCS mission, we have also retained and even enhanced our mutual commitment as an active community during this time of social distancing. Our families remain engaged with one another through our private social media groups, Google Meet and Zoom. These platforms have allowed all of us – faculty, students, and families – to share photos, videos, and ideas, and most importantly, to seek and find support. This network of support has allowed us to show the very best of our Catholic identity as we unite in this time of social isolation.

FUNDRAISING

Meeting the ever-changing needs of providing a 21st century education is a challenging task. We depend on our fundraising events to help supplement tuition in order to sustain programs and activities, as well as provide classroom resources, new technology, supplemental curriculum, tuition assistance, science opportunities, the professional development of our staff and facility upgrades. The support of our alumni, parents, parishioners and community members is critical to the success of our students and the future of Catholic education at SJCS and in Auburn. We cannot thank YOU enough for donating, volunteering and participating in our annual fundraisers.

UPCOMING SJCS FUNDRAISERS

Friday, August 28, 2020
Cougar Classic Golf Tournament
Auburn Valley Golf Course
Register/Sponsor info on our website

Saturday October 3, 2020
Harvest Moon Gala
SJCS Campus

Saturday January 30, 2021
Annual Crab Feed
Gold Country Fairgrounds



Our annual Crab Feed in January was a completely sold out success for the second year in a row with over 400 in attendance! Principal Oliver thanks our incredible middle school servers at the event.



Our Homecoming Gala last October was an evening full of letterman jackets, fancy dresses and balloon arches

St. Joseph Catholic School

Spring Newsletter 2020

DISTANCE LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

#SJCSSunshine: Teachers and staff delivered “Sunshine Bags” to each of our families. Full of sunny goodies for the students, each bag also encouraged students to spread kindness in their own way.

Care Packages: We assembled care packages for the frontline workers at Sutter Medical Center. Baskets of protein bars, beef jerky and trail mix were delivered to hard working nurses and doctors in our community.

Virtual Field Trips: K - 2nd grade students hung out with some new friends at the San Diego Zoo. 3rd - 5th graders visited the Smithsonian Museum to check out mammal fossils and dinosaurs. Middle school students stamped their virtual passports with a visit to the Louvre in Paris.

Feast of the Annunciation: We invited our families to reflect on Mary's great “yes” using a guided reflection. Students responded in creative ways using art or writing to express their wonder and praise.

Holy Week: Family Religion Activities, rich in scriptural references and special prayers, were provided during Holy Week to remind us of Christ's Passion. For example, families took part in the Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet accompanied by the traditional servant hymn “As I have Done For You”. These daily activities prepared each of us for an Easter celebration of the Resurrection, complete with family fun and rejoicing.



Spreading Kindness: SJCS Sunshine Bags



Faith Family Activity: Feast of the Annunciation

CLASS OF 2020

Our beloved 8th graders are ready to leave behind their elementary school years. Some have been with us since Preschool; some came only a year or two ago. They are a diverse group in all ways, they are fun to be around, and each of them brings something uniquely wonderful to those of us who have had the privilege of watching them learn and grow.

The Class of 2020 is a very special group of students. From the time the COVID-19 pandemic emptied our school campus, they have led us by their example as they adapted with grace and flexibility to the technological, educational, and spiritual challenges that distance learning and isolation presented. Their mark on our school's legacy is ever-more important, as they will share forever the fact that they have made history. They have been the first class to start their 8th grade school year in an SJCS classroom and finish it at home through distance learning. They are the first to have to delay their graduation ceremony because as of their graduation date our campus will still be closed. Perhaps it is that unique experience that has allowed them to remain close to each other, and to capture a special place in the hearts of the SJCS Community.

And so this year, in particular, here is our community's message to you...

Class of 2020- we respect you, we are proud of you, we love you, and we will never forget you. We know that God has a plan for each of you, and He has set you apart. He has led you on a path of challenges that you met with courage. He has caused you to wait, and you have shown patience. He has asked you to lead and inspire, and you have become inspirational leaders.

We wish you all the best in your academic career. We pray that you are richly rewarded with personal and professional success throughout your lives. We send you off with every good wish and every sincere blessing. Never forget your days at SJCS. May they provide for you a wellspring of happy memories and a foundation of spiritual strength. And may God continue to bless you, every day in every way. Good luck!

2020 ANNUAL FUND



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2020 ANNUAL FUND

Dear Family, Friends and Alumni of St. Joseph Catholic School,

Since 1943, St. Joseph Catholic School has been providing a strong Catholic education to children in our community. We are proud to offer a competitive academic curriculum while also encouraging students to develop a personal relationship with God. We write you today to ask for your support with a donation to the Annual Fund. Your role is critical to the success of our students and the future of Catholic education.

SJCS is funded mainly through tuition paid by attending families. However, meeting the ever-changing needs of providing a 21st century Catholic education is a challenging task. We are committed to remaining competitive academically; dedicated to fostering growth in mind, body and spirit of each student; and determined to continue offering community activities and involvement to ensure a holistic approach to our mission of supporting families choosing Catholic education.

We count on the donations from our Annual Fund in order to sustain programs and activities not fully funded by tuition, as well as provide classroom resources, supplemental curriculum, tuition assistance, new technology, science opportunities, facility upgrades and the professional development of our staff.

As I write this, we are in week 7 of our Distance Learning Program. Like all local schools, we have temporarily closed our campus for the safety of students and teachers. Our teachers implemented our active Distance Learning Program on Monday, March 16th, not missing a single day of academic instruction. From Kindergarten to 8th grade, our students have continued with all aspects of their education. Core subjects including reading, language, math, social studies and science continue so that students stay on track with meeting state requirements. Additionally, the enrichment courses that make our program strong continue as well! Students are still receiving all of their instruction in Spanish, art and physical education.

What a difference your donation makes to our school and our students - even in a time of distance learning!

For example, last fall we were able to purchase more Google Chromebooks securing our goal of a 1:1 Chromebook to student ratio. Teachers immediately began utilizing the Chromebooks in their classrooms, Kindergarten through 8th grade, to enhance technology and sharpen academic skills. When our Distance Learning Program began, students were able to take home a Chromebook for their in-home studies, helping the transition from classroom to home easier.

The pandemic caused abrupt changes in our schools, workplace and homes. However, our Catholic faith has remained a priority as we navigate this situation together and continue to provide excellent academic curriculum to our students. Our community of families who have chosen Catholic education have found inner strength through their trust in God, and our deeply-rooted virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. We stand together, in support of one another, in support of our school and in support of Catholic education.

Won't you stand with us?

Stand with us for Catholic education.

Stand with us for SJCS, as we build a better tomorrow by forming young citizens of character and virtue.

Our Annual Fund goal this year is to raise \$15,000. Your donation can be a one-time gift, or a 12-month pledge. At this critical time, we need your support more than ever. Please prayerfully consider a tax deductible gift to St. Joseph Catholic School Annual Fund. From our entire school community, I thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Together in Faith,


Jenny Oliver, Principal

To donate, please use the enclosed envelope or donate online at:

WWW.SAINTJOSEPHAUBURN.ORG/ANNUAL-FUND

#WEARESJCS



A weekly art lesson is assigned for all grades. The landscape subject was especially fun for students who used everything from paint to clay to create their masterpieces.



Science continues for all grades. Kindergartners created globes during their lesson on planet Earth.



PE is also family time for many of our families who are enjoying living room yoga, neighborhood bike rides, and spring hikes together.



Our 1:1 Chromebook to student ratio has been made possible by the support of our fundraising events. Each student, K - 8th grade, was able to check one out to use for distance learning.



Teachers are using various online learning resources, Zoom, YouTube, Google Classroom and more to help effectively teach from a distance.

Our students made cards and notes for seniors in local nursing homes who were not allowed to have visitors.

