



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, PA

WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

At this writing, we are in our 16th week of in-person instruction. Who would have thought we'd make it this far?!! It's a true testament to the cooperative efforts of our students, families and building personnel. **Thank you!**

With the holidays approaching, we ask you to be prudent in your gatherings and honest in your school/athletics health screenings so we can protect our faculty, staff and coaches. Remember, quarantine is a requirement if you travel to a restricted state. This list is on the PA Department of Health [website](#). Also please be mindful of COVID-prevention best practices this week as you celebrate Thanksgiving.

Our Director of Development & Advancement, Susan Robinson Fruchtl, has launched our first official Annual Fund Appeal to benefit the Joseph's fund. This initiative is more important than ever with the postponement of our annual fall Gala and we would love to have 100% participation. No gift is too small and every prayer for a successful appeal is appreciated.

Infrastructure improvements continue, with a focus on school safety and technology. The recently upgraded Internet bandwidth and new modem should help alleviate some of our connection issues, with more improvements to come. And a new video system in the Rob and Alice Thomas Student Life Center will allow families to watch our indoor winter sports online this year if desired!

BOARD CALENDAR

September/October 2020:

- Began outlining high level Strategic Plan initiatives
- Approved final budget for 2020-21 academic year
- Began faculty/staff appreciation program in conjunction with school parents.

November/December 2020:

- Began drafting Strategic Plan actions
- Continuing infrastructure improvements

January 2021

- Board of Trustees membership expansion process begins
- Final revisions to Strategic Plan

THANK YOU FAMILIES!!

In August, we launched a new program to show appreciation to our faculty and staff each month. So many of you answered the call and we are so grateful! Our SignUp Genius is full through December. We will send a new one out to the whole school again in January for the second half of the year. Thank you so much for your generosity toward our faculty and staff!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

St. Joe's was awarded the following grants recently - way to go team!

- A CARES Act COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant (CRBG) of \$10,000 for technology upgrades to support our virtual learning program. Many thanks to Officer Franie Pollack, Business Manager Katie Sosnoskie, Trustee Jeff Dawson, and Dan Gochnour of Inshore Technology for pulling together the financial and technological requirements for the grant application.
- Theology faculty Nick Astle recently applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 Impact Grant by the Independent Catholic Foundation.
- A PA Department of Education Office for Safe Schools targeted safety grant in the amount of \$18,606.91. The grant funds will allow the school to purchase a second generator to support kitchen operations, classroom lock down shades, and security vinyl for the office windows.

Our final budget was approved at our October 12th Board meeting. We use a planning-oriented process that includes Board review 3 times per year:

- May: initial draft for next academic year
- October: budget approved once enrollment is finalized
- June: reconciliation of budget

With the ongoing restrictions caused by COVID-19, our traditional fundraisers - most of which involve large gatherings - remain in question for this academic year. Frugality and an increase in donations and EITC participants will continue to be critically important to a balanced budget.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy

Please pray aloud with your family

Almighty Father,

As we enter into this holiday season, let us remain focused on our blessings and those people who do so much to enrich our community. Continue to bless our faculty as they balance teaching virtually and in-person. Bless our staff and coaches who keep the safety of our community at the forefront of all decisions while creating as much normalcy as possible for our students. Bless our students who are being flexible and creative in finding ways to be connected and in community during this pandemic. Bless our Head of School, our School Chaplain and our Board of Trustees with wisdom and leadership as they enter into a strategic planning process to guide our school's next five years. And bless each SJCA family with an abundance of peace, joy and love this holiday season.

In this time of Thanksgiving, keep our eyes fixed on you and our hearts open to your voice and awesome presence in our lives. Draw us ever closer to you in gratitude for all we have - including the blessing of this community - as we place our trust in you.

Amen.

VISION, MISSION AND BELIEFS



VISION

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy develops the next generation of Christian leaders who embody our four pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership, and service.

MISSION

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy educates and prepares young women and men for lives of purpose in a global society through:

- a Catholic values-based environment that nurtures each individual's relationship with Jesus Christ
- a compelling and challenging curriculum focused on academic inquiry and critical thinking
- the identification, growth and development of personal leadership skills combined with the opportunity and courage to practice them
- engaged and generous community service and philanthropy
- a foundation of inherent caring, integrity and respect

WE BELIEVE

- Christ is the reason for this school, therefore we are all called to be visible signs of the Gospel message in our daily lives
- a Catholic education teaches faith, scholarship, leadership, and service
- faith formation is a collaboration between school, family and community
- each person has dignity and worth
- instruction and assessment must provide for the diverse needs and abilities of all students
- in continuous improvement through research, ongoing education, and implementation of best practices