



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, Boalsburg, PA

WELCOME TO 2021-22

Welcome to another school year - our 11th academic year! We've said it before but it bears repeating: we are so grateful for and proud of our faculty and staff and how they handled last year. They have been diligently preparing for our return all summer amidst the continuing uncertainty of COVID. It's hard to believe it's already the first week of school!

Our SJCA Health & Safety plan will be continuously updated and can always be found on our school website. Everyone's patient cooperation will be required again this year for us to be successful.

Together we will work diligently to provide an excellent education that embodies our pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership and service!

Board Calendar Items of Note Include:

August 2021:

- New Board Member Orientation

September/October 2020:

- Board Elections and Committee Assignments
- Development activities and EITC

Save the Dates for the Saint Joe's Gala on April 2 and the annual Golf outing June 6, 2022.



MEET THE NEW TRUSTEES

This year we have added five outstanding new contributors to our Board of Trustees. They gathered for New Member Orientation on August 9th in the Student Life Center. You can read more about each of them on pages 2 & 3. Please say hello to them when you see them at school events!

WELCOME FATHER PLEVA!

We are excited to welcome Father Michael Pleva as our Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy School Chaplain. Fr. Pleva is in his first year of assignment at Our Lady of Victory Parish. We are blessed to have him join our school family!

GET TO KNOW THE NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS



Anna Rupprecht; Historian and Educator

Anna is a history professor at Marywood University (Scranton, PA), a teaching consultant for Penn State University's Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Initiative, and a Homeschool Curriculum Advisor & Private Tutor.

Much of her professional work is within higher education with mentoring and teaching undergraduate students but also involves coaching and instructing high school students on college counseling. She feels called to share her experience with admissions and enrollment, curriculum advisement, and higher education learning to further the mission at Saint Joe's and support the efforts to prepare students for a successful and meaningful future. Her own choice to attend a Catholic college brought so many blessings and opportunities to her life; she hopes that by becoming and remaining "all in" at Saint Joe's, current and prospective students may come to learn the amazing ways that God acts through them when they choose a Catholic education as the foundation for their future.

Although she and her husband are relatively "new" parents (daughter Kennedy is two), they are sincerely committed to providing her with the opportunity to grow in God's grace within a tight-knit Catholic community centered on education and excellence.



Jamey Darnell; Professor, PSU Smeal College of Business

Jamey is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Management and Organization Department in Smeal. He has twenty years collegiate teaching experience including (but not limited to) Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, International Management, Ethics, and Organizational Behavior. In addition, he has more than five years collegiate administrative experience. When he was at the University of Florida, he was on the parish finance council and volunteered at the Catholic student center.

His daughter attends OLV and will be in 4th grade this year. He sends his child to Catholic school because he wants her to be educated in an environment that focuses on the whole person and facilitates spiritual development. Jamey wanted to join the Board at Saint Joe's because he believes he can contribute to ensuring it is a premier option for high school in the area.

How can YOU help?

A thriving private school community takes the time, talent and support of ALL of its members! Reach out to the school staff today to let them know how you would like to contribute.

GET TO KNOW THE NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS



Chris Rogan; Chief Engineer, Materials & Manufacturing, PSU ARL

All 5 of Chris' children attended Catholic School, including 2 Saint Joe's graduates and a current freshman. Chris was an active coach of youth sports at Our Lady of Victory where his wife Jennifer is the Administrator of the Preschool. They sent their children to Catholic school for the small classrooms, excellent academics, and most importantly for the strong formation in the Catholic faith.

A passionate supporter of Catholic education and Saint Joe's since its inception, he wanted to join the Board because he believes in the school's mission, and to help St. Joe's continue to stay strong and allow other Centre County families to experience the same benefits of Catholic education that his family has received over the past 20 years.



Michael Levandoski; Attorney

Michael is an attorney with Miller, Kistler & Campbell. He received his law degree from Duquesne where he experienced the positive difference in educational philosophy and day-to-day environment that a Catholic education provides. An active parishioner at St. John's in Bellefonte, he and his wife Aimee send their children to Catholic school because Catholic education not only enriches their mind, but also their soul.

In addition to his leadership with the Knights of Columbus in Bellefonte, he wanted to join the Board at St Joe's because he wants to help ensure a Catholic high school, and a Catholic education system in general, continues to thrive in Centre County for years to come.



Terry Shupp; Urban Planner (Retired) and Master's Student in Theology

Terry was responsible for the planning and implementation of Knox Counties Parks and Greenways Plan in Tennessee. With her move to State College, she served as Coordinators for the Hamer Center and the Pilot Program: Sustainable Communities for the Sustainability Institute. She's been retired since June 2014 and is currently taking classes in the Master of Theology program through Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Terry's grandchildren attend Catholic School and she believes that a Catholic education provides the fundamentals for Reading Writing, Science, History and Math enhanced by a fundamental understanding of who God is, why he created us and how we should live in accordance with His will, for Love.

Terry wanted to join the Board at Saint Joe's because she felt God's call to give back to the community and the Church by supporting the Church and the education of our youth in the faith.

VISION AND MISSION

As we enter our 11th academic year and prepare for our Middle States re-accreditation in 2021-22, the Board of Trustees is re-sharing our SJCA Vision and Mission statements. At our core we remain true to the objectives of our founders, and our four pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership, and service continue to provide a timeless foundation for our school community. The following vision and mission statements were approved by the Board in August 2020 and a Board strategic plan was approved in January 2021 to guide our growth and assessment for our next five years.

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

As part of the Middle States accreditation process, we are required to submit Belief Statements. We spent time this summer articulating these foundational tenants. 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

A Back-to-School Prayer for Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy

Please pray aloud with your family

Almighty Father,

As we enter into a new school year, let us rejoice and be glad in it. There is much uncertainty in our world and in our hearts. Draw us to moments of laughter and lightheartness over worry and fear. Bless our faculty as they educate our students and help them hone their academic strengths. Bless our staff and coaches who help our students explore their gifts and talents as they engage in creative and athletic activities.

Bless our students who are returning to school with excitement for the promise of a new year. Provide each student joy in the discovery of learning new things, confidence from finding solutions to challenging problems, and resilience to persevere. Bless our Head of School, our School Chaplain and our Board of Trustees with wisdom and leadership. And bless each SJCA family with health and secure employment.

Allow us all to find new ways to connect and support each other this year; to show love and be love to others as you love each of us at all times. Give each of us an extra measure of patience, grace, flexibility and kindness. Let us be grateful each day for the blessing of this community and for all that we have as we place our trust in you. Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Amen.