



StJP ACADEMICS

July 20, 2017

In This Issue

- Staffing
- Enrollment
- Curriculum
- A Clarification
- A Final Note

Our Students

• Pre-K 2	50
• Pre-K 3	47
• Pre-K 4	53
Total	150
• Kdg.	27
• Grade 1	29
• Grade 2	40
• Grade 3	32
• Grade 4	43
• Grade 5	30
• Grade 6	25
• Grade 7	45
• Grade 8	33
Total	304

Our Faculty: Past - Present - Future

We extend sincere gratitude to the following faculty members for their years of service to St. Joseph the Protector School and their commitment to Catholic education. We wish them great success in their future endeavors.

Mr. Jeffrey Baldasano	Ms. Alyssa Cherewaty	Ms. Lynn Frazer
Ms. Jeanette Gindhardt	Ms. Meghan Guerin	Ms. Dianne McGeer
Mrs. Dawn Perry	Ms. Deb Pio	Mrs. Liz Sabato

We are pleased to present to you our faculty for the 2017-2018 school year:

Mrs. Erin Burkholder	Mr. David Cipolla	Mrs. Christine Cleary	Mrs. Kelly Crawford
Mrs. Mary Cate Delia	Mrs. Lori Dolan	Mrs. Heather Doyle	Mrs. Annie Dwyer
Mrs. Noreen Eidenshink	Mrs. Alicia Farren	Mrs. Kathy Finke	Ms. Elva FitzGerald
Ms. Charlene Gallagher	Mrs. Liz Gullotti	Mrs. Heidi Hector	Ms. Terry Heinz
Mrs. Marie Ireland	Mrs. Suzanne Joyce	Mrs. Margie Kaczor	Sr. Sandra Kessler, SSJ
Mrs. Kaitlin Koch	Ms. Katie Kurtz	Ms. Samantha McGinley	Ms. Maureen McLaughlin
Mrs. Lisa Ortolani	Mrs. Maureen Phillips	Mrs. Kathy Pritz	Mrs. Maureen Reily
Ms. Kristin Rice	Ms. Darlene Sacco	Mrs. Mary Santarelli	Mr. Alex Schmauk
Mrs. Devin Sweeney	Mrs. Rose Violi	Mrs. Victoria White	

With interviews being conducted daily, it would be premature to provide to you specific grade level assignments at this time. We are committed to selecting qualified teachers to fill the positions that we have available. An update will be sent as soon as all openings have been filled.

Please know that efforts are being made to provide good classroom environments to students. One of the first steps in that direction is the creation of another First Grade homeroom.

A Word about Enrollment

We closed the 2016-2017 school year, with a total of 350 students in Saint Joseph the Protector School. We anticipate our opening enrollment to be 304 students. Why the decline in enrollment?

We graduated forty-two students while our incoming Kindergarten class totals twenty-seven students, as of this date. This is always a challenge when we lose a larger number of students than the incoming class. In addition, we lost thirty-one students for any number of reasons: moving, changing schools, etc.

We are currently still accepting students and you, our parents, are our best PR persons. We look forward to speaking with your friends and family with the positive referrals you have provided.

Future Topics

- July 27
Discipline at StJP
- August 3
Communication
- August 10
The Transition from a Regional School to a Parish School – Father Brandt
- August 17
TBA
- August 24
TBA

Contact Us

Mrs. Alicia Farren
www.stjpschool.org
afarren@stjpschool.info
215-884-0843

A Look at the Curriculum

We are aware of your concerns regarding our academic program from the questions you submitted, from parent emails, and individual appointments. We are making great efforts to ensure that our academic program has a sound, solid curriculum and follows both the Archdiocesan requirements and National standards. In planning for next year, we have taken a serious look at our classroom schedules in order to maximize daily instructional time as well as making significant changes to the calendar to eliminate half-days and holidays beyond those allowed by the Office of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Core Academic Areas

Our core academic areas will include Religion, English Language Arts (Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Writing), Mathematics/Honors Math, Science, Social Studies, and Specialty subjects (Technology, Music, Art, Library, and Physical Education).

Honors Math

Honors Math will continue to be offered to students in Grades 4-8 who meet the Archdiocesan criteria for acceptance into this program.

World Languages

The World Language program will be put on hold for this academic school year. Time needs to be given to researching the best practices for language programs in an elementary setting.

Instructional Practices

Collaborating with teachers, we are reviewing how our lessons, materials, and assignments best align with national and Archdiocesan academic standards. Part of this process includes increased coordination within grades levels as well as increased professional development offered to teachers. The Principal will be following up with individual and grade level teachers, supporting their work at regularly scheduled meetings and through ongoing guidance.

Co-Teacher or Educational Assistant?

Your comments and questions regarding the “co-teacher” position for single-class grades echo some of the same conversations we have been having over the past few weeks. In fact, part of our work has included reviewing the specifics of this role and writing the job description that is more appropriate for our school. We assure you that this “Educational Assistant” will play an important part in assisting both the teacher and the students in the classroom. It is this kind of attention to detail that drives each and every decision during this transition.

A Final Note...

Dear Parents and Community of Saint Joseph the Protector School,

As we navigate through this transition, I appreciate your questions and concerns. We are using this newsletter as a means to communicate more clearly and effectively. I am grateful for the positive comments, emails, and conversations I have had at school, at the pool, and in the neighborhood. As a parent of four StJP students, I am personally invested in the success of our students, our teachers and our academic program. Please join me in praying for blessings on our work and for our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alicia Farren, Interim Principal