



St. Joseph Catholic School

June 3, 2018

From the Principal's Desk

MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in Catholic faith, and committed to academic excellence, St. Joseph Catholic School develops personal responsibility, character, service, and leadership.

Thank You for a Wonderful School Year!

Thank you to all for the time, energy, spirit, talents, and gifts you have given to this 2017 - 2018 school year. Thank you for working together to build a strong school community. Our St. Joseph staff is grateful to all of our parents, grandparents, guardians, and community members who served on our School Board, advising and planning for our school, and this year, in particular, preparing for the State and Diocesan re-accreditation. We are grateful to the PTO officers and members who support varied activities that brought our school community together, and to our many parents who assisted by coaching and supporting our after-school programs. We appreciate, also, the many who have been involved in service within the school as room parents, library volunteers, lunchroom assistants, readers, chaperons, and assisting with many school and parish activities throughout the year. Our volunteers logged a total of 3,789 hours on Signup Genius alone!

Thank you, too, to our many teachers who helped with extra committee work and after school events and activities! What tremendous support was given during our 2017 - 2018 school year. Thank you for helping one another and for sharing the "St. Joseph Spirit".

Thank you to Fr. Tom, Fr. Lawton, and the pastors of our supporting parishes for their spiritual leadership. I feel honored to have ministered with an excellent faculty and staff who are so gifted and committed to Catholic education.

I am grateful to all of you, our parents, who are very involved and dedicated to our school's activities, and to our St. Joseph parishioners, who believe in and support our school. Your dedication was evident during the Giving Challenge and your support helped us move forward with our "Windows to the Future" project. Together, we have given life to a Catholic education that is rooted in faith and community.

And I want to express my gratitude to our children. My heart is filled with your love, hugs, smiles and a happy spirit, and I wish all of you a wonderful summer break. I'll look forward to your return on August 13th for our first day of school for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Have a wonderful summer!
Ms. Deborah Suddarth, Ed.S.

St. Joseph ITBS Scores for 2017 – 2018

On Sunday, the Bradenton Times reported that only 49% of the third graders in Manatee public and charter schools received a score of 3 or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts exam. This means that only 49% of the students were at, or above, grade level.

Several parents have asked how St. Joseph Catholic School students perform on their annual testing. Please see the attached report, which was shared with our school board. We can be very proud of our teachers and students.

Past Due Account & Family Service Hours

Families that opted not to complete the required service hours during the 2017 – 2018 school year will be charged for unmet hours. Contact must be made with Ms. Suddarth regarding your family's past due balance, if you need to make special arrangements and to set up a special payment plan for the summer. Report Cards will be held for any family who has not attended to past due balances.

From Broadcom MASTERS

[**Broadcom MASTERS** (Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars), is the premier science and engineering competition for middle school students.]



Congratulations to Nicolas Curci, who was recognized as a nominee for the **Broadcom MASTERS** national middle school science competition! Congratulations to St. Joseph Catholic School on this achievement!

Nicolas's selection as a Broadcom MASTERS nominee is a great honor—only the top 10% of science fair projects nationwide are selected for this opportunity. Nicolas will receive a t-shirt and bumper sticker, and could be named one of the Top 300 MASTERS (announced September 5th) or one of the 30 finalists (announced September 19th). The 30 finalists will gather in

Washington, DC for a week of competition—including presentation of the research project and hands-on science and engineering challenges. Top prizes include \$25,000, trips to STEM summer camps, and more. Schools of Broadcom MASTERS finalists each receive \$1,000 from the Broadcom Foundation.

Congratulations – Manatee County Bar Association Essay Winners



Amber Polis and Grace Pino received second and third place awards in the recent Manatee County Bar Association essay contest. The contest was sponsored for students in local private and public schools. Amber and Grace were honored with their parents at the MCBA's Law Day Luncheon on May 30th, at Pier 22 in downtown Bradenton.

End-of-Year Mass Celebration

Our kindergarten students had special parts during the Mass on the last day of school. Our little ones read the responsorial psalm, the intercessions, and helped carry the gifts to the altar. What an accomplishment as they get ready for first grade next year!



SUMMER LEARNING CHALLENGE

(Rising Kindergarten through Grade 8 Students)

www.ixl.com

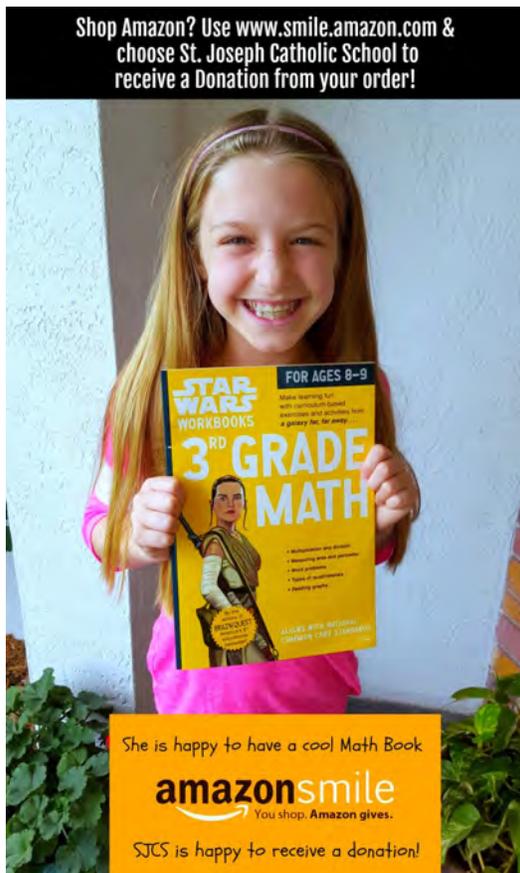


St. Joseph Catholic School students will have access to IXL all summer. Please check with your child regarding login information. IXL has been used for math at SJCS in classrooms and the computer lab. The program was recently expanded to include reading, science, social studies, and Spanish (Grades 2 – 8). Students may work at their own pace to improve their academic skills.

Why work during the summer? On average, students lose about two months of reading/math skills during the summer according to Oxford Learning and Harvard Education. In order to ensure students do not lose imperative skills during the summer, which creates an achievement gap, we would like all students to work on the IXL program, on skills that were learned throughout the school year.

Each week the top five students will be tracked for each grade level. When school resumes in August, students who completed at least one “virtual medal” in math and one in language arts will enjoy an ice cream party. In addition, the top three students (most time logged for practice) will receive award medals (real – not virtual) when students return to campus.

Please email Ms. Suddarth at dsuddarth@sjsfl.org, if your child needs login information.



***Don't forget to collect
Box Tops in your Ziploc
Bags this Summer!***

ITBS National Testing Scores 2017 - 2018

Florida public schools administer the FSA, which is a standardized norm-referenced test. Norm-referenced testing was developed in order to glean information in a quick and efficient manner. Norm-referenced testing compares the performance of the student taking the test, against the performance of the norm group. The norm-referenced group for the FSA is a representative sample of students across Florida who were tested the same year.

The Catholic Schools in the United States use the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills), a nationally norm-referenced test, which assesses student achievement in reading, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, writing, punctuation, research skills, math computation, problem solving, data interpretation, science, and social studies. The ITBS is norm referenced with students across the United States.

Students are tested in the spring to determine areas of strength, as well as areas for continued growth during the school year. Teachers can use this data as they review curriculum and plan for greater student achievement.

Overall, St. Joseph Catholic School students performed very well on these national tests. In the chart below, the first data column indicates the percentage of students scoring at, or above, grade level. The second data column indicates the percentage of students who scored in the top quarter of the nation. The data in the third column indicates students who achieved scores in the top 5% of the nation.

	<u>Students Scoring At or Above Grade Level</u>	<u>Students Scoring in the Top Quarter of the Nation</u>	<u>Students Scoring in the 95th - 99th percentile in one or more subjects (top 5% of the United States)</u>	<u>Grade Equivalent</u>
Grade 2	86%	82%	48%	3.3
Grade 3	86%	57%	20%	4.3
Grade 4	86%	50%	36%	5.8
Grade 5	93%	62%	38%	7.3
Grade 6	75%	42%	17%	7.4
Grade 7	88%	56%	38%	9.9
Grade 8	100%	81%	56%	12.1
School Average	88%	61%	36%	

We are very proud of our teachers and students who work hard each day to continue the St. Joseph Catholic School legacy of maintaining high academic excellence.

Due to the differences in the FSA and the ITBS, it is difficult to compare testing results. However, it is possible to compare percentages as related to At or Above Grade Level performance. For the 2016-2017 school year, Manatee County Public and Charter schools reported an At or Above Grade Level average in language arts as 50%, and the At or Above Grade level average of 56% for mathematics.