



St. Joseph Catholic School
11610 Atwood Road
Auburn, CA 95603



Annual Fund 2023

St. Joseph Catholic School

Dear St. Joseph Catholic School Supporter,

Since 1943, St. Joseph Catholic School has provided a strong Catholic education to the children in our community. We are proud to offer an outstanding academic curriculum while cultivating within our students the practice of the Catholic faith and a personal relationship with God. SJCS has been a proud part of the community for 80 years, and with your continued support, we can ensure that Catholic education in Auburn remains accessible and affordable for the next 80 years. We hope you will join us this fall for our 80th Anniversary Celebration on September 30th at The Ridge Golf Course & Event Center!

SJCS is funded primarily through tuition paid by school families. However, the cost of a Catholic education far exceeds what tuition covers. A 21st century education requires constant updates to technology and investment in modern curriculum. Ongoing expenses include facility upgrades, classroom resources, and ongoing educational and professional development for our faculty and staff.

Thanks to the generosity of our school families and community partners, we have recently had great success in making needed improvements around campus. You can read more in this newsletter about the newly completed playground as well as our dedicated art room and science lab!

We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to our 2023 Annual Fund. Through the continued support of donors like you, we can ensure that our students continue to have a well-rounded and virtuous experience for years to come. Donations can be made online at <https://saintjosephauburn.org/supportsjcs/donate-now>. If you prefer to write a check, we have included a remittance envelope for your convenience.

Thank you for your continued support of SJCS. We are committed to ensuring that our students have an academically challenging education in an environment that helps them grow in faith!

Sincerely,

Kristen Mendonsa

Kristen Mendonsa
Principal

Around Campus



Students enjoy the new playground structure funded by the generosity of supporters at last year's Gala.



Our annual Jog-A-Thon is the students' favorite fundraiser!

Follow us on
social media!



@sjcsauburnca

Fun for everyone!

- ◆ First Responders Day
- ◆ National Red Ribbon Week
- ◆ Catholic Schools Week
- ◆ Grandparents Day
- ◆ Spirit Rallies
- ◆ Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ Middle School Electives



Students see a helicopter up close on First Responders Day and dress in neon for "Our Future is Bright and Drug Free" during Red Ribbon Week!



80th Anniversary
Celebration

September 30, 2023
Ridge Golf Course & Event Center

Save the Date!
Crab Feed

January 27, 2024
Gold Country Fairgrounds

Cougar Classic
Golf Tournament

May 10, 2024
Dark Horse Golf Club

11610 Atwood Road • Auburn, CA 95603 • (530) 885-4490 • saintjosephauburn.org

Art Education

SJCS’s blessed to have a dedicated art program right here on campus! All students have weekly art lessons that teach age appropriate skills and styles. Mrs. Megan Phillips has done a phenomenal job of transforming our art room into a fun space for children to grow and express their individual creativity.

“Differentiation by age in art education ensures that students receive instruction and activities that are developmentally appropriate, engaging, and safe” says Mrs. Phillips. Younger students may focus on developing fine motor skills, while older students may explore art history or contemporary art practices. Introducing students to art history is important and I’ve had fun designing projects around what we have learned. “

Mrs. Phillips has big plans for the art program. This is only the beginning! Your annual Fund donations help keep the art program thriving.

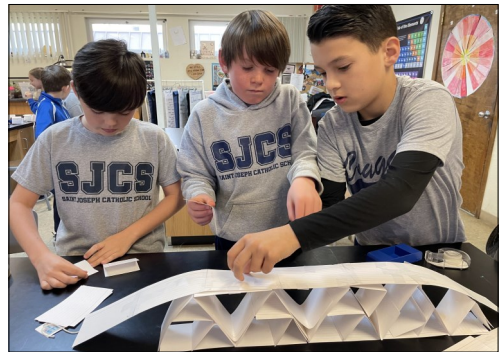


Science

Each week in our SJCS Science Lab, Mrs. Allison Rossiter shares her passion with students in grades 1-8 through hands-on learning. Students study biological sciences through the dissection of cow eyes and sheep hearts, as well as a look into a human heart with the help of a cardiothoracic surgeon. In physical sciences, students experience Newton's Laws through collision investigations and marble roller coasters. The study of geosciences allows the students to learn about the rock cycle and investigate the Theory of Plate Tectonics and Alfred Wegener's "tragic" tale. Chemical science includes identifying patterns of the periodic table and making copper seem to appear out of nowhere when combining copper sulfate with aluminum foil! Lastly, students explore space science by creating models of our solar system from many different perspectives.

In February, all grade levels participated in discussions and activities related to the 2023 Engineers Week theme: "Creating the Future". With help from SJCS parent Natalie King, PE and SJCS alumni Veronica Fisk, students explored the fields of aerospace, biomedical, chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. The science lab was full of excitement as students made home-made ice cream, tested paper towers and bridges against wind forces and vehicle loads, designed mechanical hands and air-powered rockets, and built artistic Wigglebots!

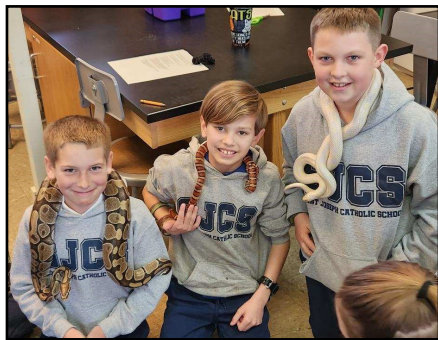
During Engineers Week, the 7th and 8th grade girls also participated in Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at CSU Sacramento where they observed concrete cylinder crushing, seismic shaking, groundwater infiltration demonstrations and more!



SJSC 3rd and 4th graders experimented with shapes such as triangles and arches to determine which can best support a load without collapsing. They then worked in teams building a bridge with index cards that will support a toy car



The 7th grade class enjoys a view of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge from the top of Hawk Hill on their overnight trip to the Marin Headlands.



Students get a visit from Amazing Animal World!



The 4th grade class at the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity.

Field Trips

Whether it is a blast from the past with a living history day at the Bernhard Museum, or a look into the future with Introduce A Girl to Engineering Day, our students are really going places! SJCS is excited to offer field trips for all grade levels. Field trips serve to enhance and enrich the curriculum by allowing students to experience their learning outside the classroom.

Our middle school program offers an overnight experience for each grade level. In the fall, 6th grade spent two nights learning about the natural sciences at Sierra Nevada Journeys in Portola, while 7th grade enjoyed learning about marine science at Nature Bridge Golden Gate in the Marin Headlands. The 8th graders loved their spring trip to Yosemite National Park!

Elementary class field trips include the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, the California State Capitol, Aerospace Museum, CSUS Planetarium, Bernhard Museum, Roseville Utility Center, Foothills Bowl, Roseville Theatre Arts Academy and more! Plus we have had several on-campus experiences with Camp Learn-A-Lot and Amazing Animal World bringing the fun to campus!

Thank you to all the teachers and parent volunteers who make these field trips possible!

Faith-Fueled Education

Every morning, our school community gathers around the quad to begin the day with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Students are introduced to a new virtue bi-weekly which is incorporated into the classroom learning and activities. Each Wednesday students attend Mass at St. Teresa of Avila Church. Classrooms take turn hosting mass and donating non-perishable food which is donated to the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet.

We continue our monthly Religious Enrichment classes with Mrs. Erika Manley in all grade levels, where students connect with the Catholic faith in an engaging and age appropriate manner. SJCS students are also grouped into Faith Families which unite small

groups of students of varying grade levels and one staff member to create community and share our faith. On Student Appreciation Day, Faith Families participated in a Bingo scavenger hunt and for Holy Thursday, the students shared a Last Supper prayer service.

We are thrilled that our students are enjoying our new religion curriculum— *Finding God* by Loyola Press. *Finding God* is a multigrade program which focuses on discipleship and is rooted in Scripture, teachings of the Catholic Church, and the rich tradition of the spirituality of Saint Ignatius. This modern curriculum meets our students’ needs through engaging activities that help them find God in their daily lives.



Student Alter Servers at our weekly all-school Mass.