

St. Joseph's School Today



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL | NURTURING EXCELLENCE FOR 115 YEARS!

Fall 2015 Newsletter

2015-16 School Year is Off to a Great Start!

Dear St. Joseph's School Community,

School is in full swing, and there is a lot of excitement on campus! We have a new playground/parking lot on the corner of 8th and Hays, and it was a wonderful collaboration of school and parish.

Thank you for being part of our community. Faith is central to all that we do. We celebrate Mass each Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Cathedral; all are welcome to attend. We also host a monthly weekend Mass at St. John's Cathedral. Please plan to join us: Sun. Dec. 13,

10 am; Sun. Jan. 24, 11:30 am; Sat. Feb. 6, 5 pm; Sun. Mar. 13, 10 am; Sat. Apr. 30, 5 pm; and Sun. May 15, 1 pm.

Academics are also of utmost priority. In the graduating class of 2015 from Bishop Kelly High School, 10 of the 29 valedictorians were from St. Joseph's Catholic School. We are proud that students leave our school prepared to excel at the next level.

Our school is accredited by the National Catholic Educational Association. Every six years, our school prepares a status report, and a team visits our school to provide

additional oversight on our goals and progress. Our visit will be February 3-5, 2016. All of our staff members have been busy preparing our self-study and creating goals to guide our school improvement over the next five years. We will be sharing those goals as they are finalized, and we appreciate your continued help and support as we work toward those goals.

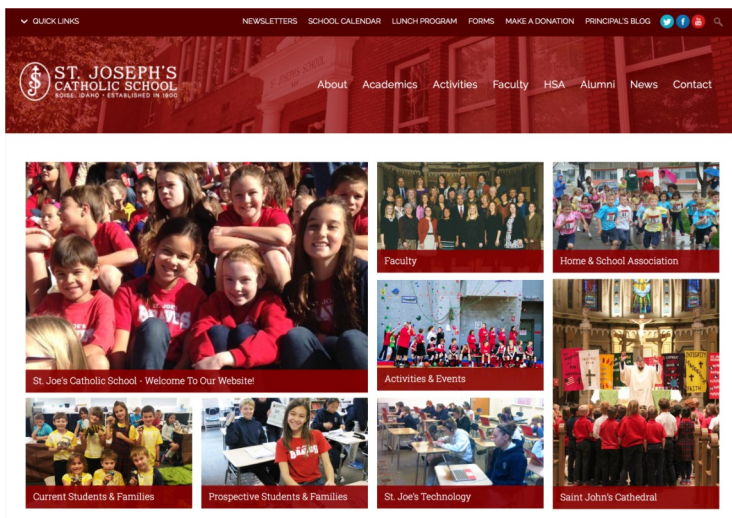
Thank you for continuing to support our community with your prayers, your time, your talent, and your monetary gifts.



Dr. Sarah Quilici
Principal

Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After laying His hands on them, He departed from there.
-Matthew 19:13-15

St. Joe's Rolls Out New Web Site



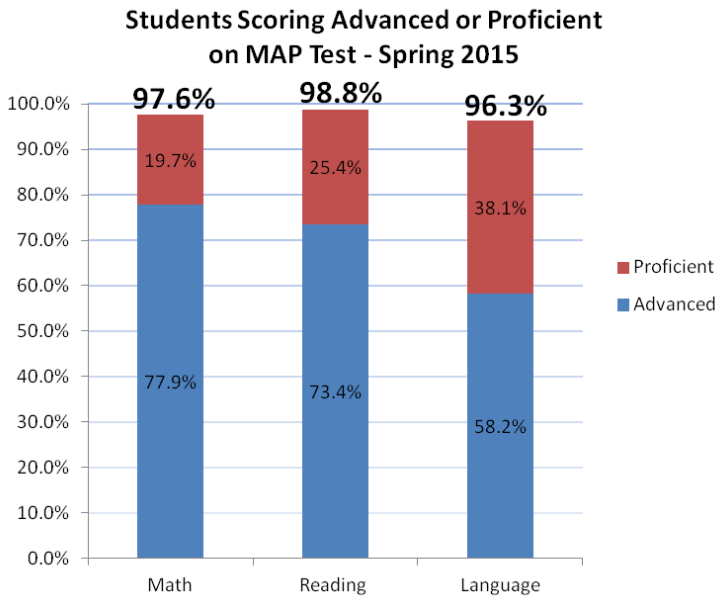
Visit www.stjoes.com, and check out our new and improved web site! We have improved functionality, while continuing to provide information to current and prospective students and families. It is also mobile-friendly for smart phones and other devices...a must in today's world!

The future of St. Joseph's has been entrusted to us and depends on each of us to contribute our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. In order to keep

tuition as affordable as possible, we rely on donations to enable our school to provide an exceptional Catholic education to the children of our community. Please remember St. Joe's in your donation plans for 2015. The "Make a Donation" section at www.stjoes.com offers several online giving opportunities. Thank you for your continued support of St. Joseph's!

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Spring 2015 MAP Scores Show Impressive Growth



St. Joe's administers the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test each fall and spring to students in grades 2-8. Students are tested in the areas of reading, language, and math, as well as a science assessment for 5th and 7th grade students.

During the 2014-15 academic year, the school transitioned to web-based MAP testing, completing testing in one week's time with minimal interruption to students' education.

On average, our students grew 9.8 points from fall 2014 to spring 2015, with almost all students scoring in the proficient or advanced

categories. Overall, St. Joe's students are performing above the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) median, and most of the students are proficient or advanced in math, reading, and language.

The NWEA is a global, not-for-profit educational services organization. More than 7,400 partners in U.S. schools, districts, education agencies and international schools use its assessments. MAP accurately measures student growth and learning needs, professional development that fosters educators' ability to accelerate student learning, and research that supports assessment validity and data interpretation.

Class of 2015 News and Achievements



Cooper Conger received the Sterling Humanitarian Award



Mackenzie Allred received the Annual Mayors Award to Youth.



Porter Ludwig, Zoe McCormick and Nicholas Russell won the Outstanding Citizen Awards. These three students exhibit the qualities of spirituality, academics, social skills, citizenship, and physical activity that we hold as our school-wide learning expectations. Their names will be added to the perpetual plaque honoring the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who ran the school until the 1970's.



Middle School Students are Idaho Science Olympiad Champions!

Once again, St. Joe's had a banner year at the 2015 Idaho Science Olympiad! Our middle school teams won **first** and **second** place overall, PLUS 11 gold, 9 silver, and 11 bronze medals in the individual events. St. Joe's had seventy-five 7th and 8th grade students competing on six different teams in 23 events.

Science Olympiad was founded in 1983 to increase student interest in science. Since 1983, the Olympiad movement has grown to all 50 states and Canada. It truly is a STEM competition with events ranging through all science disciplines.

Each student was allowed to compete in three events, and from their performance at the state competition, 15 students were selected to compete at the National Science Olympiad competition at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln May 15-16. Way to go, Braves!



Welcome New Faculty!



Mr. David Maxwell (Reading, English, Study Habits elective) moved to Boise eight years ago from sunny San Diego, CA. He and his wife have three children, the oldest of whom is a first grader at St. Joe's. Mr. Maxwell has a BA in English (Writing Emphasis) and an MA in Cross Cultural Education. He has been teaching English at the high school level for 13 years, and serves as assistant coach for girls' basketball at Boise High School.

Other than his family, he can be found spending plenty of time with a basketball (his favorite sport), a good novel, surrounded by music, or a pen and paper. He loves to write poetry and recently started writing a short story. Mr. Maxwell is looking forward to contributing to the St. Joe's community and starting a new and fresh chapter as an educator and learner.

Senora Mercedes Olivares (Spanish, 6th and 7th Religion) was born and raised in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico, as part of a traditional Catholic family. Sra. Olivares earned a bachelor's degree in Tourism and Humanities at the University of Guadalajara, completed an English teacher's certificate in Guadalajara and has studied in Spain.

After moving to the United States in 1998, she completed the NFHS Coaches Education Program and worked as a conditioning trainer with an Emmett high school soccer team.

Sra. Olivares has taught Spanish at Berlitz Language Center, a local preschool. She has taught Spanish at several schools in Boise and Meridian, tutors high school students, taught first and eighth grade Spanish at St. Mark's Catholic School and Boise State University. She is currently seeking her Masters Degree in Bilingual Education.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

2015-16 STUDENT-LED MASSES AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

- TUES. 11/24/15 - 8:30 AM
(GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS MASS)
- SUN. 12/13/15 - 10 AM
- SUN. 1/24/16 - 11:30 AM (CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK KICKOFF)
- SAT. 2/6/16 - 5 PM
- SUN. 3/13/16 - 10:00 AM
- SAT. 4/30/16 - 5 PM (FIRST COMMUNION)
- SUN. 5/15/16 - 1 PM

51ST ANNUAL CRAB FEED DINNER AUCTION

- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016 AT THE GROVE HOTEL

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Home and School Association: “Because we can—and because we’re needed...”



Elizabeth Barry
2015-16 HSA President

*So then, as we
have opportunity,
let us do good to
everyone, and
especially to those
who are of the
household of faith.*

-Galatians 6:10

When I was growing up, most holidays found my mother, my brother and me sitting around the dinner table or the Christmas tree with a handful of friends or acquaintances that would otherwise be alone for the holiday. Although occasionally we had regular visitors, often times they were strangers to my brother and me and only recent contacts of my mother. If it wasn't holidays at our house, it was weekends of cleaning, cooking, or just visiting at the homes of those in need. Our household was one where you would often hear my mother remind us that “the best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm.”

When my husband, Dean, and I enrolled our children at St. Joe's two years ago, it seemed only natural to find that 'helping hand' of mine and get involved. I'll admit, finding the time these days is a lot more challenging than it was when I was younger. As

parents of two, who work outside the home and also own a small business, time is often a luxury that we rarely find. But when my daughter asked me why we were spending a Saturday afternoon raking leaves for the elderly last fall, I found myself answering her just as my mother answered me long ago, “Because we can—And because we're needed.”

St. Joe's recognizes the challenges of being a parent today and works to strengthen the partnership of families, faculty, and the community through the HSA. With a focus on volunteering, fundraising and community service, the HSA builds paths for all families to participate in a way that best meets their schedules and commitments. The variety of volunteering options, hours and commitment levels are designed to align with the variety of external family obligations we each have. I am honored to serve the HSA hand-in-hand

with an amazing group of officers. While this Board leads the overall efforts of the HSA, every parent is a member of this team. As such, I am honored to walk this path hand-in-hand with each of you as well.

Although my family has been at St. Joe's for a relatively short time, I continue to be amazed by the parents, teachers, alumni and other supporters of the school that have built such a strong and supportive community. Whether in celebration, or in unfortunate times of sadness, this group is tireless in their love, support and friendship. We make a difference every day in the lives of the St. Joe's students and families. And we do it 'because we can—and because we're needed.'

Please reach out to me or any of the HSA officers at any time with questions or comments. Thank you for all that you do – It does not go unnoticed.