New School Year Brings Changes, Familiar Faces!

Summertime was anything but lazy for Academy students, staff and faculty! Students worked in prestigious internships at such institutions as the Cleveland Clinic and NASA, attended seminars and classes at Boston University and Johns Hopkins University, and traveled to other countries for missionary service. We will be recounting their experiences over the next few weeks in newsletters, starting with junior Liyanna Chandler-Nieves’ summer experiences in this issue!

While students were away, there was a remarkable transformation on campus! Construction that started in March on an expanded dining hall, rain garden, porch and terrace was finished. Parents, make sure you stop by and visit the new space if possible (sneak peek on page 2)!

New teachers have joined the SJA staff (see the story later in this newsletter) and, returning to our busy halls, we again welcome Dr. James Cantwell as Interim Principal!

Assistant Principal Emily Hanson and Dean of Women Marie Ciolek have been hard at work over the summer, ensuring that new initiatives such as the AVID College Readiness Program and the Advanced Placement International Diploma are ready and in-place for students. The Academy now offers 13 Advanced Placement courses. To date, the AP enrollment is higher than any time in the school’s history with more than 200 students (30 percent of the student body) participating in the offerings.

Last but certainly not least, the SJA website was redesigned and revamped, hopefully making it easier for parents and students to navigate.

It’s a great time to be a Jaguar. Sursum Corda! Lift up your hearts!

Déjà Vu All Over Again

I am both thrilled and blessed to once again be back as SJA’s interim principal. There have been some wonderful changes since I was here during the 2010-2011 school year. The building has taken on a whole new look with the addition of the new dining area, multiple classroom improvements and a wonderful outside area. New initiatives have broadened academic offerings. Most important though is that the same contagious spirit of a faith-based education is alive and well! This year’s charism theme is “We Are One With Creation,” as we care for Earth and all living creatures. I can tell already that it’s going to be a great year indeed!

~James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.
Junior Spends Summer Helping Others

You think your summer flew by? Here’s what junior Liyanna Chandler-Nieves did over break: “I was a camp counselor at the Arrupe Summer Camp at the Urban Community School, where I did 150 hours of service with the children at the camp. I also participated in the ‘Look Up to Cleveland’ Summer Leadership Academy, which provided me with skills that will be useful every day! After that, I went to El Salvador on a mission trip.”

“I loved being a positive example to the children in Arrupe,” shared Liyanna. “At the Summer Leadership Academy, through the Cleveland Leadership Center, I learned that the three things a good leader needs are to have an open mind, to embrace change, and to think outside the box.”

Finally, Liyanna experienced the joy and hardships of the children of El Salvador. “I was in El Salvador for six days with Father Robert Reidy from La Sagrada Familia parish. I learned that there are people in the world who have close to nothing, but have all the faith in the world.”

Liyanna will start her junior year after a summer of growing as a person and in her faith. Congratulations!

New VP of Mission to Promote Charism, Values of CSJs

Sister Phyllis A. DiFuccia, SSJ, from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern PA, has joined SJA as the Academy’s first Vice President of Mission. The role Sister Phyllis fills is vital to the school’s basic mission: She will promote the values and charism of the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ) and oversee the integration of CSJ values and charism into all aspects of life at the Academy.

In addition, Sister Phyllis will serve on the SJA Leadership Team, bringing the lens of the CSJ charism to bear on all planning and decision-making. Among her duties will be providing mission orientation for all new administrators, faculty, staff and board members. The teachers of our CORE (Christian Outreach and Religious Education) Ministry department will continue to have responsibility for the students in the classroom, on retreats and for service work, with Sister Phyllis serving in a consultative role.

Sister Phyllis brings with her a wealth of experience that includes serving on her Congregational leadership team, working as Director of Mission Effectiveness in a health system, and leading the all-girls Catholic high school Villa Maria Academy in Erie, PA. Sister Phyllis was also a member of the research team that studied the beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph in France.

Welcome, Sister Phyllis!

Sneak peek

Remember the old cafeteria? It is has been replaced with a sleek, spacious and roomy dining hall. Years of planning and months of hard work have transformed the space into an area that is truly “One with Creation” thanks to a wall of windows. Stay tuned for more pictures!

Weekly Lunch Menu

September bookstore hours
New Teachers Join SJA

In addition to welcoming 655 students to SJA this school year, 2012-13 also brings new teachers to the our hallowed (and sometimes noisy!) halls. Let us extend a warm SJA welcome to:

Mary Ellen (Foley) Scott ’76 – Science and Engineering/Pre-Engineering. Mrs. Scott is an SJA alumna and well known in the field of women in engineering. She earned both her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree and her Master’s degree in engineering from the University of Notre Dame. She has been teaching Pre-Engineering and Physics at St. Edward High School for the past nine years and we are glad to have her back at her alma mater!

Elizabeth Pillari – CORE Ministry. Ms. Pillari also is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where she majored in Theology, with a minor in Education, Schooling and Society. After her graduation, she served one year as a teacher through the Lasallian Volunteers program in Yakima, Washington and has also lived and worked in a lay community with the Madonna House in Ontario, Canada.

Lisa Previts – Mathematics. Mrs. Previts recently taught Math in our Summer Enrichment Program. She earned her undergraduate degree in Education and Integrated Mathematics from Kent State University, and her Master’s degree in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from Cleveland State. Mrs. Previts also has experience in engineering and robotics, which will enrich our program.

Ethan Saurwein – Spanish. Mr. Saurwein joins SJA after teaching in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. He earned his undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Spanish Translation at Kent State University and his M.Ed. from Cleveland State University. He has studied internationally in San Jose, Costa Rica and Seville, Spain, and spent a year teaching near Madrid, Spain.

“We are very excited to have such a talented group of teachers join the Saint Joseph Academy team,” shared Principal James Cantwell. “It is going to be a great school year!”

Athletic Boosters Donate Van

Academy athletes will travel in style starting this year, thanks to the generous donation of a van by the school’s Athletic Boosters. The van - decked out in a Jaguar “wrap” - will be used primarily to transports student athletes.

“When raising money for a van was first proposed, I remember thinking that it was a far-fetched dream. Just goes to show you that through hard team work and perseverance of some really great Athletic Booster members (both past and present), dreams can become a reality,” shared Terri Costanzo ’79, former Athletic Boosters VP. “We love the van and are so grateful!” stated Athletic Director Jen Amodio.

The eye-catching design for the van was created by SJA graphic designer Laura McCarty ‘07.

All-Sports Picnic

SJA Athletes enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon of getting reacquainted and meeting new friends during the traditional beginning-of-the-year All-Sports Picnic.

“It was a wonderful afternoon,” shared Athletic Director Jennie Amodio. “It was great seeing all our athletes again after a long, hot summer!”

Click here to download a student directory order form.
Wednesday, September 19, 2012 is an all-school testing day at Saint Joseph Academy. Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 will be taking the following standardized tests.

The **Freshmen** will be taking the **EXPLORE** test. The EXPLORE test is a curriculum-based assessment program developed by ACT to help students build a high school course plan that prepares students for college, work, and introduces students to career options. The test is a means of helping students understand their academic strengths and weaknesses and can be used for future educational planning both in high school and beyond. The EXPLORE consists of four tests of educational development (English, Math, Reading, and Science) which parallel the actual ACT test and also contains a career interest inventory. The EXPLORE scores provide early indicators of whether students are on track for college.

The **Sophomores** will take the **PLAN** test which is also a curriculum-based assessment developed by ACT. The PLAN is designed to provide tenth grade students, parents, teachers, and counselors with information that can be used to further guide students in course selection and post-secondary planning. The PLAN has three components: an achievement component with tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning; an interest inventory designed to provide further help in career planning; and a self-reported needs assessment that identifies areas in which the student indicates where she needs academic help. A student’s performance on the achievement section of the PLAN is a very strong predictor of success on the ACT.

The **Juniors** will take a **Practice ACT (PRACT)** which is designed to help gauge a student’s achievement in their high school coursework and to provide additional assistance in preparing the student for the actual ACT. This test can also help to measure progress since taking the PLAN test. The PRACT test includes the multiple-choice tests in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The ACT Writing test is not included. **Since this test is strictly a practice test**, scores are not reported to colleges and the results are not considered in the college admission process. A personalized report will be given to each student.

In order to help you plan your daughter’s transportation, we are offering the following **approximate dismissal times** for the various grade levels: **Grade 9, 11:20 am; Grade 10, 11:35 am; Grade 11, 11:50 am.**

Counselors are meeting with all students to explain the tests and to review test formats and scoring. Each student has been given a Test Preparation Booklet and packet which includes a practice test that counselors have encouraged students to take as preparation for their respective tests.

When the test results arrive, counselors will again meet with students to interpret their individual results.

These tests are very important in measuring your daughter’s progress and potential. Saint Joseph Academy utilizes the scores of these assessments to gather data for continuous school improvement. Please encourage your daughter to come well rested and prepared to do her best on Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Maryann Marek, Guidance Counselor, at mmarek@sja1890.org or call 216-251-6788 Ext. 211.
**Crew**

Students interested in Crew for the Fall 2012 season are still eligible to join. Practices are held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays at Rivergate Park, 1003 British Street, Cleveland. New athletes should arrive at least 15 to 20 minutes before practice.

Mandatory team forms and more information available at: https://sites.google.com/a/sjastudents.org/sja-crew/. All forms must be turned in prior to participating in practices.

There will be a mandatory parent meeting for new rowers at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 5, in Rivergate Park at the boathouse.

For more information, please contact Coach Rob Zdankiewicz at rzdankiewicz@sja1890.org

**Fundraiser:** You can help Crew raise money for boats and other equipment by purchasing a College Football Mania ticket. For $10 you get music and book downloads and a FootballMania sweepstakes game card for 10 weeks of play. Each week participants are assigned three randomly chosen college football teams.

You can purchase tickets through Friday, September 21, one of three ways:

1. Contact any student in Crew.
3. E-mail Kathleen Hegeman at k.hegeman@oh.rr.com.

---

**Volleyball**


Also on Saturday, JV had a 2-1 record at the Wadsworth Tournament, beating Walsh Jesuit 25-18, 26-24; Medina 14-25 25-18 26-24; and losing to Wadsworth 17-25, 26-24, 11-25.

**Fundraiser:** Come join the team at Plank Road Tavern in Lakewood from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, September 7. $20 at the door will get you pizza, wings, salad, draft beer, well drinks and pop! There will be a 50/50 raffle, side boards, and Browns squares for the home opener against the Philadelphia Eagles on September 9. For questions about the all-adult event, contact Coach Mike Mileti at mmileti@sja1890.org.

---

**Soccer**

On Monday, August 20, the Jaguars opened the season visiting the Amherst Comets. In an action-packed back and forth game, Varsity tied the Comets 5-5. Senior Niki Mikolcic scored three goals. Sophomore Jackie Harter was awarded an assist on one of Niki’s goals. Junior captain Ali DeCrane scored with an assist from senior Moria McGuire, and junior Catherine Carey scored with an assist by Niki. JV lost 1-5. Sophomore Allie Hippler scored for the Jags.

On Wednesday, August 22, Varsity lost to the Avon Eagles 0-2. JV shut out the Eagles 1-0. Sophomore and Avon resident Allie Hippler scored the Jaguar JV goal with 28 seconds left in the game.

On Thursday, August 23, Varsity beat the Chardon High School Hilltoppers 6-3. Senior Niki Mikolic scored her second hat trick of the season by scoring three goals and one assist. Juniors Nicole Rave and Caroline Becker and sophomore Amanda Burns scored one goal each. Senior Moira McGuire and juniors Catherine Carey and Ashley Santora had assists. Seniors Chelsea Hirzel and Nicole Rave had excellent games splitting time in goal.

JV shut out the Hilltoppers 7-0. Allie Hippler ’15 had a hat trick (three goals), Clare Sonby ’15 and Megan Traine ’14 scored two goals. Junior Jessica Runyon had one goal and four assists. Sophomore Grace Reinhold and freshman Mary Hirzel recorded an assist. Junior Courtney Kuntz and sophomore Becky Tent shut out the Hilltoppers in goal.

On Saturday, September 1, the Jags will take on Olmsted Falls High School. JV starts at 1 p.m. and Varsity plays at 3 p.m. Both games will be held behind Olmsted Falls Middle School.
Tennis

On Monday, August 20, Varsity lost to Avon High School 0-5.

At the Lakewood Doubles Tournament August 16 & 18, Brooke Kahl ‘14 and Claire Violand ‘13 finished 5th overall as individuals in the Lakewood Doubles tournament on August 18. Overall the Jags took 3rd out of 6 teams.

On August 17, Varsity beat Wadsworth 5-0 in the first round of the OTCA Team Tournament. Results were: Missy Drapac ‘14 won 6-1, 6-2; Brooke Kahl won 6-4, 6-4; Ellen Saracina ‘13 won 7-5, 2-6, 6-2; Claire Violand ‘13/Sidney Rubensaal ‘14 won 6-2, 6-2; Emily Rouse ‘14/Grace Powers ‘14 won 6-7, 6-3, 6-2

On August 20, Varsity won against Strongsville 5-0. Missy Drapac won 6-3, 6-1; Brooke Kahl won 6-1, 6-2; Ellen Saracina won 6-4, 6-2; Claire Violand/Sidney Rubensaal won 6-3, 6-1; Emily Rouse/Grace Powers won 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Varsity also won on August 21 against Brush High School 5-0. Missy Drapac won 6-0, 6-1; Brooke Kahl won 6-3, 6-2; Ellen Saracina won 6-1, 6-1; Claire Violand/Sidney Rubensaal won 6-2, 6-1; Emily Rouse/Grace Powers won 6-3, 6-2.

Varsity lost on August 23 against Bay High School 4-1. Missy Drapac lost 1-6, 0-6; Brooke Kahl won 6-4, 6-3; Ellen Saracina lost 1-6, 6-3, 1-6; Claire Violand/Sidney Rubensaal lost 3-6, 4-6, 5-7; Emily Rouse/Grace Powers lost 6-7, 2-6, 3-6.

JV

Since the season started, JV lost to Avon high School 0-5; won against Strongsville 4-1; won against Brush 4 -1; and lost to Bay Village 5-0.

Golf

On August 13, the Jaguars had a strong start at the North Olmsted Invitational with a second-place finish with a score of 178 for 9 holes. Team medalist was Alex Mills ’13 with a score of 41.

On August 15, the Jags finished ninth out of 18 teams at the Padua Tournament at Pine Hills with an 18 hole score of 395. Alex Mills was the team medalist with a score of 94.

On August 22, the Jaguars played in a tri-match at Fowlers Mill Golf Course. NDCL team scored 167, Hathaway Brown team scored 175 and our SJA squad scored 195. Kaitlin Rose ’15 was the team medalist with a score of 43. This was followed by on August 23 at Seneca Golf Course, with the team scoring 183, gaining a victory over Laurel (185) and Padua (229). The top scorer was Kaitlin Rose shooting a 42, Alex Mills had a 43, and breaking into the 40s for the 1st time with a 49 was Katie Battaglia ‘13.

Cross Country

Cross Country began its season on Saturday, August 25, finishing 2nd out of 19 teams at the Berkshire Early Bird Invitational. SJA finished just 11 points behind Chardon High School, who took three of the top four spots. The Jaguars didn’t have the front runners, but they had the best depth as their 4th and 5th runners were better than any other schools.

Leading the way in 8th place overall was junior Rachel McGuire, in a time of 20:52, and senior Emily Bauer (10th, 20:57). Next came senior captain Jill Bresnahan (17th, 21:32) and junior Alesha Vokv (18th, 21:34). The rest of the top seven were senior Mel Ward (25th, 21:56), sophomore Mallory Fahey (26th, 21:57), and senior Jessica Bresnahan (28th, 22:10).

The team competes Saturday, September 1, at the Westerville North Invitational.