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Upcoming Events

December 9
Financial Aid Night, College Now, for seniors and their parents, 7-8:30 p.m., auditorium.

December 10
Family Advent Night, 7-9 p.m., at SJA.

Parents: At a Glance

December 7
At 4 p.m., we will be conducting a test of the emergency alert system.
Please notify Dean of Women Marie Ciolek here if you do not receive a message.

January 7
*Change*
No school;
Teacher Professional Development Day
for International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme training.
*This is a change from the calendar sent out in August.*

December 1-11
Ohio Department of Education Testing
Freshmen and Sophomores only.
Letters have been sent to parents.
Questions? Email Guidance Counselor Maryann Marek here.

December 9
Financial Aid Night. College Now will present an overview of the financial aid process.
December 15
Key Club Blood Drive, auditorium, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

December 16
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

December 17
Christmas Concert, 7-9 p.m., at SJA.

December 18
Christmas at the Academy, girls in grades 2-6. Crafts, fun activities. 6:30-8 p.m., at SJA. $5 donation. Also collecting canned food for local food pantries. Register here.

December 23-January 7
No school, Christmas break.

January 7
No school. Faculty Professional Day for International Baccalaureate / Middle Years Programme training. This is a change from the calendar sent out in August.

January 8
School resumes.

Spotlight

Name: Bri Scebbi ’17

Accomplishment: Bri recently initiated a campaign through the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club to create and sell a bumper sticker about the dangers of distracted driving for senior students and parents. 7-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Juniors and their parents are also welcome.

December 17
Christmas Concert, 7-9 p.m., in auditorium.

Inspirational 'Violins of Hope' Concert by The Cleveland Orchestra

The story is one that brings tears to the eyes of even the most hardened: 19 Jewish-owned violins that survived the Holocaust have been painstakingly restored after decades of being hidden because of painful memories. The instruments, brought back to life by Israel master violin maker Amnon Weinstein, were played in concentration camps while inmates marched to work, to entertain the guards, and even to distract those being led to the gas chambers.

More than 30 SJA Orchestra and English 10 students were able to experience the inspiring tones of these "Violins of Hope" in a special concert today by The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall.

Full Story

Awe-inspiring Tour of Innerbelt Bridge Construction for Students

Donning bright yellow safety vests, clear goggles and vibrant blue hard hats, students donned their protective gear and were led around the construction site. They were able to see the massive concrete columns and steel beams that make up the bridge. The tour was a great opportunity for students to learn about the engineering and construction processes involved in building such a large-scale project.
Fun Facts: "I am so passionate about SADD because everything the club does sends a positive message," shared Bri. "Several of the topics we cover hit close to home for each member of the club. The fact that the topics we talk about can actually help people is great!"

"The bumper sticker idea was one we really wanted to do last year because distracted driving is a relevant topic for SJA since a lot of girls drive to school," said Bri. "We thought bumper stickers would be a great reminder to everyone to drive safely. With the help of Kaitlyn Nieto ’17, Paw Prints Store manager Colleen Welsh DeVenney ’94, and Graphic Designer Laura McCarty ’07, we were able to create a sticker that does just that - and shows Jaguar pride!"

In addition to working with SADD, Bri is a co-founder of the Big Jag/Little Jag Club to increase unity between classes, as well as the co-editor of the sports page of the Jaguar Beat. "I'm also a communications intern for Athletic Director John Manuszak and write sports reports for the school website. And I've been a member of the rugby team since freshman year," she shared.

Bri's volunteer activities also include tutoring young students at the Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy. "I tutor four kindergartners in letters, numbers, and basic reading and writing."

Negotiating the bumpy dirt site under the towering arched pillars and open gridwork of the bridge, students were treated to inside information from Karen Lenehan, spokeswoman for the joint venture in charge of construction -- Trumbull Corporation, Great Lakes Construction Co. and The Ruhlin Co. She explained that the work on the eastbound George V. Voinovich Bridge started at Pier 8, simply because that was the area first cleared of steel debris after the implosion of the old Inner Belt Bridge. The massiveness of the $273 million, 13-pier project was instantly apparent as the students peered up at half-constructed spans, arching like sails against a fog-shrouded downtown skyline. Full Story

Here is a link to a photo album of their trip.

Students Stand Out in Model United Nations

Four students won awards this week at the two-day, Cleveland Council on World Affairs Model United Nations, held at Lorain County Community College.

Accompanied by Social Studies teacher Lisa Lesh, 33 students attended the Model UN, representing Turkey, Spain, Colombia and France. Two of our delegations received awards: Cari Cutler ’16 and Maggie Weaver ’17 received the best Position Paper Award for the High Commission for Refugees; and Cailey Leahy ’18 and Karli DeChant ’18 received the Excellent Delegation Award, also for the High Commission for Refugees. Full Story

Help the Dear Neighbor!

During this Advent, students are sponsoring three initiatives. The first initiative, being held now through December 18, has the SJA community donating specific items for a "paper product drive" to benefit the West Side Catholic Center and Migration Services. Seniors are being asked to donate toilet tissue; juniors, facial tissue (Kleenex); sophomores, paper napkins; freshmen, paper towels; and adults, any of the above items. The items are being collected in front of the Main Office.
As part of her passion for the mission of Saint Joseph Academy, last summer Bri traveled with a small SJA group to Philadelphia for a summit of students and administrators of schools founded and sponsored by the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Her favorite subjects are English and Latin. "I love to learn about how words can work together to convey specific messages," she said.

Congratulations Bri on living the charism of Saint Joseph Academy and "serving the dear neighbor."

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**College Corner**

![Emerson College Logo](image)

**Location:**
Boston, MA (11 hours from Cleveland) Urban.

**Enrollment:** 3,655 undergraduates.

**Strongest Programs:**
Film/Video production, writing/literature and publishing, performing arts, journalism, marketing.

**Fun Facts:** Students from Emerson created the iconic "Boston Strong" T-shirt campaign that raised nearly $900,000 within two months for victims of the Boston Marathon attacks. Notable alumni include Jay Leno, Henry Winkler (Fonzie from Happy Days), and Maria Menounos (E! News).

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In addition, there will be a donation box in the alcove near the Main Office for socks in all sizes and types to be donated for the Community West Foundation to help the homeless of Northeast Ohio.

Finally, plans are in the works for a special dress down day opportunity to raise money to help refugees.

For more information on these Advent events, please contact CORE Ministry teacher Cathy Lanning Knittel '67 here.

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**Gather for Prayer, Reflection and Discussion at SJA's Family Advent Night**

The Mothers' Club is inviting the SJA community to its Family Advent Night, an annual evening of prayer and enlightenment, on Thursday, December 10, from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium. The topic is "Economic Forms of Human Trafficking," a focus of Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice for the last year. The speaker will be Anne Victory, H.M., the educational director of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

"In addition to prayer and fellowship, we will have speakers on this topic to raise awareness," shared CORE Ministry teacher Cathy Lanning Knittel '67. "We will also have a shopping opportunity for attendees that will feature fair trade products."

"We invite all in the SJA community to take time from their busy Christmas preparations for reflection and consciousness raising on this important topic," added Mrs. Knittel.

In addition to the speaker, attendees will have an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping at a Fair Trade Bazaar being held in the Dining Hall from 8-9 p.m. Vendors include Noonday Collection, Sweet Designs Chocolatier, Cleveland Amani Beads and Canaan Fair Trade.

Students attending Family Advent Night will receive Paws For Pride points and Spiritual Wellness credit. For more information, please email Mrs. Knittel here.

In order to make sure we have sufficient refreshments, please RSVP to cknittel@sja1890.org by 3 p.m. on December 10.
Exam Tips to Reduce Stress

Guidance Counselor Maryann Marek has some survival tips for students (and parents!) for the upcoming examination time.

"An important student strategy is to start ahead of time," said Ms. Marek. "Students should space out studying and homework assignments so that they will not be forced to cram on the night before the test. Start several days before the exam and write out a daily to-do list. Prioritize what needs to be accomplished each day."

"Have a dedicated study space," she added. "The study space should be organized and have no distractions. For some people, this may mean almost complete silence; for others, background music may help."

Here are some other suggestions:

* Take regular breaks.
* Snack on "brain food" such as fish, nuts, seeds, yogurt and blueberries. The same applies on exam day; eat a healthy breakfast by avoiding high sugar cereals and eating high protein foods.
* Get eight hours of sleep.
* The night before an exam, lay out all school materials such as books, pencils, calculator, Chromebooks, etc.
* Maintain a good attitude.

First Semester Final Exam Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday December 21, Final Exam C &amp; D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D 10:15 a.m.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday December 22, Final Exams A &amp; B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B 10:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP1 8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP2 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP3 11 a.m.</td>
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Help Students With Shopping Rewards; Special Holiday Hours For Paw Prints Store

Do you know that you can support today's students by simply doing your regular shopping? By designating Saint Joseph Academy in the shopping rewards programs at Amazon Smile, Target, Heinen's, Giant Eagle or GFS Marketplace, you can help the Academy at no additional cost to your purchases. Click here to learn how to enroll in the "School Rewards" programs of these stores.

Also, the Paw Prints Store has special hours and shopping days for all your Jaguar needs. We have a limited inventory of ornaments, including the European glass replica of the school building. Here is a link to all the Paw Prints Store hours, as well as the online store.

After Prom Fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings
The Jaguar Students Need Your Support!
As the Christmas season kicks into high gear, please help Jaguar students with the following fundraisers:

The SJA Swimming & Diving Team has partnered with Yankee Candle. Forty-percent of the profits from any candle or other product sales now through this Sunday, December 6 will be donated to the team. Please click here for SJA’s very own Yankee Candle shopping page and place an order. You can also go to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter the Group #990088232 to place your order.

There will be an After Prom fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings, Westgate Mall Location, Wednesday, December 9, from 4-9 p.m. You must present this flyer.

To help support SJA’s Crew athletes, students will be wrapping presents at Southpark Mall in Strongsville in a kiosk sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The students will be wrapping on Thursday, December 10 from 6-9 p.m.; and Wednesday, December 23 from 1-4 p.m. All proceeds will be used for the Crew equipment fund. For more information or to volunteer to help for this fundraiser, please contact parent volunteer Mrs. Sue Prahst P’17 at patricia_prahst@yahoo.com.

Thank you for supporting SJA’s Athletes!

SPORTS

Basketball
The program is off to a strong start. On Thursday, the Jaguars swept three games on the road from Villa Angela St. Joseph. Varsity posted a 68-57 win behind a team-high 14 points from Ellen Vichill ’17 and from Colleen Neitzel ’18, who scored 13 points and a team-high six rebounds.

On Saturday, the Jaguars posted a dominating 57-26 win over Cleveland Heights in the Jaguars home opener. The Jaguars were led by juniors Colleen Drellishak and Vichill, along with Neitzel, who all posted 12 points. Neitzel added a team-high seven rebounds while Drellishak had five steals.

The freshman team, under first-year head coach A.J. Hyland P’17, and the JV program, under head coach Ed Mont, have also played well. JV topped VASJ on Thursday, 58-55, in a come-from-behind win, while the freshman team is undefeated having topped strong teams from Massillon Jackson and North Royalton.

The Jaguars will play a tripleheader on Saturday at SJA as all three levels of SJA basketball take on Mayfield. Freshman action begins at 11 a.m. On Wednesday, the three teams all travel to cross-town rival, Magnificat, for games beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Swimming
Jaguar swimmers will compete in their first meet of the season Saturday at the St. Charles Showdown near Columbus.