

THE ACADEMY AT ST JOAN OF ARC UPDATE

It's almost impossible to believe, but this year your grade school celebrates its fifth school year as an independent Catholic school - The Academy at Saint Joan of Arc. So many remarkable milestones and accomplishments, including great enrollment. Our independent Catholic school model continues to answer many families' desires for an education that grows not only the minds of students, but also their hearts and character. Thanks to the support of our community, including our generous alumni, we are able to offer an incredible educational experience, while also keeping tuition accessible and offering robust tuition assistance.

Speaking of tuition assistance, a BIG thank you to our awesome alumni for raising a total of **\$12,800** in the Annual Alumni Christmas Challenge. Your gifts of tuition assistance ensure we grow even more Saints like yourselves - just what the world needs!

A special thank you to **Tom Corboy '71** for providing a \$5,000 match toward these efforts.

RECENT SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We continue to see remarkable achievements in our most recent MAP scores, demonstrating our teachers' excellence in the classroom and the impact of a remarkable new math curriculum. We are very excited to report that we saw considerable growth in both reading and math, **with 90% of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations.**

Enrollment is strong and our community of parents and students are active and highly engaged. To date almost 100 students have graduated from ASJA. Students from the first graduating class are currently seniors, most of which remain engaged with ASJA as junior board members. We are hearing amazingly positive news as they are in the final stages of their college process.

The Academy was recently rated "Well-Organized" for the second year in a row by the University of Chicago's 5Essentials Survey. This is a research-based school improvement system that defines a school's conditions, including culture and

climate, to improve student outcomes. Being rated “well-organized” two years in a row is a distinction few schools achieve.

The Academy continues to enjoy a strong partnership with St. John Henry Newman Parish and Father Anderson and Father Stemn. This partnership provides our students an opportunity to attend weekly mass and participate in sacramental preparations.

RAISING FUNDS

Cheers to our Parent Volunteer Committee (PVC) for another successful gala co-chaired by **Gerit Nora McAllister '00**. In total the Gala raised over \$100,000. These are critical operating dollars that enable us to make school improvements, like redoing the sound system to our stage and professional development for the teachers. Take a look at the fun pictures from the event and enjoy the dynamic video presentation [here](#).

Gerit Nora McAllister '00

Kelly Orf Trimble '03

Missy Ryan Hebson '85



ALL SCHOOL EVENTS

Last month we celebrated our inaugural Founders' Day Donor and Volunteer Mass and Open House. The event gave supporters from our current school families and our community at large an opportunity to gather and celebrate all that has been accomplished in just five short years. We heard updates from the school and recognized the Strategic Leadership Committee that helped lead the way in the earliest days of re-imagining Catholic education at Saint Joan of Arc.



Front row: Johnjoe Farragher '85, Jim Ford, Patti Sheahan, Holly Pickering, Dave Enghauser, Lisa Holubar, Linda Hickey, Beth O'Keefe Davoren '87, Kelly McCarthy Mannard '81, Shana Carroll. **Back row:** Steve King, Dan Schermerhorn, Dan Byrnes, Beth Linnen, Jeana Marqueda

THE ARTS

Members of The Academy Choir participated in the annual Loyola Academy Middle School Music Festival in November.

Outstanding artists under Art Teacher **Kim Ryan '86** are showcasing their works of art during the month of March at Oakton Community College.





The All-School Musical – Lion King Jr – was beautifully performed on March 22/23 to a sold out crowd in the school’s auditorium.



THE SCIENCE

Congratulations to the ASJA 23/24 Science Olympiad team for advancing to the state tournament again this year! The team competed at Harper College on March 9 winning medals in ten events and securing a bid to compete in the state finals in April.



THE SPORTS

Never a dull moment in sports at The Academy! Basketball season brought lots of memorable moments in the Joan Dome and now our student athletes are looking forward to Spring with girls' volleyball, track and golf.

Thanks to alums, **Michael Barr '03**, **Michael Bolden '03** and **Michael O'Sullivan '04**, for coaching our 7th and 8th grade boys this year.

