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Mail to: Joliet Catholic Academy - Development Office, 1200 N. Larkin Avenue, Joliet, IL 604: Questions: Contact John Horn, Director of Development, at (815) 741-0500, ext. 276

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Dear JCA Alumni and Friends,

We have gained tremendous momentum at JCA over the past several years and there's no stopping now! With the completion of Phase I and Phase II of our Capital Campaign - Honoring our Past...Building our Future, JCA has undergone a face lift of sorts with new windows, renovation to hallways and cafeteria, air conditioning in the classrooms, and robust WIFI throughout. We have updated the Prayer Garden, created a Heritage Quad, renovated the weight room, and created a Dance Studio. Needless to say, we are trying hard to make sure that our students have the best facilities that will enhance their opportunities for college and beyond.

As we move forward, we have plans to create a new Chapel on campus along with an Innovation Research Center, which will serve as a university-like library that will enhance and encompass our Technology Center. With all of this said, we are **truly blessed** that a donor has come forward to provide us the funds for our Chapel. This space (located where the current library stands) will serve as a focal point of our spirituality. As we begin our next Strategic Plan, there is language in the document that speaks of our chapel as the center point of our students' educations. This will surely be a place of prayer, community, contemplation, and peace.

So...with the beginning of a new Strategic Plan and the completion of our new chapel, we ask once again for our community to help with the continuation of all of our successes on campus. We are ready to launch into a \$1.2 million campaign that will bring us our Innovation Research Center. This will complete a smaller campaign (along with our chapel) that will give our students yet another resource.

We truly are Angels and Hilltoppers, Franciscan and Carmelite! We live the mission of our founding congregations daily and we know that JCA is a premiere institution. With your help, we will be able to complete this project and move to future facility upgrades. We ask that you consider investing in this vision and more importantly investing in our students.

Blessings,

Dr. Jeffrey Budz President/Principal

JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY



As you enter Joliet Catholic Academy's new Innovation Research Center, the sight is unlike anything you've seen outside of the finest universities. Like JCA itself, the space is cutting edge but not without the comforts of a tradition that goes back nearly 100 years. To the left, students rest comfortably, some in pairs, some working individually. A few, in the quiet, recharge their minds and their devices by the charging stations while others browse for books or study for the upcoming exam.

Up ahead, four rooms surrounded in glass grant a view into the life of the IRC. In one room, six students in Virtual Reality glasses digitally dissect a human heart in midair, learning how each component fits together and functions both individually and as a whole. In another glass-surrounded room, a group of four student council members collaborate on a project that has been seamlessly executed over the past few weeks both in person and online with no lost time. Each student adds ideas on a personal device as they easily project the combined list onto the interactive wall, rearranging ideas with a swipe.





As you move through the IRC, the hallway narrows and you reemerge in the Technology Center. With more glass and movable seating on the left, a teacher instructs a class, all students are working on their 1:1 devices. In mere moments, the space quickly transforms from rows for introduction and instruction into pods where students begin to discuss and collaborate with no lost time. To the right, the robotics class moves from their instructional seats to the open area where they ready their robots for a friendly game of "Swept Away."

Finally, over to the left, in what is lovingly known as the "powerhouse lab" students take a break from their personal laptops for an experience in cutting edge programing. Whether it be the AP Computer Science, Engineering, or Graphic Design class, the work being done here is rarely seen outside of a university. As you turn to leave, you grin at the small blue frog displayed on a shelf, one of the first 3D printer creations designed by students. Now, those same students are creating 3D models of the entire IRC space, but you're not surprised. After all, this is JCA, where tradition meets tomorrow.