



TRADITION

A magazine for the alumni, families and friends of Joliet Catholic Academy

Fall 2020





Letter from the President/Principal



Dear Alumni, Families and Friends,

Welcome back to another school year at Joliet Catholic Academy! Certainly, the 2020-2021 school year will look a lot different in this time of COVID-19, but we still want to make sure that we are representing the mission of the Carmelites and Franciscans to the best of our ability.

We are truly excited that we are going back to school on-campus and have a plan that will give our students the most in-person instruction while maintaining the least amount of exposure to their peers. No plan is perfect, and it seems that there are new guidelines each day, but we have tried to devise a plan that has the most social distancing to the best of our ability.

We will be instituting a schedule that has all our students on campus for four days, for a limited time. The day will begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 12:20 p.m. with periods 1-4 taking place on Monday and Thursday, and periods 8-5 taking place on Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday will be a live E-learning day from home that will follow a normal 7:50 a.m.-2:40 p.m. schedule. After the M, Tu, Th, F school days are over, there will be E-learning assignments for the opposite classes each day and we will ask students to leave campus. An After-School program is being offered for all students needing to stay on campus due to transportation issues or staying for extra-curricular programs. JCA is also providing a full-time E-Learning option (five days per week).

Next, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce our new Director of Diversity and Inclusion to Joliet Catholic Academy. We believe that this position allows us to continue and broaden our efforts to establish an educational culture that is unequivocally opposed to any expressions of racism through words or actions. This is just one of the robust steps we are committed to taking in order to foster a more inclusive environment through our daily engagements with those around us as we strive to emulate Christ.

Ms. LaKisha Cameron joins our team of Counselors and Campus Ministers serving as another advocate for our students. Ms. Cameron will work with our entire JCA community including faculty and staff, students and alumni and offer her expertise and guidance regarding social issues and all issues that affect our students each day. We are very excited that Ms. Cameron is with us on this journey as we fortify our mission to embrace all students!

We know that there will be bumps along the road this school year, but we feel that with your support, we can make this another great year for our school.

Thank you once again for all that you do for JCA!

Blessings on a new year!

Dr. Jeffrey Budz
JCA President/Principal

TRADITION MAGAZINE

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Vice Principal, Curriculum and Technology

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Assistant Director of Admissions

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Development Office

Director of Development

John Horn, 1991

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John Quinn, 1986

Secretary

Matt Adler, 2008

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Fr. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm. shepherds the JCA flock

A special thanks to JCA campus minister and resident Carmelite priest Fr. Jeff Smialek for streaming Sunday Mass live throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. For several weeks, when parishes in the Joliet community were only allowed to video stream masses, Fr. Jeff, Dr. Budz, Mrs. Melissa Ferro, and Mr. Cory McDermott arrived early on campus to setup a live stream from the Mary, Our Sister Chapel. Some weeks, over 250 family and friends of JCA were tuning in to the live Facebook stream. Families at home who were unable to physically receive the Body of Christ were able to pray an act of spiritual communion.

The JCA development team also began the "JCA Cares" initiative. Donations made during Mass went towards tuition assistance for families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still ongoing. Mr. John Horn and Mrs. Sue Bebar in the development office also highlighted local area businesses connected to the JCA community, either run by alumni or current parents.

As Angels and Hilltoppers, we have a unique ability to make a positive impact on our JCA community during these challenging times. We know and care for one another, and we share the



Carmelite and Franciscan values of prayer, community and service. Some are riding out these times in relative comfort while others are suffering greatly. This is our moment to be strong for one another; to show the best of who we are.

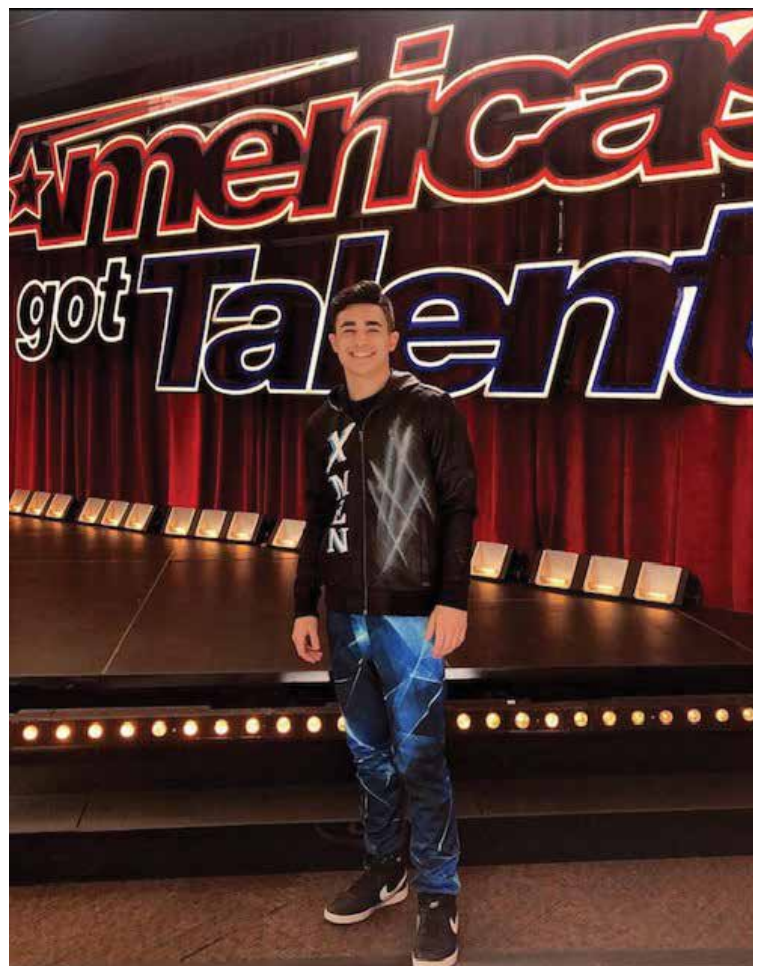
To view all of the JCA local businesses highlighted visit <https://www.jca-online.org/jca-cares-local-businesses/>.

To make a contribution for tuition assistance to "JCA Cares" visit <https://www.jca-online.org/jca-cares/>.

JCA senior Caden Vittorini appears on America's Got Talent

On June 23, JCA senior Caden Vittorini appeared on the popular NBC show "America's Got Talent" along with his troop from Xtreme Dance Force. Vittorini has been dancing at Xtreme Dance Force since he was 9 years old. They know the true meaning of brotherhood and are a very close group. Xtreme Dance Force had a successful audition in Episode 1505 of the show and received three "yes" votes from the judges, including Eric Stonestreet, Sofia Vergara, and Simon Cowell to advance to the next round of the competition. They did not advance past the "Judge Cuts" round.

Vittorini also has an extensive background in Taekwondo and currently plays lacrosse at Joliet Catholic Academy. Caden currently works at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.



**Open House for
Prospective Students
and Families**
Sunday, November 1
Thursday, November 12
Times TBA

**Heritage Week/
Homecoming Week**
September 28-October 2

any events will be online or outdoors and socially distanced.

Due to COVID-19, printed calendars distributed have changed.

The most up-to-date events calendar for JCA can be found online at www.jca-online.org/events



Hall of Champions

JCA inducts newest class in Hall of Champions Business and Industry



Congratulations to the third class of inductees in the JCA Hall of Champions – Business and Industry: Diane F. (Felbinger '62) Habiger, Jennifer M. (Kane '82) Howard, and James W. Missig '83. This year's honorees were inducted on Friday, February 21 in the Mary, Our Sister Chapel with a ceremony and luncheon including family and friends. A special thanks goes out to the selection committee featuring Sue Gulas, Chris Voss, Bill Bayci and Sue Bebar for their work on this class. Also, thank you to Chris Voss, JCA Director of Special Events, who was an integral part of organizing this day and connecting with our inductees.

..... Diane Habiger '62

- Graduated from the University of St. Francis with a Bachelors' Degree in English with a Minor in Journalism
- Past Board Member of Joliet Catholic Academy Board of Directors
- Present Member of Board of Trustees, University of St. Francis
- Recipient of 2016 Athena Award
- Owner and Operator of Lincolnshire Business Center
- Recipient of Lewis University 2016 De La Salle Award

..... Jennifer Howard '82

- Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies from Arizona State University ('86)
- Former Special Agent with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service
- Former Vice President/Owner of Adecco Personnel Services and Dunhill Staffing Systems
- Current Owner of TCBY Shorewood Crossing
- Current President of the Rotary Club of Joliet
- Current President of the Joliet Junior College Foundation Board
- Current Vice President of the Rialto Square Theatre Foundation Board
- Current Board Member of the Greater Joliet Area YMCA and Illinois Partners for Human Service
- Current President of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry



..... James W. Missig '83

- Businessman servicing the needs for Joliet and many communities throughout Illinois
- Owner & Partner of 16 CARCARE Collision Center locations, which consistently ranked in the TOP 10 Collision Repair Centers in the United States
- Owner and Partner of AMW Ventures, C4 Properties & numerous subsidiary companies
- 1993 - 1997 President of the Joliet Chapter of the Automotive Service Association
- 1997-1999 Vice-President of Automotive Service Association of Illinois
- 1999-2000 President of Automotive Service Association of Illinois
- 2015 Joliet Chamber of Commerce Award Recipient for "Large Business of the Year"



Joliet Catholic Academy announces Class of 2020 Awards

The Joliet Catholic Academy Class of 2020 was honored at the 30th annual commencement ceremony Sunday, July 26 on campus in the Student Activity Center. Due to COVID-19, the original Graduation and Baccalaureate Mass were postponed. This year marks the 151st year of Catholic education in Will County provided by the Carmelites and Franciscans between St. Francis Academy, De La Salle High School, Joliet Catholic High School, and Joliet Catholic Academy and the 30th graduating class since the merger of SFA and JCHS into JCA.

The highlight of the program over the years has been the

announcement of yearly awards: JCA's Angel of the Year and Hillman of the Year, and the presentation of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Joliet Catholic Academy's most prestigious award recognizes the two students who have upheld the highest standards of honesty and reliability, courtesy, concern and respect for others, have carried out their accepted responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication, influenced their peers by their positive attitudes, and have given witness to the Gospel values.



Claire Dow



Mia Bertino

JCA Angel of the Year

Claire Dow – Yale University

JCA Hillman of the Year

Jake Bumstead – Beloit College

Each year the Administration of Joliet Catholic academy selects the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the senior class. This year's outstanding nominees were:

Valedictorian

Claire Dow

Salutatorian

Madison Mikuska – University of Arkansas

Each year the JCA Athletic Department honors students who demonstrated both academic and athletic achievement.

Scholar Athlete Award

Mia Bertino – Valparaiso University and

Tyler Kaput – Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

The JCA Spirit Award recognizes students who have displayed academic excellence, school spirit, cooperation, loyalty, and service to the JCA community.

JCA Spirit Award

Madison Mikuska and

Malachy O'Connell – Carroll University

The JCA Graduation ceremony can also be viewed online at JCA's YouTube page. The Administration, Faculty, Staff, Board of Members, and Board of Directors of Joliet Catholic Academy offer the heartiest congratulations to all recipients, their parents, step-parents, guardians, grandparents, relatives, and friends. For a complete listing of all Class of 2020 and Underclass awards visit the news headlines section at www.jca-online.org



Jake Bumstead



Tyler Kaput



Madison Mikuska



Malachy O'Connell



COVID-19 shift to E-Learning



JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Return to School Plan



By: Ryan Quigley

JCA Director of Admissions and Communications

On July 15, Joliet Catholic Academy announced the JCA Return to School Plan, a hybrid learning model where four days of learning will occur in person on campus and one day will occur at home through "LIVE" E-Learning. JCA students will return for on-campus learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, while E-Learning from home will take place on Wednesday. To minimize large groups and exposure for students, faculty and staff, there will be no lunch periods offered during the regular school day. Lunch will be offered for students who must remain on campus during the After-School Program. Students will also not be utilizing lockers and will be allowed to carry backpacks.

JCA is also providing a full-time E-Learning option (five days per week). JCA encouraged students who may be high risk for COVID-19, or who have family members at home deemed high risk, to consult with their physician regarding the utilization of full-time E-Learning.

It is important to note that Joliet Catholic Academy's school enrollment, building size and structure allow for four days of in-person instruction. With a student body of 630 students in a school building with 50 classrooms, eight large common areas, and 240,000 square feet, a hybrid model geared more towards in-person instruction is possible. JCA is following all Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and CDC guidelines on the importance of reopening America's schools this fall. The JCA Return to school plan has also been certified by superintendent Dr. Michael J. Boyle and

the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office reopening review committee. The JCA administration will adjust the Return to School Plan if needed in the future based on the guidance of the above public health officials and educational experts.

JCA president/principal Dr. Jeffrey Budz said, "we are truly excited to be going back to school this August and have a plan that will give our students the most in-person instruction, while maintaining the least amount of exposure to their peers. No plan is perfect, and it seems that there are new guidelines each day, but we feel that besides the home, no other setting has more influence on a child's health and well-being than their school."

The Return to School Plan will be in effect for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 School Year (August 19-October 16). The JCA Administration will re-evaluate this plan in hopes to return to more in-person instruction at some point during the school year. The live E-Learning Wednesday schedule for the first quarter provides experience for students and staff should schools be mandated to close based on guidance from state or local health officials at any time during the 2020-2021 school year.

Freshman Orientation took place on Thursday, August 20. On Friday, August 21, JCA held a Return to School Orientation for sophomores, junior, and seniors. At press time, JCA enjoyed a successful first full week of school the week of August 24.

Families interested in enrolling their son or daughter at Joliet Catholic Academy should contact JCA Director of Admissions Mr. Ryan Quigley at admissions@jca-online.org or 815.741.0500, ext. 214. You can also request Admissions Information at <https://www.jca-online.org/admissions/>.



Back to school, but not back to normal at Joliet Catholic Academy

By **BOB OKON**

**this article appeared in The Herald-News on Monday, August 24, 2020. Bob Okon is a 1975 Joliet Catholic High School graduate.*

It was the first day of the new school year Monday at Joliet Catholic Academy, and students were there in person and in masks.

"Are you smiling under there?" administrative assistant Holly Scordo asked one masked student coming into the building.

"No," was the reply.

Still, even masked, it was apparent many students were smiling as Scordo greeted the orderly procession of six-foot spaced students coming through the door and stopping for temperature checks with the words, "Happy first day."

Students, faculty and staff went through this drill last week at orientations that included practice sessions on how school would be conducted in person with measures taken to avoid COVID-19.

While most public schools have opted for e-learning at least in the first weeks of the school year, Catholic schools are doing in-person classes.

Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox also had its first day of classes on Monday, and parochial grade schools have been welcoming students back as well.

It's hardly back to normal, however.

The school day ends at 12:20 p.m. at JCA every day except Wednesday, when students will stay at home and classes will be conducted online. The 12:20 p.m. dismissal on in-person days is done to avoid a lunch period. The Wednesday online classes are done so everyone is ready just in case.

"We fully expect there might be stops and starts this year," Ryan Quigley, director of admissions and communications said.

Quigley compared the JCA school year to summer baseball in Iowa, where the game went on but with teams taken off schedule at times and the schedule set up with expectations of missed games.

"It's kind of how we're looking at our school schedule," he said. "I don't think anyone's naive enough to think COVID's not going to enter the building."

If it does, JCA has made certain preparations with assigned seating for every class to track who was sitting near whom if a student does get the virus. Under certain circumstances, individual students may be quarantined. An entire Spanish class or English class could be quarantined.

To create six-foot spacing, larger classes are being held in unusual places, including the chapel, a wrestling room, and dance studio.

That was the most unusual part of the day for Molly O'Connell, a junior, as she saw the gym and a large hallway converted to classroom space.

O'Connell said she was glad to be back in school in person.

"I'd rather be here than do the e-learning," she said. "It's easier for me to learn face-to-face."

That was the overwhelming sentiment.

A JCA survey before the start of the school year found more than 90% of parents wanted in-person learning. Students were given the option to stay at home, and only 5% opted for e-learning.



Even for those staying at home, it's a different setting.

Students are able to plug into the classroom, basically following the class on their computers.

They may not be able to socialize. But that was hard to do in school anyway with social distancing, said John Ehram, a senior.

"I have classes with my friends, but I'm not able to sit by them and talk with them," he said.

Ehram and O'Connell agreed it will be a strange fall at JCA without Friday night football. The season has been rescheduled for the spring.

Tennis is being played.

Tennis coach and English teacher Scott Allgood said the team's first match is Tuesday at Marist High School in Chicago.

Allgood thought the first day of school went well. Students e-learning from home participated in his class. Even at a social distance, students appreciated being together again.

"It's great having kids in the building," Allgood said. "The seniors were excited that they could at least see their friends during their senior year."



Class of 2020 Achievements



The JCA Class of 2020 graduated 152 students with Angels and Hilltoppers attending 71 colleges and universities in 26 states. 98% of students are attending college (82% at four-year universities). These students were offered over \$13.5 million in scholarship funds. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Madelynn Ahoyt	University of Missouri-Columbia
Olivia Alstott	Joliet Junior College
Christine Amling	University of Missouri-Columbia
Thomas Arnett	Joliet Junior College
Nicole Arnold	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Bridget Babich	Lewis University
Abigael Bailey	Bradley University
Joseph Batusich	Lake Land College
Nathan Bebar	Central Michigan University
Zachary Bernhard	Joliet Junior College
Mia Bertino	Valparaiso University
Stephanie Bertino	Baylor University
Eric Bjork	Northern Illinois University
Holly Brascia	Indiana University-Bloomington
Sarah Brzezinski	Saint Louis University
Macy Brzostowski	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Jacob Budz	Bradley University
Joseph Bueno	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Jake Bumstead	Beloit College
Alexis Burke	Lewis University
Moira Cardwell	Arizona State University-Tempe
Zane Carmine	Cornell College
Jack Carroll	University of Missouri-Columbia
Grace Christiansen	Iowa State University
Kameron Courtright	Northeastern University
Giovanni Davila	Judson University
Timothy Dayag	Joliet Junior College
Vincent Defilippo	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Peyton Ditello	Joliet Junior College
Claire Dow	Yale University
Gracie Dzurney	Bradley University
Megan Egizio	Loyola University Chicago
Madison Evans	Illinois State University
Vincenzo Fasano	Illinois Institute of Technology
Mitchell Fenske	The University of Alabama
Reid Fladhammer	Illinois State University
Aliza Flores	University of Dayton
Brian Folino	Belmont University
Angel Garcia	The University of Alabama
Nathan Gehrke	Lake Land College

Megan Gochee	Texas A&M University
Beatriz Gonzalez	University of Illinois at Chicago
Grace Gorsky	Joliet Junior College
Michael Green	Illinois Wesleyan University
Libby Gregurich	University of Missouri-Columbia
Kennedy Hakey	Iowa State University
Erick Hallick	Bradley University
Audrey Hammel	Loyola University Chicago
Genevieve Hardin	Columbia College Chicago
Aine Heron	Duquesne University
Zachary Hise	University of Missouri-Columbia
Haixin Hu	Indiana University-Bloomington
Noah Johnson	Spoon River College
Kirsten Kalebich	Arizona State University-Tempe
Drake Kaminski	Colorado State University-Fort Collins
Makenzie Kaput	University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Tyler Kaput	Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis
Creighton Karner	University of Arkansas
Brigid Kelley	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Kelsey Kempes	Bradley University
Rachel Kinsella	University of Missouri-Columbia
Tayven Kirstein	Joliet Junior College
Christian Knapczyk	University of Louisville
Thomas Kopman	Augustana College
Paul Kosinski	Illinois State University
Conor Kovas	Bemidji State University
Ashley Kubinski	Joliet Junior College
Alberto Lamas	South Suburban College
Hagan Lange	Joliet Junior College
John Lee	Illinois State University
Morgan Linneweh	University of Missouri-Columbia
Maeve Lowry	Iowa State University
Isabella Magrini	Butler University
Daniel Mangun	Loyola University Chicago
Gabryel Martinez	Bradley University
Jisela Martinez	University of Louisville
Halle May	Lewis University
Kaitlyn McCarthy	Western Michigan University
Andrew Medders	Lewis University
Luc Melnick	University of Kansas
Christ Sam Messino IV	University of St Francis
Kyle Michel	DePaul University
Madison Mikuska	University of Arkansas
Mitchell Mischia	Illinois State University
Nayeli Morales	Columbia College Chicago
Izaiah Murphy	University of St. Thomas
Connor Myers	Lewis University

and College Destinations



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS



Annarose Nudera
Jack O'Connell
Malachy O'Connell
Erin O'Grady
Mallory Paolucci
Logan Papineau
Kendahl Parks
Erica Passo
Hardi Patel
Julian Perez
Delaney Peter
Daniel Pettenuzzo
Paige Picciolo
Marcus Porchia
Logan Powers
Morgan Powers
Sean Quinn
Joshua Ragusa
Isabella Ray
Jocelyn Reyes
Mia Robert
Michael Rodriguez Jr
Owen Roesel
Emilie Ross
Mia Ruiz
Krystal Sanchez
Henry Schuler
Ryan Schuster
Samantha Scordo
Angela Severin
Regis Shelby-Woods

Ave Maria University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Carroll University
University of Missouri-Columbia
Illinois State University
Illinois State University
Olivet Nazarene University
University of St Francis
Wichita State University
Roosevelt University
Joliet Junior College
Joliet Junior College
Illinois State University
Loras College
Arizona State University-Tempe
University of Iowa
Oklahoma State University-Main Campus
University of Missouri-Columbia
Lewis University
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Tampa
Saint Ambrose University
University of Missouri-Columbia
Illinois State University
University of Mississippi
DePaul University
Lewis University
Joliet Junior College
Bradley University
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Roosevelt University

Kaleigh Sheppard
Andrew Sherman
Kenzie Sieracki
Elizabeth Singletary
Riley Soto
Luke Spotofora
Catherine Studer
Nathan Szymanski
Emma Tacchia
Ese Takpor
Madison Talarico
Laken Testa
Max Toborg
Ava Tomich
Samuel Vita
Riley Ward
Lauren Wiborg
Jack Wiers
Kenyetta Williams
Zyane A Williams
Alyssa Wright
Conor Wright
Haohan Wu
Daniel Wuestenfeld
Lexie Wyman
Cristian Young
Jonathan Zadel
Anthony Zelehovitis
Leyi Zheng
Yanru Zhou

University of Missouri-Columbia
Joliet Junior College
Joliet Junior College
University of Dayton
Illinois State University
Joliet Junior College
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Dodge City Community College
University of Missouri-Columbia
Western Illinois University
Kalamazoo College
Arizona State University-Tempe
University of Southern California
University of Kentucky
Saint Ambrose University
Joliet Junior College
Texas Christian University
University of Kansas
South Dakota State University
Northern Illinois University
University of Iowa
University of Iowa
Purdue University-Main Campus
Central Michigan University
The University of Alabama
Waubonsee Community College
Joliet Junior College
Joliet Junior College
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Michigan State University



CELEBRATING
100 YEARS



Congratulations to the University of St. Francis in Joliet on celebrating their Centennial throughout the 2020 year. Founded in 1920 as Assisi Junior College, the University of St. Francis has continued the Franciscan Sisters' commitment to Catholic education in the Joliet area. The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate (affectionately known as the Joliet Franciscans) initially founded St. Francis Academy (predecessor to Joliet Catholic Academy) in 1869 and amended the academy's original charter in 1920 to offer college courses. To view a complete history of the University of St. Francis, check out their "Engaging Mind & Spirit!" newsletter at www.stfrancis.edu/centennial



Jubilaté Recap



Joliet Catholic Academy's largest annual fundraiser Jubilaté celebrated its 35th year this spring at the Bolingbrook Country Club on March 7. "The Roaring 20s" theme was a swingin' good time as guests enjoyed dinner, live and silent auctions, and the musical stylings of the most popular cover band in Chicago, Maggie Speaks. As highlighted in the Winter 2020 edition of JCA's Tradition Magazine, this year's JCA 2020 Recognition Award Recipients were Tom Carbery '49 and family. Tom gave a beautiful tribute at the beginning of the event before dinner to JCA, the

Carmelites and Franciscans, as well as to his late wife Joan. Not a dry eye was left in the room when Tom regaled the crowd with the story from his first dance/date with Joan, and pulled out the JCHS dance ticket from his wallet, which he's kept on him throughout his life.

The Jubilaté 2021 committee will be meeting throughout the fall to formulate a plan for this year's spring Jubilaté. Stay tuned for an announcement.



JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY FALL

SPIRIT RAFFLE

SEPTEMBER 17-OCTOBER 20

OCTOBER 23, 2020 DRAWING

\$5,000; \$2,500, \$1,500, AND \$500 CASH PRIZES

\$10 PER TICKET

**CASH INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS
PURCHASE TICKETS FROM JCA STUDENTS**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

SIGNATURE:

NO. 01234

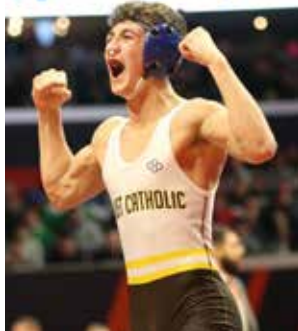
Year-end Athletic Recap



JCA Wrestling sends seven to state finals, Hamiti becomes JCA's first 3-time individual state champion

The JCA wrestling program, state placers Gylon Sims (runner up) and Terrance Snapp (5th place), and three-time state champion Dean Hamiti, Jr. were all honored on March 3 in front of their fellow Angels and Hilltoppers. Hamiti captured the IHSA Class 2A State Championship at 152 pounds, his third consecutive individual state championship (an individual JCA school record). For the first time in program history, the Hilltoppers had three medal winners and just missed getting two more. And in another first, the program had two individuals competing for the state title.

The Hilltoppers also set a program record with seven wrestlers qualifying for the IHSA Class 2A State Finals at the University of Illinois-Champaign the weekend of February 21. Other state qualifiers included Shay Korhorn (113 lb.), Mason Alessio (120 lb.), Jack Finnegan (junior, 138 lb.), and Owen Gerdes (sophomore, 170 lb.).



1-2 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington, IL. The Angels finished in first place after the first day of qualifying and despite a near flawless performance in Saturday's finals, ended up bringing home a 3rd place trophy.

The Angels qualified for state at the Geneva Sectional, earning first place with a score of 93.78, the second highest score among the state's five sectional sites feeding into the state finals.

Head coach Kelsey Kunz and the Angels captured the program's second straight State Finals trophy, after capturing a state championship in 2019 and a fourth-place finish in 2018.



The JCA Angels Dance Team is coached by Kelsey Kunz, Kristina Sak, and Carley Serena. Team members included Olivia Antzoulatos, Emily Bolek, Lily Budny, Makenna Didech, Alyssa Dockendorf, Skye Farias, Janessa Garcia, Naomi Kasper, Teagan Kubinski, Mallory Paolucci, Erica Passo, Abby Powers, Morgan Powers, Amanda Sands, Riley Soto, Ava Tomich, and Maddy Vercelli.

Emma Jay wins IHSA Class 2A Three-Point Showdown Championship

Congratulations to JCA girls basketball's Emma Jay on capturing the IHSA Class 2A Three-Point Showdown Championship



on February 28 at Redbird Arena on the campus of Illinois State University. Junior Jenna Hernandez also qualified for the state finals. The Angels basketball program



had a successful 2019-2020 campaign, winning a regional championship before falling in the Wilmington Sectional Finals to Seneca 40-36. Senior Mia Bertino and freshman Jasmine Brown were named to the Herald-News All-Area Team, and Brown was named to the IHSA Class 2A IBCA and Prep Girls Hoops First-Team All-State teams. Brown averaged 16.6 points per game and currently has several Division-I collegiate scholarship offers.

JCA boys basketball falls in Sectional Final

A gritty Hilltopper boys basketball team went on an unexpected postseason



run before losing in the Pontiac sectional championship to undefeated Bismark-Henning. The Hilltoppers captured the Manteno regional championship 51-46 over Manteno in overtime and had a thrilling sectional semifinal victory over 50-49 over Paxton-Buckley-Loda. Senior Cristian Young, a Waubensee CC signee, garnered Herald-News 2nd Team All-Area honors and was named to the East Suburban Catholic Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention Team.



Thank you to Mayor Bob O'Dekirk, Councilman Pat Mudron, and Will County Board Member Don Gould for attending. Both Mudron '67 and Gould '83 are Joliet Catholic alums.

JCA Dance Team captures 3rd Place at IHSCA Class 1A Competitive Dance Finals

The Joliet Catholic Academy Varsity Girls Dance Team was in search of their second consecutive IHSA Class 1A State Championship the weekend of February



Joliet Catholic celebrates 100 years of Hilltopper Football at annual Alumni Banquet featuring Super Bowl Champions Mike Alstott '92 and Tom Thayer '79

By Steve Soucie

Joliet Herald News Sports Editor

**this article first appeared in the Joliet Herald News on February 10, 2020*

Joliet Catholic Alumni Association Board President Matt Schimanski indicated that the original attempt of compiling a 100-year tribute video was to make it about five minutes in length.

Good luck with that.

In the end, the video was extended to 20 minutes in celebration of a program that over its now 100 years of existence has amassed 682 total victories, a state record 14 Illinois High School Association State Championships, 39 conference titles, 12 undefeated seasons and six appearances in the USA Today's National Top 25 rankings final poll.

Those landmark achievements were celebrated at the school's annual Hilltopper Banquet and in reverence to such a significant milestone in the program's history two of the Hilltoppers most significant alumni headlined the event.

Tom Thayer (Class of 79) and Mike Alstott (Class of 92) both returned to headline the event.

Thayer concluded his successful career as a Hilltopper and moved onto Notre Dame. After his Notre Dame career was

wrapped up, Thayer was drafted by both the Chicago Bears of the National Football League and the Chicago Blitz of the United States Football League.

He played for the Blitz for two seasons after they had offered more guaranteed money, before signing with the Bears prior to the 1985 season. He was installed as a starter on the offensive line just in time to be involved with one of the most storied teams in Bear history, who would go on to defeat the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

Thayer would play eight seasons with the Bears starting 130 of 134 games before being released early in the 1993 season. He'd catch on with the Miami Dolphins but would only play three games with them prior to his retirement.

After his playing career, Thayer found himself quickly thrust into the broadcast booth where he has served as a color analyst for the Bears for over 20 seasons.

Thayer has now found himself intimately involved with two 100-year football celebrations as the Bears just completed that experience this past season.

"Two in one year," Thayer said. "Last year I spent the entire offseason preparing with Jeff Joniak for the Bears 100-year celebration. And you kind of don't realize how important it is until



you start studying the depth of 100 years of football. It's incredible and amazing."

And for Thayer the evening brought back a flood of memories that even preceded his time at Joliet Catholic.

"The foundation for everything for me was laid years before I ever got here (Joliet Catholic)," Thayer said. "When I was a little kid, I knew who Gordie Gillespie was and I knew how famous of a football coach he was at the last time. But the influence of the lights of Memorial Stadium and all you want to do is some day play on that field. And that was the biggest goal in the early part of my life."

For Alstott, the event marked a relatively rare reappearance for the talented runner.

Alstott has entrenched himself in the Tampa Bay area after he put together an incredible 12-team year run with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The powerful runner was named to six Pro Bowls during his tenure with Tampa Bay and he still remains the franchise's all-time leader in touchdowns scored with 71. Current Tampa Bay wide receiver Mike Evans is second on that list with 49.

Post playing career, Alstott formed the Mike Alstott Family Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to uplift the minds, hearts and spirits of families and children on their way to realizing their full potential through various events, assistance programs and celebrations.

Alstott has also found his way into coaching, recently completing his seventh season at Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Both Thayer and Alstott participated in a boisterous season of question and answers from the evening's master of ceremonies Mark Grant (Class of 81), who is currently the color analyst for the San Diego Padres.

A special thanks goes out to JCA Director of Alumni Relations Mrs. Sue Bebar and members of the JCA Alumni Association for their tireless efforts in producing another successful Alumni Banquet. Missed the banquet? You can view the speakers and coverage from the event at the JCA YouTube page and on JolietTV, filmed by Dick and Millie Schuster. Dick Schuster, president of Joliet Community Television, is a 1958 Joliet Catholic High School graduate.

JCA announces faculty and staff additions

Mr. Kevin Keller – *Theology Teacher, Theology 1 & 2*

Biography/Educational Background: Mr. Keller is a native of the southside of Chicago and a friend of people from around the region and world. Although he went to Mount Carmel HS (Chicago), we are happy to welcome Mr. Keller and make a Hilltopper out of him. After Mount Carmel, he attended the University of Illinois where he completed a BA in Communication at the Chicago campus. For five years after college, he worked in Emergency Medical Services and enjoyed riding a motorcycle on sunny days. Currently, Mr. Keller is completing a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality at Creighton U. in Omaha. Before he turns 40, Mr. Keller wants to walk El Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

Why did you choose to work at Joliet Catholic Academy?

JCA is the school for me because it is a Carmelite and Franciscan school steeped in tradition and filled with pride. I want to enter the tradition and be a part of the pride.

What is your favorite quote?

"Come have breakfast." - Jesus (a far too little quoted pronouncement; Jn 21:12)



Ms. Annie Mihelich – *Math Teacher/AP Stats, Algebra 2 Trig, Algebra 1; Girls Basketball Coach*

Biography/Educational Background: I graduated from JCA in 2015. I went to Illinois State University and graduated in 2019 with my Bachelor's of Science in Mathematics.

Why did you choose to work at Joliet Catholic Academy?: I chose to work at JCA because it is where I went to school and I loved the sense of family and community.



Jackie Pullara – *College and Career Counselor*

Biography/Educational Background: I was born and raised in Plainfield. I attended St. Mary Immaculate grade school and then graduated from JCA in 2008. I went to Saint Mary's College in South Bend, IN where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies in 2012. I then graduated from Lewis University in 2015 with a Master of Arts in School Counseling. I worked in college admissions at Lewis University before starting at JCA. My husband (Nick Pullara JCA '06) and I have been married for five years. We live in Shorewood with our two children, Kate and Liam.



Why did you choose to work at Joliet Catholic Academy?

I chose to work at JCA because of the amazing community of staff and students, the excellent Catholic education and the traditions that live on with each and every alum. After graduating from JCA and being away for a few years, coming back has felt like coming home. I want to support current JCA students to reach their goals and instill in them the JCA traditions that I live out every day.

What is your favorite quote?

"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory" -Dr. Seuss



Alumni Notes/ Alumni Golf Classic

ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF OUTING

Friday, October 9, 2020
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club
Lemont, IL



JCA Alumni and Friends,
Reserve your spot TODAY!

It is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation for a day of fun, friendship and golf. The Alumni Association would like to encourage all levels of golf to come out and enjoy the day. If this is your reunion year, please consider making this part of your celebration.

This event is open to ALL of our friends, alums, community supporters.

All proceeds benefit the legacy that is JCA...our students. On behalf of the SFA-DLS-JCHS-JCA Alumni Association, **THANK YOU** for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Sue Hansen
JCA Development Coordinator

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Shotgun Start: 9 a.m.

Cost: \$175 per person for Course #3

\$225.00 per golfer for Dubsdread

Cost includes donuts and coffee plus a bloody mary bar during registration as well as hot dog, chips and drink at the turn. There will be beer, seltzers, water and pop in coolers throughout the course. After golf, a BBQ style buffet lunch (includes hamburgers, boneless chicken breast, brats, corn on the cob, BBQ baked beans, potato salad, pasta salad, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and ice cream sandwiches) will be served on the patio.

** Course #3 will include longest drive, closest to the pin, and two hole-in-one chances for a new car. Dubsdread will be a normal scramble format, or regular round of golf dependent on golfer choice.*

To sponsor or golf, online registration is now open. We are offering an online registration option, which includes both pay by check and credit card payments.

Register at www.jca-online.org/golfclassic



**Questions? You can email Sue at shansen@jca-online.org or
office phone: 815.741.0500, ext. 215**

The JCA Innovation Research Center Update



Construction began last fall on the second-floor northeast wing, formerly home of the JCA chapel and computer center. The JCA Innovation Research Center completion time frame has been delayed, as we had to ask our workers to stop for a period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The delay in work was only one of our problems as we move forward with the Innovation Research Center. We also incurred additional expenses bringing the building up to code, particularly to the entire fire alarm system. The campus was originally constructed as St. Francis Academy in 1957. We need to raise an additional \$500,000.00 so that we can finish the space, furnish it, and complete with the latest technology.

This space will be our newest upgrade and will be utilized for computer science, engineering, robotics, research and more. It



will include five meeting collaboration stations, four technology offices, two bathroom renovations, complete technology upgrades, a video information wall, and the WJCA multimedia production studio. The IRC will also be the home of the JCA Hall of Champions in Business and Industry and give our students the space and tools to prepare for the next step in their education.

The IRC is currently under construction and once completed will give us additional space to socially distance our students as we move forward. If you are interested in investing in technology or would like to visit the IRC please call John Horn at 815-791-0563. We can schedule a time for you to tour the Innovation Research Center so you can see the project up close and see how it will impact JCA students for generations.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

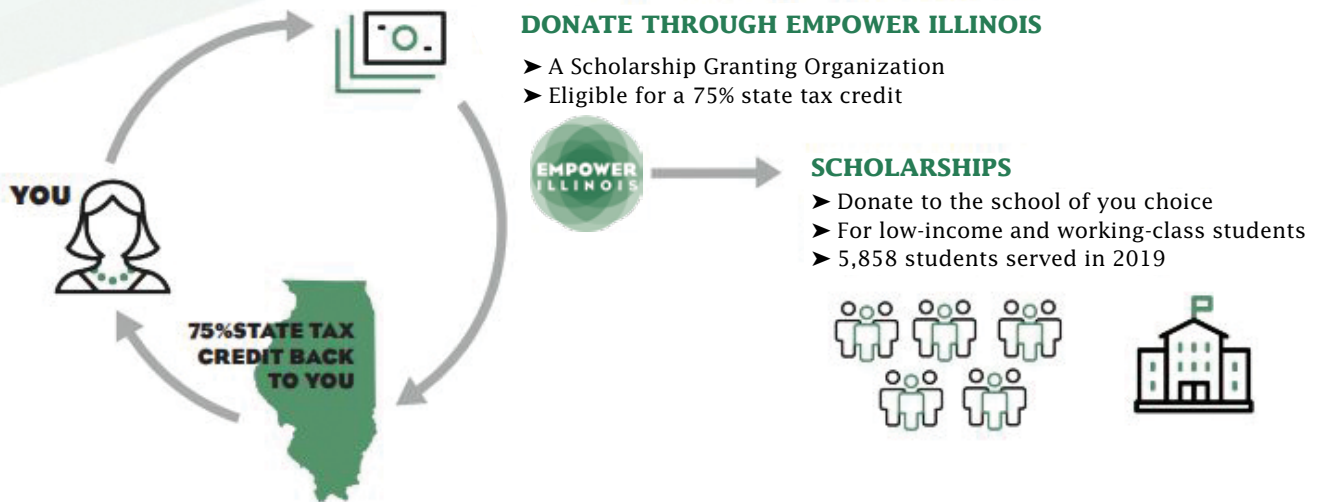
John T. Horn
JCA Director of Development



KIDS ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AT A QUALITY EDUCATION

Empower Illinois expands quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois by granting scholarships to students attending private schools.

Empower Illinois is the state's largest and most comprehensive Scholarship Granting Organization. To date, Empower Illinois has raised more than \$100M and awarded more than 14,000 scholarships. You can make charitable investment in kids through Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program.



Who Your Donation Helps

- Low-income and working-class kids across the Joliet area
- Provide K-12 scholarships to quality, private schools
- 20 scholarships provided at JCA for over \$250,000 in 2019-2020
- 137 current and prospective JCA students on the Wait List qualified to receive scholarships

How It Works

- Donate through Empower Illinois, the state's leading Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)
- By donating through an SGO, such as Empower Illinois, you earn a 75% STATE TAX CREDIT

Why Donate Through EI

- You can direct your donation to the school of your choice
- EI partners with more than 600 schools and the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools
- Increase your impact through a larger donation, as you receive a 75% tax credit to offset your tax liability

What's Next

- Contact Empower Illinois' Donor Helpline at 800-616-7606 or donors@empowerillinois.org
- Visit the Empower Illinois website: www.empowerillinois.org/donate
- Contact JCA Director of Development Mr. John Horn at jhorn@jca-online.org or 815.741.0500, ext. 276



1200 N. Larkin Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435

In Memoriam

With heartfelt condolences, we acknowledge the passing of the following members of our JCA family:

1940

Dora (Garbin) Weiske

1941

Irene (Motta) Stofan

1943

Eleanore (Stephen) Murphy

1944

Audrey (Boyle) Carey

Stanley Turk

Doris (Pohl) Wallace

1945

Marian (Ramuta) Leimbacher

Marie (Cleghorn) Wysocki

1947

Betty (Schwartz) Barry

Robert H. Bolan

William Rourke

Joan (Forgette) Sommers

1948

Joseph Cresto

Marjorie (Anson) Nelson

Marjorie (Cleghorn) Williams

1949

Gloria (Papesch) Farkas

Mary (McLinden) Haines

John Schneider

1950

Constance (Sohan) Conway

James Tierney

1951

John Azman

Carole (Evert) Zameic

1952

Terence McCarthy

1953

Jean (Juricic) Herbst

1954

Beverly (Gregory) Smutnak

Valentine E. Spreitzer, Jr.

Jeanette (Babich) Tucci

1955

Virginia (Condon) Allen

William V. Brenc

1956

James D. Allen

Robert E. Dolnak

Richard L. Hotuyec

Joyce M. Senffner

Donald L. Tomich

1957

Theresa (Jandura) Alton

Carol (Schulke) Mankowski

1958

Edward F. Barnhardt

Kathleen (Connor) Bibb

Edwin T. Bull, Jr.

Thomas E. Maher

1960

Thomas H. Briesse

Nancy (Holmes) Fister

Judith (Miglorini) Hadala

Mary (McGahey) Jakielski

Robert E. Kaffer

George F. Nedlo

Terrence J. Rohman

Elizabeth (Pasdertz) Scholp

1961

Madeline (Granich) Frey

Donna (McCollum) Jones

Raymond V. Podobnik

Dorothy (Maryanovich)

Pumphrey

1962

William H. Hubbard

James G. Neff

Charles C. Tasharski

1963

Lawrence G. Koerner

Dorothy (Brusatte) Mikuska

James M. Restaino

1964

Robert B. Campbell

Anna Mae (Dockendorf) Frattini

Michael J. Jordan

1967

Julius J. Hertko

1968

Stephen F. Jehle, Jr.

Christine (Gerencher) Smith

1970

Michelle (McHugh) Rowe

1971

Jean T. Quigley

1973

Kathryn S. Shea

David G. Stanfel

1974

Joan (Mihelic) Clark

Thomas G. Emich

Mary T. Kelly

1976

Patrick E. Ryan

1977

Timothy J. DeJule

1982

Denise (Armbrust) Schreiner

1986

Brian C. Ancel

Ronald P. Bebar

1987

Nicole R. Pfeifer

1991

Timothy A. Terrell

1995

Calvin C. Hunter

2006

Kevin P. Wallen

2012

Nathaniel C. Searing

*Eternal rest grant unto
them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon
them.*

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