



# Joliet Catholic Academy

*Inspiring Growth in Knowledge and Faith*

## 2023 SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

May 16, 2023 – 6:00 pm

**Dr. Jeffrey Budz, President/Principal**

Welcome.....

### **INTRODUCTION OF READERS BY DR. JEFFREY BUDZ, PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL**

**The readers for this evening will be:**

**Mrs. Christine Scheibe, English Department Chairperson, and  
Mrs. Jacqueline Cherwin, English & Academic Resource Center Faculty**

### **PAX CHRISTI AWARD:**

At this time, we would like the following students who have been recognized for outstanding accomplishments by associations and agencies related to secondary schools to come forward when your name is read.

**Please hold your applause until all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Amy Douglas, Academic Resource Coordinator**

**MARY ELIZABETH PIETRAS** received the Pax Christi “Instrument of Peace Award” for actively incorporating the principles of Catholic social teaching in her life.

**PLEASE GIVE HER A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

### **IHSA ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS**

The following students have been recognized as Class 4A All State Academic Players for the 2022-23 Season by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association. Students please come forward when your name is read.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Christina Kinsella, Girls Athletic Coordinator**

**IHSA ACADEMIC ALL STATE:**

**TYLER SCHLAGETER – FOOTBALL**

**ESCC AWARDS**

Special recognition is given to the recipients of the **EAST SUBURBAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD**. The ESCC pays tribute to the following student athletes:

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mr. Jim O'Brien, Athletic Director**

**ESCC SCHOLAR ATHLETES:**

**SAMANTHA BECKMAN – CHEERLEADING**

**MACKENZIE BROW – SOFTBALL**

**PRESTON BUSS - VOLLEYBALL**

**JOHN BUDZ – SOCCER/VOLLEYBALL**

**LILLIAN CHARLES – TENNIS**

**CAYLA CZERAK - BASKETBALL**

**ELENA CZERKIES – BASKETBALL/SOCCER**

**ALEXANDER GONZALEZ – GOLF**

**CARTER HOLBROOK - VOLLEYBALL**

**BRETT HULBERT - BASEBALL**

**NAOMI KASPER – DANCE**

**THOMAS KEMP – FOOTBALL/BASEBALL**

**JASON KOENINGS - VOLLEYBALL**

**CAROLINE MARTINI – TENNIS**

**ALLISON MCCARTHY – TENNIS/BASKETBALL**

**LUKE PEKOL – VOLLEYBALL**

**ZACHARY PEKOL - VOLLEYBALL**

**TYLER SURIN - BASKETBALL**

**KYLEE VERCELOTE – VOLLEYBALL/BASKETBALL/SOCCER**

**SOPHIA WENZEL – TENNIS**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

## **NATIONAL FRENCH CONTEST**

The National French Contest is an annual competition. Students in all 50 states and abroad compete against students of similar backgrounds. We are pleased to announce that the following JCA students received these awards.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Florence Austrums, French National Honor Society Moderator**

LYDIA PULTORAK received a **BRONZE MEDAL**  
LILLIAN CHARLES received a **HONORABLE MENTION CERTIFICATE**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

## **FR. NORMAN G. WERLING SCHOLARSHIP AND THE SCHMIDT/KUHN SCHOLARSHIP**

The **FR. NORMAN G. WERLING ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** was established at Joliet Catholic Academy with a generous gift from Mr. James J. Korst, JCHS Class of 1949. The interest from this fund is used to assist graduates of JCA to attend college full time. The recipient of this award must have good academic credentials, evidence of involvement in school activities, and a plan to major in a scientific discipline in college.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Jackie Pullara, College/Career Counselor**

**Recipients of the Fr. Norman G. Werling Scholarship are:**

SAVANNAH HATLEY  
KYLEE VERCELOTE

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

The **MR. & MRS. FREDERICK W. SCHMIDT, SR., and MINNIE KUHN SCHOLARSHIP** represent the dedication to education by Frederick Schmidt who provided the scholarship funds through his Will. It was his intention that recipients be academically qualified and that the scholarship be used for advanced education. It is our pleasure to announce that Mr. & Mrs. Frederick W. Schmidt, Sr. and Minnie Kuhn Scholarships have been awarded to the following students:

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

ALLYSON BOEHM  
JAKE CONN  
LUKE PEKOL

ZACHARY PEKOL  
LYDIA PULTORAK

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**AT THIS TIME, WE WILL DISTRIBUTE CERTIFICATES AND MEDALS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE JCA 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**CERTIFICATE OF HONOR IN ONE FIELD OF STUDY**

The following students have achieved outstanding academic honors in **ONE FIELD OF STUDY**, and therefore are awarded a **CERTIFICATE OF HONOR** in that field. When your name is called please come forward to receive your certificate. Please hold your applause until all names have been read.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Ms. Annie Mihelich, Senior Class Moderator**

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD:**

<b>NAME.....</b>	<b>AWARD.....</b>
<b>MACKENZIE BROW</b>	Certificate – Economics
<b>EMMA CONNOLLY</b>	Certificate – Spanish IV
<b>GENEVIEVE DARLEY</b>	Certificate – Band
<b>MOLLY GERDES</b>	Certificate – Pottery II
<b>JAMES LEE</b>	Certificate – U.S. Government
<b>BROOKLYN MARTIN</b>	Certificate – Algebra III
<b>ALLYSON MCCARTHY</b>	Certificate – Human Anatomy & Physiology
<b>AVA NEUSHWANDER</b>	Certificate – Business Law
<b>LUKE PEKOL</b>	Certificate – AP U.S. Government & Politics
<b>NEVAEH PURCHASE</b>	Certificate - Statistics
<b>VINCENT SPOTOFORA</b>	Certificate - Life Fitness
<b>SOPHIA STIRBIS</b>	Certificate – English IV
<b>TYLER SURIN</b>	Certificate – Physical Education Jr/Sr
<b>ABIGAIL WILLIAMS</b>	Certificate – Pottery Design III

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**CERTIFICATES OF HONOR IN SEVERAL FIELDS OF STUDY**

The following students have achieved outstanding academic honors in **SEVERAL FIELDS OF STUDY**, and therefore are awarded **CERTIFICATES OF HONOR** in these fields. When your name is called please come forward.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Kristin Horn, Counseling Chairperson**

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD:**

<b>NAME.....</b>	<b>AWARD(S).....</b>
<b>SAMANTHA BECKMAN</b>	Certificate – Precalculus Certificate – Current Issues Certificate – U.S. Government
<b>VIVICA BOFAH</b>	Certificate – Theology IV Certificate – AP Chemistry
<b>JOHN BUDZ</b>	Certificate – Sociology Certificate – Economics Certificate - Human Anatomy & Physiology
<b>LILLIAN CHARLES</b>	Certificate – Studio Art Certificate – AP French Certificate – English IV
<b>ALEXANDER GONZALEZ</b>	Certificate – AP Physics Certificate – Physical Education Jr/Sr
<b>JAMES HOSTERT</b>	Certificate – Economics Certificate – Graphic Design
<b>THOMAS KEMP</b>	Certificate – Theology IV Certificate – AP U.S. Government & Politics
<b>DWAYNE KILLIAN</b>	Certificate – Economics Certificate – Robotics & Engineering I
<b>ELLA PASSEHL</b>	Certificate – Algebra II Certificate – Drawing Media I
<b>MATEUSZ PIENIAZEK</b>	Certificate – English IV Certificate – U.S. Government Certificate – Economics

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**MEDAL OF HONOR IN ONE FIELD OF STUDY AND ONE OR MORE**

## **CERTIFICATES**

The following students have achieved the **HIGHEST ACADEMIC STANDING IN ONE FIELD OF STUDY** and therefore are awarded the **MEDAL OF HONOR** in that field. These students may also have earned **ONE OR MORE CERTIFICATES OF HONOR**.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mr. Jason Midlock, Social Studies Department  
Chairperson**

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD:**

<b>NAME.....</b>	<b>AWARD(S).....</b>
<b>LEO ANASTOPOULOS</b>	Medal – Economics Certificate – Theology IV
<b>ANTHONY BIRSA</b>	Medal – Physical Education Jr/Sr
<b>ALLYSON BROUCH</b>	Medal – Economics Certificate – U.S. Government
<b>ELENA CZERKIES</b>	Medal – U.S. Government Certificate – Metalsmithing/Fiber Art I
<b>ANGELO FASANO</b>	Medal – Music Theory
<b>HOPE HILLIARD</b>	Medal – Yearbook Certificate – English 102
<b>DANIEL HORVATIN</b>	Medal – U.S. Government
<b>RAGAN HRYCYK</b>	Medal – Pottery II Certificate – English IV
<b>MOLLY JAY</b>	Medal – Pottery III
<b>JENNA JOHNSON</b>	Medal - Multimedia
<b>NAOMI KASPER</b>	Medal – Statistics Certificate – Human Anatomy & Physiology
<b>JASON KOENINGS</b>	Medal – AP Chemistry Certificate – Microeconomics – AP

<b>BRANDON KOWALL</b>	Medal – General Business
<b>ZACHARY KREGAS</b>	Medal – Economics
<b>NIKOLAS LIGHTHISER</b>	Medal – Band Certificate – Music Theory
<b>COLIN LINNEWEH</b>	Medal – Precalculus Certificate – English IV
<b>BRETT MOUW</b>	Medal – Algebra II
<b>ERIN NASH</b>	Medal – Anatomy & Physiology
<b>FRANCESCA ORNELAS</b>	Medal – U.S. Government Certificate – English IV
<b>ALLIE PAPESH</b>	Medal – Psychology II
<b>TAIZ PARDO</b>	Medal – Algebra III
<b>ZACHARY PEKOL</b>	Medal – AP U.S. Government Certificate – English IV Certificate – AP Statistics Certificate – AP Biology Certificate – AP Spanish V
<b>RAMON RIOS</b>	Medal - Broadcast
<b>CARMINA SANTELLA</b>	Medal – English IV Certificate – Pottery Design I
<b>GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR</b>	Medal – Accounting I Certificate – Theology IV Certificate – Drawing Media II
<b>ANDREW STRUCK</b>	Medal – Sociology Certificate – Accounting I Certificate – Statistics
<b>KALEIGH SVAY</b>	Medal – English IV Certificate – U.S. Government
<b>EMMA VITAS</b>	Medal – Statistics Certificate – Journalism/Yearbook

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**MEDALS OF HONOR IN SEVERAL FIELDS OF STUDY AND CERTIFICATES**

The following students have achieved the **HIGHEST ACADEMIC STANDING IN MORE THAN ONE FIELD OF STUDY** and therefore are awarded the **MEDALS OF HONOR** in those fields. These students may also have earned **ONE OR MORE CERTIFICATES OF HONOR**.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mr. Tyler Eakle, Math Department Chairperson**

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD:**

<b>NAME.....</b>	<b>AWARDS.....</b>
<b>MARISSA CORSI</b>	Medal – English IV Medal – AP Calculus Medal – AP Microeconomics Medal – AP Biology Medal – AP Spanish V Certificate – AP Chemistry
<b>CARTER HOLBROOK</b>	Medal – Theology IV Medal – AP Statistics Medal – AP Physics Medal – Spanish IV Certificate – English IV Certificate – AP Calculus
<b>ELLA PAPINEAU</b>	Medal – Metalsmithing/Fiber Art I Medal – Metalsmithing/Fiber Art II Certificate – Theology IV Certificate – AP Microeconomics
<b>LYDIA PULTORAK</b>	Medal – Studio Art Medal – AP French V Certificate – Statistics

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**



## **PERFECT RECORD AWARD**

The Perfect Record Award is presented to students who, through their four years at JCA, never received a detention, referral, or disciplinary action from the Dean's Office. Perfect Record Awards will be distributed at Graduation practice.

### **PLEASE STAND WHEN YOUR NAME IS READ**

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**MASON ALESSIO  
ERIN ARDAUGH  
ALYSSA BAILEY  
SAMANTHA BECKMAN  
ALLYSON BOEHM  
EMILY BOLEK  
MACKENZIE BROW  
JOHN BUDZ  
LAUREN CARDWELL  
ALEXANDER CARSTENS  
LILLIAN CHARLES  
NATHAN CIEMNY  
JAKE CONN  
EMMA CONNOLLY  
MARISSA CORSI  
CAYLA CZERAK  
ELENA CZERKIES  
GENEVIEVE DARLEY  
BAILEY FREY  
ALEXANDER GONZALEZ  
LUKE GOULD  
MAURA GREGURICH  
MARIA GRIMANIS  
REGAN HATTEMAR  
MARLEY HENNESSY  
NATHAN HERNANDEZ  
CARTER HOLBROOK  
RAGAN HRYCYK  
BRETT HULBERT  
ZUZANA HUYNHOVA  
MOLLY JAY  
STELLA JESIOLOWSKI**

**THOMAS KEMP  
JASON KOENINGS  
CAROLINE KOZLOWSKI  
SKYLAR LACY  
COLIN LINNEWEH  
BROOKLYN MARTIN  
KATHLEEN MARTIN  
CAROLINE MARTINI  
ALLISON MCCARTHY  
PAIGE MICHEL  
JENNA MULLANY  
SARAH MURPHY  
DANIEL OOTEN  
ELLA PAPINEAU  
TAIZ PARDO  
ELLA PASSEHL  
EMILY PAWLOWSKI  
LUKE PEKOL  
ZACHARY PEKOL  
MARY PIETRAS  
LYDIA PULTORAK  
NEVAEH PURCHASE  
EDUARDO REYES  
KATHLEEN RYAN  
GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR  
ANDREW STRUCK  
KALEIGH SVAY  
BLAKE TAUER-VALEK  
ISABELLA TISCHINA  
MADELINE VERCELLI  
KYLEE VERCELOTE  
SAVANNAH VILLEGAS  
SOFIA WENZEL**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**MAJOR SCHOOL AWARDS**

The moment has arrived to present **THE HIGHEST HONORS OF ACHIEVEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2023**. Your hard work and dedication have been an inspiration to the Joliet Catholic Academy school community.

**HONORS PROGRAM AWARD**

The purpose of the JCA Honors Program is to challenge academically gifted students, provide them with a demanding program to meet their needs, and encourage them to reach their full academic potential.

We are proud to recognize the following students who have completed four years of honors curriculum as members of the JCA Honors Program. These young men and women have also earned the privilege of receiving an Honors Diploma.

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Kristin Horn, Counseling Chairperson**

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO STEP FORWARD:**

**ERIN ARDAUGH  
ALYSSA BAILEY  
VIVICA BOFAH  
PRESTON BUSS  
LAUREN CARDWELL  
LILLIAN CHARLES  
NATHAN CIEMNY  
EMMA CONNOLLY  
MARISSA CORSI  
CAYLA CZERAK  
ELENA CZERKIES  
LUKE GOULD  
SAVANNAH HATLEY  
REGAN HATTEMAR  
MARLEY HENNESSY  
NATHAN HERNANDEZ  
CARTER HOLBROOK  
NAOMI KASPER**

**THOMAS KEMP  
JASON KOENINGS  
BRANDON KOWALL  
TEAGEN KUBINSKI  
JAMES LEE  
ALLISON MCCARTHY  
ELLA PAPINEAU  
LUKE PEKOL  
  
ZACHARY PEKOL  
LYDIA PULTORAK  
SARAH RATAJCZYK  
GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR  
TYLER SURIN  
JAMES SHARP  
MADELINE VERCELLI  
KYLEE VERCELOTE  
SOFIA WENZEL**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS**

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT have been awarded for their Outstanding Academic Achievement by the ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS to the following ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS:

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Mrs. Jackie Pullara, College/Career Counselor**

**PLEASE COME FORWARD WHEN YOUR NAME IS READ.**

**LEO ANASTOPOULOS**

**ERIN ARDAUGH**

**ALLYSON BOEHM**

**VIVICA BOFAH**

**PRESTON BUSS**

**MARISSA CORSI**

**CAYLA CZERAK**

**ELENA CZERKIES**

**CARTER HOLBROOK**

**BRETT HULBERT**

**NAOMI KASPER**

**THOMAS KEMP**

**JASON KOENINGS**

**JAMES LEE**

**ALLISON MCCARTHY**

**ELLA PAPINEAU**

**LUKE PEKOL**

**ZACHARY PEKOL**

**LYDIA PULTORAK**

**SARAH RATAJCZYK**

**GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR**

**TYLER SURIN**

**SOFIA WENZEL**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

**At this time, I would like to announce the recipients of MEDALS in THREE SPECIAL CATEGORIES:**

**Please hold your applause until all all names have been read.**

**The Presenter is: Dr. Jeffrey Budz, President/Principal**

**OUTSTANDING SCHOLARS**

The JCA OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR award is given by the faculty to students who have

demonstrated excellent academic performance during their four years at JCA.

**The recipients are:**

**LILLIAN CHARLES  
CARTER HOLBROOK  
JASON KOENINGS  
ELLA PAPINEAU  
SOFIA WENZEL**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

### **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**

The **JCA OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP** award is given by the faculty to students who have given of themselves in leading, organizing, and participating in school-related activities during their four years at JCA.

**The recipients are:**

<b>SAMANTHA BECKMAN</b>	<b>MARLEY HENNESSY</b>
<b>PRESTON BUSS</b>	<b>NATHAN HERNANDEZ</b>
<b>LAUREN CARDWELL</b>	<b>TYLER SCHLAGETER</b>
<b>GENEVIEVE DARLEY</b>	<b>TYLER SURIN</b>
<b>LUKE GOULD</b>	<b>MADELINE VERCELLI</b>
	<b>EMMA VITAS</b>

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE.**

### **OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

The **JCA OUTSTANDING SERVICE** award is given by the faculty to students who have, during their four years of high school, faithfully served the student body of JCA, and whose spirit of life and dedication exemplifies Christian Living.

**The recipients are:**

<b>LEO ANASTOPOULAS</b>	<b>LUKE PEKOL</b>
<b>ERIN ARDAUGH</b>	<b>MARY ELIZABETH PIETRAS</b>
<b>AYLSSA BAILEY</b>	<b>LYDIA PULTORAK</b>
<b>MACKENZIE BROW</b>	<b>SARAH RATAJCZYK</b>
<b>PAIGE MICHEL</b>	<b>GENEVIEVE SINCLAIR</b>

## **PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

### **SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD**

Each year the Joliet Catholic Academy Athletic Department honors students who demonstrated both academic and athletic achievement. **This award is given to the top male and female athletes who have earned the highest GPA and have participated in two or more sports.**

**The Presenter is: Mr. Jim O'Brien, Athletic Director**

**The JCA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD is presented to:**

**ALLISON MCCARTHY – Tennis/Basketball  
THOMAS KEMP – Football/Baseball**

### **JCA SPIRIT AWARD**

The **JCA SPIRIT AWARD** recognizes students who have displayed academic excellence, school spirit, cooperation, loyalty, and service to the Joliet Catholic Academy community.

**The Presenter is: Ms. Laura Pahl, Associate Principal**

**The recipients of the JCA SPIRIT AWARD are:**

**VIVICA BOFAH  
ANTHONY BIRSA**

### **JCA ANGEL OF THE YEAR AND THE JCA HILLMAN OF THE YEAR**

**THE JCA ANGEL OF THE YEAR AND THE JCA HILLMAN OF THE YEAR are** Joliet Catholic Academy's most prestigious awards. These awards recognize the two students who have upheld the highest standards of the following: honesty, reliability, courtesy, and concern and respect for others. They 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.

**The recipient of the JCA ANGEL OF THE YEAR AWARD is:**

**MARISSA CORSI**

**The recipient of the JCA HILLMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD is:**

**ZACHARY PEKOL**

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**PRESENTATION OF CLASS VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**

Each year the Administration of Joliet Catholic Academy awards the most prestigious academic awards to the **Valedictorian** and **Salutarian** of the Senior class.

**The Presenter is: Dr. Jeffrey Budz, President/Principal**

**SALUTATORIAN: ZACHARY PEKOL**

**VALEDICTORIAN: LUKE PEKOL**

We are extremely proud of these Seniors and congratulate them and their parents on this great honor and accomplishment. They join the select few of previous recipients.

**PLEASE GIVE THEM A WELL DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE**

**The Speaker is: Laura Pahl, Associate Principal**

**On behalf of the Administration, Faculty, Staff, Board of Members, and Board of Directors of Joliet Catholic Academy, we offer our heartfelt congratulations TO ALL RECIPIENTS, and THEIR FAMILIES. We are proud of you and your accomplishments. Thank you for sharing this evening with us.**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel!**

**St. Francis of Assisi!**

**Recessional**