

St. John the Evangelist – Enrollment Update

Many people have asked about the status of middle school classes for the 2018-19 academic year. ***We are pleased to inform you that the School Board unanimously voted to affirm enrollment to include two classes at each grade level (Kindergarten through 8th Grade).*** Pursuit of this course of action has been authorized by our parish and school administration. We will continue to offer Pre-Kindergarten opportunities for those families who are interested.

It is anticipated that the expansion plan will be implemented as follows:

- * **2018-19:** SJE enrollment to include an additional 6th grade
- * **2019-20:** Growth will accommodate two 7th grade classes
- * **2020-21:** Full-capacity anticipated when we have two 8th grade classes

Our current campus facilities and layout do not support additional enrollment; therefore, we are undertaking a process to determine options to accommodate increased numbers of students in a manner that best serves the school and parish communities (600 youth are involved in CCD programming, not to mention other ministries managed by parishioners). The vibrancy of the activities offered during school days, on evenings and throughout weekends demonstrate how important our parish, school and community spaces are to various constituency groups.

Youth involved with the parish and school are our highest priority. Therefore, we will continue to focus on:

- 1) Forming strong Catholic identity in those we serve
- 2) Closing gaps in academic achievement for SJE students
- 3) Directing students toward College and Heaven throughout their educational experience

To best understand what brings St. John the Evangelist Catholic School to this critical point, our history is important. Since 1950, SJE has served families seeking Catholic education for their children. Originally founded by the Sisters of Charity, St. John is one of twenty-five parochial schools in the Diocese of Tucson.

Our PK-8 configuration is aligned with the model employed across the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Academies (NDAA) network. In 2010, St. John the Evangelist School entered into a partnership with NDAA. St. John the Evangelist has focused on strengthening its:

- 1) Teaching and Learning –through Research-based pedagogical improvements (strategies to enhance quality teaching which positively impact student learning)
- 2) Catholic School Culture – through the enhancement of a high impact and joyful school culture
- 3) Advancement - through the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students and families.

Fruits of the NDAA partnership include:

STUDENT ENROLLMENT INCREASES:

- * 2010 – 130 students enrolled in Pre-K through 8th grade (one class at each grade level)
- * 2017 – 402 students (one class each in Pre-K, 6th, 7th & 8th grade; two classes in all other grades)

This represents 210% growth in enrollment over the past seven years

- * 100% of currently enrolled SJE students qualify for tuition support
- * 2017-18 scholarship support for our students equals \$2,118,67
- * We have an inquiry list of 166 students who are not currently enrolled at SJE



ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENTS:

- * Renewed academic accreditation by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA)
- * Continued annual growth in standardized test scores that measure improvement in both reading and math
- * Received 90 Chromebooks (donated by Angel Charity for Children) and 30 iPads
- * Established a religious education curriculum that is aligned horizontally across SJE school and CCD classes and aligned vertically through SJE grade levels
- * Strengthened the alignment of parish and school activities around the liturgical calendar and related events
- * Created and implemented Mariachi and Folkloric programs at SJE; alumni of our program helped initiate a new Mariachi program at St. Augustine High School

Outside of the partnership with the Notre Dame ACE Academies, campus improvements and mutually beneficial partnerships include:

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS (PHYSICAL SPACE):

- * Multiple classrooms have been renovated
- * Added accessible ramp on west side of campus to accommodate wheel chairs
- * Beautification of school playground
- * New tables and seating in the cafeteria
- * Complete remodel of school restrooms and the addition of a restroom on the playground

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- * Construction of the skate park north of the playground (with the City of Tucson)
- * Formation of the Ernesto Roche Park north of the parking area (with the City of Tucson)
- * Creation of a community garden

The parish administration, academic leadership and school board are excited and hopeful about our future and will inform you as we learn more and have specific plans to share.

**Planning for the appropriate growth of our school takes careful consideration.
Please keep St. John the Evangelist Catholic School and Parish in your prayers.**

We hope you had a blessed Christmas season.

