



# St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. DURKIN  
May 20, 2026

**The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this takes place through a rich path made up of many ingredients. True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life.**

— Pope Francis

Dear SJR Families,

Today the students in grades 2-7 will be bringing home the results of their Terra Nova exams from earlier this spring. Please review the results. I will be presenting some of the overall school results at our final HSA meeting of the year on Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. I'll also share some tips for how to understand your child's results.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an announcement from the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education regarding testing for next year and subsequent years. The Archdiocese has decided to move away from Terra Nova as a way to get data about student learning and progress. Instead, all 102 elementary schools will be using the iReady diagnostics beginning next year. Like Terra Nova, i-Ready is a "norm-referenced" assessment. You will still be able to see how your child performed compared to a national representative sample of their peers. The primary difference is the format: Terra Nova is a "fixed-form" test (everyone sees the same questions), while i-Ready is "adaptive" (the test changes based on student answers to find their exact "ceiling").

At SJR we are fortunate in that we already use the iReady diagnostics and so will be well prepared to take them again next year.

As we make this transition, we remain committed to using assessment data thoughtfully to support each child's academic growth and success. We are confident that our continued use of i-Ready will provide valuable information for both teachers and families while helping us tailor instruction to best meet student needs.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support throughout this school year. It's hard to believe we're at the "unofficial start to the summer." See you tonight at the Fine Arts Festival! A reminder that our Field Day and Family Picnic is postponed until next Thursday, May 28th.

Gratefully,  
Mrs. Durkin





## School News



### The Fine Arts Festival

The Fine Arts Festival is scheduled for tonight at 6:30p.m. in Monsignor Marley Hall. All students in grades 1-6 are performing a song they've worked on in Music Class and should be there by 6:15p.m. Band members should follow instructions by Mr. Miller. Art work from all students will be displayed and Mrs. Jacobs will be announcing which student artist/work will be added to the SJR permanent collection this year. We're looking forward to this celebration of the visual and performing arts! Please plan to join us!



The 2026-27 Thespian Club with Directors Miss Lauren (Kulp) and Miss Lindsay returns for a fall production of Moana, Jr.! See flyer below for details about auditions this month for lead roles!

### Summer Reading Kickoff!

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us at Barnes & Noble on Monday evening!

### Final Exams

I shared information about the changes to the archdiocesan final exam structure. Beginning this year there are benchmark exams which will be given at the end of each trimester. Your child's teacher will communicate about the dates. These will be administered any time before the end of the year.



### BLOCS Applications Due

Please see the information below to take advantage of the scholarship opportunity through the Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools. The application deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please reach out to Mrs. Williamson with any questions. [kwilliamson@stjstr.org](mailto:kwilliamson@stjstr.org)



## HSA News

### Congratulations and Thank You!

Congratulations to the Thom family who won the Needoh and Dumpling drawing! Thank you to everyone who supported the Walkathon.

### Chick-fil-a Lunch with the Principal!

Congratulations and thank you to the students who will be having lunch with the principal. We'll confirm the date and time.

Val (2nd)

Wade (K)

Frank (K)

Bridget and Cecilia (PK and K)

Noelle (K)

The top earning class for the Walkathon is Mrs. John's Kindergarten - they will enjoy a pizza party!

### Field Day and Family Picnic Postponed

Due to the weather, our Field Day and Family Picnic fun has been postponed until next Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please try to join us if you can.

### HSA Meeting

There is an HSA meeting on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 in the cafeteria. There is great HSA news to discuss and Mrs. Durkin will be sharing some information about SJR's Terra Nova results and how to read your child's individual results. Please plan to attend.





ARCHDIOCESE  
OF  
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## An Important Announcement from The Office of Catholic Education

As we look toward the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited to share some wonderful news about how we are further enhancing our instructional approach across our 102 schools. After a year of careful research and discernment by a committee of school leaders, our Archdiocese will be transitioning to a new diagnostic partner called i-Ready for Reading and Mathematics.

### **A Clearer Map for Student Growth**

In our Catholic schools, we believe that every student is a unique child of God. Our goal is to ensure our teachers have the most helpful information possible to support that journey. i-Ready is an "adaptive" assessment, which means it adjusts in real-time to a student's responses to find their "just-right" learning level. This gives our schools a clearer understanding of each student's specific strengths and the areas where they are ready to grow.

### **Why We Are Excited for Next Year**

While we have valued the information provided by our previous assessments, we are moving to i-Ready because of the helpful insights it provides our educators throughout the year. Here is what this change means for our school communities:

- Timely Information: i-Ready provides results to our schools as soon as a student completes the diagnostic. This allows our teachers to have a more current understanding of classroom needs as they plan their lessons and activities. Supportive Learning Tools: Once the diagnostic is complete, the system provides students with access to a personalized digital learning path. This serves as a wonderful supplement to classroom instruction, allowing students to engage with practice materials tailored to their needs.
- Tracking Progress Together: We will check in with these diagnostics three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). This allows us to monitor progress over time and share consistent updates with you regarding the growth your child is making across the school year.
- Our Continued Commitment to Excellence - Please rest assured that we remain fully committed to the same high academic standards and rigorous expectations that define a Catholic education. i-Ready is simply a more modern, supportive tool to help our schools stay informed and proactive in their instructional planning.

We are so grateful for the trust you place in us to educate your children. We look forward to this new chapter and to the many ways it will help our students flourish.

*Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)*

*BLOCS Tuition Scholarships for 2026-2027*

Application for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit BLOCS Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year is now **open**. It is very important that every SJR family review. We recommend that you apply even if you are over the annual income. If available, your family may qualify for other sources of tuition funding. Families can apply who have students enrolling in grades Pre-K through 12th.

We are excited that the family income limit has increased to \$116,055 plus \$20,428 for each additional dependent. The limits for each additional dependent are as follows:

1 child: \$136,483

2 children: \$156,911

3 children: \$177,339

4 children: \$197,767

Remember to just add \$20,428 per dependent!

Applications for tuition scholarships are completed through FACTS by visiting:

<https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. The application fee is \$40.00 & all submissions are strictly confidential. Once you complete an online application, you will be required to attach your 2024 or 2025 Federal Tax forms and all supporting tax schedules. Everything must be submitted to FACTS by **June 1, 2026** to determine your family's eligibility for tuition scholarship. If qualified, Mrs. Dorothy Aschenbrenner, SJR Business Manager will notify the family of their award.

**Questions about the application process can be directed to FACTS at 866-441-4637. In addition, you may contact Kathy Williamson at: [kwilliamson@stjstr.org](mailto:kwilliamson@stjstr.org).**



**THE SJR THESPIANS CLUB IS BACK!**

**WE ARE SO EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE  
THE 2026 SJR PLAY WILL BE MOANA, JR!**

**REHEARSALS WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER AFTER SCHOOL  
MONDAYS, 3:15-4:45 PM**

**SHOWDATE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF  
NOVEMBER 14 OR 15, 2026**

**STUDENTS GRADE 1-8 CAN PARTICIPATE**

## **LEAD ROLES!**

**LEAD ROLES ARE OPEN TO STUDENTS GRADE 5-8**

**IF INTERESTED IN A LEAD ROLE, PLEASE JOIN  
THE BAND APP VIA THE QR CODE FOR  
INFORMATION ON HOW TO SEND IN YOUR  
VIDEO AUDITION!**

**AUDITIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 1**



## NEW Basketball Camp Incentive!

For all those who register for the Let's Grow Sports basketball camp, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a free session with Dr. Dish, the shooting machine, at Total Skills Basketball Association in Doylestown! 3 winners will be chosen and announced on the last day of camp. Anyone who refers a player for registration will increase their name in the drawing 2 more times. Email Kate Moyer at [Kmoyer1724@gmail.com](mailto:Kmoyer1724@gmail.com) if you refer a friend.

St. Joseph/ St. Robert School is hosting a three half-day Basketball Camp on Tuesday, August 11; Wednesday, August 12; and Thursday, August 13 in Msgr. Marley Hall with Coach Mac of Let's Grow Sports. This co-ed camp is open to all 7-11-year-olds and all ability levels.

Please see the information below for full camp details. You can register on the SJR website: [St. Joseph/ St. Robert Website](http://St. Joseph/ St. Robert Website) or click on the following link:  
<https://api.leadconnectorhq.com/widget/form/bkHitGrc8cPitPXhg90D>



**SJR SUMMER  
BASKETBALL CAMP**



**HOSTED BY COACH MAC OF  
LET'S GROW SPORTS**



**3 DAY CAMP  
9AM-12PM  
AGES 7-11, CO-ED**

**\$149 PER PLAYER  
SIBLING RATES INCLUDED**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13**

**SIGN UP:  
ST. JOSEPH/ST. ROBERT WEBSITE  
STJSTR.ORG**



**LOCATION: MSGR. MARLEY HALL**


# More HSA News

Thanks to an incredibly generous donor, our HSA has been gifted TWO pairs of Phillies tickets with seats in the amazing Hall of Fame Club!

It looks like the Phils are back on track, and now you have a chance to cheer them on in style while supporting SJR! See the details below to purchase raffle chances for this exciting Phillies experience!

Feel free to share with family and friends. The winners will be drawn on Field Day, Thursday, May 21st.

Go Phils!



**SJR Home & School Association is raffling  
2 PAIRS of Phillies tickets - one winner per game!  
Both in Hall of Fame Club**


**DATES:**

**1 Sunday, June 7th**  
vs. White Sox @ 1:35 PM  
Section 220, Row 4, Seats 1 & 2


**2 Tuesday, June 16th**  
vs. Marlins @ 6:40 PM  
Section 220, Row 4, Seats 1 & 2


**CHANCES ARE**  
**1 FOR \$10**  
OR  
**3 FOR \$25**


*ALL PROCEEDS  
WILL BENEFIT SJR!*

 **ALL ENTRIES DUE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH**

**PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE VIA**

 **Venmo - @SJR-HSA**  
please include "Ticket Raffle",  
your name & phone number  
in the comment

 Check/Cash can be sent  
into school, in an envelope  
C/O Paulie Klein, 3rd grade  
Checks should be  
made payable to SJR HSA

*Thank you for supporting SJR!* 

\* THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS \* \*



7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUCKS

# ARTS AND BARKS



**FEATURING**

Crafters, Pet Rescues  
Music, Kids Activities  
Petting Zoo, K9 Dog  
and Food Vendors  
and Trucks



**PET and  
Family Fest**



**SAT. JUNE 13, 2026  
11 AM - 3 PM**

**NEW LOCATION:**

Warminster Park - Hallowell Pavilion  
1100 Veterans Way,  
Warminster, PA 18974



For more info about vendors, rescues  
& business sponsor opportunities,  
contact - [events@bwsac.org](mailto:events@bwsac.org)