



# St. Joseph/St. Robert School Newsletter

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. DURKIN  
June, 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,

I want to extend my thanks to our students, families, faculty, and staff for the many ways you supported SJR's mission this past year. Wishing you all a joyful, restful summer!

An important note: I shared the tentative schedule in the spring. Some updates needed to be made to accommodate some various moving pieces. In particular, please note:

- Reminder: All students in grades 1 - 8 begin school on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a half day. Students entering Pre-K and Kindergarten will be visiting. Your child's teacher will communicate their schedule for the first week.
- There is no transportation provided on the half day before Christmas vacation. We will be having our Christmas Pageant that morning (11:00a.m. tentatively) during the school day and you will be able to take your child home with you.
- March 11, 2026 is now a noon dismissal (buses available except for Centennial) to accommodate Confirmation that afternoon at St. Robert's.
- I will share an updated calendar in an email and will post it on our website.

Please note that I am available throughout the summer. The school office will be open Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. and on Mondays and Fridays by appointment. Please feel free to stop in or reach out with questions you have. You received supply lists from your child's teacher. These will also be posted on our homepage during the summer.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Durkin





Dear SJR Families and Friends,

The recent passage of House Bill 2632 by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is deeply concerning for SJR families who work hard, make sacrifices, and choose the educational environment that best meets their children's needs. If enacted, this legislation would end the current structure of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs beginning in 2027—programs that have been vital to our school community.

At Saint Joseph/St. Robert School, nearly 40% of our students receive scholarship assistance through EITC and OSTC funding. These scholarships help make a faith-based education focused on academic excellence, faith formation, service, and community accessible to families who might otherwise be unable to afford it.

House Bill 2632 has passed the Pennsylvania House and now moves to the Senate Education Committee for consideration. I am asking all SJR families and friends to take a moment to contact your state legislators and encourage them to protect EITC and OSTC scholarship opportunities for SJR and all Pennsylvania students and families.

Please use the link below for more information and to contact your elected officials and make your voice heard.

**Make Your Voice Heard!**

Gratefully,

Mrs. Jennifer Durkin



## School News

### Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates!

Please keep our graduates in your prayers this summer as they get ready to begin an exciting new chapter in high school this fall. As a class, they were offered more than \$470,000 in scholarship money to local high schools—an incredible accomplishment! We are so proud of the growth they have shown during their years at SJR, both academically and in their faith. While we'll miss seeing them each day, we can't wait to hear about all the new opportunities, experiences, and successes that lie ahead. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

### Congratulations to our Patron Award Recipients!

These students were shining examples of what it means to live out the virtues of determination and commitment as modeled for us by St. Joseph and St. Robert Bellarmine.. Through their steady effort, positive attitude, and dedication to doing their best, they set a beautiful example for our entire school community. We were proud to recognize and thank Sofia, Robbie, Elena, and Emilia at Mass on the First Friday in June for their wonderful example. Well done!

Congratulations to our third graders who worked so hard on their research and on creating their “Bottle Person.” The whole school enjoyed their presentations! It’s so fun to hear the older students reflect on their bottle person and to give the younger students something to think about. It’s a really fun and inspiring tradition - thank you to Miss Larson and to the students’ parents, too!

Congratulations to Henry who recently made his First Communion! God bless you, Henry!





## HSA News

Congratulations and thank you to the HSA board for 2026-27!

- Megan Illg- President
- Melissa Thom- Vice President
- Christine McShane-Corresponding Secretary
- Becky Hartman-Recording Secretary
- Deanna Gordon-Treasurer

Thank you to Mrs. Bontempo, Mrs. Long, and Mrs. Klein who have completed their term of service on the board this past year. We all appreciate your hard work!

Thank You!

The Specials teachers and administration would like to thank you for your generous and thoughtful end-of-year gifts. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated and mean so much to all of us. We are grateful for your partnership and for the many ways you support our school community. Thank you for helping make this a wonderful year!



THE SUMMER KICKOFF

Shop early,  
*beat the  
rush.*

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*Let's fill your uniform closet  
before time runs out!*



**Please click**  
**on the link to shop**  
**Flynn & O'Hara**

# SJR Summer Play Groups



Summer is here, and we're excited to invite you to our Summer Playground Playgroups on the SJR Playground!

This is a wonderful opportunity for children entering Pre-K through First Grade to play, make new friends, reconnect with classmates, and become even more comfortable with our school over the summer. It's especially helpful for our newest students as they begin to build friendships and feel at home at SJR.

These informal gatherings are wonderful for parents, too! They are a great way to meet other families, share experiences, and build the sense of community that makes SJR so special.

There is no agenda—just play, conversation, and fun! We hope you'll join us. Please find the schedule for the rest of the month below.

June 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

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## **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**



PHILMONT FC HOLISTIC SOCCER PROGRAM AND BARCLAY ELEMENTARY ARE  
PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:

# BARCLAY SOCCER AND LEADERSHIP CLUB

SJR has been invited to join our  
neighbors for this club opportunity!!



## Program Details:

- For students in 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup> grade (26-27 school year)
- on-field training led by former and current professional players and coaches
- classroom sessions for academic development., leadership, team building, and soccer skills
- life skill-building to become a more well-rounded player

**Camp will be on Tuesdays and  
Wednesdays 9:00-11:00 AM from  
Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday,  
August 5<sup>th</sup>**

**EACH REGISTERED PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A \$25  
WALMART GIFT CARD**

**Please contact Mrs. Durkin if you are interested  
at [jdurkin@stjstr.org](mailto:jdurkin@stjstr.org)**