



VILLA ANGELA - ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

NOW IS
OUR TIME.



Villa Angela-St. Joseph
HIGH SCHOOL



OUR FAITH



OUR FAMILY



OUR FUTURE

Keeping Our Promises Campaign

this is our **FAITH**

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary, said:

No doubt, faith must be animated by charity. Faith should not only be a light in the mind, but it should be in the heart as well. There must be in faith a disposition of the heart.

St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters, said:

We must give alms. Charity wins souls and draws them to virtue. Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve those [who require help] than they have of your service.

Serving others has always been at the heart of Villa Angela Academy, St. Joseph High School and VASJ. The lessons of Blessed Chaminade and St. Angela are woven into every aspect of the exceptional Catholic education we strive to provide to our students.

Faithful to our heritage, we are committed to moving into the future through a thoughtful planning and implementation process. Each aspect of our campaign is designed to **keep the promise** expressed in our mission statement:

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school rooted in the Ursuline and Marianist traditions and committed to the spiritual, academic and personal growth of each student.

Social justice and faith-filled service to the community are core values and strong traditions from the school's past that continue to thrive at VASJ today. For more than 140 years, students have been trained to carry the light of truth and faith to family, parish and community. Christ-centric education will be the hallmark of our culture no matter how the world changes around us.



1849

Bro. Leo Meyer arrives in New York and begins the Marianist Ministry in America

1850

Three nuns, one lay sister and one laywoman arrive in Cleveland from Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

1854

The Ursulines begin teaching for the Diocese of Cleveland



1856

Marianist Brothers start teaching in Cleveland



this is our **FAMILY**

As the only school in the world co-sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters and Marianist Brothers, a VASJ education is uniquely different. VASJ is a school where students can grow in their faith, be academically challenged, follow their passions, and create high school memories and friendships that last a lifetime. When you become a student at VASJ, you become a member of a *family* where everyone knows you and supports your ambitions.

Students are encouraged to find meaning in Catholic traditions and develop closer relationships with God as demonstrated through the teachings of Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade and St. Angela Merici. This faith-based learning environment is evident when speaking with students like Cha’Nyra Cooper ’20.

“Before coming here, I never had experienced such a faith-based type of school. I never really had that connection with God that I have now. Since I now know more about God, I know more what I want out of life, which is to have that relationship with Him and live my life based off of Him. I want to lead by the set of values that I have now.”

We are committed to **keeping our promise** of seeking and welcoming diversity on all levels. Our students proudly embrace our diversity, and it shows in their school pride and the family spirit that makes our Viking Village something truly special.

As we celebrate 30 years of quality, Catholic education at VASJ, we look toward the future as we continue to build a strong legacy on the shores of Lake Erie.



“I’ve been able to **grow more in my faith** and open up more about my faith than I would’ve been able to at a public high school.”

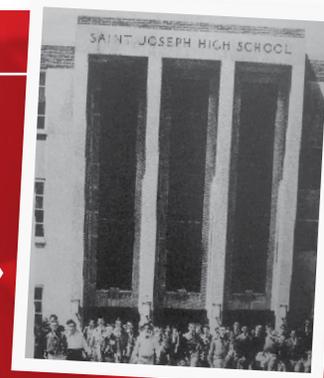
– ANNALISE GIBBONS, ’20



1878
Ursuline Sisters move Villa Angela Academy to the Lakeshore campus, known as the Castle



1950
St. Joseph High School opens its doors at the corner of Lakeshore Boulevard and East 185th Street with a freshmen class of 119



[NOW IS OUR TIME.]

this is our **FUTURE**

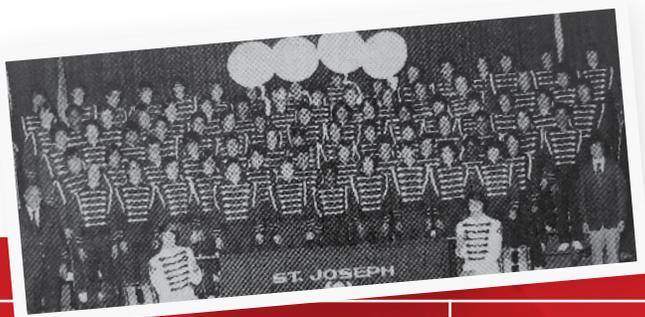
In an era marked by uncertainty, division, tension and anxiety, the spirit of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School remains resolute. We have benefited from the promises that were made to us in our youth, and we accept our responsibility — our moral duty — to keep our promises to those who follow us.

In a message to Catholic school parents at the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Frank O'Linn, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Cleveland, wrote:

In this time of instability and distance, we are blessed to have community.

It is this sense of community, of solidarity, that has seen Villa Angela-St. Joseph and its predecessor schools, VA and St. Joseph, through the challenges of the past, and it is this sense that allows us to continue to thrive in the Collinwood-Euclid community of today.

Looking to tomorrow, a task force of experts and supporters undertook a year-long study of the school's challenges and identified four essential steps that must be taken on the path to **keeping our promises** to the future. Each of these steps has been calculated for minimum expense and maximum value. There are four promises to keep: »



1960s

The St. Joseph marching band receives national recognition, and by 1967, enrollment reaches an all-time high, exceeding 2,000 young men



1972

Villa Angela Academy moves to new location



1987

The U. S. Department of Education recognizes Villa Angela Academy with the Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education

1988

The Diocese of Cleveland announces plans to merge Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School



Keeping Our Promises Campaign



Promise Scholarships

\$2 MILLION

Increased financial assistance to offset the ever-increasing tuition costs in order to enable more students to have the blessing of a VASJ education.



21st-Century Learning Environment

\$2 MILLION

State-of-the-art technology, classroom redesigns, STEM/Arts labs, and a modern heating and cooling system.



Safe and Secure Entrances

\$1 MILLION

A new student atrium entrance at the rear of the school and an improved front entrance for responsible monitoring and protection.



Energy-Efficient Windows and Upgraded Architecture

\$0.5 MILLION

Updates to the school building's 70-year-old facade, including high-efficiency and aesthetically pleasing windows.



1990

St. Joseph is recognized for having the most National Merit Finalists of all Cleveland Diocesan high schools

1990

VASJ opens, combining the legacies of Villa Angela Academy and St. Joseph High School as a co-ed school

1994

VASJ graduates its first class since the co-ed merger



2020

VASJ celebrates 30 years of providing quality, Catholic education

[NOW IS OUR TIME.]

this is our **FUTURE**

Woven from the inspiration of the Society of Mary and the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School traces its heritage to long before 1990 when the merged school was formed.

As early as 1878, when Villa Angela Academy welcomed students in the City of Cleveland, the students were immersed in the “Ursuline Way” ... academic excellence, emphasis on the individual, service to the community, social consciousness and spirituality.

In 1950, when the Diocese of Cleveland, with the sponsorship of the Society of Mary, opened St. Joseph High School, these values were mirrored in a setting offering a comprehensive Catholic education rooted in the Marianist characteristics of education, faith formation, family spirit, justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

Since 1990, VASJ has fostered the core values of both of its founding orders. The school thrives because its students, faculty and staff are committed to their achieving excellence and carrying the light of truth to others.

With a nod to our past, we now focus on keeping our promises to future generations. Through the Keeping Our Promises Campaign, we will be able to continue to provide a quality, Catholic education and bring each student to a deeper understanding of the Ursuline and Marianist traditions that are woven throughout every aspect of student life and learning at VASJ.

This is the promise we make to the generations to come.



“VASJ has definitely brought me **closer to God** and my friends. I know I’ve made friendships here that **will last forever.**”

– CALVIN TRICKETT, '20



Keeping Our Promises Campaign



WAYS TO GIVE

*to the
Keeping Our
Promises Campaign:*



Check payable to
Villa Angela-St.
Joseph High School



Credit card charge



Appreciated Stock



Reunion giving
Please contact the
Alumni Office at
216-481-8414 ext. 254.

"I enjoy the **endless amount of opportunities** that have been given to me at VASJ. The countless laughs that I've shared with my loving teachers and students do not go unnoticed. Last but not least, the family atmosphere. These are just some of the very small tokens that make me enjoy my time at VASJ."

— CLARKE MOORE, '21

VASJ

By the Numbers

8,500+ HOURS
of volunteer service completed
by students in 2019-2020

Over **\$7 million**
in scholarships earned by
the **Class of 2020**

sixteen
Viking athletic teams

96%
of Class of 2020
college-bound

Opportunities to **earn college credits** during high school

26 clubs and activities offered

twenty
honors & AP course offered

12:1
ratio of students to teachers

140+ YEARS
of offering **quality, Catholic education** in Cleveland



NOW IS
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Villa Angela-St. Joseph
HIGH SCHOOL

Faith. Family. Future.

For more information on the *Keeping Our Promises* campaign,
please contact us:

VASJ President, 216-481-8414 ext. 280

VASJ Director of Advancement, 216-481-8414 ext. 259

VASJ Associate Director of Alumni Relations, 216-481-8414 ext. 254