



Enhanced Curriculum (Specials)

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| <p>STREAM Enrichment Program</p> <p>Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Doscocil</p> | <p>Mission Statement: Our purpose is to engage students in hands-on activities in order to find creative solutions to real-world problems using collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity with an understanding that all things STREAM led to God. Allows students more time to explore concepts with greater depth and complexity, including moral aspects.</p> <p>STREAM: Provides students with opportunities to pursue learning in various areas of interest. Enhances twenty-first century skills like collaboration, presentation, and public speaking. Helps to keep advanced students engaged by providing an avenue for accelerated academic needs. Incorporates open-ended activities with real-world applications. Allots time to reflect and reveal God as the basis of all things.</p> <p>Outdoor Learning – Seasonal gardening in school greenhouse.</p> |
| <p>Art</p> <p>Mrs. Regan</p> | <p>At SJCS, the art program provides students in grades K-8th an opportunity to have a comprehensive and educational visual art experience. Through age-appropriate art lessons and studio projects, students are taught art techniques, art history, art terminology and art aesthetics.</p> <p>Studio techniques covered in art lessons include drawing, cartooning, painting, collage, mixed media, clay, printing, and weaving. The elements of art and design principles, as well as perspective and color theory are explored. At SJCS, a special part of the art program is studying and creating Christian art works celebrating Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Individual creativity is encouraged and group or class assignments are part of the curriculum. Visual resources of works of art accompany lectures, demonstrations and discussions. Student artwork is exhibited in classrooms and throughout the school.</p> <p>A juried student art exhibit open to SJCS in 3rd – 8th Grades in the Media Library occurs annually with a Meet the Artists reception and gallery walk.</p> |
| <p>Technology</p> <p>Mrs. Grove</p> | <p>SJCS has a state-of-the-art Computer Lab where each student is assigned their own Dell desktop computer. Beginning in Kindergarten, students receive instruction in online safety and responsible digital citizenship using lessons adapted from Common Sense Media. They also learn proper keyboarding techniques, using ABCya.com in grades K-2nd and Typing.com in grades 3rd-8th.</p> |



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| | <p>Beginning in 4th grade, students are issued Google accounts and are taught to use Google Workspace tools such as Docs, Sheets, and Slides. In Upper School, we implement a structured MS Word and MS Excel curriculum using materials from GFC Global and B.E. Publishing. Students practice and apply all skills covered in the Microsoft Office Certification exams.</p> <p>In addition to the regular curriculum, the Technology Department supports the integration of technology within core subjects. 5 mobile Chromebook carts are available for classroom use, allowing teachers to supplement instruction with digital tools. Teachers also have access to interactive smart boards and document cameras to enhance learning.</p> |
| Fine Arts Mrs. Hess and Mr. Cullen | <p>Our Fine Arts Department encompasses a plethora of activities for all St. Joseph students. As the younger students focus on specific music topics, vocabulary, rhythms, composers, theory and notes, the upper school students focus on speech, drama and choir while still learning to read music and gain a thorough understanding of famous musicians, composers, and genres. Students also participate in a rotation for our Vocal Production class on Wednesdays.</p> <p>The Fine Arts Department hosts a Talent Show or musical each year to showcase their talents along with a Christmas Program and multiple band concerts.</p> <p>All students in grades 4th-8th can be a part of our school band. We have two levels both Beginner and Concert band. We perform concerts throughout the year at multiple locations.</p> <p>All Upper School students are encouraged to participate in the school choir. This choir performs each week during Mass and other special celebrations throughout the year. Upper School students also have the opportunity to participate in Drama Club to present an annual play to the school community.</p> |
| Library Mrs. Lopez | <p>Library Programs: Book Fairs, reading programs, PSIA, and Spelling Bee. Our library serves primarily to support SJCS students' literacy development through shared reading experiences; from encountering</p> |



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| | <p>storybook characters to conducting meaningful research, the library is a guided and cooperative space intended to instill a deep-rooted love of learning. Students may visit the library, according to the class schedule to do research, check out books, or use reference materials. The SJCS library collection includes over 5,000 resources including award winning books and titles recommended by the School Library Journal. Additionally, there are two library computers each with filtered Internet access. All classes visit the library at least once a week to check out books.</p> <p>PreK-3rd: Kindergarten-3rd grade students participate in STEM-based learning through our STREAM Enrichment once every other week. The focus of library block in the PreK-3rd grade range is on proper care of books, identification of the parts of a book, distinguishing between the beginning, middle and end of a story, examination of fiction and nonfiction resources, and awareness of the location of different kinds of books in the library. All 1st – 3rd graders are invited to participate in academic competitions including PSIA and Spelling Bee.</p> <p>4th-8th: 4th/5th grade students participate in STEM-based learning through our STREAM Enrichment program once every other week. 6th-8th graders have STREAM class every three weeks. Grades 4th – 8th focus on maintaining respect for the intellectual property of others (ie. plagiarism, citing sources), becoming wise consumers of information, promoting personal and electronic safety, and completing research projects as assigned in core subjects. Students are encouraged to be accountable for their own projects. Students enrolled in 4th – 8th grades are invited to participate in academic competitions including PSIA and Spelling Bee.</p> |
| Physical Education Mrs. Norton | Physical Education at SJCS is an important part of our school's motto – Teaching the Mind, Nourishing the Soul- by integrating the mind, body and spirit. In P.E., our students will acquire affective, psychomotor, and cognitive skills while attaining a positive, healthy attitude towards physical activity. The P.E. classes focus on individual and team sports as well as personal fitness and conditioning in every grade level. |
| Spanish Pre-K -5th Mrs. Kuzma | Each Pre-Kindergarten class attends Spanish 2-3 times a week for 25 minutes. Basic vocabulary is taught through songs, stories, role play and use of various media such as books, computer programs and our in-class Qomo board. |



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| | <p>The Kindergarten through fifth grade classes attend Spanish 3-4 times weekly for 25 minutes. Basic vocabulary skills are introduced and reviewed at this level. Cross-curricular studies help to enhance the connection of the language with their world.</p> <p>More specifically, at the Kindergarten through second grade levels we utilize a method known as Total Physical Response (TPR). This system uses gestures in combination with words and phrases for students to better recall vocabulary as they learn it. “Recycling” of previously learned words is cumulative throughout the year. Reading and writing skills are introduced at these levels.</p> <p>At the third through fifth grade levels, in addition to TPR, we utilize the method known as Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). Through these methods a strong emphasis is placed on cooperative learning through story-telling, role playing, conversational drills, and other group activities. This work is supplemented with worksheet assignments and textbooks. At this level, students continue to build their vocabulary, as well as, develop their skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking.</p> <p>All classes learn basic prayers in Spanish, as well as the connection between the traditions of our Catholic faith and the Hispanic culture. Art activities are also occasionally implemented in their cultural studies. In addition, student-based learning is supported at all grade levels through the use of an interactive Qomo board. This technological tool enables students to have hands-on learning experiences with various supplemental activities online. Video streaming, interactive flipcharts, and current events are accessible to enhance our learning experience!</p> |
| Latin Pre-K -5th Mrs. Kuzma | Preschool through 5th grade students are exposed to the language of the Catholic Church with one quarter of Latin each academic year. Students learn the Latin prayers, responses and song of our Catholic Church. |
| Greek and Latin Roots | Greek and Latin roots strengthen a student’s English vocabulary. By learning these roots it prepares a student for standardized tests such as the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. It also develops critical thinking skills. |