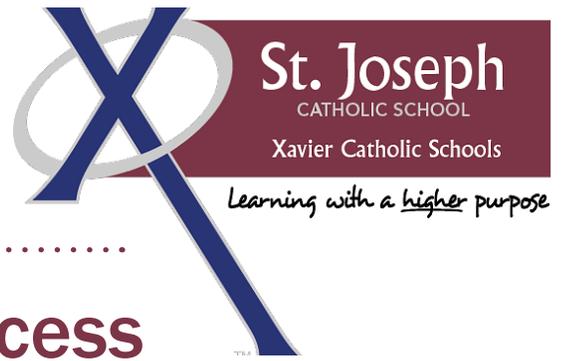


# The Mission

Winter 2023 newsletter



## Continued academic success



St. Joseph Catholic School has had continued success in academics. Our students take two different types of tests that compare us to other schools in the area and the state: the Iowa State-wide Assessment of Student Progress (grades 3-8) and FAST (reading fluency in grades K-8).

On the ISASP test in reading, we had 95% proficient compared to 71% for the state. In math, we had 91% proficient compared to 67% for the state.

On the FAST test, 84% of St. Joseph students were above benchmark.

## New student ambassador program formed

We are pleased to introduce St. Joseph Catholic School's newly formed student ambassador program. To be part of the program, eighth-grade students had to apply for the position, interview with Principal Casey Kettmann, and then be selected for the position.

There will be two student ambassadors, and their roles include helping on prospective family tours, leading prayer at concerts, helping at open houses, and many other pieces.

This year we are happy to have Ellie Walz and Cayleigh O'Brien as the school's student ambassadors.

"We are thrilled to have this program at St. Joseph," Principal Kettmann said. "It will allow for a great opportunity for selected eighth-graders, along with helping the school in many different ways."



# Pep band builds community

Under the direction of music and band director Joshua Pierce, St. Joseph Catholic School band students in grades 5-8 perform at home sporting events throughout the school year. These students use their musical talents to build community and share school spirit while cheering on their classmates.

The pep band plays sporting event classics such as “The Final Countdown” and “Eye of the Tiger,” in addition to the school fight song.

“This is such a special group,” Pierce said. “In the short time I’ve been at St. Joseph, we’ve shifted the idea of ‘I have to go to music’ to ‘I get to play some music,’ and opportunities like this are how we have worked to make this culture change.”

Pierce said his own experience playing



in a pep band was one of the ways he fell in love with music, and he’s glad his students will have that same opportunity.

“Ultimately, the kids and our coaches deserve the praise,” Pierce said. “Our amazing coaches provide us these opportunities to play at our events

and the students are the ones who are taking ownership and playing their hearts out. They take this music and run with it after only a short practice prior to each event. St. Joe’s is truly a wonderful place. I’m just happy to be able to help serve our wonderful community and hope to do so further in the future.”

## Alumni spotlight: Tim Mroch



Tim Mroch is a St. Joseph alumni from the Class of 1996, attending St. Joseph school from kindergarten through eighth grade. He went on to attend Regis High School for two years, then graduated from Xavier after the new high school was completed. Tim and his wife Amanda now have two boys attending St. Joseph School. Elijah is in third grade and James is in five-day preschool. Amanda is part of the St. Joseph staff as well.

Tim’s parents placed great value on Catholic education, wanting him to grow up with a strong foundation in his faith. When the time came to send him to school, his parents chose St. Joseph, allowing him to receive a high-quality education grounded in the Catholic faith.

In Tim’s adult life, he has found importance in the Catholic values that were the guiding principles in his education. He has always felt at home in the Catholic Church, and having a solid faith life has enabled Tim to deal effectively with a wide variety of situations throughout his life.

When asked about the ongoing role of Catholic education, Tim talked about the importance of Catholic schools. “Today, more than ever, we need Catholic education to develop our young to become faithful, contributing members of society, and to hear the many voices in the world.”