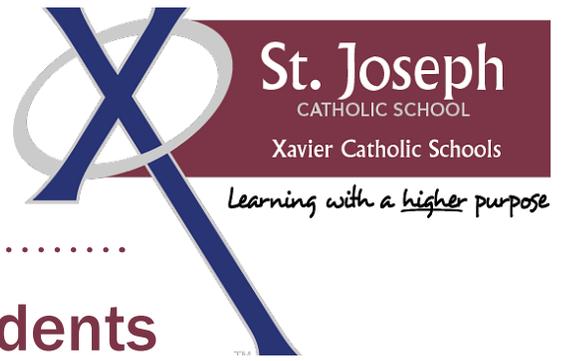


# The Mission

Spring 2022 Newsletter



## Spanish instruction for all students

Ann DeVault, preschool through eighth grade Spanish teacher, is proud of the fact that St. Joseph School is the only elementary school in the area with Spanish instruction and that the administration and parents value the learning of additional languages and cultures.

The Spanish program in preschool through second grade is designed to help support the literacy and math students are learning in their classrooms.

The upper elementary (grades 3-5) Spanish curriculum

focuses on some vocabulary and being able to read and write phrases and sentences in Spanish. Sixth through eighth grade Spanish classes contain the equivalent of a high school Spanish I course. This gives St. Joseph graduates a leg up in terms of preparedness for high school.

For students of all ages, studying Spanish gives them an awareness of people, countries and cultures outside Eastern Iowa. The interconnectedness of Roman Catholicism and the Spanish-speaking world also make it a perfect fit for St. Joseph students.

## Alumni spotlight: Dave Downey, class of 1981

I am the youngest of eight children who all attended St. Joseph School. My parents moved to a small house in Marion in 1961 to send their children to the school. They made many sacrifices to ensure their children's upbringing would be rooted in the Catholic faith.

My father, Robert, founded the booster club in 1969 and was integral to the fundraising efforts of both additional wings of the school.

My time at St. Joe's got me off to a great start in life. The eight years there were filled with a feeling of belonging and security provided by teachers, administrators and priests who took a genuine interest in my well being and development. Many of my good friends to this day were classmates, despite now being scattered about the country.

I was fortunate to return with my own son, Jack, in 2012. Jack



graduated last year and is attending Xavier High School. Watching him learn in the same classrooms, even experiencing one of the same wonderful teachers I'd had in Miss Connie Kordick, and discussing the daily touch football game at recess was very much a blessing.

My parents are both gone now, but the legacy they left is something

money can't buy: a strong faith, a family of well raised children and grandchildren, and a strong belief in Catholic education.

Thank you to all the staff and Father David O'Connor for continuing the tradition of helping give young people a solid spiritual and educational foundation as they head into adulthood.



## Eighth graders' favorite school memories

### **Phoenix Albright**

*"It's hard to pick just one favorite memory of St. Joe's. It would have to be seeing my friends, Charger Challenge field trips and Catholic Schools Week activities."*

### **Quinn Andrews**

*"My favorite memory is Charger Challenge in seventh grade because all my friends were able to hang out altogether."*

### **Sarah Foerster**

*"My favorite memory at St. Joseph's is the ski trips."*

### **Claire Walter**

*"My favorite memory of St. Joseph School is singing with Mrs. Schleier in kindergarten."*

### **Luke Woerdehoff**

*"My favorite memories are meeting my amazing friends, joining the track team and working with the talented teachers. I am also thankful for the opportunity to serve as Student Council president."*

### **Ella Westhoff**

*"My favorite memory was when the girls played their last basketball game at St. Joe's and won at the last second in overtime. The St. Joe's pep band was also playing in support of the team."*

### **William Beamer**

*"My favorite memories are the middle school ski trips because it was a lot of fun hanging out with everyone for the day while snowboarding."*

### **Jack Fagan**

*"My favorite memory was during seventh grade gym class — the gym class was outside and it had snowed. My friend, David, was from India and had never seen snow before so we had fun goofing around in the snow together."*

### **Robyn Wagner**

*"My favorite memory from St. Joe's is the eighth grade vs. teachers volleyball game. Even though we were the underdogs, it was so fun feeling so in sync with each other."*

### **Owen Hlubek**

*"My favorite memory is the St. Joseph middle school ski trip at Chestnut Mountain in Galena. I skied down my first black diamond!"*