



1138 Seminole Ave  
West St. Paul, MN 55118

## Upcoming Events

### Give to the Max Day

November 16th

To donate, visit [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and select  
St. Joseph's School in West St. Paul

### Fall Open House

November 17th | 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Join us for school Mass at 9:00 a.m. Then, visit  
our classrooms, Preschool–8th grade. *All are welcome  
to attend.*

### Fall Fest

December 2nd | 6:00 p.m.–midnight  
Southview Country Club

Buy tickets at [www.stjosephwsp.org/fall-fest](http://www.stjosephwsp.org/fall-fest)

### K–2 Senior Citizen Christmas Concert

December 8th | 2:00 p.m.  
Church of St. Joseph Great Room



**\$5,000  
Challenge Grant**

A generous supporter of St. Joseph's School  
has offered a challenge grant of \$5,000.  
Donate to St. Joe's on November 16th  
through [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and **your donation will  
be matched 100% up to \$5K.**

**Rise to the challenge and  
double your impact!**

To donate, visit [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and select St.  
Joseph's School in West St. Paul

# ST. JOSEPH'S Journal

## MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCHES NEW MATH PROGRAM

More opportunity and  
support for students

## PRESCHOOL TURNS TEN

Welcomes largest group  
of students in its history

FALL 2017

## Stay Connected

Follow us for the latest news and updates!

[www.StJosephWSP.org](http://www.StJosephWSP.org)

@StJoeSchoolWSP





# Greetings from St. Joseph's School!

## Share the Good News

I am now in my second year as principal of St. Joseph's School and the year is off to a great start! This September forty-six new families joined our school community. We welcomed our biggest kindergarten class in six years and we have our largest preschool enrollment ever. Also this fall, I updated our school and parish communities on the State of the School. I am excited to share with you some of the many initiatives we have in place.

We are in the process of renewing our accreditation through the Minnesota Non-public School Accrediting Association. This includes a thorough review of our school's mission and Strategic Plan for Improvement. Our accreditation renewal will be completed in spring 2018.

We are making great progress in growing the relationship between our parish and school. This partnership is critical for our success and we are so thankful to Fr. Creagan and Fr. Peter for their leadership and commitment to Catholic education.

School programs are continuing to improve to meet the needs of our students and families. This fall we opened extended day programming in preschool, enhanced our mathematics curriculum in middle school, and partnered with Hill-Murray to provide a new band program with more opportunities for our students.

My full State of the School letter is available on the school website. I invite you to read it in its entirety and share our good news.

May God continue to bless you, your family, our parish and school communities.

*St. Joseph, Pray for Us!*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

**Mr. Greg Wesely**  
Principal



Students benefit from new co-teaching model in mathematics

## Middle School Launches New Math Program

Enhancements provide more opportunity and support for students

New this fall, all St. Joseph's Middle School math classes are taught using a co-teaching model with two teachers in the classroom providing instruction and guidance to students. This enhancement to the middle school curriculum provides a greater teacher-to-student ratio and offers additional one-to-one support for all students in the classroom.

Also new to the middle school math program are ability groupings and additional assignments designed to provide students with extra practice on the basic math skills required for higher level math classes.

"Our goal is for every student to always be working to their highest potential," said Peggy Pechacek, middle school math instructor. Co-teacher, Lori Bruce agreed. "With this new model in place, every student will be challenged and supported. Every student will have the opportunity to grow and become more confident in their math skills. Every student will succeed."

"Every student will have the opportunity to grow and become more confident in their math skills."

The changes to the math program are the result of a year-long, in-depth study conducted by a team of St. Joseph's School administration and faculty. The team researched, evaluated and analyzed successful mathematics programs and best practices.

"I'm proud of this new program and the opportunities it provides our students," said Principal, Greg Wesely. It's off to a great start and our students are responding. Great things are happening in our math department!" +

## ★ Club Spotlight



Beaman advises student on blending and painting

### Art Club with Wayne Beaman

On Monday mornings before the first school bell rings, middle school students with an interest in art join instructor, Wayne Beaman in his classroom for Art Club. Beaman, who has been sharing his artistic talent and passion with St. Joseph's School students since 1986, started Art Club in the early 1990s to give students a way to pursue advanced study in the areas of drawing, painting, graphics, technical illustration and sculpting.

"The students who are in this club, really want to be here," said Beaman. "They want to advance their skills and try new things. It's rewarding to work with such talented students and see their ideas come to life through art."

98% of parents agree our school environment is **supportive & caring**  
98% of St. Joseph's School families feel **welcome & valued**  
99% of St. Joseph's School elementary students **return** year after year





Preschool teacher, Ms. Peg Dierberger, shares a story with the PreK 4/5s class

# St. Joseph's Preschool Turns Ten

Welcomes largest group of students  
in its history

St. Joseph's Preschool opened its doors in 2008 with a commitment to excellence in early childhood education and a mission to provide a nurturing, faith-based environment where each child can grow and develop at his or her own pace.

"Over the past ten years we've stayed true to this commitment and have become the preschool of choice for families in our community," said Preschool Director, Carolyn Pilney. "Today we have more students in our program than ever before. Families trust us with their children and that's an honor."

St. Joseph's Preschool has evolved over the past decade with the addition of program enhancements such as lunch bunch and extended-day care. Curriculum additions have included Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and visits to the St. Joseph's School specialists in music, art, band, Spanish and library.

"Families trust us with their  
children and that's an honor."

For many families, it's the loving, nurturing environment of St. Joseph's Preschool that makes it so special. "There's no other place I'd want my family to be," said parent Ellen Kennedy. "The St. Joe's community has been our extended family and that's what we appreciate the most." ✚

## Teacher Profile



Marcia Wood, K-3 Learning Specialist

After twenty years of teaching kindergarten at St. Joseph's School, Marcia Wood accepted the position of K-3 Learning Specialist for the 2017-18 school year. "Leaving kindergarten was a difficult decision for me," said Wood. "But I was ready for a challenge and an opportunity to teach smaller groups of students from multiple grades."

The Learning Specialist position is an important one, providing learning support and enrichment opportunities for students needing extra help or added challenges. In her new role, Wood works closely with classroom teachers, parents and administrators to address each student's individual needs. She works with students one on one or in small groups to support their learning in the areas of language arts and mathematics.

"It is very rewarding to teach in an environment where the focus is on the learning process. Students learn different strategies, use a variety of multi-sensory resources and understand that through their hard work, success is possible."

In addition to being passionate about her students, Marcia is equally passionate about Catholic education. "Catholic schools fully educate the whole child by immersing them in a setting where their faith is not just a subject but also a way of life." Said Wood, working in this environment with a terrific group of educators and families is "truly a gift."



## Sports Corner

St. Joe's Alumni making  
headlines in college sports



Conor Rhoda with  
Gopher football  
Coach Fleck

### Conor Rhoda '09

St. Joseph's School graduate, Conor Rhoda, is finishing his college football career as quarterback for the 2017 University of Minnesota football team. Coach P.J. Fleck has praised Conor as a leader both on and off the football field. "St. Joe's shaped a lot of who I am today," said Rhoda. "I learned to love sports and I made lifelong friends. I'm incredibly thankful for everything I learned at St. Joe's. Always a Jaguar!"



Shane Sienko  
with his parents,  
Patrick and Lorrie

### Shane Sienko '10

Alumnus Shane Sienko continues to have a successful collegiate golf career at the University of St. Thomas. Shane, a senior member of the men's golf team, placed third out of fifty players to help his team win a MIAC championship for the second time in thirty-seven years. The win secured the Tommies a spot in the National Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina this coming May. "Being a student at St. Joseph's from K-8th grade created a foundation for my future success. St. Joe's will always be a part of me. Go Jaguars!"



# Live Fully the Encounter with God

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program proclaims the message of Jesus to students by presenting His parables in a Montessori learning environment

For more than five years, St. Joseph’s School students in Preschool through 5th grade have participated weekly in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. The program, a unique method of faith formation, acts as an enriching complement to our school’s already strong religious curriculum.

The Good Shepherd method strives to proclaim the message of Jesus to children by presenting the mysteries of the Catholic faith in a Montessori learning environment. The children are led closer to God through the use of hands-on materials that are presented within the context of a quiet, carefully prepared environment, called an atrium. At St. Joseph’s School there are three atrium levels, each designed for the developmental needs of a specific age group.

“We have been blessed to be one of the few Catholic Schools in this Archdiocese to incorporate Good Shepherd as a component of the spiritual formation of the child.”

Specially trained teachers staff each atrium. The teacher’s role is to help students live fully the encounter with God. This experience becomes formative in the child’s whole person and generates great joy.

“It is a privilege to offer this program to the students of St. Joseph’s School,” said Good Shepherd Program Director, Chris Stokman. “We have been blessed to be one of the few Catholic Schools in this Archdiocese to incorporate Good Shepherd as a component of the spiritual formation of the child. The students take their time in the atrium seriously and seem to really enjoy the quiet. We are continually amazed at their ability to thoughtfully ponder scripture and see their growth in understanding of the prayers and gestures of the Mass where we are fed with His Holy Word and with His very self in the Eucharist.”



## Alumnus, Danny Nozell, Achieves Great Success in the Music Industry

Stays grounded in his faith, roots

The road from St. Joseph’s School to the top of the music industry is an uncommon one. But it has proven to be a very successful and fulfilling path for alumnus, Danny Nozell.

Danny is CEO of CTK Management in Nashville, Tennessee. Most notably, he manages the careers of music icons such as Dolly Parton, KC and the Sunshine Band and Kenny G. But his career reaches far beyond managing and producing music. Danny also owns Nove Entertainment, a premier recording studio, private soundstage and storage facility in the Nashville area. He is an executive producer of feature films, owns his own record label and owns a company that manages logistics for private jets.

“It’s a twenty-four seven job,” said Nozell. “But I wouldn’t have it any other way.” Danny started at the bottom, working as a runner for a promotion company and worked his way up taking roles as production manager, tour manager, and tour accountant. In 2004 he was hired as a tour consultant for Dolly Parton. The two instantly connected and have had a successful, loyal partnership ever since.

Nozell credits his work ethic, instilled by his father, and his “charm”, a gift from his mother, as two of the keys to his success. He also credits his faith which began at home and in the St. Joseph’s community. Danny grew up just ten blocks from St. Joseph’s. His mother was one of the original members of the church, attending Masses when they were held in “Sloppy Joe’s” tavern. Danny and his two siblings attended St. Joseph’s School. “All I knew as a kid was St. Joe’s. It was church on Sunday, every Sunday. That was the norm then, and it still is for me now,” said Nozell.

Today, Danny travels the world for his career. His busy schedule makes it a challenge for him to connect with his old friends from home on a frequent basis. But when he comes home, “I always go to St. Joe’s. I have been so blessed and I know there is a spiritual connection to my success. I am so grateful.”

Fall Fest is St. Joseph's School's **largest** fundraiser and a wonderful community builder for our school. We invite all friends of the St. Joseph's community to show your support by volunteering or attending the event.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
[www.stjosephwsp.org/fall-fest](http://www.stjosephwsp.org/fall-fest)

## Do you remember the GREEN uniform shirts?



We're always looking for great memories! Please email photos to [office@stjosephwsp.org](mailto:office@stjosephwsp.org)



Preschool students listen to a scripture reading in the Level I atrium