

August 17, 2025



St. Joseph Parish School Lancer Times

The Lancer Times is a weekly online school information flier from the Leadership Team that outlines upcoming events and important updates from SJPS.

Important Dates to Remember

- Summer Park Playdates - Fri. 8/22 & Fri. 8/29
- Backpack Blessing by Fr. Tim at all weekend Masses - Sat. 8/23 & Sun. 8/24
- Back to School Picnic, 5:00 - 7:00pm - Tues. 8/26
- Early Childhood Roundup, 8:00 - 1:00pm - Wed. 8/27
- First Day of School - Tues. 9/2
- Back to School Info Night, 6:00 - 7:30pm - Tues. 9/9
- Picture Day, 9:00 - 1:00pm - Fri. 9/12
- 2nd Grade Reconciliation Meeting, 9:15am - Sun. 9/14

A Message from Fr. Tim

Dear Parents,

One of the hallmarks of Catholic education is the recognition of the primary role parents take in the education of their children. At SJPS, we are humbled by the trust you place in us to share in this awesome responsibility.

I'm very grateful for Amanda Matthews' leadership. She was instrumental in bringing together our incredible faculty and staff, the parish community, and you, the school families, to collectively build SJPS into a premier Catholic school. During my first year at St. Joseph, I knew our school was something special for our parish. Over the last six weeks as I have met and worked closely with our teachers, I am even more convinced that we have a great faculty who remain committed to building and growing on the foundation that has been established. Our school's foundation is strong, rooted in Christ, and under their guidance, will continue to be a gift to our parish and community.

We have made a decision about the upcoming school year after discerning multiple options. In collaboration with the Archdiocese, parish leadership, and members of the school leadership team, we have discerned that our best option is to move forward with an interim solution.

With a dedicated and veteran teaching staff, faithful families, a tight-knit community, and a strong

parish family, we are uniquely positioned to take an interim approach and we believe it will best serve our school, its students, families, and teachers. This interim approach will ensure we have access to more qualified candidates during the peak hiring season for principals. We will reinitiate our search in early 2026 to identify the candidate who will join all of us in being the hands of Christ, open to all.

The interim solution will involve a combination of multiple teachers stepping into roles of increased responsibility and the addition of some external resources who have deep roots in administration and Catholic Education. Chris Jackson, Julie Lemke, and Carren Gratz graciously agreed to step into interim administrative roles and will collaborate with me, the school's leadership team, Lisa Jauron in the parish business office, and the Archdiocese to ensure a successful year. These three leaders will share the administrative responsibilities, each according to their many talents. We are actively pursuing one additional member for this team, an experienced Catholic school administrator, who will provide them with guidance, hands-on support, and the occasional extra set of hands in the office, while ensuring our faculty will be fully present to your children in the classroom.

As this team navigates their new areas of responsibility, we will reach out to other dedicated members of our staff, parents, and the parish community to invite participation and support in making this year a resounding success. I invite you to discern your own gifts and talents and where God is calling you to give of your time and talent to build on the strong foundation at SJPS. Please respond generously to the Lord's call this year — I have it on good authority He often uses Sign-up Genius, the Lancer Times, and notes in backpacks when He's calling for your help!

Thank you for your patience as we worked through our discernment process. I recognize that times of uncertainty can be difficult and I appreciate you trusting us in making these decisions. I want to continue hearing from you with any questions, comments, or concerns. Please join me in continued prayers for our school, our teachers, and our school families. As St. Joseph protected Jesus, we ask for his intercession and protection of our school as we embark on the 2025-2026 school year.

Father Timothy Schumaker
Pastor
St. Joseph Catholic Parish

"Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry" - Padre Pio



~ Welcome Note from the Leadership Team ~

Dear Parents,

We are both honored and grateful for the trust that Fr. Tim has placed in us to lead SJPS for the 2025-2026 school year. We recognize that these last few weeks have been filled with uncertainty for all of us. We have been asked to be the keepers and guardians of the torch of Catholic education for St. Joseph Parish in the coming year. We recognize the incredible responsibility entrusted to us. We couldn't be more excited about the

path forward and the opportunity ahead of us to continue to deliver a quality, Catholic education to your child.

Each day our children open the morning in prayer and reciting our school mission: SJPS: teaching, learning, leading, and serving as the hands of Christ. Our mission hasn't changed, and today it serves as a light to guide our work in our expanded roles. It will be the words we use to guide our decisions, respond to challenges, and lead our children. At the end of the year, we will measure our success as a school by reading this mission statement and knowing these words weren't merely written on a wall or recited – they were lived in real and tangible ways.

We come to you with 59 years of Catholic school teaching experience, including 34 years at SJPS. Those years have prepared each of us and the broader staff for exactly this moment – to trust in the Lord's goodness and in full knowledge that He will provide. We echo the words of Jesus, Pope St. John Paul II, and our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV – Be not afraid! Let us walk together on this journey, grow in faith, and take care to recognize all the ways that the Lord is alive and moving within St. Joseph Parish School. Together, we will teach, learn, lead, and serve as the hands of Christ.

Humbly,

Carren Gratz
Chris Jackson
Julie Lemke

Please Join Us in Welcoming...

- Abby Jones - new school Counselor
- Peggy Beaver - new K4 Aide in Mrs. Vaculik's room



Tune in to next week's Lancer Times for a more personalized statement from our newest SJPS Faculty!



~ SJPS Staff would like to give a Thank You to everyone who stopped by for food, ice cream or to make a donation during our SJPS Share Event at Culvers on Wed. 8/13! We were overwhelmed with your support and generosity and look forward to many more events in the future! ~

A separate note of appreciation to Jenny Marquardt for spearheading the event!

Back-to-School Picnic!

A colorful poster for the SJPS Back to School Picnic. The background is green with a white border. The title 'SJPS Back to School Picnic' is in large blue letters. Below it, the date and time 'Tuesday, August 26th 5:00-7:00pm' are in green. The main text is in brown. A list of activities is in blue. At the bottom, there is a note about bringing lawn chairs/blankets. Decorative elements include a sun, a lemon, a fork, a basket of fruit, and a waffle with berries.

SJPS
Back to School Picnic
Tuesday, August 26th
5:00-7:00pm

Join St. Joseph Parish School staff and families for a back-to-school picnic on the SJPS grounds to celebrate the new school year!

- Meet your teacher, drop off school supplies & pay tuition.
- Purchase the new 2025-26 T-shirt (\$10), Lancer T-shirt for spirit wear days (\$10), and/or hooded sweatshirt (\$29) or crew sweatshirt (\$26).
- Shop in our free uniform store located in the library.
- Enjoy a dinner, play on the playground, bounce in a bouncy house, listen to music, visit with your school family.
- Toast marshmallows and enjoy a s'more!

*Bring lawn chairs/blankets.

SJPS Uniform "Sale"

****There will also be an SJPS Uniform "sale" of gently worn and donated uniform tops, bottoms, skirts, etc. happening at the Back-to-School Picnic. Peruse the assortment in the SJPS library at the Picnic or during open Office hours. Items are free of charge!****

Free/Reduced Lunch Program

To determine eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch Program, speak to Deb Olszewski in the School Office for more information.

2025 - 2026 SJPS School Supply List

IMPORTANT - Early Childhood Roundup!

Calling all K3, K4 & K5 families! Please use the link below to sign up for a Roundup Meeting, if you have not already done so, with your student's homeroom teacher on Wednesday, Aug. 27th from 8:00 - 1:00pm. This time will be used to introduce your early childhood student to their teacher and classroom and give both parent and teacher some time to discuss any questions or concerns.

Link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0549ABA823A2FF2-57890435-early>



VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYMS

**AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL
SUNDAYS**

AUGUST 17, 24, & 31

4TH - 6TH GRADES - 5PM - 6PM

7TH GRADE & UP 6 PM - 8 PM

THURSDAYS

AUGUST 14, 21, & 28

4TH - 6TH GRADES - 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM

7TH GRADE & UP - 7:15 PM - 9 PM

**A PARTICIPATION WAIVER MUST BE FILLED
OUT BY A PARENT PRIOR TO ATTENDING.**

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
KAREN THATCHER @ KKTHATCHER@GMAIL.COM.**

SJPS Picture Day

SJPS PICTURE DAY

Friday 9/12/25 9-1pm

Thursday 11/13/25 9 - 11am
(make-ups)

TO ORDER PHOTOS FROM PICTURE DAY

1. Go to vipis.com
2. Enter your school name
3. Select "School Portraits"
4. Fill in your information

If you need further assistance,
contact us at support@vipis.com



Reach out to Carren Gratz with any
questions

cgratz@stjosephgraffton.org
262.375.6505 ext. 158

Backpack Blessing



2nd Grade Sacramental Preparation



2nd Grade *Sacraments*

1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Sunday, September 14

9:15am

Lower Level Conference Rooms

Introducing the 2025-2026 School Advisory Committee

At the SAC meeting on Monday we discerned members and roles for the 2025-26 school year. They are as follows:

Chris Baylor (Chair)
Parker Shipley (Vice Chair)
Daniel Le (Secretary)
Daphne Lingsweiler (Member)
Daniel Lochen (Member)
Shannon Morgan (Member)
Stephanie Nino De Guzman (Member)
Elizabeth Wieland (Member)

Thank you for your committment to SJPS!

There is still one spot still available for this committee. Please reach out to the school office if you are interested.

June SAC Meeting Minutes

Weekly Classroom Highlights

~Important Information from Previous Lancer Times~

SJPS SUMMER PARK PLAYDATES!



In an effort to help our early childhood and elementary school children keep in touch with as many friends as possible over the summer, we've created a park playdate schedule and are hoping your family will be able to attend some of these dates. This is an easy way for our children to meet up with friends at a moment's notice -- it's always more fun at the park when you run into friends!

We've planned these dates for **Friday mornings 10-11:30am** and chose a rotation of area parks with restrooms available. Come when you can, and stay for as much of the time as you'd like.

Please note that this is not a "drop off" invitation. Parents/caregivers are responsible for their own children. Our rotation of parks include:

- St. Joseph Parish School Playground Grafton, (1619 Washington Street)
- All My Friends Playground, Centennial Park, Grafton (1370 17th Ave.)
- Rotary All Children's Playground, Cedarburg (W67 N843 Evergreen Blvd)
- Lime Kiln Park, Grafton (800 S. Green Bay Rd.)
- Possibilities Playground, Upper Lake Park, Port Washington (498 N. Lake St.)

"Park Play Dates" start Friday 6/13 and continue through the summer!!!

- June 13 - St. Joseph Parish School Playground, Grafton
- June 20 - All My Friends Playground, Centennial Park, Grafton
- June 27 - Rotary All Children's Playground, Cedarburg
- July 4 - Lime Kiln Park, Grafton
- July 11- Possibilities Playground, Port Washington
- July 18 - St. Joseph Parish School Playground, Grafton
- July 25 - All My Friends Playground, Centennial Park, Grafton
- August 1- Rotary All Children's Playground, Cedarburg
- August 8 - Lime Kiln Park, Grafton
- August 15 - Possibilities Playground, Port Washington
- August 22 - St. Joseph Parish School, Playground, Grafton
- August 29 - All My Friends Playground, Centennial Park, Grafton

We hope this helps you and your children keep in touch with lots of friends this summer!

~ Have a safe and fun summer with your family ~

HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE

is looking for more volunteers!

We are a mighty force backed by a few committed individuals! Home & School supports many wonderful events to raise money for the school, recognize teachers, and engage your kids. These are just a few of the events they've supported.

- Back to School Picnic
- Teacher Appreciation
- Raise Right
- Room Parent Activities
- Family Fun Night
- Christmas Concert Hospitality
- Open House
- Catholics Schools Week/Walk
- Scholastics Book Fair
- Grandparent's Day

If you are interested or have suggestions for improvement, please contact **Huong Le** at Homeandschool@stjosephgraffton.org or text 262-573-9733

Special Thanks to our Home & School Committee Leaders who carried out all the events your child was able to enjoy this year

- Amy De Ruyter
- Becky Meyer
- Brittney Hess
- Hannah Belknap-Webber
- Mary Baylor
- Melissa Iserloth
- Shannon Morgan



RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS FOR SALE

We have a large amount of gift cards for sale from our RaiseRight Fundraising Program. **Gift Cards make great end of the year teacher gifts.** Also, don't forget, for every gift card you purchase, a percentage is given back to you in tuition credit for next school year.

Call or stop in the school office to purchase.

[Click Here to See our Current Gift Card Inventory](#)

Coming Soon - September Extended Care Sign Up

Donate to our Annual
Fund

RAISERIGHT ORDER FORM

Visit our Website

Parish Bulletin Look-up

2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbook

St. Joseph Parish School
1619 Washington St. Grafton, WI
262-375-6505

School Office email:
schooloffice@stjosephgraffton.org

Administration:
principal@stjosephgraffton.org

~St Joseph Parish School: Teaching, Learning, Leading and Serving as the Hands of Christ~

St. Joseph Parish | 1619 Washington Street 262-375-6505 | Grafton, WI 53024 US

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