

September 7th, 2025



St. Joseph Parish School Lancer Times

Weekly online school communication from the Leadership Team

Administration email: principal@stjosephgraffton.org

Important Dates to Remember

- **Back to School Info Night for ALL Parents, 6:00 - 7:30pm - Tues. 9/9 in the Church**
- 8th Grade Fundraising Meeting, 7:00pm - Tues. 9/9
- Picture Day, 9:00 - 1:00pm - Fri. 9/12
- 2nd Grade Reconciliation Meeting, 9:15am - Sun. 9/14
- Safe Environment Training at SJPS, 6:00pm - Mon. 9/15
- 7/8th Hospitality after mass - Thurs. 9/18
- Caramel Apple Fundraiser Order Forms due - Fri. 9/26

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The date for Family Fun Night has been MOVED FROM 10/31/25 TO 10/24/25. More information to come in next week's Lancer Times!

~ A Note from the Leadership Team ~



Dear St Joseph Parish School Families,

We have two important things to share with you today. First we want to share that we have two very friendly and familiar faces managing the school office while we begin the process of hiring a new administrative assistant for the school. We are thrilled to welcome back Mrs. Sue Henke and Mrs. Becky Meyer! They both have many years of experience not only with St. Joseph Parish School, but also with the inner workings of the school office. Please welcome them if you see them around and thank them for their continued commitment and support of SJPS.

In following up to last week's Safety and Security letter, we want to reiterate that SJPS is firmly committed to providing a secure environment where children can learn, grow, and flourish in faith and in knowledge. While we continue to pray for peace and healing, we wanted to update SJPS families on the action steps taken in order to maintain the highest level of safety for students, staff and community members during school Masses.

Last week, the Leadership team met with Fr. Tim to address concerns and identify solutions to

continue to further enhance safety and security measures during school Masses. We also consulted with members of the school and parish Safety and Security team to find viable options that meet the needs of all those who wish to attend mass or have business to conduct with the school or parish.

In response to the concerns, we tested out and have decided to take the following actions to maintain a commitment to ensuring every child feels safe during our Thursday school Masses:

- By 8:35am, the church doors will be locked for the duration of Mass.
- A member of the Safety and Security team will be posted at the church doors to let in community members who wish to attend mass, but arrive late or have business to take care of in the parish office.
- A Grafton Police Department patrol vehicle will be stationed in the parking lot as often as they are able to, assuming there is not a pressing issue in the community that they are needed at.
- A uniformed GPD officer will attend mass, as often as they are able to. We were thrilled to see Officer Alfonsi in the Gathering Space today.

We will continue to meet and discuss the efficiency and practicality of all safety and security measures on a regular basis and communicate pertinent information as it arises with SJPS families. If you continue to have any concerns or wish to learn more about our safety practices, we encourage you to reach out to us directly at principal@stjosephgraffton.org. We appreciate your support in continuing to strengthen our mission every day.

In Christ,

St. Joseph Parish School Leadership Team



St Joseph Parish School Staff would like to send a sincere Thank You to all SJPS for the generous Back-to-School gift of "Dinner on Us" Eaton's gift cards and themed dishes. Not having to think about one meal really is helpful!

Love,
Your SJPS Teachers



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

If you would like to volunteer in the school in any capacity during the school day, you MUST first complete Safe Environment Training. This includes going on field trips.

All participants must arrive on time and stay for the entire

session. Latecomers will not be admitted and those who leave early will not receive credit for attendance.

You must first register through the Arch website (link at bottom of the page).

UPCOMING LIVE TRAINING: Monday, Sept. 15th @ SJPS 6:00pm

[Register for Safe Environment Training HERE](#)

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

We look forward to seeing you on the first day of school. Here is a reminder of our drop-off and pick-up procedure.

1. **Bus** - Students taking the bus will be dropped off between 8:00 & 8:15. After school, they will be supervised in the bus line located by the elementary wing doors.
2. **Car Line** - Parents may use the car pick-up line to stay in their car and drop off and pick up their child along the cones. Please do not park under the canopy. *This is the preferred method in the morning, as it makes it much easier on the little ones who sometimes have a hard time letting go. **Parents of children requiring a carseat must pull their car all the way up to the cones closest to the basketball hoops if they need get out of the car to buckle or unbuckle their child.**
3. **Sidewalk** - Parents may park in the parking spaces on the east side of the parking lot and walk along the sidewalk by the church to drop off or gather their child by the playground. **For the safety of everyone, do not walk in front of or between the cars in the pick-up line.**
4. **Middle School Only Option** - Middle School Students may walk to the far end of the sidewalk past the church and meet their parent/guardian at their parked car in one of the designated parking spots on the far east side of the parking lot. This applies only to Middle School Students who do not have a younger sibling.

Please remember, students are not allowed to play on the playground after school unless they are supervised by their parent/guardian.

[Map](#)

IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

All updated immunization records are due by 10/1/25 to the school office

(If your child has an appointment after this date, please call the School Office)

All immunization records must be up to date for all students by the start of the school year. Please call the school office if your child received a shot over the summer so we can update their file. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services does an annual review of all student records. Please don't wait to make an appointment to have your child immunized.

Immunization Brochure

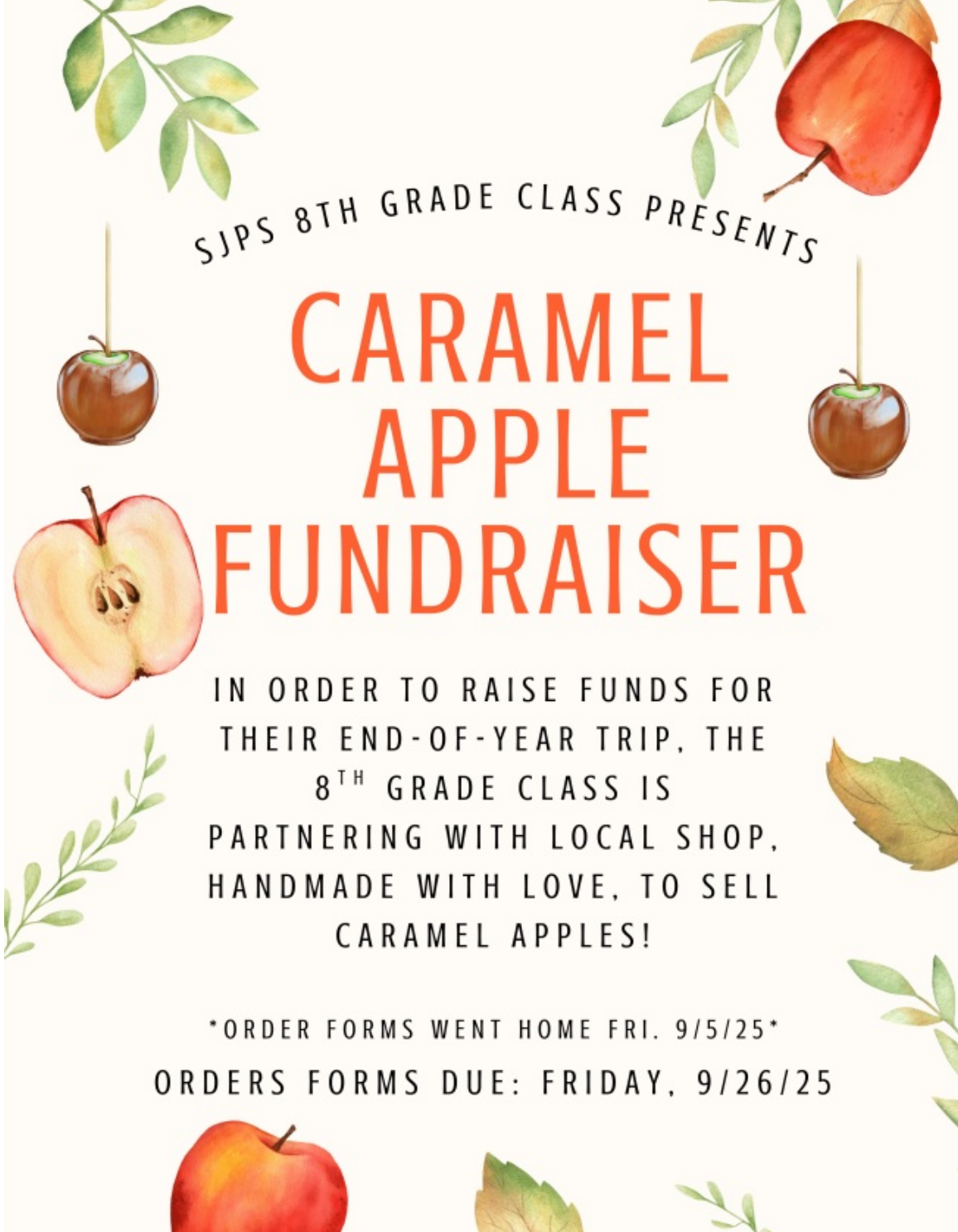


RAISERIGHT TUITION CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Buy RaiseRight Gift Cards Today!

For those of you new to the school, RaiseRight is a gift-card fundraiser for our school. You can order gift cards from almost anywhere you shop through the office at any time! This year, we will continue to offer a 50/50 profit split with families who order gift cards. 50% of all profits will be applied to the following year's tuition. You must indicate the family you would like the tuition credit applied to on your order form.

As of 9/5/25, we are placing a "Hold" on ordering any new RaiseRight giftcards and will only be able to sell the stock we currently have on hand. We will keep you updated as to when we are able to order new ones



SJPS 8TH GRADE CLASS PRESENTS

CARAMEL APPLE FUNDRAISER

IN ORDER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
THEIR END-OF-YEAR TRIP, THE
8TH GRADE CLASS IS
PARTNERING WITH LOCAL SHOP,
HANDMADE WITH LOVE, TO SELL
CARAMEL APPLES!

ORDER FORMS WENT HOME FRI. 9/5/25
ORDERS FORMS DUE: FRIDAY, 9/26/25

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

What is Student of the Month?

The SJPS staff is so proud of our students and would like to recognize those who go above and beyond. The faculty and staff will celebrate our incredible students this year through the *Student of the Month Program*. Each month, one nominee will be chosen from each level: Early Childhood (K3-K5), Elementary (1st grade - 4th grade), and Middle School (5th grade - 8th grade). When the students are chosen, they will receive a sign to put in their yard, be announced on the morning announcements, have their picture in the Lancer Times, and hung on a bulletin board near the school office, and receive a Student of the Month

Certificate.

Students will be nominated by the teachers and staff based on a character trait each month. We will post the trait we are looking for each month.

☐ **September Character Trait: KINDNESS**

What It Means:

Kindness is showing care, compassion, and respect toward others through words and actions. It means being helpful, inclusive, and thoughtful—without expecting anything in return.

How Students Demonstrate Kindness:

- Greeting classmates and staff with a smile or kind words
- Helping a peer without being asked (e.g., picking up dropped items, explaining directions)
- Including others in group activities or play
- Complimenting others sincerely
- Listening when others are speaking and showing empathy
- Using polite language consistently (please, thank you, excuse me)
- Standing up for someone who is being left out or treated unfairly
- Showing appreciation to teachers, peers, and staff

How Parents Can Support at Home:

- Talk about what kindness looks like in everyday life
- Encourage children to share kind acts from their day
- Read books or watch shows that promote empathy and compassion
- Model kind behavior in your own interactions

COUNSELING CORNER

Subject: Help Shape Our School Counseling Program – Parent Survey

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin a new school year, I want to make sure our school counseling program continues to meet the needs of both our students and families. Your input is a valuable part of shaping the direction of the program and ensuring that I can best support your child's academic, social, and emotional growth.

I am asking you to take a few minutes to complete this [Parent Survey](#). The survey will give you an opportunity to share:

- How I can support your child individually.
- Ways the counseling program can better serve our school community.
- Parent-focused topics you'd be interested in (for our upcoming Coffee with the Counselor gatherings).

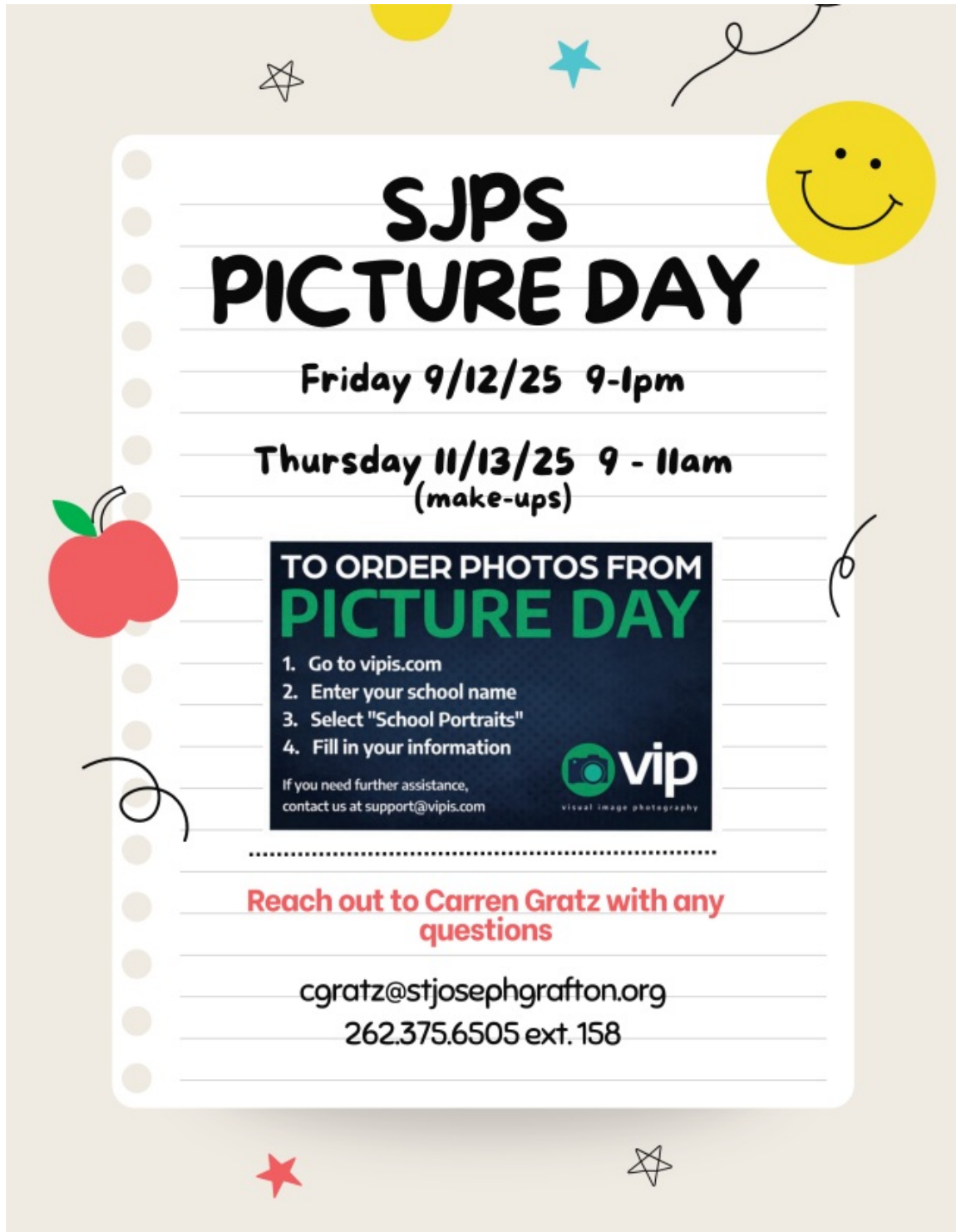
Your feedback will help guide the next steps for individual student support, small group counseling and classroom guidance at St. Joseph Parish School.

Please click the link below to complete the survey: [Parent Survey](#)

Thank you in advance for your time and insights. I truly value your partnership and look forward to working together to support our students.

Sincerely,
Abby Jones
School Counselor

SJPS Picture Day

A festive announcement for SJPS Picture Day. The graphic features a central white notepad with a spiral binding on the left. The notepad has a yellow smiley face sticker in the top right corner and a red apple sticker on the left side. The text on the notepad is as follows: 'SJPS PICTURE DAY' in large, bold, black letters; 'Friday 9/12/25 9-1pm' in bold black letters; 'Thursday 11/13/25 9 - 11am (make-ups)' in bold black letters; a dark blue box with white and green text that says 'TO ORDER PHOTOS FROM PICTURE DAY' followed by a numbered list: '1. Go to vipis.com', '2. Enter your school name', '3. Select "School Portraits"', '4. Fill in your information'; and 'If you need further assistance, contact us at support@vipis.com' with the 'vip' logo. Below the notepad, the text 'Reach out to Carren Gratz with any questions' is in red, followed by the email 'cgratz@stjosephgraffton.org' and the phone number '262.375.6505 ext. 158'. The background is a light beige color with decorative elements: a yellow circle, a blue star, a black star, and a black swirl at the top, and a red star and a black star at the bottom.

**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



2nd Grade *Sacraments*

1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Sunday, September 14

9:15am

Lower Level Conference Rooms

SJPS Extended Care: If you are in need of childcare for your SJPS student, we are pleased to offer both morning (6:30 - 8:00am) and evening (3:15 - 6:00pm) childcare through our Extended Care Program. Please use the link provided to sign up your student(s).

[September Extended Care Sign Up](#)

2025-2026 School Advisory Committee

The SAC Committee works closely with SJPS Leadership to further enhance the culture, marketing and student-family life at St Joe's.

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

[September SAC Meeting Minutes](#)

Weekly Classroom Highlights

By: Carren Gratz, MS Math/Science

And so it begins! I am very excited to be welcoming students back to our SJPS middle school for another year! Day one of this academic year had the middle school students already completing a variety of activities that put them to work and challenged their abilities to work together.

What I tell all the students on the first day (and almost daily after that) is that the name of the game in my classroom is COLLABORATION. Students are

regularly put into small group or partner activities and are expected to work to understand how to properly complete a task within a group setting. They are tasked with delegating roles, taking responsibility/ownership of certain tasks, engaging in respectful discourse and working as an effective teammate.

To kick off this year, students worked in small groups on a Polar Bear Inquiry activity that challenged their critical thinking skills. They were given minimal information on polar bear hunting tactics and fish migration. From there, they were asked to roll a dice and I dictated how many fish and/or bears they had with the ultimate goal of working together to determine the rules of the game. This required them to analyze the data in front of them, apply critical thinking skills, think outside the box and make inferences from information already presented. It was not an easy task, but most groups were successful in identifying the rules!



~Important Information from Previous Lancer Times~



2025-26 School T-Shirts, Lancer T-Shirts, & Sweatshirts

FOR SALE

- 2025/26 School T-Shirt: \$10.00, can be worn in place of a uniform shirt
- Lancer T-Shirts: \$10.00, can be worn on spirit wear days
- Logo Sweatshirts (crew \$26, hooded \$30), can be worn over uniform shirts any day

See order form for updated size availability and price changes

Join
=US=

**SEPTEMBER 9th–
NOVEMBER 25th**



**SAINT
JOSEPH**
PARISH
SCHOOL

Crokinole Club

**\$20 Fee to Help
Purchase Boards**

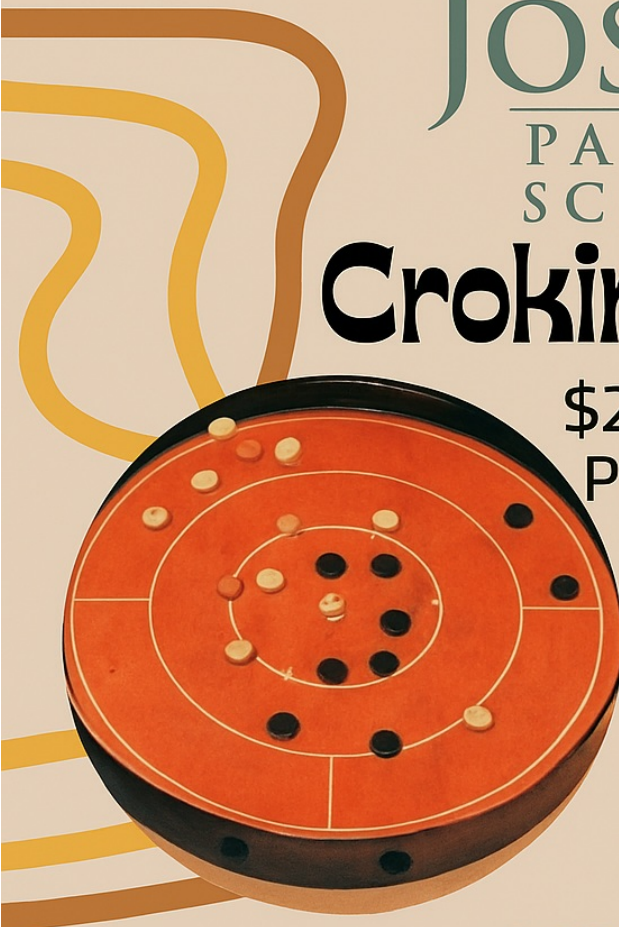
Hosted by:

ANDY SMITH

**CLUB WILL MEET THE
2nd AND 4th TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

**A GREAT CHANCE TO
HAVE A GREAT TIME!**

FINAL TOURNAMENT WITH PRIZES!



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 Huang 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. 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](#)

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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