



*Grounded in the tradition of the Catholic Church,
St. Joseph's School is a community
dedicated to forming disciples of Jesus Christ
through faith, academic excellence, and service to others*
-School Mission Statement (updated 2019)

St. Joseph's State of the School Report (June 2025)

From the principal, Miss Goshey: *It has been a busy year at our school, and we are pleased to share this information with you. I am in the office in June and am available to talk with you about any of the information contained in this report. Please reach out if you have any questions or want to schedule a meeting. (218-326-6232 or principal@sjsg.org)*

Enrollment 2024-2025

End of the year enrollment in Kindergarten through Grade Six during 2024-2025 was 139. Preschool 4-5-year old program enrollment was 28, bringing the school total to 167 students. Seventeen 6th Graders graduated from St. Joseph's School on May 28.

Projected Enrollment 2025-2026

Total projected enrollment for K-6 is 143 students. We have 25 spots filled for our preschool; there are limited openings in preschool classes. Although we have a waitlist for kindergarten, we still have some openings in 1st-6th grade. *We invite your family to become a part of our St. Joseph's Catholic School Family!*

Registration and Tuition Information

Tuition and registration information and forms are available by calling the school office 218-326-6232 or by clicking on the School tab on the parish website itascacatholic.org/school. Need based scholarships are available for families with students in K-6. An application link for tuition assistance is available on the website itascacatholic.org/tuition

Staffing (as of 6/2/25)

-Coach LoBosco will be retiring at the end of this school year. Thank you to Coach LoBosco for teaching PE to the kids for six years. Mr. John, our computer instructor, will be moving on to teach in higher education at the end of this school year. We wish them both many blessings and thank them for their years of service to St. Joseph's Catholic School!

-Carrie Kruger will be adding an additional role of IT Support to her existing role as STEM Instructor.

Job Openings for 25-26 include:

- Preschool Extended Care Aide
- Phy-ed Instructor
- Computer Instructor

Please contact our school office if you, or someone you recommend, would like to apply for any of these positions. (218-326-6232 or principal@sjsg.org)

NWEA-MAP Testing

We administer the Northwest Evaluation Association (nwea) Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) computerized tests during the year. Results are given to parents in November during conferences and again in the end-of-school-year envelope. We will test in September 2026 as we begin instruction for students to assess what academic skills need re-teaching and reinforcement before moving forward into new levels. Our school as a whole had 61% of students reaching proficiency in mathematics and 59% in reading.

During this school year, teachers implemented a new strategy of creating Individualized learning plans based off of NWEA-MAP data. Teachers reviewed the scores and created strategies/plans specific for classroom growth and individual student growth. These plans include learning goals for reading and math and focus on a specific area in those subjects for each student to grow in. We have found them to be a successful communication tool about the results of NWEA-MAP testing data and can see in the specific areas how a student has grown over the year. Spring test data is being sent home in end of year envelopes. Parents at any time are welcome to reach out to their child's teacher or the school principal for the results of the NWEA-MAP test.

CSCOE (Catholic School Center of Excellence)

St. Joseph's Catholic school this year was blessed with 2 grants from CSCOE. These funds were used for marketing and updating our preschool classrooms to support our expansion of extended care in preschool.

CSCOE also is piloting a 5 Star Leadership Program for Catholic School Principals in Minnesota. I have been accepted into the program which will start July 2025 and conclude in June 2026. The program is mainly virtual with a few days of in person learning.

EANS Grant (Emergency Aid to Nonpublic Schools)

Through this federal government program, we were able to hire a professional educational consultant to train teachers in SEL (Social Emotional Learning) in August. The focus of this training was on helping students recover social skills lost during COVID and building relationships within the classroom. We were also able to use the funds for a set of 2nd grade classroom iPads that will be implemented in the 25-26 school year.

School Survey Results:

Thank you for taking the school survey this past Spring. Teachers and School Board members have been given the results of this survey and are reviewing the results and using them to guide our planning for the upcoming school year. Your input helps us identify areas of success and opportunities for growth.

Fundraising:

This school year, not including our playground fundraising efforts, we brought in a total of \$76,722.20! Thank you for your efforts in fundraising, this helps us to keep tuition costs down for our families.

Professional Development

Our teachers are always committed to continuing their education in order to best serve our students. This year, we were proud to support two teachers in completing a course in Orton-Gillingham and three others in completing mathematics courses. While all our teachers are constantly learning and refining their practice, these are just a few of the highlights from this year.

Honors Assembly

This year, we recognized many students for their hard work and achievements—not just for making the A Honor Roll, which is no small feat. Students were also celebrated for completing Civil Air Patrol STEM lessons, demonstrating creativity in art, achieving black belt levels on the recorder in music, earning the Presidential Fitness Award in physical education, reading 40 books across different genres in library, and much more.

Volunteers

Thank you to all our school volunteers this year! We couldn't run this school without your time and talent. We're proud to share that every family completed all of their volunteer hours—and many went above and beyond.

St. Joseph's School Board

Our School Board uses our School Strategic Plan (SSP), developed in 2019-2020, to guide much of our work. Our SSP uses the format required by the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). Below is a summary of some of the Board's great work.

New Playground Equipment

Our playground committee worked hard this school year to remove and replace our playground equipment that the school has had over 20 years. The new equipment was delivered in April and there are plans to do a community build in June of this year. Funding for this equipment came from a variety of resources including donors, grants, and the capital campaign. August 17 is the date we will hold a blessing of our playground equipment. More details will be shared as we get closer.

Catholic Identity

- Bible Story Time was continued this school year in Winter and Spring months.
- St. Joseph's Messenger*, monthly publication sent to parents and is available to parish members in the gathering spaces of the parishes.
- This group will continue working to increase communication between the school and our supporting parishes, St. Augustine's and St. Joseph's through Flocknote, Facebook, and parish bulletin distribution in paper form to families.
- Mama Meet Up provided an opportunity for school moms to meet up once a month during the school year to help foster a community of encouragement.
- Celebrated the Feast of Saint Joseph as a school community.

- Stations of the cross books were purchased as a worship aide to enter in the season of Lent as a school community.
- Continued to support and lead the Ambassador Family Program for our new families in Kindergarten-6th grade.
- Coordinated two weekend Masses during the school year where students were incorporated in weekend Masses.

Wellness Committee

- Provided whole fruit each month for students in Kindergarten-6th grade (known as Fruity Friday)
- Incorporated a Winter Wellness challenge for students during Christmas break.
- Assisted in getting a safety sign in the roundabout for drop off and pick up.
- Facilitated visits to Second Harvest Food Bank
- Invited wellness professionals to speak to each classroom about their profession
- Organized the ice-skating event during Catholic Schools Week
- Celebrated Principal's Day, Nurses's Day, and Administrative Professionals Day
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was amazing-many thanks to those who helped!

Marketing Committee

- Are you following us on Facebook and Instagram to see all the terrific learning taking place at our school?
- Heart of St. Joe's shirts given to all students to promote school pride and share the love that we have for our school.
- Started giving a baptismal gift to all new children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism from the students and families of St. Joseph's Catholic School.
- Students interviewed each other for a student segment on our Social Media accounts.

MANY thanks to the board members, parents and parishioners who worked on these projects!

Calendar & School Supply Lists

Our 25-26 school supply lists and calendar will be posted on SchoolSpeak and on the school tab of the parish website in July (itascacatholic.org/school)

Thanks for taking time to read about the many great things happening at St. Joseph's Catholic School. Enjoy your children and the time you spend together this summer-I pray your blessings will be many!

Miss Nellie Goshey
Principal, St. Joseph's Catholic School