

St. Joseph Catholic School Newsletter

August 18, 2026

Growing in faith and knowledge to serve God and community.

St. Joseph Catholic School Mission

Welcome to the new school year!

First Day of School Our first day of the 2026–2027 school year is Thursday, August 20th! We are excited to welcome our students back and look forward to a wonderful year filled with faith, learning, and growth.

Please make sure your child(ren) arrives at school wearing their school uniforms and ready for a great first day. We can't wait to see everyone on August 20th and begin another amazing year together at St. Joseph Catholic School!

Opening Mass Our Opening School Mass will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026. This special celebration marks the beginning of a new school year and is an opportunity for our school community to come together in faith and gratitude.

During Mass, Father Aneesh will bless our students, and faculty. Following Mass he will give a special blessing to our school as we begin the year ahead.

Students will attend Mass with their classroom teachers. We warmly invite all family members to join us in celebrating the start of the school year and to show their support for our school community and their child(ren). We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.

Pictures School pictures are coming up on Thursday, August 27! We're excited to have Portraits by Shane back again this year.

Picture packets will be sent home on Thursday, August 20 and should be returned with payment by Tuesday, August 25. All envelope packets must be returned even if you are not ordering.

Students do not need to wear their school uniforms for picture day, but they should dress nicely. Collared shirts, dresses, blouses, sweaters, dress pants, or neat jeans are all great choices.

We are fortunate to have Portraits by Shane taking our school pictures, so please consider ordering your child's photos. There will not be picture retakes, so come ready to smile!

Handbook If you have any questions about school policies, please check our school handbook. The handbook is posted to our website <https://www.stjosephellinwood.com/school>. It is there for you anytime you might have questions.

Educonnect Please be sure to check your child's grades regularly. If you are a new family an email will be sent to you with information that will give you access to Educonnect, our Student Information System. This is a great way to talk to your child(ren) about their grades and what they are learning in class.

Calling in Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent, has a change of plans, or is sick. You are welcome to send an email, but please be sure to include **all teachers and staff who need to be notified**.

We do prefer that you call the school, simply because you never know when a teacher or staff member may be out sick or taking a personal day. A phone call helps make sure your message gets to the right people!

Thank you for helping us keep everyone informed. We really appreciate it!

Lunches Please give us at least one day's notice when you would like to eat lunch with your child(ren). Please keep this in mind and plan ahead so we can be sure to have a seat available for you in the lunchroom!

- **Adult lunches:** \$5.00
- **Student lunches:** \$3.85 per day
- **Extra milk:** \$0.55 per day

Please also remember to make your monthly lunch payment at the first of each month for your child(ren). Notes will not be sent home unless your account is behind on payments. Thank you for helping us keep our lunch program running smoothly!

Kindergarten Parents All Kansas elementary schools are required to partner with families to better understand incoming kindergarten students' development using the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) Online through the Kindergarten Readiness Initiative and community access. You should have received a letter asking you to log on with your child and do a couple short tests. It should only take about 10 minutes. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you do this, as it is part of our State Accreditation. If you have questions, or trouble logging on, please let me know.

Mass Students will attend mass on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We would love to have parents, grandparents, and friends join us for our Children's Masses at 8:15am.

Scrip A reminder to SJCS families who have committed to purchasing \$300 of scrip (certificates/gift cards/RaiseRight) monthly. If you have not yet purchased EFF, Wal-Mart, Amazon, or EPPI scrip, please find your way into the school or church office to purchase scrip. Please continue to purchase scrip before you shop!

Asbestos Each year we are required by law to give you information about asbestos in our school. Please check our website for the letter of information under the Files heading.

Weekend Mass Weekend Mass times are at 5:00pm Saturday and 9:00 am Sunday. Mass servers for Saturday, August 24 are Khloe and Cristian Martinez. Sunday, August 25 are Jentri Powell and Jackson Joiner. If you cannot fulfill your obligation, please find another person to switch with.

May God bless us with a successful school year!

Laurie Kolling

Principal