



The Evangelist

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

TO LIVE LEARN AND LOVE AS JESUS TAUGHT



COMPUTER SCIENCES

with Mr. Purvines

Preparing middle school students for high school is no easy task, given the scope of high school and college/career readiness expectations. As early as kindergarten, students begin learning technology basics in computer science class. They gradually learn typing skills, how to create documents and spreadsheets, computer programming, computer-aided design, robotics, 21st century citizenship (ethical technology use and online safety), and much more throughout elementary and middle school. Students at SJE have the advantage of a multiple operating systems curriculum that provides them with the opportunity to become proficient in both Apple (Macintosh) and PC (Windows).

This multi-platform, comprehensive Computer Science/STEM curriculum, gives students the tools to not only compete, but to excel in high school and beyond. While technology continues to evolve at an accelerated pace, SJE focuses on preparing students with the knowledge and capabilities to adapt to change.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week kicks off with our annual Open House & Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 26th, to celebrate our parish and school.

MONDAY

Celebrating Your Community: Color for a Cause Day

TUESDAY

Celebrating Your Students: Andean MS Mass & Wacky Hat Day

WEDNESDAY

Celebrating the Nation: Spirit Wear & Minute to Win It

Thursday

Celebrating Vocations: Prayer Service

Friday

Celebrating Faculty, Staff & Volunteers: Mass, Pizza Lunch, Ice Cream Social & 50's Attire

1

How do you make learning fun?

Many of the students in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade are familiar with using tablets, but have little to no experience with desktop computers, keyboards, or a mouse. These basic tools of computing may be brand new to them, which creates interest and excitement. Mr. Purvines is pleased to work with the elementary school students because of their enthusiasm and enjoys challenging all of the K-8 students.

SJE has several pieces of educational software and hardware that are designed to stimulate student interest. For example, students pair OSMO devices with iPads and learn through play by merging tactile exploration with innovative technology. The students love learning math, reading, deductive reasoning, and the basics of coding through this platform.

2

What can students do to reinforce computer skills?

SJE offers a typing program, which is differentiated to meet the needs of all students. Students have the ability to sign onto the program from anywhere at (sjetyping.typingclub.com), so they can continue to practice outside of school. We also utilize resources such as sphero.edu, code.org, and codeacademy.com to teach computer programming, coding, and robotics.

3

What educational apps can students utilize outside of school to study?

In addition to resources already mentioned, there are a variety of other programs students can use at home to enhance their academic skills.

Math: The award-winning mathematics app, Dragonbox, allows students to learn and enhance math skills ranging from basic number recognition and computational thinking to algebra and geometry.

Reading: Libby, by OverDrive, gives users access to all of the Lake County library online content and resources.

Computer Science: *Secret Coders*, codeacademy.com and khanacademy.org help young learners understand the programming mindset.

PRESCHOOL

Preschool at SJE is always abuzz with various learning activities. Marytherese Polak and Melissa Schmidt teach the 3 & 4 year old preschool programs, assisted by aides Jil Carlson, Marie King and Marge Pagorek.



What types of hands-on learning do you utilize in preschool? Students engage in daily center work, which is designed to help them learn to work collaboratively in small group settings. This gives the preschoolers opportunities to practice specific academic skills, while also learning social skills, self-regulation, and time management. Examples of center activities include sound matching games, counting and sorting, number matchups using manipulatives, bingo games focusing on the alphabet, numbers, colors, and shapes, plus marble runs, gears, jumbo pegs, play-dough, etc.

We really enjoy creating interactive, hands-on activities for the preschoolers. Some of our favorite lessons include using puppets to teach various

skills, learning about life cycles through raising butterflies, gardening, etc.

Preschoolers develop a sense of responsibility and a number of social-emotional skills that help to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

Students are taught to clean up after play time, snack time, and all activities. As their language skills continue to develop, they become more comfortable and confident in verbalizing their needs. They learn when it is their turn to speak and when to listen and follow directions. They have many opportunities to interact with peers through activities and play which helps them learn how to appropriately express their feelings in a positive way, as well as learn how to share. The staff also reinforces ways to help students become more independent, including how to pack and unpack their belongings every day.

SJE's preschool teachers and aides help prepare students for a successful transition to kindergarten. Throughout the

year, students work on the lower/uppercase alphabet, number recognition, and writing their names independently.



A typical day at preschool spans a number of activities that provide students with independent playtime, structured activities and hands on learning. Students learn through engaging in table activities, prayer, show and tell, songs, story time, centers, free-choice time, group time, outdoor play, wow words, religion lessons, and a multitude of other age appropriate activities.



Mrs. Emerson and Mrs. Giegerich strive to ensure kindergarten students are “well-rounded” individuals who learn, live, and love as Jesus taught us. While math and reading are very important, they also want students to have great manners, treat others with kindness, be problem solvers, and have a variety of educational skills as they move into the “big” building for first grade. Kindergarteners love having the opportunity to experience specials classes, such as music, gym, library, computer science, and Spanish.

Kindergarteners have specials each week for about two and a half hours where they engage in fine arts activities, sports, technology, and begin learning a foreign language. Mrs. Emerson and Mrs. Giegerich collaborate with the specials teachers on a variety of lessons. For example, kindergarteners type their sight words in computer science, and the reading series has bilingual stories. It’s a great way to reinforce the lessons kindergarteners are learning, and also learn the information using a different approach.

ROBOTICS



Now in its second year, SJE Robotics kicked off their competition season by earning a spot in the Finals at the Squared Away Competition on October 26th, placing 2nd and 3rd. At the Kingsford Heights Robotics Tournament, SJE's teams placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Teamwork Blended Competition. The team also qualified for State in the Skills Competition. Students have been designing, building, and coding robots to compete in the Vex IQ Challenges. Students score points by using robots to pick up cubes and placing them on the corresponding platforms or corners of the field, and putting balls in or on the cubes.

SJE's Robotics program helps students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as they create their robots. They practice using the engineering design process as they improve their robot, record their ideas, and work in engineering workbooks. The students strengthen their teamwork skills by collaborating with their teammates to design the best robot and by strategizing with other teams at tournaments to score the most points.

SJE Robotics is Sponsored by Danny DiTola State Farm Insurance, the Courts of Northwest Indiana and our HSA.

RESOURCES

with Mrs. Maruszczak

Students at SJE who need a little extra help with their studies are able to get the support they need thanks to Mrs. Maruszczak, SJE's Resource Teacher. On any given day, Mrs. Maruszczak will work with small reading groups, typically K-5 students, who need extra instruction and practice with reading. She administers tests to K-8th grade students and checks in with them on a regular basis, especially if she sees a falling grade or missing assignment. She helps students with organizational skills, reminds them to write down homework assignments and monitors their behavior plans. She provides targeted interventions to individual students on decoding, reading comprehension, writing, etc.

"Collaborating with teachers is key to staying on top of students' progress. I touch base with them regularly to find out how students are doing in the classroom and if they are having any particular struggles. I keep track of students' grades and reach out if I see grades dropping. We discuss additional supports that may be useful to the student within their classroom or with me. I also collaborate with teachers on behavior plans for specific students, determining how to curb negative behaviors, and providing incentives for positive behavior," says Mrs. Maruszczak.



Resources assist students in a number of ways, whether it's pushing into students' classes to give them extra support or bringing them to the Resource room to provide small group or one-on-one help. There are students who take both standardized state tests and classroom tests in Resource, so that they are able to receive appropriate accommodations. SJE's advanced math teacher, Mrs. Baly, also helps in Resource, leading all of the math groups.

How do SJE students benefit from having a Resource Teacher? According to Mrs. Maruszczak, "We often work on strategies students can use in the classroom, studying for a test or preparing a writing assignment. Becoming more organized and taking more initiative to become independent in their work/study habits is setting them up for future success."

SPANISH

with Mrs. Tapia-Morris

Students in grades K-8 attend Spanish class at SJE. "I like to use communicative and hands on skills. I encourage students to use the language to ask for basic necessities. Additionally, students learn to read bilingual books," says Mrs. Tapia-Morris. SJE adopted a new middle school Spanish curriculum titled ¡Avancemos! Mrs. Tapia-Morris believes the new curriculum has helped students become more comfortable with the targeted language. "Not only is it tech friendly, but it also has many fun and interactive features that help students with different learning styles understand the material."

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Home and School Association (HSA) is the parent organization that supports the academic experiences of students at SJE. Due to the success of the Race for Education and Spring Fling fundraisers, HSA was able to provide the funding needed for several major purchases including the MS Spanish curriculum (\$4,281), Science curriculum (\$38,255), MS English books (\$8,460), Social Studies curriculum (\$26,152), tables and chairs (\$12,211) and art supplies (\$1,664).

Parents can make a positive impact by volunteering at HSA organized events, as well as attending HSA meetings. These meetings give parents an opportunity to find out about upcoming functions and contribute ideas and suggestions for these events. The HSA calendar is published on the website under Parents>HSA.

The Impact of HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

How funding choices are made

The Principal and HSA board vote based on school needs. The HSA attends School Advisory Committee meetings to make sure the needs of the school are met.

2018-19 Fundraisers

Race for Education
\$36,000

Spring Fling
\$70,000

\$ Where does financial support go?

Welcome Day	\$200	8th Grade Trip	\$3,500
BTS Teacher Lunch	\$1,700	A.R. Party	\$1,000
BTS Student Treats	\$400	Field Day	\$1,500
Catholic Schools Week	\$1,500	8th Grade Banquet	\$3,000
Challenger Field Trip	\$700	Kindergarten Celebration	\$1,000
National Junior Honor Society	\$385	Christmas Teacher Lunch & Gifts	\$2,900
Class Parties	\$3,660	Book Fair	\$6,000
Spring Fling Classroom Projects	\$1,500	Renaissance	\$7,500
Teacher Appreciation Week	\$2,000	Middle School Retreat	\$1,500
Playground	\$2,500	Geography Bowl	\$300
Math Bowl	\$300	Daddy Daughter Dance	\$3,000
Grandparents Day	\$3,000	Mother Son Event	\$2,000

How to make a difference

In an effort to reduce the number and times parents and supporters are asked to donate money, the HSA has reduced their fundraising to two events - Race for Education and Spring Fling. Parent support through committee involvement, event promotion, and actual sales and/or purchases is essential to the success of these events.

2019-2020 Initiatives

HSA purchased new Spanish, Reading, Science and Language Arts (for MS) curricula. HSA also remodeled two classrooms. HSA's new initiatives will be to purchase new laptops, continue classroom renovations and remodel the upstairs bathrooms.

Volunteer

Each K-8 SJE parishioner family is required to serve a minimum of 18 volunteer hours per year. Parents can sign-up to volunteer at HSA events using the links on <https://www.sjeschool.org/hsa>. Volunteers at school must be Virtus trained.

Upcoming Meetings

HSA Room Parent Training on September 5

HSA meetings: November 14, January 16, February 20, April 16, May 7

HSA officers are always open to input from SJE families. Contact them at sjehomeandschool@gmail.com

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Tour the school and learn why parents choose SJE. Bring the whole family and stay for breakfast.

SPREAD THE WORD Do you have family, friends or neighbors who are looking to find a school for their children? Make sure to tell them about SJE's Open House coming up on January 26th, 2020.



SAVE the DATE for SJE's 10TH ANNIVERSARY 2020 SPRING FLING Friday, April 17th, 2020

ALUMNI UPDATE

with Emily Ziegelhofer

I am grateful for my education at SJE School. It helped prepare me for high school in many ways. The level of academic schoolwork at SJE was demanding, and I was always challenged to do my best. For example, the Algebra I class I took in eighth grade is a high school level course that students typically don't take until freshman year. Thanks to my excellent teacher, Mrs. Baly, I tested into honors geometry when I enrolled at Andean High School. I also remember on my first day of science class in sixth grade, my teacher told us that we would use what she was teaching us in our high school science classes. She was right. I still remember and use what she taught me as early as sixth grade!

Another great thing about SJE is how the teachers personally care about each and every student. I've always loved writing, and Mrs. Mamelson took a special interest in helping me improve my writing. In second grade, my classmate Gunnar and I wrote a "book." Mrs. Mamelson let us read it to the class over several days. When a group of us decided to write a book in her fifth grade class, she encouraged us and even allowed us to print copies of the story for our classmates.

The most important way SJE has helped prepare me for high school is in my faith life. I learned a great deal from Father Maletta and my religion teachers in grades K-8. I felt very prepared to continue my religious studies in high school. Going to weekly Mass and Adoration has helped me grow closer to God and become a better person.

I am forever grateful for Father Maletta and all of the teachers and staff. I feel blessed to have attended SJE!




\$25
per person

WINE AND CRAFT BEER NIGHT

February 8, 2020 7-10 PM
SJE School Gym

20+ wines & 10+ local craft beers.
Offered with hors d'oeuvres

Sponsorships available:
Gold Sponsor \$100
Includes acknowledgement & 2 bottles of wine.
Platinum Sponsor \$300
Admits 2, Includes acknowledgement & 2 bottles of wine.

TO SPONSOR OR RSVP CONTACT:
SARA FORRESTER (219) 765-8506



Important Dates

January 6	School Resumes
January 26-Feb1	Catholic Schools Week
January 26	Open House & Pancake Breakfast
January 27-Feb 7	Current Family Registration
February 1	Daddy Daughter Dance
February 10	New Family Registration Opens
February 14	NO SCHOOL - E-Learning Day
February 17	NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
March 12	Quarterly Tuition Due
March 23-27	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 30	School Resumes
March 31	Lenten Lunch, 2pm Dismissal
April 10-13	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
April 17	Spring Fling
May 7	Preschool Orientation @ 9:30am
	Kindergarten Orientation @ 1:00pm
	Kindergarten Screenings for New Students
May 12	Catechism Bowl
May 15	Last All School Mass, Field Day
May 20	Last Day Pre 4
May 21	Last Day Pre 3
May 22	Last Day Grade K-8



Prospective Families

Mrs. Angie Buchanan is SJE's Director of Admissions. For more information about registering or touring the school, please contact her at (219)365-5451 x262