
COUGAR TRACKS

Mission: Saint Joseph Catholic School Community is committed to all students to provide spiritual and personal growth, academic excellence, and service to others.

Do What Makes You Happy Holy

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Welcome Back

We are so excited to have the students back and to welcome our new students to the school! We have 92 smiling faces we get to work with every day, such a huge blessing! We had a great kick off to the school year at our Back to School BBQ and Open House. We thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us, we are so fortunate to have such a great school family!



Mass Schedule

Mass next week will be on Tuesday and Thursday with the 7th & 8th grade having mass parts. After Mass on Tuesday, we will have the blessing of the school and the students. All parents, grandparents, and parishioners are welcome join us!

Safe Environment

Just a reminder that the dioceses has set a new requirement for parents to complete the Safe Environment Training and background check. All registration and training may be completed online at <https://diojeffcity.org/safe-environment>. Check the steps on the right-hand side of the page to get started. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Watring.

Items Needed:

There are many forms that need to be returned in this folder! Please sign, read, and return the forms listed below. If you have any questions, please let us know!

- **Media Release Form:** This form allows us to submit pictures of students to the newspaper or put them on our website or Facebook page.
- **Internet Policy:** This form is for students in K-8 and their parents to sign. It reviews the school's expectations for using technology at school.
- **Permission Slip Form:** This permission slip will cover trips that are taken around town. Such as walking to the public school for events or other places in town.
- **Student Council:** Students 1st-8th only
- **Handbook Acknowledgement:** (K-8th grades) Our handbook we be attached to the email, can be found on our website: www.stjosephcougars.com and a printed copy can be requested. Please take the time to read the handbook and then sign and return the form.
- **All School Masses:** This school year we will be having four All School weekend Masses. If your child would like to have a part, please fill out and return the form. Participation is optional for those that would like to have a Mass part on a weekend Mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/21-No Bus Service
- 8/25-No School
- 8/26-Church Picnic
- 9/1-No School
- 9/4-No School-Labor Day
- 9/6-StuCo Elections
- 9/7-9/10-Steam Engine Show
- 9/14-Mid-Quarter
- 9/18-No Bus Service
- 9/23-Grandparents Day/Early Out
- 9/26-No Bus Service

Do What Makes You ~~Happy~~ Holy

Every year we choose a new theme for the year. This year our theme is “Do What Makes You ~~Happy~~ Holy”. We talked as a school family and in classrooms about what it means to be holy. Sometimes what might make us happy, is not something that is making us holy and helping us to grow closer to God. In our current culture there is a focus on always being happy, we want the students to learn that we may not always be happy, but we can always be working towards being holy. To go along with this, we will be focusing on Virtues all year long. We describe a virtue as a holy habit that imitates God and will help lead us to heaven. All year we will work on Faith, Hope, and Love. Each quarter we will introduce a new virtue that we will focus on.

Another component to our theme and focus on virtues this year is Virtue Based Restorative Discipline. Through this process classes will have Proactive Circles in their classrooms to build community and if an issue arises a Restorative/Solution Circle will be held with those involved. These circles focus on the virtues that were missing and how to restore the relationship. The classrooms have already been having Proactive Circles this week! We are excited to add this to our toolbox and can't wait to see it in action!

No School

School will not be in session on Friday, August 25th so the Picnic Committee can begin to prepare and set-up for the Picnic.

Grading Scale

As mentioned at the Parent Meeting the grading scale for 3rd-8th will be changing this year. A copy of the new scale is in folders this week. A large reason for the change was for our diocesan high schools and scholarship opportunities not being a level playing field for their public-school counterparts. The level of rigor expected will not change, our teachers will still expect the same quality of work in order to earn the appropriate grade.

Student Council

This year we will again be having a Student Council group. Right now, we are asking any students in grades 1st-8th to fill out the form if they wish to run for Student Council. Students in 7th & 8th can run for an officer position. Speeches and elections will be held on Tuesday, September 6th. Forms are due back by Monday, August 28th.

St. Joseph Picnic

The parish picnic will be Saturday, August 26th. The fried chicken and pulled pork dinner will be served from 4:30-8:00. We hope to see everyone there!

House System

This year we will be splitting the school, PK-8th, into nine different “houses”. Students will meet once a month in their houses and will also have the opportunity to earn house points throughout the year. Next week they will have their first meeting. We will send a list home next week, so families know who their kiddos are with. The Houses will also complete various service projects together throughout the year. We hope this is an opportunity to continue to build community throughout the whole school!

Virtue of the Quarter: Fortitude

- The ability to face danger and find strength to overcome fear.

Saint of the Month: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Virtues for the Year:

Faith-gift from God that allows us to believe in him
 Hope-allows us to trust in God's promise to share his life with us forever
 Love-greatest of all, allows us to love God and one another

