SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY
Cleveland, Ohio
President
Start Date: July 2020
www.sja1890.org
For more than 129 years, Saint Joseph Academy has provided a faith-filled environment where young women are emboldened to flourish and broaden their horizons as leaders who value their minds, their faith, and the dear neighbor.

Saint Joseph Academy, the only all-girls Catholic high school in the city of Cleveland, is rooted in the spirituality of its founding sponsors, the Congregation of St. Joseph. Since the establishment of Saint Joseph Academy in 1890, 30 years before women were given the right to vote, the sisters’ commitment to the education of young women has inspired the faculty and staff at Saint Joseph Academy to provide each student who walks through its doors with every possible opportunity for academic excellence and personal growth.

At this time, Saint Joseph Academy seeks a new President who will honor the School’s 129 years of history and ensure it remains a relevant and inspired place for young women to learn. Strong candidates will be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to service, a dexterity with building and sustaining cohesive communities, and a meaningful relationship with spirituality that influences both their personal and professional pursuits.
The original Saint Joseph Academy was located on Starkweather Avenue in the Tremont neighborhood, a community populated by children of a growing middle class in an atmosphere where a boy’s education took precedence. The mission of the Academy was to reach the young girls for whom education was often a dream, not a reality.

In 1898, Saint Joseph Academy moved to its current site on Rocky River Drive, then a beautiful parcel of farmland in the relatively undeveloped area of the city on the edge of what would become the Metroparks Rocky River Reservation. Classes were held in the Motherhouse until the stately brick Academy building was completed in 1928.

Saint Joseph Academy continued its mission to empower the young women through the 1920s and beyond. Traditions were created and sustained. In 1943, graduates began a tradition that remains today – “the Walk of the Roses” with white-gowned seniors each carrying a dozen red roses processing down Rocky River Drive from Saint Joseph Academy to Our Lady of Angels Church for commencement. The annual “Paws for Pride” week brings together all grades, creating a spirit-filled environment and memories that last a lifetime.

A great deal of time, energy, and finances are invested in ensuring that the campus is a welcoming environment for all who visit, and it stays on the forefront of technology. A major addition, The Academy Center, opened in December of 1996. The Rawlings Track and Field addition in 2002 allowed the Athletic Department to expand its athletic programs. Today, Saint Joseph Academy offers over a dozen varsity sports, including a nationally recognized crew team and a rugby program which are national and seven-time state champions.
In 2009, the school embarked on its largest campaign ever, The Expanding Minds ~ Building Futures ~ Raising Leaders capital campaign raised nearly $7 million to upgrade the infrastructure of the building. Students now enjoy a modern dining hall and stunning outdoors spaces that provide unique areas for classroom studies, companionship, and reflection. Additional capital improvements made the building more energy efficient, increased building safety, and provided technology upgrades to enrich the education of students.

THE SCHOOL

Each young woman is empowered to discover and pursue her passions. Saint Joseph Academy has instituted several groundbreaking initiatives to catalyze this process, such as the Health Sciences Honors Program, the new Engineering & Design Honors Program, and an innovative Makerspace. Other resources include an advanced technology environment, a state-of-the-art biology lab and Anatomage Table (known as “the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system on the market,” the Anatomage Table affords students the opportunity to dissect, visualize real human tissue, and isolate areas of the human body).

The “Saint Joseph Academy difference” is a commitment to educating young women in an environment that allows them to express their unique selves and achieve full academic potential, while fostering love and unity with God and all creation. Each school year has a theme that reflects an element of the charism or spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph. (This year’s theme is “Practice Empathetic Justice.”) In addition, Saint Joseph’s Academy offers four years of spiritual development that enable students to embody the qualities of the “Character of a Saint Joseph Graduate,” a formalization of the philosophy that has guided the Academy since its founding.
A constant throughout the school’s history has been the spiritual influence of the founding Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Students take time for reflection in the chapel, selflessly serve their local and global communities and attend annual religious retreats. During these retreats students deepen their faith and explore the dynamic ways they are called to share their gifts with the world. School liturgies provide young women the opportunity to contribute to the liturgy by singing in the choir, reading the scripture, and serving as Eucharistic Ministers.

The history of Saint Joseph Academy extends far beyond the beautiful campus on Rocky River Drive. An impressive network of 17,764 alumnae continue to live out the mission of Saint Joseph Academy. Following the bold path laid out by the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph in 1890, alumnae break barriers by becoming a Pulitzer Prize Winner, Fulbright Scholar, Supreme Court Justice, rocket scientist, artist, neurosurgeon, or other careers that fuel their passions.

Saint Joseph Academy is committed to leading the way with technology. From the school’s infrastructure to its classrooms, students have access to the most relevant systems and technology used in today’s universities and corporate environments. As part of this, each student has her own Chromebook laptop for learning and accessing resources both on and off campus, including access to the Saint Joseph Academy Student Portal. Additionally, the Academy maintains several technology options for enriching students’ digital learning environment comprising of a wide range of creative technology tools for individual and class exploration, design, innovation, and discovery.
**ACADEMICS**

Academic offerings include options for every student at every level in her high school education. Coupled with block scheduling, which is used for its similarity to a higher education environment, a Saint Joseph Academy education prepares students for college in a variety of ways.

Saint Joseph Academy offers 19 different Advanced Placement (AP) courses that span the arts, literature, science, and math. Students are encouraged to take the level of coursework that is right for them: a qualified Freshman can take an AP course if she desires. Saint Joseph Academy also offers over 30 Honors courses that are designed to challenge students’ unique interests, and include distinctive options such as Honors Anatomy and Physiology, as well as Honors Microbiology/Zoology. The school’s Global Program and World Languages programming helps foster internationally minded students with offerings including three levels of Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish, as well as AP levels for advanced learning.

As a distinguishing initiative, the Health Sciences Honors Program incorporates not only relevant coursework, but also clinical hours, in-field research, and application opportunities at some of Northeast Ohio’s acclaimed hospitals. Similarly, the Engineering and Design Honors Program prepares young women for a life of compassionate leadership and service in an engineering and design profession through an academic program based on a rigorous course of study and meaningful experiential learning.

Underpinning these rigorous and unique programs are resources and curricula that serve to graduate high-quality people, capable of having a positive effect on their world. For example, four years of theology classes help students see faith in everyday life and understand how to “serve
the dear neighbor” through community involvement. Additionally, a dedicated wellness curriculum emphasizes the interconnectedness of mind, body and spirit. Learning both in and out of the classroom is designed to aid students with their ongoing journey toward wholeness.

In order to support academic success fully, student-to-teacher ratios and class sizes are kept small, encouraging more interaction and discussion during class time. Technology is integrated into every classroom, and each student’s Chromebook allows for collaboration inside and outside the classroom. Supporting these efforts is the Nazareth Library, which has been state-recognized for providing leading-edge technology for research and learning, while still fostering a love of reading in all students.

The goal of College Counseling at Saint Joseph Academy is “to facilitate and support the transition from high school to post-secondary education and/or the workforce.” This includes academic advising, as well as guiding and supporting students and families through the college search and application process. The College Counseling mission is consistent with and complementary to the mission of the Congregation of Saint Joseph—it values and respects the diversity and individualism of students and understand that their lives will take them in many directions.

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**College Placement**

Ninety-eight percent of 2018 graduates enrolled in post-secondary education. Of those, 86% enrolled in four-year colleges and 12% in two-year community/career colleges. Recent college acceptances include:

- American University
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Boston College
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Cleveland State University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Davidson College
- Elon University
- Furman University
- Georgetown University
- Indiana University
- John Carroll University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Marquette University
- Michigan State University
- New York University
- Northwestern University
- Ohio University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Providence College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Saint Mary’s College
- Santa Clara University
- Syracuse University
- The Catholic University of America
- The George Washington University
- The Ohio State University
- University of Iowa
- University of Kentucky
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Tennessee
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Vassar College
- Villanova University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- West Virginia University
- Xavier University
Arts and Athletics

In the Visual Arts courses at Saint Joseph Academy, students learn about new technologies and how to create on multiple platforms with imagination and originality. Under the watchful eye and tutelage of accomplished faculty, students may explore many creative avenues, learn about the newest design programs, and work three-dimensionally with hands-on projects. With courses ranging from graphic design and yearbook to jewelry making and studio art, there are numerous ways students may find creative outlets and improve and experiment with their God-given talents.

Performing Arts courses challenge students to open their minds to the world of theater, while inspiring confidence and creating a community of support. Students take courses related to music and performance, such as Show Choir, Music Theory, Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Public Speaking, Concert Band, Orchestra, and Presentation and Performance. Most of the courses offered come with the experience of performing on stage for parents and friends. Saint Joseph Academy’s experienced faculty is dedicated to teaching students how to thrive and learn through music and performance. Additionally, students can participate in extracurricular activities like the Fall Play, Spring Musical, and The Academy Chorale.

Over 50% of students participate in one or more sports. The Interscholastic Athletics Program exists to provide a quality athletics experience for students who demonstrate an elevated level of skill. The opportunity to compete against another school’s program is secondary to the opportunity to learn valuable life skills in a Christian environment. The Saint Joseph Academy Jaguars participate in several varsity interscholastic athletic programs each season. In the fall, students can participate in crew, cross country, golf, soccer, or volleyball. In the winter, students can participate in basketball, bowling, gymnastics, indoor track, or swimming and diving. In the spring, options include crew, lacrosse, rugby, softball, or track and field.
School Life

Every facet of life at Saint Joseph Academy is, of course, influenced by the School’s Catholic roots. On a daily basis, this means that faith, service, and community constitute the core of each students’ journey.

Faith
As a community created in the spirit of St. Joseph and the teachings of Jesus Christ, students and faculty come together in the celebration of the Eucharist in Liturgical gatherings throughout the year. In addition, students are encouraged to attend Mass in the Worship Space with the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph. Students take a theology class each year to grow in their faith and recognize the importance of God in their lives. As a culmination of this study, every student creates an online “faithfolio,” which is included as part of their final class assessment. Outside the classroom, students are encouraged to practice their faith through service and to nurture their faith journey through retreats. The students are given instruction, guidance, and direction in the sharing of their faith as leaders of the many retreat programs provided. Students are expected to attend at least one class-level retreat per year.

Service
Each year, Saint Joseph Academy students are required to complete at least 20 hours of service. These hours can be earned through volunteering at Saint Joseph Academy, students’ parishes, and in the community with groups such as the Rape Crisis Center, Providence House, tutoring programs, the West Side Catholic Center, and Youth Challenge. To their credit, students have always gone above and beyond this minimum requirement; the young women of Saint Joseph Academy embrace the idea of “serving the dear neighbor” and the student body typically logs more than 27,000 service hours annually in local, regional, and global settings.
Community
Over the years, Saint Joseph Academy has nurtured a vibrant community-oriented culture that allows students to cultivate passions, tackle new endeavors, and supplement their academic experiences. Today, there are more than 50 clubs and activities students can join throughout the school year—from Art and World Language clubs to Ski and Snowboard Club to Leadership to Service clubs and much more. (Students are always encouraged to start a new club, too.)

After a century of graduating young women ready to make the world a better place, Saint Joseph Academy has accumulated an impressive array of traditions that alumnae and current students hold dear to their hearts. The list is long: Pride Bowl, Freshmen Orientation and Welcome, Mixers, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Daughter Brunch and Mass, Legacy Breakfasts, Penny Wars, Pep Rallies, Fall Dance, Fall Play and Spring Musical, the traditional “Battle Across the Bridge” basketball games, Senior Parade, Paws For Pride, and Walk of the Roses and Commencement. One of the most important traditions is The Jaguar Jackpot, a student driven fundraiser designed to benefit each and every young woman attending the Academy. Each of these traditions can be characterized by the joy they bring to members of the community, as well as their accessibility to any and all who want to participate.

Cleveland, Ohio
Cleveland, located on the southern shore of Lake Erie, has a population of just under 400,000. Cleveland’s economy today relies on diversified sectors such as manufacturing, financial services, healthcare, and biomedicals. Cleveland today is a rising star full of activity to suit any disposition. From rock’n’roll music to National Park access to distinctive cuisine to Playhouse Square to The Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland has something for everyone.
One of Cleveland’s best-known landmarks is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Visitors can expect to see one of the most impressive collections of memorabilia ever assembled—from John Lennon’s guitar to hip-hop pioneer Jam Master Jay’s gold chains. The Rock Hall also showcases a number of temporary, traveling installations throughout the year. Recent exhibits included a history of women in rock, “Girls to the Front,” and a Paul Simon retrospective.

For the younger crowd, the Children’s Museum of Cleveland is a place of magic and wonder and epic destination for anyone young or young at heart. The Cleveland Museum of Art is another museum that ought to be on any tourist’s radar, consistently ranking as one of the best comprehensive art museums in the United States and one of the most visited in the world. At the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, visitors see rotating temporary exhibits all year long and a permanent collection that includes a full-sized replica of a T-Rex.

Cleveland is nothing if not a sports hub. Every summer, the Indians' Progressive Field and its surrounding area becomes an exciting part of Downtown Cleveland. And for good reason: in the past few years, the baseball team has enjoyed a historical World Series, won several Central Division championships, and just hosted its sixth All-Star Game in 2019. Taking in a 2016 World Champion Cleveland Cavaliers game at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse is an absolute must for anyone visiting the city during the NBA season. For those who love football, Cleveland has you covered with their beloved Browns and the Pro Football Hall of Fame about an hour south of Cleveland, in Canton, Ohio.

Surrounding Downtown Cleveland, locals and visitors can enjoy an outdoor playground called The Cleveland Metroparks with winding rivers, Lake Erie, plenty of trails, outdoor adventuring, beaches, and parks. In fact, the Cleveland Metroparks is comprised of 18 separate parks in Northeast Ohio that make up what is known, locally, as “The Emerald Necklace.” Still want more? Nestled between Cleveland and Akron sits a massive stretch of additional public greenspace called the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, which covers 33,000 acres of woods, water and wildlife, and is free to the public.

All that activity is bound to work up an appetite, and Cleveland’s burgeoning foodie scene includes several chefs who are known as regional celebrities, locally owned cafes, breweries, and fine dining.
opportunities and challenges

• Grounded in its 129-year history of pathbreaking excellence in girls education, Saint Joseph Academy is poised to enter an exciting new chapter with its transformational $11 million campus redevelopment campaign, “With Lifted Hearts.” Currently two floors, 28,000 square feet of the (former Motherhouse) newly rechristened Fitzmaurice Hall, are under renovation to accommodate ten new classrooms (CORE Ministry/Theology and Social Sciences) and administrative offices. Phase Two will offer a dramatic expansion of our Makerspace Innovation Lab. Phase Three will provide performing arts classrooms, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and a spacious new Student Commons.

• Saint Joseph Academy was established by the Congregation of Saint Joseph in 1890, and today the Congregation’s members continue to provide exceptional support and continuous inspiration. Associates of the Congregation also serve on the faculty and staff.

• Over the past 10 years in particular, the Academy has benefited from excellent leadership, as well as a venturesome flair for programmatic innovation, which have powered it to new heights of accomplishment, reputation, and mission achievement.

• The Academy is beloved by its core constituents and enjoys fervent support and appreciation from alumnae, parents, faculty, and students. As one student told us, “I simply couldn’t love this school any more than I do!”

• Both the faculty and student body are superb, uncommonly dedicated, and energized by the roles they play in their school’s success. The school community is kind, uplifting, and high performing.

While the next President of the Academy will be privileged to join an educational enterprise with stirring momentum and much potential for growth, there are nonetheless important challenges to lean into:

• Following the completion of Phase One of the Fitzmaurice Hall renovation this summer, ensure a smooth transition into the new spaces.

• Significantly expanding the Academy’s capacity for fundraising, not only for current initiatives but also for future improvements vital for its ongoing excellence. Key to these efforts will be engaging more alumnae in the process and identifying new donors.

• Growing the endowment is a crucial goal, and improving arts and athletic facilities is also an expressed desire.

• The Cleveland educational marketplace is a highly competitive one, involving not only independent and parochial schools but also public school options. Saint Joseph is committed to enhancing its profile in the community, developing bolder messaging consistent with its earned stature, and enhancing the effectiveness of its admissions and enrollment management efforts.

• Affordability is a concern—making sure that the school remains within the reach of middle class families. Expanding financial aid resources will be key.

• Saint Joseph Academy has benefited enormously from its gifted and devoted faculty. Continuing to be able to recruit, retain, and develop dynamic and difference making teachers will need to be a core strategy in the years ahead.
**Desired Qualities and Qualifications**

- A faith-filled Catholic servant leader who exemplifies the values and ideals of the Congregation of Saint Joseph and deeply embraces the mission of Saint Joseph Academy.
- A dynamic and inspirational collaborator who can harness the Academy’s exciting momentum and take this beloved school to its next level of development.
- A leader who is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as social justice.
- An appreciation for the power of the President/Principal model and commitment to generating maximum benefit from each of its leadership dimensions.
- A strategic thinker with exceptional business acumen and an entrepreneurial spirit.
- An irresistibly compelling fundraiser and relationship builder who can tell the Academy’s story with authenticity and contagious enthusiasm.
- A leader of leaders who knows how to shape an excellent leadership team.
- A visible, caring, and approachable presence who reinforces the Academy’s warm, vibrant, and student-centered culture.
- A strong communicator who is comfortable being a public figure and can help raise the school’s profile in greater Cleveland and beyond.
- A leader who appreciates the heritage of Saint Joseph Academy while also being future focused and innovative. Committed to ensuring that the school maintains and enhances its stature as a local and national pacesetter in girls’ education.
- An understanding of how to recruit, motivate, and develop outstanding people, as well as how to shape a shared vision and a binding sense of mutual appreciation.

**To Apply**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement of educational and leadership philosophy;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission), to:

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