Dear Friends,

A year ago I was beginning my journey as President/CEO of St. Joseph Academy and my dedication and passion for educating our students of SJA has only grown since then. I have continued my path of working closely with the staff and teachers to ensure the highest quality of education for our students.

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by a sense of new beginnings. St. Joseph Academy is taking important steps to ensure that our students, families and community are all being served in conjunction to our mission and vision.

We continue to refine and enhance - so that we can deliver at the highest levels of excellence - our core programs, from our childcare curriculum to our middle school Expeditionary Learning. I, along with our faculty, are committed to our students and expanding their knowledge and supporting them through to high school and beyond.

Much of this has been enabled by the incredible support we have received from our sponsor, donors and our partners. I am deeply grateful for the continued support and belief in St. Joseph Academy and our mission.

Sincerely,

Tabia N. Jones, Ed.D.
President/CEO
St. Joseph Academy
Augusta
Early Childhood Education Center

When Augusta transitioned into the 1-year-old room, she did not actively participate or play with her peers in the classroom. Her teachers worked diligently with Augusta in many areas and as a result they have seen improved progress for her.

Augusta engages in activities more since she first transitioned to the 1-year-old room. She participates in group activities by clapping her hands during the morning “Hello Song” and completing actions for songs like “Wheels on the Bus” and “Itsy Bitsy Spider.” She also joins her fellow classmates in activities around the classroom, like reading books or playing with building blocks.

Augusta has developed her social-emotional skills while attending SJA. She has a special bond with her teacher. When Augusta sees her come in the room in the morning, she walks over to her with her hands up in the air and smile on her face.

Valeria
1st Grade Student

Valeria has a love for learning that glows all day. She continues to amaze her teacher on a daily basis. In the beginning of the year, her math assessments and skills were very low. Her testing scores were not showing her understanding of math, however she has now flourished. She is participating in lessons, answering questions and digging deeper into concepts and on her most recent math test, she passed with a score of 27 out of 30!

Valeria has been working with Sr. Rosalie, one of four tutors, in literacy and her teacher can see her reading skills improving each day. She is able to use these skills when reading alone and when reading to her K4 reading buddy.

All of her hard work and love for learning is helping her progress in her education. She is very responsible in the classroom, getting her work done at school, as well as at home and turning in her homework everyday.
St. Joseph Academy has adopted Expeditionary Learning (EL) in the Middle School. EL is an education system that differs from traditional learning in that it is exemplified by project-based learning expeditions, where students engage in interdisciplinary, in-depth study of compelling topics, in groups and in their community, with assessment coming through cumulative projects, public presentations and portfolios.

There are three dimensions of EL Education: Mastery of knowledge and skills, high quality student work and character - meaning students become effective learners, ethical people and they contribute to a better world.

Our middle school students are more engaged in the classroom than ever and are becoming self-motivated learners.

In just one year, SJA students have exceeded all expectations, as reported in the WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI) state report card. SJA students grew leaps and bounds in the 2017-18 school year, compared to 2016-17. Of the state's four priority areas - Student Achievement, School Growth, Closing Gaps and On-track and Postsecondary Readiness - SJA scored above or near the state average in almost all categories.

The largest jump in scores was in English Language Arts Growth. This increase is due to the hard work of the students and faculty and the implementation of a plan to improve literacy school-wide. Parts of that plan included: a school-wide emphasis on Reading, Literacy, and ELL, a special Literacy class, enhanced learning opportunities with technology, and restructuring the daily schedule to allow more time for reading.
An emphasis for St. Joseph Academy is on family involvement in their student’s education. One way the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) keeps families involved is by hosting various Family Nights throughout the year.

At these events, families are encouraged to join their child in an evening full of fun activities, games and art projects. There are many stations set up in which the parents can interact and help their child play and create.

One of the largest attendances was at last year’s Santa’s Workshop. Where children were able to have their picture taken with Santa and receive a small gift. There was also a cookie decorating area, where kids could put as much frosting as they wanted with as many sprinkles as the cookie could hold.

ST. JOSEPH’S WOMAN’S CLUB

The St. Joseph Woman’s Club began as the Ladies Aid Society in May of 1907. A group of women met and formed an organization whose mission would be to help foster the care and upbringing of the orphans at St. Joseph’s Orphanage. The goal of feeding and educating children was reached through a variety of charity events and they continued to stay firm in this commitment through 2018.

The end of the 2018 year will mark the end of over 100 years of dedication to St. Joseph’s and its students. Over the last century, the Woman’s Club has donated to better the education and lives of countless children and St. Joseph Academy is eternally grateful for the hard work and dedication of all its members.

MUSIC COLLABORATION

SJA fifth graders collaborated with residents from Villa St. Francis (ministry of the Felician Sisters) for the 2018 Creation Project/Compose MKE hosted by Present Music. Together, our students and their residents, wrote a song and performed it in June.

The song is about where people find joy in their lives. Part of the lyrics of the song titled “La Alegria” (The Joy) are: “Music lightens my day like the sun with my friends and my mum. Music brightens my day like the sun after all the dancing we had done.”

The students enjoyed working with the Villa residents as they had time to get to know each other and create a musical composition.
FSI Technology Grant

Thanks to the generous support of Felician Services Inc. (FSI), our students gained even more access to technology in the 2017-2018 school year. With the addition of an 8th grade classroom, the need for more Chromebooks was greater than ever. SJA strives for our students to succeed in their education beyond grade school and the introduction of technology at a young age will help them be successful.

St. Joseph Academy now has a total of 210 Chromebooks with 6 Chromebook carts that make it easy to move from classroom to classroom. Along with an average of 2 desktop computers in each classroom, our technology to student ratio is about 1 computer per every 2 students. This allows for blended learning, which uses technology along with traditional classroom methods to educate our students.

A tremendous thank you to FSI for giving our students increased access to technology learning.

Financial Statement

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUES

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Early Childhood Ed. Center</td>
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<td>Food Program</td>
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EXPENSES

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Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30
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12 sjamkeowne.org

SJA 2018 Annual Report / 13
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Plan an Academy Tour
St. Joseph Academy is proud to open our doors to our partners and neighbors! To learn more about our bright spots and student accomplishments, please schedule a personal tour.

To sign up, please contact us at 414-645-5337.

Donate to Us
St. Joseph Academy depends on our donors and community partners to support our school. To make a donation, please return your check made out to St. Joseph Academy or visit sjamilwaukee.org/donate

Save the Date

2019 Golf Outing
Monday, July 15, 2019
Tuckaway Country Club

Building Kingdom

Mission & Vision
St. Joseph Academy is a Catholic educational organization sponsored by the Felician Sisters. Our mission is to educate children to be successful life-long learners and problem solvers. We are guided by the Felician Core Values for Ministry: Respect for Human Dignity, Compassion, Justice and Peace, Transformation and Solidarity with the Poor. We partner with families and community to fulfill this mission.

Our vision is to be the premier Early Childhood Education Center and K4-8th grade school on Milwaukee’s south side.

History
The Felician Sisters, St. Joseph Academy’s sponsor, is an organization that’s been present in Milwaukee for over 110 years. They’ve continuously served the city’s south side by providing services to fulfill the ever-changing needs of our community.

Felician Sisters on staff, pictured (L-R): Sr. Rosalie Disterhaft, Sr. M. Brendan Bogdan, Sr. Paula Mary Palasz, Sr. Michelle Marie Konieczny, Sr. Camille Bena