St. Joseph Students Post High Test Scores

St. Joseph Catholic School took the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress, also known as ISASP, in the spring of 2019. ISASP measures student proficiency in Language Arts and Math. St. Joseph students are well above the state average, as shown in the graphs at the right, which includes both public and private schools. In addition to an extremely high percentage of students being proficient, we have the following percentage of students considered advanced compared to the state average:

### 3-8 Language Arts
- SJCS-17%
- State-7%

### 3-8 Math
- SJCS-34%
- State-13%

We are very proud of these scores, which can be attributed to great teachers, involved parents, small class sizes, hard working students, a supportive parish, and more.

Registration at St. Joseph Now Open

Registration for the upcoming school year is now open at St. Joseph School, the only preschool through eighth grade Catholic school in the metro area. Tuition assistance is available for students ages kindergarten and up. St. Joseph boasts high achievement and a 21st century education for students. Assessment scores show students testing well ahead of benchmarks. STEM programs, extracurricular clubs, technology integration, and Spanish are offered to students in preschool through eighth grades. In addition, St. Joseph offers various daycare options to accommodate family schedules including childcare for children ages 3 and over, plus before and after school daycare options. St. Joseph is an Iowa accredited parochial school serving over 200 children. Those interested may contact the school for more information or schedule a tour by calling 319-377-6348.
St. Joseph offers a STEM Robotics Club after school once a week for eight weeks for students in third through fifth grades. The club is moderated by teachers Dana Virden and Missy Gadient. Casey Kettmann, school principal, applied for and secured the grant funding. The grant paid for eight Hummingbird Robotic Kits in addition to many other STEM materials such as Makey Makeys, Strawbees, Makedos, a Go Pro, Dremel power tool, and a sewing machine and kit. Students use the hummingbird kits to learn to write code for input and output. By the end of the eight week session students will create their own robot. The excitement that the students have exhibited while working with the materials has been awesome! They have been very quick to learn and follow the tutorials to write code for lighting, sound, and movement. The students have been able to explore their creativity while expanding their programming knowledge. This is one of the many co-curricular activities offered at St. Joseph School.

St. Joseph introduces Campus Ministry Program

Chelsea Watts has been a staff member at St. Joseph for the last 5 years. This year, she began serving the St. Joseph community as a campus minister. The campus ministry position evolved in an effort to focus on the personal and spiritual growth of students, staff, and families. Ms. Watts works to provide opportunities for students to plan and reflect on faith-centered experiences through things like service projects, retreats, and family activities.

Last fall she led the middle school students on a pilgrimage through northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin. The faith journey was designed to leave busy everyday distractions behind and focus solely on God. It was an opportunity to connect with Holy places and people and to allow oneself to experience the Holy Spirit's presence in his or her midst.

The Marion Youth Coalition includes more than 30 organizations and agencies working to meet the needs of area youth. In September, the group celebrated the opening of the Marion Youth Center. It provides after school programming for up to 50 fifth and sixth grade students from Marion Independent, Linn-Mar, and St. Joseph Schools.

The Boys & Girls Club of Cedar Rapids is providing the staffing and is serving as the fiscal agent for the center. Students and their families are enjoying the activities and safe, structured programming that the Marion Youth Center offers. St. Joseph Principal Casey Kettmann has been an active participant on the Marion Youth Center committee and St. Joseph was recently able to donate 10 used iPads to the center.

St. Joseph supports Marion Youth Coalition

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Students get creative in co-curricular STEM Robotics Club

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