



ANNUAL FUND REPORT



SAINT JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024



“May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.” – St. Therese of Lisieux

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Dear

We hope the beginning of this school year has been an excellent one for you and your student(s). This is a particularly exciting time of the year for us and all our faculty and staff. It is also a time when we are especially filled with gratitude for the blessing of our wonderful students and the many families, donors, and friends who support our school. One of the most special traits that defines our SJN family – and for which we consider ourselves most fortunate – is how incredibly generous our families, donors, and friends are. Every aspect of every student’s experience at SJN has been made possible and improved by selfless gifts of time, donations, love, and prayers. Finally, we are excited to present the 2023-2024 Annual Fund Report.

What is the Annual Fund?

Annual Fund gifts are unrestricted funds directed where the need is greatest, creating opportunities for learning and discovery, providing scholarships for students who need them, giving the school flexibility to take advantage of emerging opportunities, and enabling it to respond to unanticipated needs and challenges. Your support of the Annual Fund enables us to provide every student the highest quality education and faith development experience. An overwhelming number of families and donors give to our Annual Fund, for which we are very thankful. We ask you to prayerfully consider joining these families and donors, or continue to give if you have already done so.

Every student benefits from the Annual Fund in the following two ways:

1. The quality of education we provide all students today is **made possible in part by Annual Fund gifts made in the past.**
2. **Tuition alone does not cover the actual cost of any SJN student’s education** (as is the case at most Catholic schools). Therefore, Annual Fund gifts make a significant difference in bridging the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education... for every student.

Additionally, thanks to the support of generous donors, approximately 30% of SJNCS families receive some form of financial assistance in a given year, enabling us to fulfill our calling to provide a Catholic school education to those who could otherwise not afford it.

Again, thanks to the generous support of SJN families, donors, and friends, our culture of giving continues to grow, and as a result, our students continue to thrive.

We invite you to read the enclosed Annual Fund Report, and we ask that you continue to lift our work through your prayers and by making a gift to the Annual Fund. Thank you for your support and thank you for helping us achieve our mission to Serve God with loving hearts, Joyfully embrace our Catholic faith, and Nurture individual and academic excellence.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joe Reed
Pastor

Dr. Kelly Mechelke
Principal



Welcome to SJN



Andrew Cooper Joins SJNCS as Dean

SJNCS was excited to welcome Andrew Cooper and his family to campus this summer. Andrew serves as an additional dean and two of his children are new students here. He and his wife, Kennia are blessed with three children: Julian, who is a freshman at Knoxville Catholic High School, and Sofia and Santiago, who are in sixth grade and PK4, respectively. Born and raised in Asheville, NC, Andrew worked for Mitchell County Schools in Bakersville, NC, before assuming the role of Director of Development and Admissions at St. Mary's Catholic School in Johnson City. He served as Principal at St. Dominic Catholic School in Kingsport, TN, before joining the SJNCS staff this summer.



St. John Neumann Catholic Church and School Welcomes Fr. Bo Beaty

In July, St. John Neumann was blessed with a new priest, Fr. Bo Beaty. Born and raised in Jamestown, TN, Fr. Bo was ordained just before he started at SJN. He serves as Parochial Vicar and some of his responsibilities include the youth and young adult ministry, RCIA, and serving on the school advisory board. We are thrilled to have Fr. Bo as part of the SJN community!

FACTS & FIGURES

- Total enrollment of 405 students (PreK3-8th grade)
- 24% people of color (16% of which are Hispanic)
- 6 languages spoken at homes
- 91% Catholic
- 53% female / 47% male



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. John Neumann Catholic School is to:

Serve God with loving hearts
Joyfully embrace our Catholic faith, and
Nurture individual and academic excellence

"With grace and love, the staff and teachers of SJNCS develop the mind, body, and soul of each student. The school community's warm and welcoming atmosphere drives every student's desire to learn."

*- Matt and Stephanie Coleman
(SJNCS Parents)*

"I love SJNCS because all of the teachers and staff are nice and happy."
- Adaline Metz (2nd Grader)





"We have been members of St. John Neumann parish since 2008 and all six of our children have attended the school. Part of our joy is worshipping at Mass with so many who have been at SJN so much longer than we have. A strong fabric exists between the church, school, rectory, convent, and all the ministries and volunteer groups. The students are situated right in the middle of all of this. They receive sacraments with their peers and they attend Mass twice a week with clergy who have dedicated their lives to something greater than themselves. In a world of turmoil, it's comforting to know young people at SJN are not cut off from these timeless blessings."

- Matthew & Krista McGrath (SJNCS Parents and Owners of SJN Corporate Sponsor, Huntington Learning Center)

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"Two years ago, we were in search of a school that would not only challenge our daughters academically, but also wouldn't compromise their Catholic faith and values. We ended up moving to Knoxville and enrolling them at SJNCS. The faculty, staff, and students were very welcoming and supportive and made them feel at home. SJNCS has exceeded our expectations by providing a terrific education while helping our girls grow in the faith."
 - Tim and Celia Ramirez (SJNCS Parents)

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“We love our SJNCS community! Sammy looks forward to school everyday. The teachers and staff know him by name and they are invested in his faith and academics”. - Jameson and Tyra Mattingly (SJNCS Parents)





Special Events

Thank you to all our “Off to the Races” Derby Auction and Mustang Mania donors!

Our two premier annual fundraisers are the “Off to the Races” Derby Auction (for grown-ups) and Mustang Mania (for students). The funds raised from the two events in 2024 were designated to gym and cafeteria upgrades, including a new curtain for the stage, a gym divider, new cafeteria tables, and more.



\$133,000

Just over \$133,000 was raised at the 2024 “Off to the Races” Derby Auction. This year’s event was a record year for attendance and the amount of money raised.



\$42,000

Students and donors contributed just over \$42,000 during the 2024 Mustang Mania event. Mustang Mania is a day full of fun activities, and it is the culmination of fundraising contests in which students participate.

“I really love being at Saint John Neumann. Our sense of community, commitment to faith, and high academic standards make it a great place to work and learn” - Mr. Eckstein (SJNCS Teacher)





“Going to SJNCS was the best decision of my life. I have amazing friends and teachers, and can be involved in so many sports. I love that I can learn about my faith while learning social studies, math, theatre, and other subjects.”
- Will Chandler (6th Grader)



Student Giving



Throughout the year, students give generously to a variety of charitable causes (some of which are listed below), totaling several thousands of dollars in cash donations, food supplies, and other needs.

- **SJS St. Vincent de Paul Society**
- **LaFollette Food Life Services**
- **Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina, HI**
- **Under the Bridge Ministries**
- **Catholic Charities of East TN**
- **Children with Hair Loss**

Students provide this support through fundraising initiatives such as out-of-uniform days, penny wars, canned food drives, and Mustang Give donations on Holy Days.



“We are so grateful to send our kids to SJNCS because quite simply, it felt like home the minute we first walked in the door. Four years later, we still feel how beautifully the Holy Spirit moves throughout the school and beyond. We feel confident knowing that our kids are growing in knowledge and faith and are surrounded by love each day; it is all we prayed for and more.”
- Adam and Rachel Heller (SJNCS Parents)





"We love that our daughter goes to SJNCS because she is happy there and she enjoys her after-school band practice. There's no other school she would want to attend; that's why we continue to support SJNCS because if she's happy, we are happy." - Leo and May Lamsen (SJNCS Parents)



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Mary Lou Shivinsky – In Memory of Dave Shivinsky

Harold and Diana Schukman

Seth and Lisa Sinclair

Dan and Jenny Swanson

John Szajkowski

Joanne Walsh



This report honors the individuals who made contributions to the SJNCS Annual Fund between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This list only recognizes the Annual Fund donors; it does not include Mustang Mania donors, auction donors, or donors from any other initiatives. If your Annual Fund gift was omitted or inaccurately recognized, please accept our sincere apology. If you do notice such an oversight, please contact Patrick Wade at 865-777-3410 or pwade@sjnknox.org so we may correct our records.



“Our transition to SJNCS has felt like nothing short of God’s will. The boys feel welcomed every day and the teachers, staff, and fellow students are truly an extension of our family. Fr. Joe’s dedication to the school, guidance in life and faith, and ability to remember everyone’s name is amazing!”
 - Charlie and Filipina Phan (SJNCS Parents)

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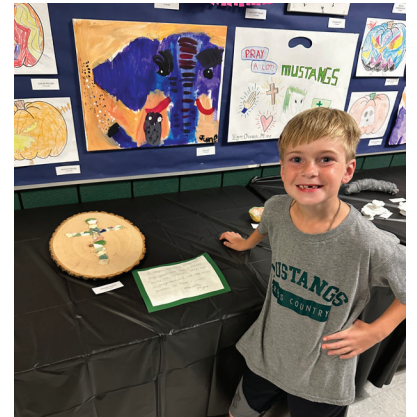
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"We've been part of the SJN family for 12 years, and it continues to get better each year. The school's commitment to excellence and its emphasis on creativity have truly helped our daughter thrive."
 - Dr. Josh Loebner and Sarah Loebner (SJNCS Parents)



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Congratulations to the class of 2024!



To learn about other ways to give to SJNCS, or for questions about the SJNCS Annual Fund, please contact Patrick Wade, Director of Development (and proud SJNCS Dad) 865-777-3410 or pwade@sjnknox.org

Visit sjnknox.org/annualfund to give online.

Thank you for your support!