

# TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2011



## COMING SOON: GRADE 8 PARENT NIGHT AND OPEN HOUSE

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>CLASSROOM VISITS</b>	<b>NOV- JUNE</b>
<b>OPEN HOUSE</b>	<b>DEC 8</b>
<b>GRADE 8 ORIENTATION</b>	<b>JAN 31</b>
<b>OPTION SHEETS DUE</b>	<b>FEB 14</b>
<b>TIMETABLE DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>MAY</b>
<b>ORIENTATION BBQ</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>

On Thursday December 8, 2011 parents of Grade 8 students along with their children are invited to attend St. Joseph's Parent Information Night and Open House. Our evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with an introduction and welcome by our administration followed by a presentation by Guidance. The presentation will outline registration information, course selection,

uniforms, school policies and procedures, and the various activities available for your child. Parents and students will then have the opportunity to take a tour of our facility led by student mentors, meet teachers, ask questions about curriculum and see samples of student work.



## STUDENT SUCCESS TEACHERS: WORKING FOR YOUR CHILD

Get up to date info at our School Website:

[sjo.schools.smcdsb.on.ca](http://sjo.schools.smcdsb.on.ca)

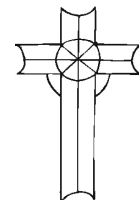
### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Founded in 1946** by Monsignor James Clair
- **School Motto:** Scienta et Bonitas (Knowledge and Goodness)
- **Mascot:** Jaguar
- **Colours:** Maroon and Gold

Along with our Guidance department St. Joseph's has three Student Success teachers dedicated to ensuring that your son or daughter will experience success in high school. These teachers will be an integral part of your

child's transition. In addition to helping students with homework, test and assignment preparation, time management and organizational skills, they will be visiting Grade 8 classrooms to give students opportunities to

experience applied and academic lessons. This hands on, interactive approach will help your child better understand the choices they are making for Grade 9.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

One of the great benefits of attending St. Joseph's is that Chaplaincy services are always available. As the school Chaplain I am here to serve your spiritual needs. I coordinate a wide variety of activities

for our entire school community. I prepare and lead prayer, make class visits, organize Eucharistic celebrations and retreats, maintain our link with St. Mary's Parish and foster an awareness of social

justice issues. Students who experience loss due to death, separation or divorce in their family can find a great deal of comfort by turning to the school chaplain.

PEACE — Ms. Michael

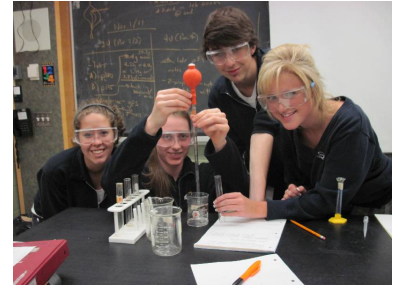
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## ACHIEVE SUCCESS BY CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL

In grade 9 students can choose from academic, applied or locally developed courses. It is always a difficult task to choose the proper level. As parents we want what is best for our child. We want our children to have all the opportunities available to them. As well, we want our children to be successful and happy in high school; choosing the wrong level may result in one or both of these goals being unmet. As Student Success teachers one of our biggest challenges is ensuring that students who are in a misplaced

level are able to achieve that credit. The most common issue is the student who has selected academic math when applied would have been more appropriate. The challenge is further developed because as the semester progresses the change to applied from academic may not be possible. The results can be very frustrating for the student. Will choosing applied level courses limit a students' opportunities? We don't believe so. Students can take a two week summer course to move to the academic

level in grade 10. Students who primarily take applied courses can apply to college and then attend university with advanced standing. The college to university path is becoming increasingly popular with students. Choosing the proper level allows the student to be successful and happy, thus ensuring a continued love of learning. Please consult with your Grade 8 teacher when choosing levels. You can also contact St. Joseph's to speak with a Guidance counselor or Student Success teacher.



## COURSE LEVELS

### ACADEMIC

- Theoretical
- Abstract problems
- Learns independently
- Working at Level 3,4
- Homework and class work are always complete

### APPLIED

- Practical Applications
- Concrete examples
- Teacher Directed
- Working at Level 2

### LOCALLY DEVELOPED

- Essential Concepts
- Essential Life Skills
- Individual Teacher Direction
- Small class sizes
- Working at or below Level 1

## WHY CHOOSE ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?

- Excellent academic programming
- Superb Arts and Dance programs
- Active Drama, production & improv
- Engaging Instrumental and Vocal music programs
- Junior and Senior Band
- Social justice initiatives — Ecuador & Kenya
- Competitive athletic programs
- Two and four credit co-op programs
- In school TV and recording studio
- Hands on hospitality programs
- Specialist High Skills Majors programs in both Environment and Construction
- Energetic Students' Council
- Construction and Manufacturing technology programs
- Homework club: Monday-Thursday
- Pilates and Yoga club
- Phenomenal teacher-librarian
- Grade 12 Archaeology
- TDASA — Teenage Depression and Suicide Awareness
- Fishing Club
- Studio 141 Art & Photography
- Jags Safe Place
- Outsiders
- Culture of Life
- Weightlifting Club
- Archaeology Lab Club
- and much, much more!

### What to Consider?

- Academic Achievement
- Grade 8 Teacher Recommendation
- Homework Completion
- Class work Completion
- Assignment Submission
- Attendance
- Learning Styles

