

Frequently Asked Questions

*We thank you for your patience as we work to provide answers to your questions.
This list of FAQs will continue to be updated as answers are obtained.*

Updated versions will be illustrated by date: [August 13, 2021](#)

SCHOOL

Why is the school closing?

Amid the current COVID pandemic, with its severe impact on the finances of many families, and the serious fiscal burdens St. Joseph High School has experienced during the past several years, as well as our steadily declining school enrollment (*SJHS went from an enrollment of 743 students in 2010 to 180 in 2021*), our Board of Directors has reluctantly made the recommendation to the Christian Brothers to cease operation of St. Joseph High School at the conclusion of the current academic year.

What about the recent success in raising funds?

The Christian Brothers, who sponsor St. Joseph High School, lent SJHS \$1,790,000 at zero interest, gifted \$125,000 for the current school year, have donated in-kind services including but not limited to professionals from Lewis University, who they also sponsor.

Additionally, a remarkable group of SJHS and IHM alumni volunteered to help raise additional development revenue from approximately \$500,000 annually to over \$1,100,000 annually during the last two years.

However, with the further declines in enrollment, required maintenance, etc., the development revenue would need to be have been doubled again to more than \$2,000,000 for the next school year (2021/2022). This objective was not considered realistic and if not obtained, would have resulted in a mid-year closure (2021/2022), which would have been more disruptive for the school community, most significantly our students and their families.

When will the school officially close? Who do we contact after it closes?

St. Joseph High School is now permanently closed. Please visit our website at www.stjoeshs.org for further information.

What will happen to the current students?

All of SJHS's current students will need to register and be accepted by the high school of their choice. The registration process varies from school to school.

If a current SJHS student is accepted at one of the other four Lasallian High Schools in the Chicago-land area, the Christian Brothers have agreed to close the tuition gap between St. Joseph High School's current tuition and the tuition charged by the other Lasallian High School. The other Lasallian High Schools are: St. Patrick High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, De La Salle Institute and Montini Catholic High School.

St. Joseph High School hosted a High School Fair on Tuesday, April 20 where over 24 area high schools attended to meet with our current students and families.

DEVELOPMENT

What will happen to the St. Joseph High Schools and land/property?

St. Joseph High School, Inc. is the sole owner of both properties. The property and buildings are up for sale to satisfy a large mortgage.

The property is currently co-listed for sale through two commercial real estate brokerage firms, Anne Dempsey (Direct: 847-989-8359) Collier's International and Andrew Polivka (Direct: 630-564-0017) The Polivka Group LLC.

St. Joseph High School is working closely with the Village of Westchester to sell the entire parcel.

What is the status of the facility?

St. Joseph High School will continue to maintain the property and still has financial obligations such as mortgage payments, paying property insurance, maintenance costs, limited payroll, etc.

What happened with the Super Raffle?

On Friday, May 14th the Super Raffle drawing was held. Congratulations to our winners and a huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. The \$10,000 Grand Prize winner was Jerry Fox, Class of 1969 (#026), the 2nd prize winner of \$2,500 was P.J. Cullerton (#438), the 3rd prize winner of \$1,000 was Michael Traynor (#977) along with the three early bird winners who won \$500 each: Debbie Saldato (#268), Frank Nosek, Class of 1985 (#88) and Art Wagner Class of 1981 (#602).

EVENTS

Will there be a farewell celebration?

The Last Chance gathering of alumni, parents and friends of St. Joseph High School took place on Sunday, August 1, was a memorable event. More than 600 attended the day's festivities, enjoying fellowship on the soccer field, perusing memorabilia in the gym and reminiscing over 61 years of Charger history in the cafeteria or out in the courtyard. While there was occasional sadness and a few tears shed, friendships made and futures shaped comprised 99% of the conversations. It was a joy-filled day!

Special thanks to those current and former employees who visited with our families: Kristy Arcuri, Mary Ann Arcuri, Tim Benson, Joan Biba, Sr. Janet Bolger, JoAnn Cavaliere, Barb Cavanaugh, Sue Chvatal, Bruce DeSanto, Keith Donovan, Sarah Easton (Keag), Dan Ermitage, Joe Fedinec, Paulette Finnegan, Jerry Fox, Angela Fredriksen, Vince Furman, Kevin Gallmeier, David Gonsior, Greg Hamot, Brother Peter Hannon, John Hornacek, David Hotek, Eric Hudson, Paul Hurt, Tom Hurt, Charlie (Carr) Ieremia, Matt Jedrey, James Johnson, Bill Juvancic, Ryan Keag, Bill Kerber, Mary LoCasto, Mike Macken, John McAuliffe, Tricia (Devereux) McGleam, Mary McTigue, Tony Mennella, Kimberly Miculinic, Stan Niemiec, Joe Niezgoda, Johnetta O'Conner, Frank Pasquale, John Perovich, Norma Petersen, Charlotte Poulin, Judy Prosecky, David Purton, Tony Quattrochi, Janet Reif, Tom Reif, Bill Riley, Mike Savage, Matt Sinacore, Sue (Gowgiel) Slezewski, Bob Stapleton, Tom Stras, Kathy Taylor, Joe Tortorich, Peg Vitha, Len Witucki, and Pat Woss. (To those present, Brother Peter wishes to let everyone know that he is doing well in spite of your effort to take him down! :)) (And apologies to faculty & staff omitted)

The Christian Brothers join the administration, faculty and staff (past and most recent) in wishing all of our families health and happiness moving forward. We will continue to pray for all of you!

St. John Baptist De La Salle. Pray for us.

St. Joseph. Pray for us.

*Live Jesus in our hearts. **Forever!***

[Photos from the event](#)

Is the Ides of March Concert that was rescheduled for May 22, 2021 still happening?

No. This event has been cancelled.

Is the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing that was scheduled for Friday, July 30, 2021 still happening?

No. Due to attendance concerns, dining restrictions due to COVID, and a limited staff, the outing has been cancelled. For further information, please contact Tony Quattrochi at tquattrochi@stjoeshs.org or at 708.562.4433, ext. 119.

Will there be a Mama Ping / Sandy Kas / Gene Pingatore Memorial Outing this year?

The Pingatore/Kasprzak/Crispo Family may wish to continue the Mama Ping Memorial Golf Outing; however, it will no longer be sponsored by St. Joseph High School. More information will be shared once the family decides how they would like to move forward.

MEMORABILIA

Where will all the school and student memorabilia go?

The SJHS memorabilia will be archived and preserved in a number of locations including the Christian Brothers of the Midwest District Office as well as at the Village of Westchester Hall.

St. Joseph High School worked with **Winternitz Industrial Auctioneers & Appraisers** to host a two day online only auction. The auction bidding closed on Thursday, July 15. Pick up information was sent by **Winternitz Industrial Auctioneers & Appraisers** to the auction winners.



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ALL QUESTION REGARDING THE AUCTION NEED TO BE DIRECTED TO:

Contact: CharlieWinternitz,
847-272-0440
charlie@winternitz.com

Are there any old IHM yearbooks available?

No. Unfortunately, we do not have any IHM yearbooks.

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Can I obtain a contact list of my classmates?

Due to privacy issues, we will not be sharing contact information with classmates.

We encourage those on social media to make connections before the school sponsored sites are no longer managed.

Will there be an opportunity for alumni to keep in touch through a group?

The school-managed social media pages (see list below) will be disabled. Members of the St. Joseph High School Community can create group pages, but those are managed solely by the group creator(s) and are not sponsored, supported, or approved by St. Joseph High School.

Facebook Pages

- [St. Joseph High School](#)
- [St. Joseph – IHM Alumni & Friend Network](#)

Twitter

Where will alumni records go?

The Christian Brothers of the Midwest District will be the custodians of alumni records. You can plan to hear from them over the next few months. There will be an opportunity for you to opt-in to receiving communications.

Services you can expect from The Christian Brothers of the Midwest District include transcript requests, classmates networking, reunion & other SJHS alumni event plans, and opportunities to support District ministries.

We invite you to contact Anthony Chimera, Director of Development at CBMD at 630.323.3725, ext. 211 or achimera@cbmidwest.org with questions.

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Do you have Charger spirit wear for sale?

Unfortunately, no. We have sold out and no longer have spirit wear available for sale.

STUDENTS

How will I obtain my 2020-2021 school yearbook?

Visit www.stjoeshs.org for more information.

From where will I be able to obtain my transcripts?

St. Joseph records will be maintained at SJHS until further notice.

You can obtain more information about this process by visiting the [Transcript/Permanent Records Request](#) page on the school's website (www.stjoeshs.org).

St. Joseph High School does NOT have records for Immaculate Heart of Mary High School. All IHM records reside at the Archdiocese of Chicago at <https://archives.archchicago.org/request-a-record> or at (312) 534-4400.