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2023-2024 Enrollment Open!

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 Permit No. 2
 RICE LAKE, WI

The Spartan Spotlight

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL | RICE LAKE, WI



5th and 6th grade students at Camp Philips in October 2022. Students participated in team building activities and challenging outdoor personal experiences.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Noah Marach and his daughter, Sylvia (PreK), serving coffee for parishioners following a packed St. Joseph Church Mass on Sunday, January 29 to kick off Catholic Schools Week. Donuts were served while the SJS Robotics team shared a hands-on presentation.



2022-23 STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Established 1881 - 141 Years in Catholic Education

PreK 3-Grade 8 enrollment: 171

Average Class Size: PreK-8: 15, Elementary: 17

Faith Demographics: 60% registered Catholic

Teacher Demographics:

- 90% have been teaching for 5+ years,
- 60% have been teaching for 10+ years
- 25% of our teachers have a Master's Degree

WE ARE GROWING!

We are projecting a 10% enrollment increase for the 2023-2024 school year.

This is the fourth consecutive year of enrollment increases.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SOARING ABOVE ACADEMICS

At St. Joseph Catholic School we celebrate our middle school students. We know our academics are strong. Also, we know they are an excellent foundation for our students' current and future success. Our students are intelligent and able to form good relationships with each other.

Our middle school teachers know and love their students. These middle teachers want their students to know of God's love, and they do this through their example and with the help of the classes they teach.

Some of the classes they teach are Spirituality - Grade 5; Old Testament - Grade 6; New Testament/Gospels - Grade - 7; Social Justice and Christian Morality. Our desire is for our children to know and love God and to grow in their relationship with God and others.

At the beginning of school, middle school teachers introduce their expectations for their classes to middle school parents. This early connection gives parents a feeling for the transition to or within middle school and begins or continues a strong relationship between teachers and parents. We pride ourselves on prioritizing our family-feel atmosphere. However, if we are being honest, this focus on family can be good or bad for students. It is good for them when they need additional support in their school subjects. Since our middle school teachers have these students for four consecutive years, they see students as their own children.



Middle School students teaching kindergarten students how to pray the Rosary.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT SJS

Teachers know their strengths and weaknesses and can tailor their teaching to accommodate each child's learning style. This connection also supports a mutual respect between teachers and students over their time together. Our students can feel safe and confident about going to our teachers to help them navigate school and life.

Middle School students have many opportunities to grow in their faith and serve others. Our 8th grade students lead the rosary each month for the entire student body. All K-8 students attend Wednesday Mass being hosted by an individual class.

It is a tradition that our 8th-grade students be the driving force for service projects and fundraisers for the entire school. SJS middle school teachers encourage students to think outside of themselves to provide for those in need. As an example, in 2020 middle school students rallied the entire school to raise over \$10,000 for a family who lost their home and belongings to a fire. In 2021 the 8th-grade class was instrumental in coordinating the giving of over 1,000 pairs of shoes to the Soles for Souls project which provides shoes for developing nations. The opportunities are endless, and these service opportunities provide real-life ways for our students to think beyond themselves to be virtuous leaders.



Middle School students playing an active role in weekly school Masses.

As Middle School students mature, it is our prayer that they innately live lives of virtue and encourage others to do the same. Students and alumni are helping us fulfill our mission every day in the communities in which they live in. Thank you to our incredible teachers for pouring their heart and soul into the children each day. St. Therese of Lisieux referred to St. John of the Cross, who said: "The smallest movement of pure love is more useful to the Church than all other works put together." Our middle school teachers together with staff aim to do just this each day and teach the students to do the same.

ARCHERY PROGRAM A BULLSEYE!

In January 2023, St. Joseph Catholic School adopted Archery as a part of the Physical Education curriculum. We are using the NASP program, which is the National Archery in the Schools Program. With this program, we work with students, from 4th Grade through 8th Grade, to teach the basics of archery. Students are learning how to work with string bows to understand better proper archery form, safety, scoring, and determining eye dominance.



The implementation of the program couldn't have happened without the contributions and support of many in the community including the Knights of Columbus Councils 2137 (Rice Lake) and 9546 (Quad County), Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, National Archery in Schools Program, Gregg Kurzynski, Eric Yeager.

Thank You

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - TONY BRUNETTE ('95)



Tony and his family. From left to right, Sheri Brunette (wife), children Jonathan (5th gr.), Jillian (Freshman at U of MN Duluth), and Tony Brunette.

What have you been doing since 8th grade?

I graduated from St. Joseph Catholic School in 1995. I was the 4th generation family member to attend school at SJS; my children are 5th generation. Following High School at Rice Lake High, I attended WITC for Wood Techniques. For 10 years I worked in the residential construction field. It was a good day-to-day job, but I was left feeling very unfulfilled. When I heard that a Facilities Manager position was available at St. Joseph School, I couldn't imagine anyone else but me doing the job. I've been a member of the staff for 10 years now. It has really been a joy to witness my children living the day-to-day events of school. I've learned a lot from the students.

Favorite Subject/Memory?

The first thing that comes to mind is serving at funerals as an altar server and eating the potluck meals following the funeral. While the food was certainly a treat, I know this experience gave way to my passion for serving the community. I still enjoy serving the



Jon (Tony's son) wearing his dad's Firefighter uniform (2022).

the community. I've been an active member of the Rice Lake Fire Department for 18 years and enjoy the sense of service while doing so.

How has your faith guided you?

The biggest thing that has always stuck with me is treating others how Jesus treated his disciples and the people. In my daily interactions with students,



Tony always participates with the students on dress-up days.

whether in the lunch room or the hallways, I work hard to be a positive role model and show them respect. I hope the students will look back and remember me that way.

Advice for current students?

Failure is not really failure, it is just temporarily not succeeding.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Being a dad to my children. It is satisfying to watch my children grow and become good people.

Five Generations of Brunette Alumni

1908 Graduate | Great-Grandpa Ernie Brunette
Ernie provided a lot of laborers and support to help build the school in the 1950's. He owned the sawmill in Rice Lake.

1939 Graduates | Grandpa (Kenneth Brunette & Grandma (Elisabeth 'Beth' Fearer-Brunette)

1962 Graduate | Craig Brunette (Tony's Father)

1968 Graduate | Gail Brunette (Tony's Mother)

1995 Graduate | Tony Brunette

2018 Graduate | Jillian Brunette (Tony's daughter)

2026 Future Graduate | Jonathan Brunette (Tony's son)

2022-2023 Fact:
20% of our current families
are legacy (alum) families

