



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
305 Elm Street
Oradell, NJ 07649
(P) 201-261-2388 (F) 201-261-1570
Web: sjsusa.org E: valentip@sjsusa.org

6/11/2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing with great enthusiasm to announce a new enrichment program at Saint Joseph School. Beginning September 2025, Saint Joseph School and Bergen Catholic High School will collaborate to provide exciting and new experiences for the SJS Middle School. This spirit of collaboration was evident at Grade 8 graduation where the Bergen Catholic Men's Vocal Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. Periano, joined the SJS students, under the direction of Mrs. Cara Zakian, to sing *Count on Me*.

This *new* work is both exciting and challenging. Father Christian Scalo, Pastor has been engaged in conversations with the Archdiocese of Newark Schools Office about strengthening the educational mission of St. Joseph School. I have recently joined these discussions and now, SJS and Bergen Catholic are ready to implement enrichment opportunities that I am sure will be exciting for current, and new students and families.

In September, we will offer a Catholic Retreat for SJS middle school students. This retreat will be a collaboration between the two schools. SJS Middle School teachers will be working with members of the Bergen Catholic High School staff, including Brother Ben McDonough, Chaplain Sam Monico, and Religion Department Chair, Josh Powers to make this retreat a spiritually uplifting experience for SJS middle school students.

An additional middle school enrichment opportunity is planned with the Bergen Catholic /Holy Name Hospital Honors Science Research program. This initiative will be guided by Mr. Brian Redine, BC Science teacher, and Mrs. Vicki Aquino, SJS Science teacher. I look forward to sharing more details with you over the summer as plans for this collaboration take shape.

As we look to the future for Catholic Schools our aim is to foster a robust educational environment that is competitive with surrounding schools and one that will prepare students for the challenges of high school. Please share this news with your family, friends, and communities. I am also happy to meet with families to provide tours of our school and discuss this new initiative further. Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

Sincerely,

Dr. Paula Valenti

c: RCAN Schools Office
Teachers

Father Christian Scalo

Pastor