



Faith Excellence Community



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The 2024-2025 school year was a season of great blessing for Saint James School. Even in times of transition, the spirit of SJS shone brightly through the accomplishments of our students, the dedication of our teachers and the faithful support of our families, friends, and community. Together we continue to live out our mission of forming children in both faith and knowledge and I could not be more grateful to witness it firsthand.

As I reflect on the past year, I am thankful for the unwavering strength of this community. The pages that follow in this annual report reflect the many ways our school has thrived during the last year—through learning, service, and the joy of growing in Christ.

I look forward to all that God has in store for St. James School and I hope you do as well!



Enrollment

NUMBERS ON THE FIRST
DAY OF SCHOOL 2024-2025

GRADES K-8

360
PRE-K
97



CLASS OF 2025



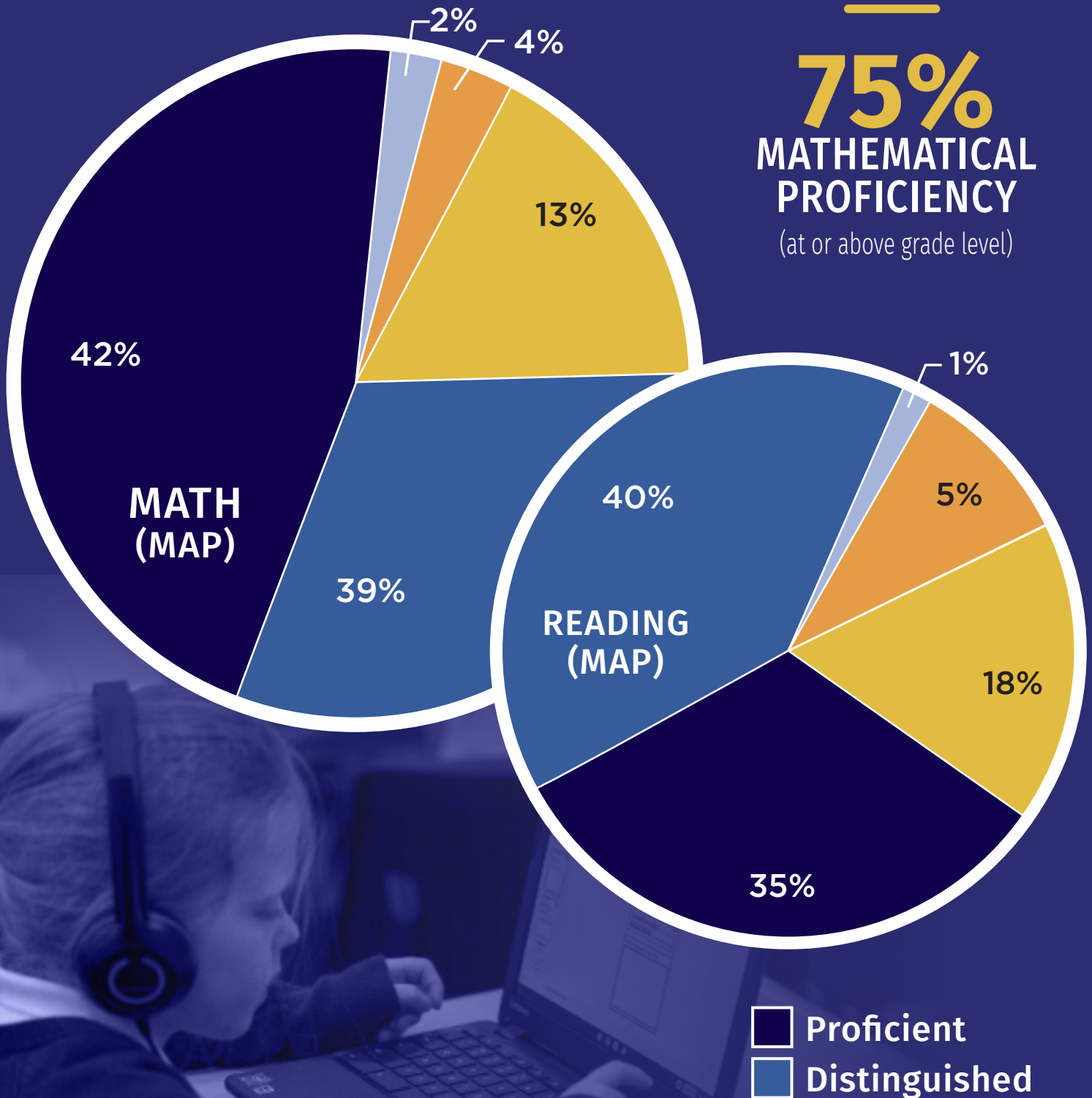
37 GRADUATING
8TH GRADERS

MAP/TESTING SCORES

SJS currently administers the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment three times throughout the school year to assess achievement and growth in Reading, Mathematics, and Language usage. The MAP assessment is a computerized adaptive test developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

81%
**READING
PROFICIENCY**
(at or above grade level)

75%
**MATHEMATICAL
PROFICIENCY**
(at or above grade level)



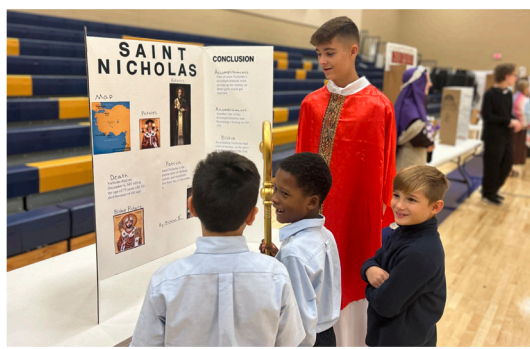
Faith



Saint James Catholic School provides formation for the whole child in the intellectual and moral virtues so that each student may contribute to the community as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Students and teachers attend Mass each week, celebrating the liturgical seasons and saints of the Church throughout the school year.

Faith Rally

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, SJS students participated in a Faith Rally. It began with an all-school Mass, followed by adoration for each grade level and a Eucharistic Procession throughout the school.



Living Wax Museum

In celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints, SJS presented a Living Wax Museum. Seventh graders dressed as a designated saint and shared brief stories about the saint's life with parents and visitors who attended. More than 30 saints were represented.



St. Thomas Aquinas Major Relics

SJS was provided a very unique opportunity - to host the major relics (first class) of St. Thomas Aquinas (a 13th century Dominican priest and theologian of the Church). The relics were on display during and after Mass for veneration. St. Thomas is a patron saint of students. Dominican Father Pier Giorgio accompanied the relics and explained to our students the difference in "class" of relics. He encouraged our students and visitors to take away a third class relic by touching an item to the first class relic on display. The relics are on "tour" in the United States, and have been visiting several major cities/churches.



Passion Play

For more than 20 years, SJS eighth grade students have presented a production of the Passion of Christ during Holy Week at Saint James Catholic Church.

Stations of the Cross

In April, Archbishop Shelton joined Saint James parishioners in the Saint James Cemetery to pray the Stations of the Cross. SJS middle school students made the trip to the cemetery to join them in prayer as well. The students participated in the prayer by representing each of the stations and participating in the readings. The Stations of the Cross represent various scenes of Jesus' passion and death acknowledged during Lent ahead of the Easter holiday. Each Friday during Lent, Catholic Cemeteries across the region host the Way of the Cross for Young Christians.



May Crowning

Through May Crowning, our students learn to connect with their faith, reflect on virtues, and engage in a communal expression of their beliefs, helping them develop a strong foundation in their religious journey.



Middle School House System

The SJS House System nurtures growth in maturity, leadership, community and faith. Each sixth grade student is inducted into one of six houses and remains a part of that house during their middle school years. Houses meet once a month, compete in friendly competitions and team-building activities and complete a community service project.



Excellence



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SJS finished 2nd Place Overall in the KY Governor's Cup District Finals. The SJS Quick Recall team finished in 2nd place, securing a trip to the Regional competition. The following students won individual awards and advanced to compete at Regionals:

Jase Hamilton | 2nd Place in Math

Cooper Montgomery | tied for 2nd Place in Social Studies

Whalen Thompson | tied for 2nd Place in Social Studies

Jack Henry Taylor | 4th Place in Language Arts

Nora DeMuth | 4th Place in Arts and Humanities

Theresa Valayam | 2nd Place in Written Composition

SJS hosted the KAAC Governor's Cup Regional Competition. Nora Demuth won 2nd place in Arts & Humanities at Region. SJS Quick Recall team took 4th place. SJS finished 9th overall!

Saint James Catholic School won 1st place in the school/children's organizations division of the Holiday Card Display at Ft. Knox thanks to 8th grader Clara Groh.



SJS sixth graders were selected for the Preparing for Success Scholarships from Magnolia Bank: Aaron Clark, Allison Villasenor Gil, Ava Grace Dowell, Cambree Spilman and Charlie Paynter. Each of these students submitted an essay about their future career aspirations. All of the winners were invited to a celebratory pizza party and given a \$100 CD from Magnolia Bank.

Annabeth Clarkson, McKenna Menold and Sarah Haney earned gold medals during the Kentucky National History Day competition in April. The trio went on to compete at the National level at the University of Maryland.



Two SJS students who were selected as winners of the 2024 Season of Creation Poster Contest, hosted by the Archdiocese of Louisville's Creation Care Team! Isabella Davis won first place in the contest for the Grades 3-5 category, and Clara Groh won first place for Grades 6-8. Both students were awarded with a \$150 prize.

Fifth grader Janslee Wilkins was included in The Record publication for her artistic depiction of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Allison Villasenor was awarded the annual Amy Alicna Award for the following attributes - scholarship, cooperation, courtesy, self control, work and study habits, as well as spiritual development. This was the 40th year the award has been presented and Mr. and Mrs. Alicna got to be on campus for the presentation.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ADDISON PEAK

SJS awarded two scholarships last year. Cambree Spilman received the Amy Alicna Scholarship, and Addison Peak received the Angela Kirchner Memorial Scholarship.

The Amy Alicna Scholarship Fund was established by Brian and Lindsey Alicna in 2019 to help provide a Catholic education to a Saint James parishioner who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Brian and his sister Amy were SJS students when Amy passed away in 1986 as a sixth grader.



CAMBREE SPILLMAN

The Angela Kirchner Memorial Scholarship was established last year by SJS fifth grade teacher Patty Kirchner and her husband, Paul, to honor the memory of their daughter, Angela.

Both scholarships are made possible through partnerships with the Central Kentucky Community Foundation (CKCF) and their namesakes.



SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Boys' Basketball: 5th grade team won the Central Hardin division league championship and the overall Central Hardin/North Hardin league championship title.

SJS Elementary and Middle School Archery Teams placed 1st place and 2nd Place respectively at East Hardin Middle School tournament.

INDIVIDUAL MEDAL WINNERS WERE:

- Arianna Reburn** | 5th place Elementary Girls
- Amaya Figueroa** | 4th place Elementary Girls
- Addison Peak** | 3rd place Elementary Girls
- Alice Williams** | 2nd place Elementary Girls
- Savannah Strobel** | 1st place Elementary Girls
- Daniel Groh** | 5th place Elementary Boys
- Cooper Montgomery** | 4th place Elementary Boys
- Jase Hamilton** | 3rd place Elementary Boys
- Gabriel Windmuller** | 2nd place Elementary Boys
- Vincent Giardina** | 1st place Elementary Boys
- Josephine Carson** | 1st place Middle School Girls

SJS Archers competed at the 2025 NASP Eastern Nationals in Louisville. SJS had 34 elementary and middle school students compete.



Community



Grandparents Day Celebration

In September, SJS hosted 250 grandparents in honor of Grandparents Day. The event celebrates SJS grandparents for their involvement and commitment to the school.



Veterans Day Celebration

In November, SJS hosted its annual Veterans Day Celebration, providing students with an opportunity to learn about and honor military veterans. LTC, VC Noel Kubat emceed the event, which included special presentations, musical tributes, the Fort Knox Recruiting and Retention College Color Guard and keynote address by LTC Adam Zerr, U.S. Army Human Resources Command.



Room at the Inn Service Project

Some of our 7th and 8th grade students visited Room in the Inn to deliver all of the items we collected during our Catholic Schools Week service project drive. SJS students and families donated a variety of items last week from personal care items to laundry detergent, coffee, etc.



Pajama Drive Service Project

SJS kindergarten and 1st grade students participated in the annual SJS pajama drive. They collected pajamas and donated them to an organization within the community where they were distributed to children in need. This year, SJS students collected 151 pairs of pajamas, which was a record amount!



Tai Sy Le Service Project

Saint James Catholic School middle school students participated in a middle school service project to clean up areas of Freeman Lake. The project is made possible by the Tai Sy Le Memorial Fund of Central Kentucky Community Foundation (CKCF). The purpose of the endowment is to provide funds each year to support a community service project in memory of Tai Sy Le.



Purple Up Day

April is the month of the military child. SJS celebrates Purple Up Day to honor our military connected students.



PTO Spring Dances

For the second year, SJS PTO hosted a Mother/Son and Father/Daughter event that were wildly successful. This year, both girls and boys enjoyed a dance with a country flare - Boots & Bows and Boots & Bowties!



International Day

In May, SJS celebrated International Day starting with an International Mass highlighting a variety of languages, including readings in languages by Carmen Garcia (KP Assistant/Spanish), Karsen Rainer (8th Grade/German), Sarah Haney (8th Grade/Filipino), Clara Groh (8th Grade/Spanish), Georgia Thomson (6th Grade/Filipino), Alison Villasenor (6th Grade/Portuguese), Estrellita Perez Hernandez (6th Grade/Spanish) and Toko Graw (5th Grade/Japanese). In addition, our 7th grade students prepared a presentation on a country to share with students, faculty, staff and parents.



Pen Pal Exchange

SJS 2nd graders spent the year communicating with a 2nd grade pen pal at St. Joe's School in Bardstown. At the end of the school year, SJS students took a field trip to St. Joe's to meet their pen pals and spend the day with them in person.

Advancement



Community Breakfast

In November, SJS hosted its annual Community Breakfast event, giving students the chance to host business and community leaders for food, fellowship and a fun-filled program. The event is held in celebration of Discover Catholic Schools Week.

Black and White Knight Auction and Gala

Saint James Catholic School's Black & White Knight Gala celebrated its 12 anniversary with a "Knight to Remember". The event raises funds to enhance Saint James' ability to provide the finest possible Catholic education for its students and keep faculty salaries competitive. The event raised \$120,000 to support the school's operating budget.



KY GIVES DAY

SJS has participated in the 24-hour online giving day seven of the past eight years. This year, \$40,000 in matching gifts were received for the day. The grand total of all gifts and prizes Saint James received for the day was \$80,000. Saint James finished first ahead of more than 300 nonprofit organizations throughout the state in dollars raised during the event. Funds raised during the event will work to elevate the SJS athletic program with the following:

- Purchase of AEDs and First Aid Kits for all competition and practice sites.
- Upgrade equipment to allow SJS athletes to train well and be more competitive among the leagues in which they compete.
- Assessment of all team uniforms and to bring all sports up to a standard that represents SJS well

In addition, the amount raised will allow SJS to begin planning for future athletic facility needs on campus providing more practice space for all athletes.



Distinguished Alumni Award



SJS awarded the 3rd annual Senator Joe Prather Distinguished Alumni Award to Thomas R. Clark during the school's annual Black and White Knight Auction & Gala event.

Saint James Catholic School is fortunate to have a number of individuals who support the school financially each year. Many thanks to the following for their support during the 2024-2025 school year.

Donors

Leah Abang
 Patricia Allen
 Amy Baldwin
 Whitney Ballou
 Danilda Batista
 George and Rene Bauer
 Michelle Beeler
 Karen Besik
 Kevin Blain
 Stuart and SaraBeth Blankenship
 Benedict and Janice Brady
 Lisa Brown
 Andraya Clark
 Sarah Clarkson
 Jen Coen
 Erin Cunigan
 Mark DeMuth
 Nathan DeMuth
 Bill Dixon
 Bill Doerr
 Dr. John DuPlessis
 Roxie and Charles Edlin
 Neryannie Figueroa
 Tyler and Courtney Fleck
 Melanie Gartside
 Carol George
 Kim Gingerich
 Joyce Godfrey
 Jarrod and Mary Goff
 Adam Gordon
 Paola Groh
 Vincent Guischard
 Caroline Haberkorn
 Haley Hampton
 Stephen Hartlage
 Theresa Hartlage
 Jennifer Hester
 Margaret Hinkle
 Cara Hobbs
 Joseph Hobbs
 Amy Horrex
 Mary Ellen Hutcherson
 Toni Irwin
 Brenda Jackson

Odessa Jardim
 Jane E. Jessup
 Denise Joy
 Lisa Jurus
 David and Betsy Keifer
 Lindsay Kitchen
 Robert Knight
 Knights of Columbus – Kentucky State
 Council
 Marjery Krill
 Sanghyun Lee
 Diane E. Logsdon
 Mary K. Lynch
 Thomas Lyon
 Tom Mahoney
 Shannon McCullough
 John McElwee
 Mary Lane McNamara
 Raymond Miller
 Patricia Minrovic
 Rob and Christine Mondri
 Jennifer Hartlage Moran
 Gabe Mouser
 Hans Mouser
 Isaac Mouser
 Keith and Jeanie Mouser
 Madison Mouser
 Bruhn Mylinh
 Bonnie Noce
 Carrie Padgett
 Dr. Phillip Padgett
 Bonnie Patterson
 Lisa Pawley
 Heather Paynter
 Sandra Pike
 Daniel Powell
 Joseph W. Prather
 Michele Rainer
 Stacia Reynolds
 Rita Robbins
 DeAnna Roberts
 Carol Rumage
 Elizabeth Russell
 Greg Schall

Joseph Schneider
 John C. Schultz
 Susan Sears
 Judy Sharer
 Michelle Shipp
 Cherri Spalding
 Samantha Stith
 Mary Sweat
 Nathan Thompson
 Lorna Vertrees
 Maria Walls
 Andrew Wilkins
 Judy Willems
 Emily Williams
 Luke and Pamela Williams
 Cynthia Workman
 Michael Zopfi

IN MEMORY OF DAVID WHITTON:

Sandy Landsdale
 Ann Philips Mayfield
 Kent Evans
 Tom Murphy
 Schoen and Tom McCormick
 Kevin Knepper and Beverly Baker
 Uriah Holley, III
 Stuart McCray, Jr. CPA
 Peoples Exchange Bank
 Tami and Josh Adkins
 Howard Fortune
 Barry Mayfield
 Linda Smith
 Mary Fawns
 Margaret King
 Valda Adams
 Sandra Ray
 Elizabeth Russell
 Paul Crum
 Timothy Goblirsch
 Raymond Miller
 Bradford Queen
 Logan Mayfield

in memory