



Home & School Association Events, Programs & Activities

STUDENT TREATS & SPIRIT DAYS

To welcome students **BACK TO SCHOOL** after summer break, HSA volunteers distribute notes and snacks during that first week of school.

In honor of **ST. NICHOLAS' FEAST DAY**, HSA volunteers put candy in the students' shoes on/near December 6th.

SPIRIT DAYS are typically the 1st Tuesday of each month. **Snacks** are available for purchase for \$.75 each. HSA volunteers purchase a variety of nut-free items in advance and visit each room after the 8am bell/announcements with a cart of goodies. All of the proceeds, after expenses, are donated to the orphans. Students may choose to wear **SPIRIT WEAR** in lieu of their school uniform on Spirit Day. Spirit Wear includes shirts, shorts, pants, sports bags, and other items that parents may purchase for their children and themselves. Spirit Wear is also worn on other days throughout the year. Spirit Wear order forms are sent home/made available in the Fall and the Spring.

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

GRANDPARENT'S DAY is held in September. Grandparents, or other special guests, join students for light refreshments, a tour of the school and a small activity. Parents are responsible for registering and paying for their children and their grandparents in advance. The day is split into 3 shifts. Many volunteers are needed to do advance work at home, to set-up the gym the day before the event, and to work the event itself during school hours.

CLASSROOM PARTIES are funded by HSA and coordinated by parent volunteers for All Saints Day, Christmas and St. Patrick's Day. Each class is budgeted \$10/per child to spend on refreshments and activities for all three parties.

Each year, HSA coordinates the **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**, which is set-up in the school gym for one week. Each class is scheduled a specific time to visit the book fair. In addition, there are special family/community days on Sunday and Tuesday evening. The more books sold means more "free" books in our classrooms or more money for our school! Numerous volunteers are needed to help prepare for the Book Fair, set it up, staff it during school hours and weekend/evening hours, and tear it down.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK is celebrated the week following the last Sunday in January and involves several fun activities and special dress days. The week ends with a **Pizza Lunch** and **Ice Cream Social** on Friday. Parents are responsible for paying for the pizza slices ordered in advance for each child, but HSA covers the cost of the ice cream. Volunteers are needed to serve the lunch and ice cream.

Fathers and daughters from the SJE School and Parish community are invited to enjoy an evening of dancing, crafts, games and refreshments at the annual **DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE**. Volunteers are needed to work at home planning and preparing for the event and on the day of the event to set-up, assist with refreshments, assist with activities, and clean-up. This is mostly an evening/weekend opportunity!

Sometime in March, students gather in the gym to enjoy cake and ice cream in celebration of **FATHER MALETTA'S BIRTHDAY**. HSA provides the cake and ice cream. Volunteers are needed to help set-up, serve the refreshments, and clean-up.

FIELD DAY is one of the end-of-school activities. The student body is divided by grades into four groups (preschool/kindergarten; 1st-3rd grade; 4th & 5th grade; and Middle School). Each group enjoys designated outdoor activities at various locations in the morning. All return to their classrooms for a pizza lunch provided by HSA and supplemented by parent donations. Following lunch, movies are shown in the gym and/or classrooms, depending on the grade. The afternoon ends with a Middle School tug-o-war observed by the whole school. Parent volunteers coordinate/run the morning activities, serve the lunch and help supervise the students for the afternoon movie and tug-o-war.

The **KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATION** happens the morning of the last day of school and highlights SJE's younger students and allows parents and other guests to celebrate their victories as they move forward towards 1st Grade. The students perform a program and all enjoy refreshments. Parent volunteers work closely with the Kindergarten teachers to plan the celebration and coordinate all of the decorations, set-up, refreshments, party favors and clean-up.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Each year, as part of the celebration of October as the month of the Rosary, SJE students participate in a **LIVING ROSARY** in the Day Chapel. Students are selected to be a "bead" and recite the prayer associated with that bead. The students are lined up around the day chapel. Before saying their prayer, they light a candle. By the end of the rosary, the children with their lit candles form the rosary. Volunteers are needed to help the day of this event.

School children participate in **Thanksgiving and Christmas FOOD DRIVES** each year. Each grade is asked to bring in certain kinds of items. These items are then packaged up and transported to organizations in need. Generally, the RE program coordinates the food drives for the benefit of families chosen by Catholic Charities, and HSA simply recruits volunteers with vans/SUVs to help transport the items during the school day close to those holidays.

The **LENTEN SOUP LUNCH** helps students better appreciate the blessings God has given them and participate in the Lenten practice of fasting by replacing the school or "home" lunch with a simple meal of soup and bread. Parents are asked to send in donations to help cover the cost of the lunch. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean-up the lunch during school hours.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

The **BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHER LUNCH** is one way Home & School shows its support of and appreciation for our teachers. It is typically catered and happens during their in-service day prior to the first day of school. About 4-5 people are needed to set-up and clean-up the lunch.

HSA typically hosts a **CHRISTMAS TEACHER LUNCH** during the lunch hour on a school day. In the past two years, HSA has utilized the cooking/baking talents of parents to provide more homemade appetizers, soup, sandwiches and desserts. The teachers seem to appreciate this special touch. 3-6 people are needed to cook/bake for the lunch and 2-3 are needed to help serve.

In May, in celebration of **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**, HSA hosts an after-school supper for teachers and staff. The supper is typically catered by a local restaurant. 2-4 people are needed to coordinate, set-up and clean-up this event.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

SPRING FLING is a parish gala held at a local banquet hall benefitting the school. Approximately 600 people participate in this elegant evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing. The event often includes vacation raffles, fun games, raffle baskets, silent and live auctions. HSA plays a major role in coordinating the event, and volunteers solicit auction and raffle items, put together baskets, and help in various other capacities before and during the event.

The **RACE FOR EDUCATION** raises money for student enrichment and to support the programs/efforts of HSA. Students ask family and friends to sponsor them in the walk with a flat donation. The Race itself is on a school morning in October. Volunteers are needed to make copies of Race forms, assist students in completing solicitation letters to friends and family, and to help the day of the event. Volunteers are needed for flexible, evening/weekend hours to plan and prepare various forms and supplies and process incoming donations.

Families are encouraged to save **BOX TOPS, CAMPBELL'S LABELS AND AUNT MILLIE'S BREAD UPC CODES** and send them in to school where they are collected and redeemed for various classroom materials and/or cash. Volunteers trim, sort, count and bundle box tops and labels at home.

The **TUITION REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)** helps families defray the cost of tuition. Gift cards to local businesses are available for purchase that can then be spent for their actual value. Purchases of the gift cards net a percentage profit, all of which is credited to the SJE family's tuition account. During the school year, TRIP order forms for school families are available in the school office and online. Order forms are due on Fridays by 9:00 AM in the SJE school or parish office for delivery the following week. HSA coordinates this program, and volunteers process the orders each Friday morning.

ASSISTING AT SCHOOL AND BEHIND THE SCENES

HSA helps keep tuition costs low and supports the school by providing volunteers to assist during school hours in various capacities, such as:

- **COPY AIDS** making copies for teachers/staff. Training is provided on the copier and duplicator.
- **NOON NURSE** treating bumps & bruises / abrasions that happen during recess. Occasionally there is medication to administer. Volunteers do not need to be a nurse, and they will be trained in all documentation procedures. The goal is to have enough volunteers, so that each person only has a shift once a month.
- **LIBRARY AIDS** assisting students in finding and checking out books during their weekly trip to the school library. Volunteers also assist the librarian in organizing and filing books.

Home and School supports the **ACCELERATED READER (AR) PROGRAM** at SJE by providing volunteers who assist in monitoring and rewarding the students as they earn points by taking online comprehension tests on books they have read. Students receive AR Bucks when they achieve their goals and earn points. They can then redeem these bucks at the AR Store at the end of each quarter. Volunteers are needed to shop for items for the AR Store and staff it on redemption days.

During Catholic Schools' Week, the school admissions office hosts a Sunday **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** and a Weekday evening **OPEN HOUSE** for prospective families to get more information about the school. HSA has provided refreshments (bottled water/package rice crispy treats or fruit snacks) for the evening Open House in the past. These events are coordinated by the Admissions Office, and HSA simply recruits volunteers who help prepare, serve and clean up the breakfast and give tours of the school.

Large mailing or collating projects are often required for various HSA events or by the school administration. HSA coordinates a **BULK MAIL GROUP** made up of volunteers who complete these projects. This work is generally done as take home projects on evenings/weekends.

Throughout the year, various HSA events/programs may require home baked goods, paper crafted projects and painting/artistry work. Volunteers may earn service hours by helping in this way.

STUDENT ENRICHMENT FUNDING & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL

In addition to coordinating, funding and/or providing volunteers for the above mentioned events and programs, HSA also underwrites several student enrichment efforts, such as:

- 5th Grade D.A.R.E program and 5th grade Challenger field trip
- Academic Bowls
- 8th Grade Trip, 8th Grade Retreat, and the 8th Grade Banquet
- Character building and other assemblies

Funds raised by HSA's Race for Education and Spring Fling have been used to:

- Purchase and maintain new playground equipment
- Purchase and install new doors and/or make upgrades to many existing doors
- Kick off the iPad initiative at SJE School
- To create the new PC and iPad computer labs
- Remodel and update bathrooms at the school