

# ST. JEROME SCHOOL



## Our Fabulous Staff Additions

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This year we welcomed Aaron Skrenes as our Middle School Language Arts Teacher, Maddie McCarthy in 4th grade and Sarah Moberg as our 3rd grade teacher. Jessica Mack-Hafermann is our City Connects Coordinator and Sister Audrey Lindenfelser is our literacy paraprofessional. Cathie Svendsen is on board as our EL teacher and coordinator and Dah Poe is our Karen Family Liaison. Melissa Rogers joined us as our Physical Education teacher. Beth Tollefson is our part time office assistant. Carli Albrecht and Max Puffer joined us as Teach for Christ educators who served our school in 100s of ways. We have a wonderful team!

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## Highlights of the Year

- ~ Many students met their growth targets on the NWEA tests in Mathematics, Reading, and Language.
- ~ Mrs. McEvoy continued to teach studio art once a month to our K-8 students.
- ~ School Masses and special liturgies like The Seven Last Words of Christ, Living Stations, the Living Rosary, Grandparents Day, and First Communion were opportunities for prayer and for students to help share Jesus's message.
- ~ Our 4-8 graders attended the Mass of the Holy Spirit with all of the other Catholic school children in the area. It was held at First Bank Stadium and it was an inspiring gathering of faith and joy.
- ~ SJS held several successful fundraisers, including the Rake-a-Thon, candy sale and Party with a Purpose: Portraits of St. Jerome, raising a total of \$56,000. We received a **matching grant** from CSCOE due to our success with our spring fundraiser.
- ~ We grew to 136 capable, beautifully diverse students!



## Transition to Classical Education

### Christ ~ Classics ~ Community

SJS school has successfully begun our transition to a classical curriculum by integrating religion, social studies, and literature. We are also teaching handwriting, including cursive. Our 1-8 grade students are learning Latin.

Our children are showing great retention of the historical facts from their sections of the timeline. We begin with the Cradle of Civilization in Kindergarten and span to the New World in 8th grade.

Next year we will be adding grammar components, adopting our philosophy document, and beginning to plan for a transition in math and science.



~ St. Jerome's Annual Fund Drive raised \$27,000 for tuition assistance.

~ Parents, parishioners, and friends of SJS volunteered for many hours as fundraisers, reading recovery teachers, tutors, classroom assistants, School Advisory and Home and School members, lunchroom and playground helpers, Junior Achievement leaders, and lots of other important roles. We are grateful for this help.

~ We fielded volleyball, boys basketball, swimming, soccer, girls fast pitch softball, and track teams. Our athletes represented SJS like mighty lions and received kudos from other teams for their sportsmanship and tenacity.

~ Our school welcomed 46 new students from the Karen Community of St. Casimir. These Catholic families worship at St. Casimir on the east side, and have made St. Jerome their Catholic school home. The Franciscan Brothers of Peace have been our good friends in this endeavor. Happily, we've learned that **Father Seraphim, of the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, is being assigned to St. Jerome School as our chaplain for next year.** We are thrilled!

~ Our Middle School, directed by Mr. Skrenes, presented an awesome weekend of "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table".



~ Teachers participated in training in rigorous instruction tied to standard, English language learner instruction, Trauma and How it Affects Learning, and Classical Philosophy and Methodology.