

ADMISSIONS OFFICE UPDATE



July 2018

A publication of the Admissions Office of St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy

Providing prospective SJJ families with information about Catholic Jesuit Education.

The Examen: A Daily Spiritual Exercise at SJJ

"If only there were a God Positioning System (GPS) to help people discern the will of God! People would be a lot happier. They think discernment means eliminating the problem of uncertainty, but that's impossible if God is as St. Ignatius envisions him. Ignatian spirituality involves facing the religious questions that cause the most tension." (At a St. John's Jesuit faculty/staff retreat a few years ago Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ., our retreat leader began the retreat with the quote above.)

Every school day at the end of period seven, a student on the PA says: "Good afternoon. Will the people in the hallways please stop. I will give everyone some time to get settled for today's Examen Prayer. You may want to shut your classroom door and turn off the lights." With this the student leads the school community in the Examen Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola. St. Ignatius considered this kind of prayer to be the most important single spiritual exercise we can do. He did it daily, and he urged all his friends to do the same.



Ignatian spirituality is the engine that drives all Jesuit high schools. Discernment is a key term in Ignatian spirituality. Discernment involves reflecting on potential life choices in the light of faith. What might God be trying to tell me today? Discernment is not a decision; it's a lifestyle.

Each day with this Examen Prayer the members of our community, and guests, take the time to reflect on what the Lord has been telling them this day. Since this prayer is done every school-day, our community develops a closer relationship with God and grows this relationship.

As one of the Examen Prayers says: "We exist in a web of relationships – links to nature, people, and God. Trace out these links this day. Some links are twisted and broken: You may feel regret, anger, and disappointment. Reflect on the links in your life that may be twisted or broken."

The prayer ends "We pray for the ability to let Jesus come into our lives, and through us, into the lives of others."

The Examen Prayer is our GPS that helps us daily discern the will of God in our life.

A+ Resource Center

The A+ Learning Center at St. John's Jesuit offers students at every grade level and intellectual ability to achieve their best. The A+ Learning Center is modeled after centers that are found at leading colleges and universities. Services include small group tutoring, individual tutoring, technological aides, study groups, practice tests, academic counseling, and psychological counseling. Students at SJJ take great pride in their academic success and preparation for college. The A+ Learning Center supports the general expectation in every classroom that hard work pays off. The staff, headed by Director Michele Nixon, cares about the success and personal goal of every student. During the school year, more than 85 percent of SJJ students visit the A+ Learning Center on a regular basis. In addition, A+ serves students admitted to SJJ with diagnosed learning disabilities, individual education programs or 504 plans from area school districts as defined by the Ohio Department of Education.



Teacher Spotlight: Ryan Kyle Geometry and Honors Geometry



Mr. Ryan Kyle teaches Geometry and Honors Geometry working with grades 7 – 10, primarily with 9th and 10th grades. Both courses focus on proof, similarity and congruence between shapes, volume and surface area, and trigonometry. "When working with freshmen I like to begin each new topic with a real-world problem. The real-world problems are based on problems I have encountered while either building furniture or renovating my home and the students are tasked with either discovering the problem or finding a solution to it." A group project assigned to honors geometry freshmen last spring was one such real-world problem. Separated into groups and designated to different parts of the school building (commons, athletics wing, high school second floor, etc.), Mr. Kyle's students had to measure each sector, calculate the square footage and then create a scale model of their sector to hang on the wall and connect with the other sectors to create a final scale model of the entire school. Mr. Kyle serves on various faculty committees at SJJ and is dedicated to the ministry of Jesuit Catholic education: "Teaching at SJJ is unique in that we have high expectations for the students as stated in our profile of the ideal graduate at graduation. We as teachers are not only

responsible for teaching our subject matter but are also responsible for helping the students grow as men for others."

Interested in learning more about St. John's Jesuit? Have your son shadow as a Titan for a Day.
Contact the Admissions Office: Robert Taylor III, Director of Admissions rtaylor@sjjtitan.org and 419-720-0757