

Administration

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Advancement &
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Mrs. Ida Saenz

Director

Director of Admissions

Ms. Celeste Solis, '91

Athletic Director

Mr. Celestino Villarreal, '99

Mission

Conducted by the Marist Brothers of the School and serving the children of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Saint Joseph Academy provides religious and moral formation and a college preparatory education in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. It endeavors to form young men and women who will succeed in university studies, who know and love Jesus, and who actively participate in the worship and mission of the Church, including the Church's preferential option for the poor.

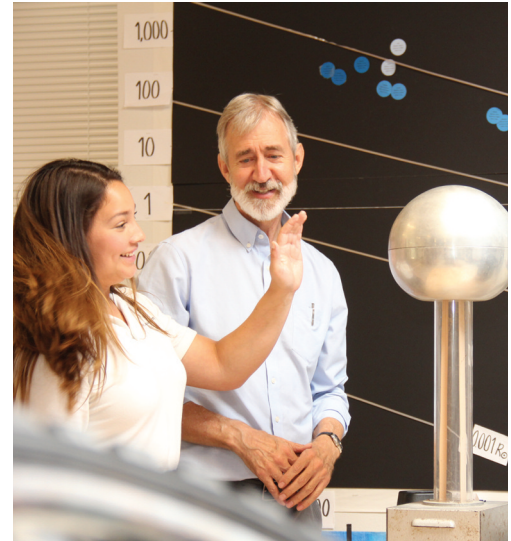


Community

Brownsville is the southernmost city in Texas, located directly across the Texas – Mexico border from its sister city of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and about 25 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Brownsville's location has made it an important international seaport and one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. The population of Brownsville is approaching 200,000, but its proximity to Matamoros creates a much larger bilingual and bicultural community. This cosmopolitan atmosphere is evident at Saint Joseph Academy, where many of the students are fully bilingual in English and Spanish. Founded in 1865 by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and then taken over by Marist Brothers of the Schools in 1906, Saint Joseph Academy has been an important part of the Brownsville community for more than 150 years, and its excellent educational programs and services reflect the devoted personal and financial support of its many alumni and friends.

School Characteristics

- A private, Roman Catholic, coeducational, college preparatory school, grades 7 – 12
- Current enrollment: 352 students in grades 7-12
- Accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department
- Member of The College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Texas Association for College Admission Counseling, National Catholic Educational Association, and National Association of Secondary School Principals



Required Credits for Graduation

Religious Studies 4; English 4; Mathematics 4; Science 4; Social Studies 4; Languages other than English 3; Fine Arts 1; Physical Education 1; Health 0.5; Speech 0.5; Computer Science 1; Electives 1.

Grading System and Class Rank

Grades are computed on a 100-point scale. The minimum passing grade is 70. Grades are weighted by assigning a course multiplier based on the level of difficulty: Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment, 1.10; Honors, 1.05; Standard College Prep, 1.00. Weighting is reflected in the cumulative average, but not in the course grade. The student's GPA is calculated at the conclusion of each semester, using semester grades in all courses.

Saint Joseph Academy does not report class rank. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, there were 65 students in the Class of 2021. The highest GPA in the class on a 100-point scale was 102.87, and the lowest GPA in the class was 73.11. The median GPA was 88.94. Course weighting as explained above is reflected in the GPA.

Transcript Notations & Grading Scale

H - Honors Course; D - Dual Enrollment Course; AP - Advanced Placement Course

The following will be used to assign value to grades earned in the Mexican school system:

10 – 7 = P [Passed] 6 – 1 = F [Failed]



SJA TESTING HISTORY

100% of the Class of 2020 participated in the SAT.

2020 SJA Mean SAT Scores: Total: 1105; ERW: 566; Math: 539

*34% of the Class of 2019 participated in the ACT

2019 Mean ACT Scores: SJA: 21.7; State: 20.5; Nation 20.7

*ACT scores for 2020 not yet available

COVID-19 Testing Impact on Class of 2021: Due to the pandemic, the SJA class of 2021 was unable to participate in the SAT School Day scheduled for March 2020. Subsequent test dates have been cancelled, so the great majority of the members of the Class of 2021 do not have a standardized test score to report.

Academic Program

All students participate in a college preparatory curriculum. Students may enroll in Honors and Advanced Placement courses by application; selection is based upon grade averages and teacher recommendations. Dual Enrollment classes are offered through Texas Southmost College and, beginning fall 2020, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. A completed Writing Portfolio is a graduation requirement for all students.

Advanced Placement: In 2020, 147 SJA students in grades 9 – 12 took 325 AP exams in 15 subject areas, achieving qualifying scores of 3 or higher on 44% of the tests. In 2020, 28 SJA students earned AP Scholar Awards. Of those, 9 students were named AP Scholars with Honor, and 4 students were named AP Scholars with distinction for their performance on multiple exams.



AP Courses in 2020-2021: Chemistry, Computer Science Principles, French Language and Culture, Human Geography, Microeconomics, Psychology, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, U.S Government, and World History.

Dual Enrollment: Saint Joseph Academy offers dual enrollment credit in mathematics through Texas Southmost College. Beginning in fall 2020, students in grades 11 and 12 who qualify may participate in the Dual Enrollment Educational Partnership (DEEP) Program through which they may earn 6 college credits per semester from The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. These classes, particularly in the areas of English and Social Studies, have replaced some of the previous AP course offerings.

Honors Courses: Language Arts 7, Language Arts 8, English 9, English 10; Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry; Environmental Systems 8, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy; Spanish.

Religious Studies: All students are enrolled in a Religious Studies course every semester. Courses for grades 9 – 11 include Religion 9: Scripture, Religion 10: Church and Worship, and Social Justice. At grade 12, students may take World Religions and Christian Identity or Genocide Studies, or they may apply to earn their Religious Studies credit through enrollment in Call to Ministry or Christian Service classes.

Covid-19 Impact on Academic Program and Grades for Class of 2021

Friday, March 13, was the last day of in-person instruction at Saint Joseph Academy for the 2019-2020 school year. On Monday, March 23, classes resumed through remote instruction. At this time the school transitioned to a block schedule, and all classes continued to meet for synchronous instruction with special periods allotted for individualized academic support. The only modification that was made to the grading system was the decision to eliminate semester examinations. As a result, the semester average was a simple average of the 3rd and 4th quarter grades. The final class day for all students was May 22, 2020.

Class of 2020 College Matriculation

The members of the Class of 2020 achieved 98% college acceptance, with 96% enrolled in four-year universities, and 1% attending two-year colleges, and 3% entering military service. The 89 SJA graduates received more than \$6.5 million in merit scholarship awards

College Acceptance of Recent SJA Graduates

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Austin College | Samford University | University of Dallas |
| Baylor University | Savannah College of Art & Design | University of Dayton |
| Boston College | Schiller International University | The University of Findlay |
| Boston University | Schreiner University | University of Houston |
| Columbia University | Seattle University | University of the Incarnate Word |
| Dallas Baptist University | Southern Methodist University | University of Louisville |
| Florida State University | Southwestern University | University of Mary Hardin-Baylor |
| Fordham University | St. Edward's University | University of Michigan |
| Georgetown University | St. Mary's University | University of Mississippi |
| Hampden – Sydney College | Stetson University | University of Missouri Columbia |
| Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey | Texas A&M University | University of Missouri North Texas |
| Iona College | Texas A&M University Corpus Christi | University of Notre Dame |
| Johns Hopkins University | Texas A&M University-Kingsville | University of Pennsylvania |
| Johnson & Wales University | Texas A&M University San Antonio | University of Rochester |
| Louisiana State University | Texas Christian University | University of St. Andrews |
| Loyola University Chicago | Texas Lutheran University | University of San Diego |
| McGill University | Texas State University | University of San Francisco |
| New York Film Academy | Texas Tech University | University of Southern California |
| New York University | The New School | The University of Texas at Arlington |
| Newbury College | Trinity University | The University of Texas at Austin |
| Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences | Tulane University | The University of Texas at Dallas |
| Otis College of Art & Design | Universidad de Monterrey | The University of Texas at El Paso |
| Our Lady of the Lake University | Universiteit Twente | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley |
| Pennsylvania State University | The University of Alabama | The University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Pepperdine University | University of Alaska Anchorage | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Purdue University | University of California Berkeley | Wellesley College |
| Reed College | University of California Los Angeles | |
| Rice University | University of Central Florida | |
| Ryerson University | University of Chicago | |