



# Annual Report 2014



# Room to Grow

**“I’m thankful for this opportunity and for you funding my scholarship so that I am able to have a blessing like this.”**

**Dacolby, Class of 2014**



A.M.D.G.

# A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

When I was seventeen years old, it was popular for rising seniors at my high school to make a week-long service trip to places like Cairo, Illinois or Nazareth Farm in West Virginia. My trip took me to Lacona, New York – a rural town where my classmates and I spent a week building porch steps, gardening and painting homes with a few local families.

My motivations for going on the trip were less than pure. Some senior friends who had just graduated told me how great a service trip had looked on their college applications. I also knew that a pretty girl whom I'd been unsuccessfully courting had signed up for the trips.

As it happened, the pretty girl – who is now my wife – was sent to Pennsylvania, and I suddenly found myself in upstate New York struggling to make sense of the material poverty I saw there. My principal worksite was the trailer home of a woman with three young children – a 10-year-old boy and two little girls. Their home sat just off a gravel road in an open field. On my first day there, the boy and I started talking and soon we were throwing around his football.

Our game of catch ended abruptly when his mom's boyfriend emerged from the trailer screaming at the boy about taking care of the family's dog. Shoulders slumped, the boy walked off to a tree where the dog was chained. The boyfriend then picked up his football and began throwing it to me. With each toss, he threw harder and farther – trying to throw the ball over my head. I couldn't understand why he wouldn't just let the boy have the happiness of a game of catch.

Weeks later, I remember sitting with my parents in our home trying to reconcile why that boy was consigned to his life while I was blessed with mine. In the years after leaving Lacona, the injustice of that young boy's life continued to gnaw at me. It all seemed horribly unfair. As I wrestled with these questions throughout college, a professor pushed me to take a teaching job at St. Ignatius Loyola Academy (SILA) – a full-scholarship middle school for boys in Baltimore.

SILA was one of several Nativity-model middle schools run by the Jesuits throughout the country. It was academically selective and challenged the young men enrolled there with long school days as well as a mandatory summer enrichment term from 6th grade through 8th grade.

We've modeled much of what we've built at Chicago Jesuit Academy on SILA, but **we've chosen not to be an academically selective school.** This means our students enter our school with a broader range of needs.

For some of our students, CJA is the school they've longed to attend. They find themselves finally safe and free to be intellectually curious. And, they catch fire. They push us to create new courses for them. They attend prestigious summer programs, and they win competitive scholarships to exceptional schools throughout the country.

Our students have tremendously difficult roads to travel. Some

come to us barely able to read as 10-year-olds. For others, home is a patchwork of apartments across the West Side or, at times, homeless shelters. For too many of our students, the violence of our neighborhood is omnipresent – erupting not only on our streets but in the hallways of their apartment buildings if not their homes as well. We strive to serve all of our students regardless of their academic achievement in their prior schools. We believe every child entrusted to our care is made in the image and likeness of God, and we believe they are called to do great things with their gifts.

**Now that we have room to grow,** we are committed to not only doubling our enrollment but also strengthening the resources we provide to our neediest students. Since CJA's founding in 2005, we have learned a horrible but true lesson: For most of our students, Chicago Jesuit Academy is their last and best chance of finding a path out of material poverty. It is a perilously difficult path, and I marvel at our students' fierce determination in charting such a radically different and heroic course for their lives.

The pages that follow detail our students' extraordinary accomplishments and our school's continued growth. They also recognize our generous friends who make Chicago Jesuit Academy possible through their sacrifices and their financial support. I find them to be hope-filled pages that offer a powerful reminder of the strength of our team and the courage of our students and alumni – whether they chronicle our 8th graders' final days with us or report on our oldest alumni studying at the City Colleges with the help of **One Million Degrees** or four-year universities such as Denison, DePaul, Fordham, Knox and Occidental thanks to scholarships like the **Gates Millennium Scholarship.**

...

Twenty years ago when I met that 10-year-old boy in Lacona, I could not have imagined how he would change my life. I'm ashamed to say that I do not remember his name, nor do I know what he has been able to make of his life. I hope that if he and I were to meet today he would look upon all that we are building at CJA, smile and ask me to have a game of catch.

**Thank you once again for believing in the promise of our students.**

In gratitude,



Matthew Lynch

P.S. After almost a decade of dedicated service to our students, Ms. Catherine Cassidy is transitioning to a new position at LinkedIn. Catherine's strategic vision, kindness and grace have invited countless friends to join us in this shared mission. We're fortunate Catherine plans to remain closely involved in our work, and we wish her great success in her new role at LinkedIn. **Every child deserves an advocate like Catherine.**

# Chicago Jesuit Academy Class of 2014

“Be disciplined, earn it and take responsibility for your own lives – no one else can. Continue to learn and listen to that still small voice in you. It will make those things you do today valuable to you tomorrow.”

**Commencement Speaker**  
**Major General Ronald L. Johnson (ret.)**



## High School Acceptances

### **Private Catholic**

De La Salle Institute  
Gordon Tech College Prep  
Loyola Academy  
Montini Catholic High School  
Nazareth Academy  
St. Patrick High School

### **Boarding**

La Lumiere School (IN)  
Wayland Academy (WI)

### **CPS Selective Enrollment**

Brooks College Prep  
King College Prep

### **Noble Network of Charter Schools**

Baker College Prep  
Butler College Prep  
Chicago Bulls College Prep  
DRW College Prep  
Golder College Prep  
Hansberry College Prep  
Johnson College Prep  
Muchin College Prep  
Noble Street College Prep  
Pritzker College Prep  
Rauner College Prep  
Rowe-Clark Math & Science Academy  
UIC College Prep

# In Gratitude

## For Our Faculty

Alzario

“This day is not easy. The final day as a Chicago Jesuit Academy student means to take in all the gifts that the staff and faculty have given us and start a new journey. The gift of love, support, and corrections, we take to a new stage in life.”



## For Our Parents

Stephon

“We all are thankful for our families. Our parents and guardians stood by our side and helped us to become the people we are today. You showed us care and compassion, and moved us toward what is right in the world.”



## For Our Benefactors

Jordan

“The benefactors have helped us not only to stay safe, but also to enrich our lives. I will personally use this gift of a CJA education to push forward, study hard, and make the world a better place.”



# Grad-At-Grad Award Winners

## Religious

Awarded to Kenneth by Mr. Houlihan

“I am proud to present tonight’s Grad-at-Grad award for Religious to a young man who is working hard to continue to grow in this way. I look forward to seeing what faith drives you to grow into down the road.”



## Loving

Awarded to Dakota by Ms. Kennedy

“This is a gentleman who is generous and kind to not only his peers, but to younger students and adults. His smile and warmth are felt throughout CJA as well as his concern and compassion for those in the CJA family.”



## Open to Growth

Awarded to Jordan by Mr. Diehl

“Being Open to Growth requires us to either be willing to hear from others or ourselves that we are not fully grown. This small thing can have a tremendous impact. Tonight we celebrate one student who has been an example of this openness.”



## Intellectually Competent

Awarded to Curtis by Mr. Kane

“Wisely, Mr. Lynch says that an opportunity is CJA’s gift to the student, what he does with the opportunity is his gift to CJA. Curtis, the greatest part of your story is that it has just begun.”



## Committed to Doing Justice

Awarded to Alzario by Ms. Finch

“Without a doubt, I know that he will continue to be the consistently thoughtful, friendly, fair, and respectful young man that the CJA community has come to know over the last four years, and that gives me no less joy or admiration.”



*Photo credits: Steve Donisch*

# Chicago Jesuit Academy Scholarships

Chicago Jesuit Academy relies entirely on the generosity of others to offer a full-scholarship, college prep education to young men who otherwise would not be able to afford it. That generosity ensures that our students will receive an excellent middle school education, as well as advocacy and support throughout high school and beyond through CJA's College-Persistence Programs.

Benefactors who choose to support CJA are investing in the long-term future of our young men. That investment signals a belief in their promise – not only as students, but as gentlemen committed to doing justice in the service of others.

**If you are interested in learning more about becoming a scholarship benefactor, please contact Mrs. Maria Lefkow Sorensen, Director of Development, at (773) 696-4907 or by email at [sorensen@cjacademy.org](mailto:sorensen@cjacademy.org).**

“Thank you for my scholarship to Chicago Jesuit Academy. Because of you, I get to experience such a wonderful education.”

**Terrence, Class of 2015**

## Magis Scholarship

\$5,000 per year for four years



provides a CJA student with critical resources including a social worker, school nurse, remedial tutoring and group counseling to help overcome one-time traumas, chronic struggles and other special needs.

## Core Scholarship

\$12,500 per year for four years



funds an excellent college prep education 9.5 hours per day and 11 months per year to prepare students for the rigors of college prep high schools.

## Comprehensive Scholarship

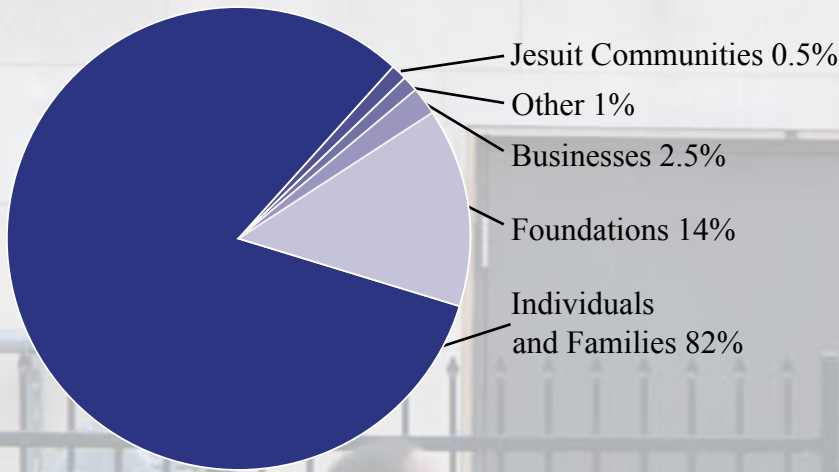
\$17,500 per year for four years



provides all of the resources of both the Magis and Core Scholarships for a CJA student.

# A Glance at Our Benefactors

## Funding Summary by Constituents



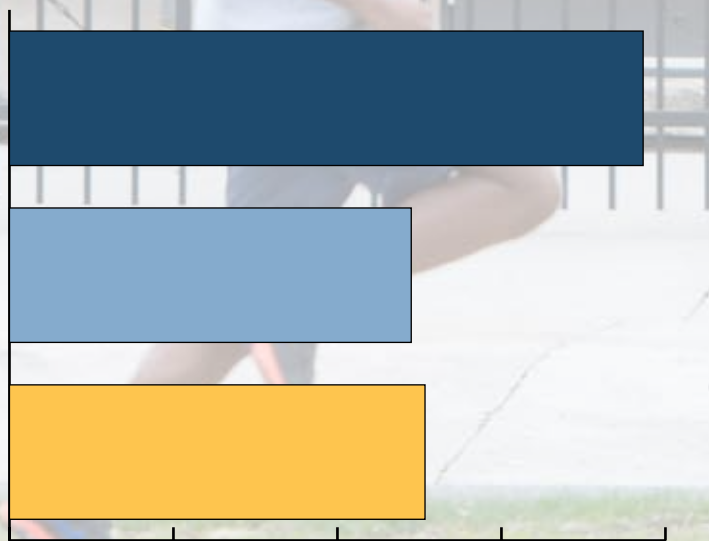
## Summary of Operating Funds Received 6/1/2013 through 5/31/2014

Operating Funds	
2017 Scholarship Fund	\$809,000
General Operating Fund	\$528,598
2018 Scholarship Fund	\$360,000
2015 Scholarship Fund	\$334,500
2016 Scholarship Fund	\$297,000
Special Programs	\$285,361
2014 Scholarship Fund	\$284,000
Give-A-Little Gala 2013/Junior Board	\$212,886
2013 Scholarship Fund	\$41,000
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>\$3,152,345</b>

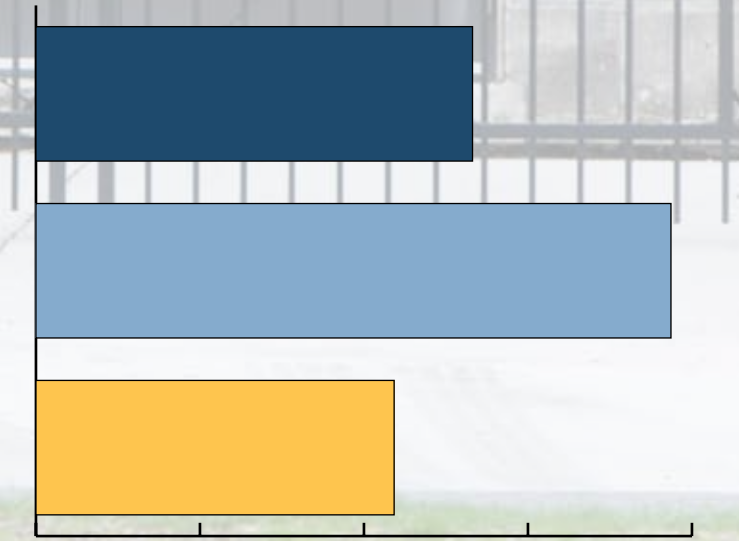
Audited financials are available upon request. Please contact Mrs. Maria Lefkow Sorensen, Director of Development, at [sorensen@cjademy.org](mailto:sorensen@cjademy.org).

## A Dollar Goes Farther At CJA

### Hours of Instructional Time per Year



### Cost per Student per Hour



**CJA**      **North Suburban**      **CPS School**

**CJA**      **North Suburban**      **CPS School**

CPS's instructional costs were calculated by dividing the FY14 budget (excluding capital funds) by the number of students in the district. The North Suburban school's instructional costs were obtained from budget documents posted on the Winnetka Public Schools' website.

# From CJA Forward

As CJA's middle school enrollment continues to grow, the broad alumni support offered to the 105 CJA alumni through the College-Persistence Programs is growing as well. As young men like Dakota (Class of 2014), Julian (Class of 2011) and DaMarcus (Class of 2009) navigate their path through secondary and post-secondary education, CJA continues to be a strong advocate for them and remains a critical source of programming and support.

## It Starts in Middle School

As its name implies, alumni programming usually begins once a student graduates. However, at CJA, the College-Persistence Team views their work in a much different light.

**“A crucial part of supporting our alumni is helping them look at their options and find the best-fit high schools while they are still CJA students.”**

**Mr. Jay Kemper, CJA Director of  
College-Persistence Programs**

With this philosophy in mind, during the 2013-14 school year, the College-Persistence Team taught a bi-weekly class for 7th graders and a weekly class for 8th graders during the regular school day that helped students determine

the universe of high school options and take the steps necessary to enroll in those schools. As staff of the College-Persistence Team, Mr. Kemper, Mrs. Jessie Walsh, Mrs. Megan Lenihan and Mr. Matte Durkin have also prioritized meeting and building relationships with 7th- and 8th-grade families to ensure students and families are learning and growing together.

**“When I started thinking about high school, I had a whole new perspective thanks to the CP Team. They helped me with applications to high schools in Chicago and scholarship organizations. My auntie came to visit the CP offices at CJA a lot so we could make sure we did the applications correctly and we talked about different options. When I found out I was accepted to Loyola Academy, I knew I wanted to go there.”**

**Dakota, CJA Class of 2014,  
Loyola Academy Class of 2018**

## High School Support

Once students like Dakota graduate from CJA and matriculate to college prep high schools, the College-Persistence Team stays in close contact with the students and families as well as the high schools they are attending. The team provides after-school tutoring







at CJA, facilitates reunions with their CJA classmates, offers summer job opportunities, teaches summer college prep and ACT classes and brings alumni on visits to various colleges in the region.

Perhaps most importantly, the College-Persistence Team visits each alum at their college prep high schools, whether the school is in Chicago or a boarding school in Colorado, Virginia or Indiana. These visits help create or maintain relationships with counselors, teachers and administrators at the nearly 30 different high schools that CJA alumni now attend.

**“During the school year, the CP Team sends me emails, letters, care packages and then once a year they visit me at school. This year they saw my soccer game and we went out and got dinner and ice cream. I’m glad they do that because it shows they care about you as a person rather than just a student.”**

**Julian, CJA Class of 2011,  
Fountain Valley (CO) Class of 2015**

## College Support

Often the greatest obstacle to a college degree for CJA alumni is a lack of “social capital” to support college readiness. Therefore, as CJA alumni determine their next steps to post-secondary education, the College-Persistence Team remains a consistent advocate and resource.

During the college application process, the team edits essays, makes alumni aware of possible scholarships like the Gates Millennium, helps complete the FAFSA, negotiates financial aid packages, coordinates partnerships with programs like One Million Degrees and advises alumni on selecting and enrolling in schools.

As CJA alumni enter and persist in college, the team works to provide them with summer opportunities for meaningful employment and academic enrichment.

In short, the care that began ten years before when they were fifth graders continues on through the College-Persistence Team. As our young men grow, CJA continues to grow with them.

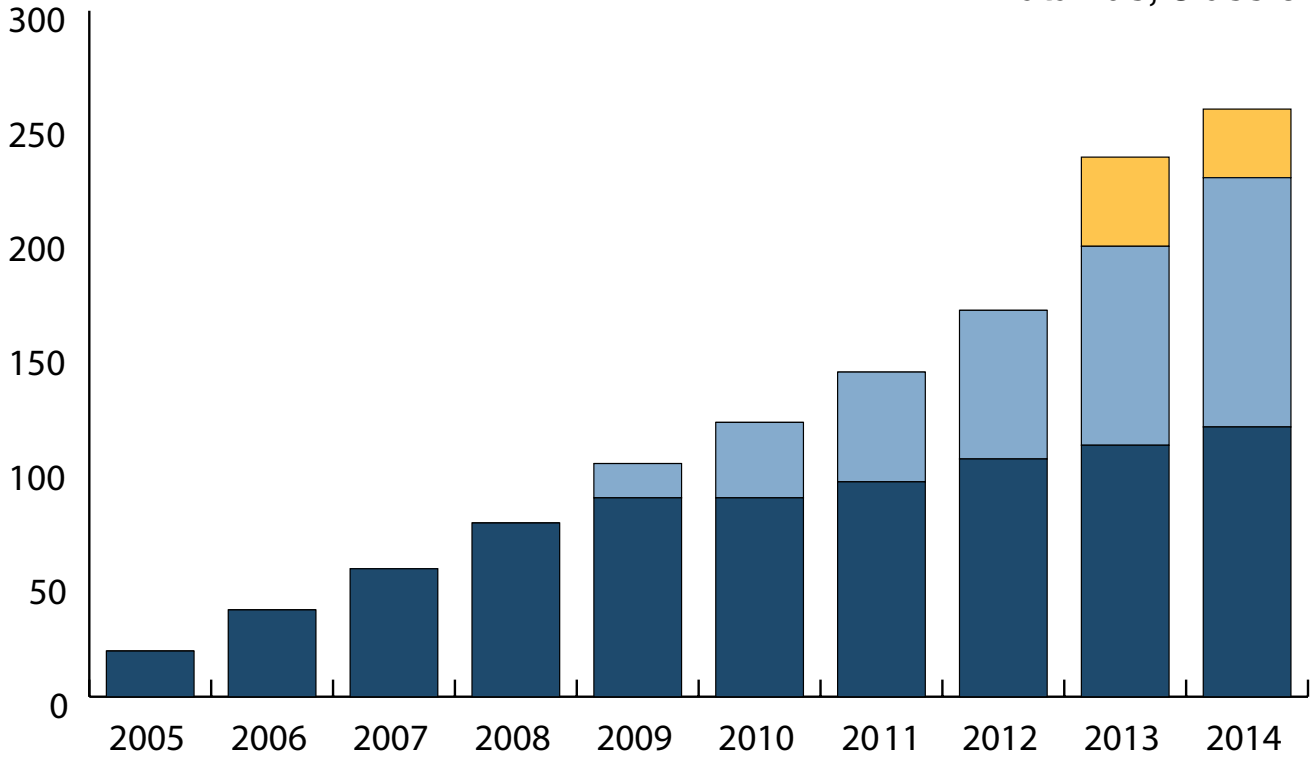
**“If it wasn’t for CJA, the college process would have been much more difficult. Mr. Kemper visited my high school and talked with me and my mom about loans, how much I should be taking out, how much I’d be in debt and everything I should know about it. They helped me choose the best school for me.”**

**DaMarcus, CJA Class of 2009,  
De La Salle Institute Class of 2013,  
Knox College Class of 2017**

# Our School is Growing

“I have really grown since coming to CJA. Without you, I would not have been able to grow the way I have.”

**Latavius, Class of 2015**

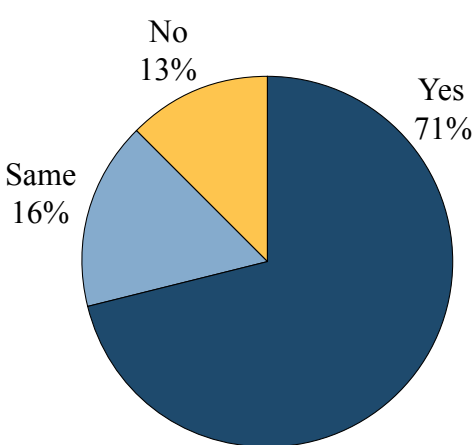


**Current CJA Students**      **CJA Alumni**      **Students Served by CCPSP**

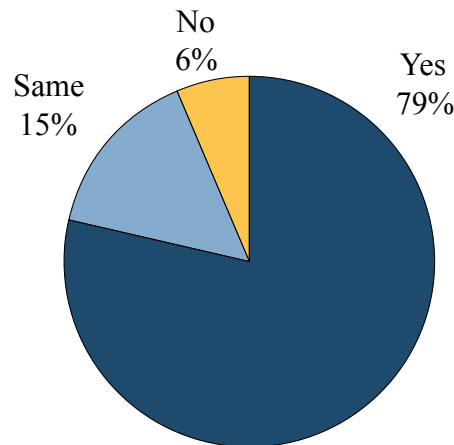
The Chicago College Prep Summer Program (CCPSP) is a new six-week summer enrichment program hosted by CJA for motivated middle school boys and girls primarily from other West Side elementary schools who want an opportunity to improve their academic achievement, participate in enriching extracurricular activities and explore college prep high school options. To learn more about CCPSP, please contact Ms. Emma Driscoll at (773) 638-6103.

# Our Students Are Growing

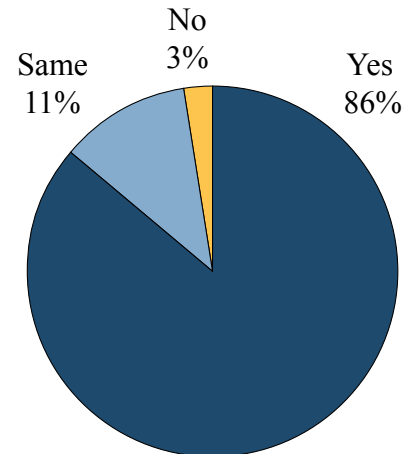
Last winter, we asked our parents, “Compared to last school year, do you feel that your student...”



...is working harder now?



...is kinder to others?



...has grown in his ability to see God in his life?

**Bolded names** are scholarship benefactors

# Chicago Jesuit Academy Benefactors

## Scholarship Circle

**Rita and John Canning**  
**David C. and Jill Christian**  
**The Michael P. Morrison**  
**Scholarship Fund**  
**Mary Catherine Mortell**

*Donors in the Scholarship Circle generously sponsored a scholarship for a student in the 2013-14 school year through their earlier gifts to CJA.*

## St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle \$100,000 and up

Anonymous  
**Matthew J. and Christine C. Botica**  
**Paul and Mary Finnegan**  
Chicago Blackhawks Charities  
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**\$10,000 - \$24,999**  
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**Ellacuria Circle**  
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 Charbonneau  
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 Antonio Tabacchi  
 Carl D. and Marilyn J. Thoma  
 Janice and Ken Turek  
 Patrick J. and Christine Veech  
 Kristen Verhey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Vetter

## Sample Daily Schedule

7:30	Breakfast	12:55	Guided Reading
7:55	Science	1:25	Social Studies
9:10	Formation	2:35	Afternoon Break
9:40	Language Arts	2:50	Math
10:55	Co-curriculars	4:00	Study Hall
11:55	Lunch & Recess	5:00	Dismissal



Craig S. Vogel and Karen Breen Vogel  
Robert Wall  
The Walsh Group  
The Walsh Sisters  
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John Zimmermann

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Isam Nasr  
James M. and Michele O'Brien  
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Thomas J. O'Meara  
Pete Senechalle and Michelle Olson  
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Daniel Birmingham



## Co-Curricular Spotlight: Drumline

CJA students are required to participate in a co-curricular activity each academic quarter. Students can choose from athletic activities such as flag football, soccer, basketball, dodgeball, track and lacrosse or from non-athletic activities such as debate, Jazz band, drumline, bike club and art club.

During the 2013-14 school year, drumline was taught by Mr. Sam Jewell, a professional musician who has taught students at several schools in the Chicagoland area. "Drumline teaches discipline, hard work, teamwork, time management and communication," says Mr. Jewell. "This year our students grew in skill and improved as they depended on each other to sound good as whole."

The drumline gave outstanding performances for students, teachers, parents and the community at CJA's annual African-American Heritage Celebration and during the winter field day.

Patrick and Mary Clare  
Birmingham  
Matthew J. Blecha  
Denise M. Bowles  
Dr. E. Taylor and Dr. Erin M.  
Buckingham (Jones)  
Jerry Buldak  
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Nancy Sheridan Burke  
Richard W. and Maryjeanne  
Burke  
Regina R. Cairo  
Stephanie A. Capps  
Peter and Marina Carney  
Colleen M. Carroll  
John and Katie Carroll  
Louie and Patricia Casey  
Patrick Cassidy  
Siobhan Cassidy  
Chevron Humankind Matching  
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Mazza  
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Rufus Coleman  
John and Kay Collins  
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Florence Connor  
John and Mary Kelly Conroy  
John W. Coons  
Theodore E. and Laura H. Cornell  
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Noelle K. Croley  
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John and Tara Darnell  
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Amanda P. Donnelly  
Wes and Helene Dubin  
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Patrick and Kim Easterday  
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Bruno and Rosary Eidietis  
Sarah Eng  
Matt Eubank  
Madeleine Felix  
Tracy Ferak  
Sarah E. Finch  
Roger and Dolores Flaherty  
Joseph and Margaret Foreman  
Ramona L. Fox  
Ned Frank  
Mary Franklin  
Jordan and Mary Kate Fulghum  
Josh and Theresa Gabby  
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David Galusha  
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Mary and Tom Gibbons  
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Tom Heaton  
Alan R. Heine, CLU, ChFC  
Claire Henderson  
Francis and Claire Heraty  
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Lauren C. Hogel  
Stephen Holte  
Nora Houlihan  
Jon Hunt  
Margaret Hunt  
Suzanne Inzerillo  
Shannon Jaronik  
Mari Anne Jayme  
Jason Elliot Johnson  
Madeleine Johnson  
Edward and Maria Jones  
Barbara Jordan  
Jeevan and Emily Kalanithi  
Joe Kalista and Mary Robinson  
Kalista  
James and Michelle Kennedy  
Michael and Colleen Kennedy  
Camille Kettel  
Daniel Klest  
Fr. Kilian Knittel  
Kathryn Koren  
Jeff and Linda Krol  
Joseph D. and Shirley B. Kroon  
Christine Kudia  
Fred W. LaChance  
Sarah Lalley  
Moses S. Lee  
Frances Lefkow  
Elizabeth and Tom Levinson  
Dr. Norris S. Lewis  
Fr. Thomas Libera  
J. Richard and Andrea Lister  
R. Andrew and Kristen Liuzzi  
Laurie Anne Lorig  
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David Moorhead  
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Jim and Ginny Mueller  
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Laurence and Karen Mulcrone  
Joseph Mulcrone  
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Terry Murphy  
William F. Murphy  
Barbara Sweeney Nani '42  
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George and Nicole Cannizzaro  
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Carey  
Lorraine D. Carr  
Joseph A. Carroll  
Megan Carroll  
Francis J. Casey  
John Casey and Sara Kennedy  
Kelly  
Nancy Chang  
Oleg Chanyshev  
Millie Jo Huston Cheronis  
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Ferraro  
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Eileen Graziano  
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Alex Hansen  
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Jared Hasten  
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Lois A. Lawson

## New Beginnings at CJA

When Ms. Catherine Cassidy started at CJA as the Vice President of Operations & Development, the new school was educating students for the first time in three rented classrooms at Marillac Social Center. Nine years later, Ms. Cassidy has helped CJA grow from 19 students to 120, has overseen the school's move into its permanent and renovated location at 5058 W. Jackson and has shared the school's story with countless families, benefactors and friends.



Ms. Cassidy has made it possible for CJA's students to receive an excellent education and she has cleared a path for other young, talented educators and advocates to join in CJA's mission. As she moves on to her next professional challenge as a Relationship Manager at LinkedIn, we wish her the best and thank her wholeheartedly for her years of committed service to CJA students.

“In my time at CJA, I have worked with a talented group of teachers and a dedicated development team. I will sincerely miss being part of the day-to-day life of CJA but I feel lucky to have helped grow our team by recruiting Ms. Mary Grawe and Ms. Kate Ferguson, two extremely talented Teach For America alums who joined our office this July. I am heartened knowing that the greater CJA community will warmly embrace and encourage them and others as they have done for me for so many years.”

**Ms. Catherine Cassidy**

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John and Virginia Litz  
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Michael Ludders  
William J. Lump  
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Luke Stavole  
Laura Steele  
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Jack R. and Kimberly Ann  
Wambach  
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Quinn Washburn  
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Kamilah White  
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Saint Louis University  
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Phil Schwartz  
Lavonda Scott  
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Siegel Films  
Robret Simpson  
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Solomon Cordwell Buenz  
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Sullivan's Steakhouse  
The Tardiff Family  
Trattoria Trullo  
University of San Francisco  
University of Scranton  
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Urban Oasis  
Donald and Michelle Vogel  
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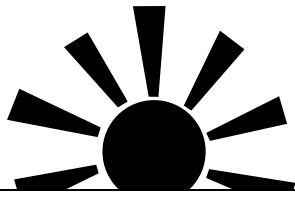
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