

JOSEPH ACADEMY MELROSE PARK

1100 North 22nd Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60160 (708) 345-4500

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are proud to share that we had a successful Extended School Year (ESY) session, and we appreciate the continued support of our families throughout the summer.

As we look ahead, we are excited to welcome students back for the 2026-2027 school year, which begins on Monday, August 17th. We will return to our regular school hours of 8:35 AM to 2:35 PM.

A few important reminders as we prepare for the new year:

- All students must be fully registered with their home school districts for the 2026–2027 school year.
- This registration is **required** for transportation services to continue and to ensure students have a confirmed pick-up on the first day of school.
- Please contact your home school district as soon as possible to complete any outstanding registration requirements.

We want all students to be ready for a strong start on August 17th, and timely registration plays a critical role in making that possible.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out via email or call the support line at 331-701-6324. We look forward to another great school year ahead!

Bob Malek; Principal

bmalek@josephacadmy.org

Anh Navarrete; Assistant Principal

apham@josephacademy.org

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August 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Last year, Joseph Academy—like many schools across the country—experienced a rise in incidents involving student vaping. We are writing to inform you about this issue, provide resources if you suspect your child may be involved in vaping, and explain the potential consequences for students found vaping or in possession of vaping devices on school property.

We take this matter very seriously due to the negative health effects associated with vaping. Many parents are unaware of the risks, and as a school, we have conducted further research that we would like to share with you.

What is Vaping?

Vaping refers to the act of inhaling vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. These devices can deliver nicotine and other substances, such as THC. The vaporized liquids come in a variety of flavors and may even smell fruity or sweet. Common flavor names include *cinnamon roll*, *marshmallow*, *grape*, *strawberry*, *bubblegum*, *lemonade*, and *cookies*.

Device Appearance and Access

Vaping devices come in many shapes and sizes. Some resemble a thick pen, a stylus, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney. These devices are often small and easy to conceal in backpacks or clothing. While it is illegal for stores to sell vaping products to individuals under 18, students report obtaining them through online sources, older friends or siblings, and, unfortunately, sometimes even parents.

Health Concerns

According to the Surgeon General, nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. Nicotine use may impair students' ability to learn and concentrate, and many students are not fully aware of the potential risks.

School Policy and Consequences

As with smoking, vaping is strictly prohibited on school grounds. To address this issue, we have installed vaping sensors in all school bathrooms. Students found vaping or in possession of vaping devices may face the following consequences:

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- ☐ Confiscation of the vaping device
- ☐ Parent/guardian notification
- ☐ Crisis intervention and loss of activity privileges for the week (additional consequences may apply)
- ☐ One-on-one escort by staff to all areas outside of the classroom for a minimum of 2 weeks
- ☐ Placement on a behavioral contract
- ☐ Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be required to pick up their student if the student appears under the influence or repeatedly brings a vape to school
- ☐ Notification of law enforcement if the device contains illegal substances
- ☐ Termination of Placement at Joseph Academy

We hope you find this letter informative and that it underscores our concern for student health and well-being. We are committed to partnering with you to support our students in making safe and responsible choices. Please take time to talk with your child about the dangers of vaping. As we continue to learn more, we will keep you updated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Bob Malek
Principal

Anh Pham Navarrete
Lead Special Education Teacher /
Assistant Principal

JA Uniform

Revised July 2026

Shirts/Tops/Sweatshirts

Students may wear short- or long-sleeve shirts, in **any solid color**. Shirts may be worn with or without a collar. Small logos are permitted, as long as they are no larger than the size of a fist. Students who wear appropriate sweatshirts must also make sure they have an appropriate solid shirt underneath.

Not permitted:

- **Sweatshirt / shirt hoods must be down at all times in all locations**
- **Sweatshirts with tank tops or no shirts worn underneath**
- Shirts with large logos on the front or back
- See-through or crop tops
- Excessively oversized or overly tight tops
- Any top that exposes the chest, abdomen, or undergarments

Pants/Shorts

Students may wear pants, skorts, sweatpants or shorts in the following in **any solid color**. **Flannel pants are okay with no logos**. Sweatpants may feature a logo no larger than a fist, and a solid white stripe(s) is allowed if it's part of the design. Pants must be worn at the waist.

Pants must be worn at the waist. Students who require a belt to keep their pants at an appropriate height may request to rent one from the school.

Not permitted:

- Blue Jeans (unless on a spirit day)
- Pants, shorts, or skorts with holes, rips, or tears
- Skirts or dresses
- Excessively oversized or overly tight clothing
- Any clothing that exposes undergarments
- Shorts or skorts shorter than your fingertip length extended down

Footwear

Students must wear soft-soled shoes, such as athletic shoes, which are required for participation in Physical Education. All boots must be removed upon entering the classroom and may not be worn again until P.M. Homeroom.

Crocs may be worn by students who are on level 2 or higher IF they have socks and a change of shoes for PE. Students who forget gym shoes and require rental shoes are not eligible for C.A.A.E.L. sports that week.

Not permitted:

- Sandals, slides, flip-flops
- Open-heeled shoes
- Steel-toe boots or shoes
- Mismatch laces
- Slippers, platform shoes, or high heel
- No winter boots

Headwear

Students may not wear the following head coverings inside the building: **hoods, hats, scarves, hairnets, bandanas, bonnets, and sweatbands.**

Sweatbands are permitted during Physical Education but must be removed immediately upon re-entering the classroom.

Inappropriate headwear is subject to disciplinary action and may be confiscated by staff. Additionally, students may not have inappropriate designs, symbols, or initials carved or shaved into their hair.

Students may wear head coverings only for approved medical or religious reasons. These must be cleared in advance by Joseph Academy administration.

Purses and Bags:

Purses must be turned in upon arrival and bags must stay in lockers. **Personal accommodations may be made by administration only.**

Jewelry/Accessories:

Jewelry is permitted for **all** students under the following guidelines:

- Earrings are permitted but cannot be dangling earrings
- One necklace or chain may be worn **but should be tucked in**
- Watches are okay as long as they do not have internet access such as a smart watch (apple watch)

If worn, students are responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items. If items are misused in any way, students will earn a redirection before being asked to remove items.

Students will no longer be allowed to have blankets on during the school day. That includes in the hallways or in the classroom. If the building is too cold, administration will make adjustments.

Any students wearing items deemed by administrators to be inappropriate (gang related, sexually inappropriate or alcohol, tobacco, vape advertising, etc.) or unsafe will be asked to change into school rentals or such items and receive programmatic consequences.

JA Uniform Code Clarifications (updated July 2026)

SWEATSHIRTS:

- May be worn in any solid color
- Must have a solid color shirt underneath
- May have a small logo no larger than a fist
- Hoods may **NOT** be worn covering any part of the head
- Cumulative Consequences throughout the day (to be listed on point sheet):
 - 1st Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 2nd Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 3rd Violation - Classroom Break
 - 4th Violation - Crisis Intervention
- Repeat offenders may lose the privilege of wearing a sweatshirt with a hood or could jeopardize their upper level status if not complying with uniform expectations
- JA provided Zip-Up Grey Sweatshirts are preferred
- These expectations are to be followed in the classroom, hallways, bathrooms, and gym (any part the Joseph Academy campus)

JACKETS:

- May **NOT** be worn in the building for any reason
- Must be stored in a locker
- Cumulative Consequences throughout the day:
 - 1st Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 2nd Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 3rd Violation - Classroom Break
 - 4th Violation - Crisis Intervention
- Repeat offenders may lose the privilege or could jeopardize their upper level status if not complying with uniform expectations
- These expectations are to be followed in the classroom, hallways, bathrooms, and gym (any part the Joseph Academy campus)

WINTER HATS / BASEBALL HATS / HEAD COVERINGS/ FACE COVERINGS/ SUNGLASSES OF ANY TYPE:

- May **NOT** be worn in the building for any reason (unless a medical reason is approved)
- Medical mask may be worn if feeling sick
- Must be stored in a locker
- Cumulative Consequences throughout the day:
 - 1st Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 2nd Violation - Not Following Directions - Loss of Points
 - 3rd Violation - Classroom Break
 - 4th Violation - Crisis Intervention
- Repeat offenders may lose the privilege or could jeopardize their upper level status if not complying with uniform expectations
- These expectations are to be followed in the classroom, hallways, bathrooms, and gym (any part the Joseph Academy campus)

BLANKETS:

- **Not Allowed in classroom, hallways, bathrooms, and gym**

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High School Supply list

The following is a list of the few items that your child/you will need for the upcoming school year.

- 0.5 mm lead
- Highlighters
- Post-it notes
- Spiral notebooks- College Rule (6 of them)
- College Rule loose leaf paper
- Plastic 2-pocket folders (set of 6)
- Graphing calculator
- Graphing Paper
- Set of Markers
- Set of Color Pencils
- Hygiene Bag for Gym
 - o Deodorant
 - o Hygiene Wipes
 - o Gym shorts and shirt (students will be required to wear and change their shirts for gym)

Supplies for donation:

- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 box Gallon size zip block bags
- Lysol Spray
- Clorox Disinfecting wipes
- Paper Towels

Thank you for your help!

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Middle School Supply list

The following is a list of the few items that your child will need for the upcoming school year.

- Set of thin and thick Crayola markers
- Crayola color pencils
- Pack of #2 pencils
- Black sharpies
- 3-Spiral notebooks (College Rule)
- 2-Poly 2-pocket folders (1 for point sheets/take home work and 1 for classwork)
- Plastic coloring box or pencil container (if they do not currently have one)
- Hygiene Bag for Gym
 - o Deodorant
 - o Hygiene Wipes
 - o Gym shorts and shirt (students will be required to wear and change their shirts for gym)

Supplies for donation:

- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 1 box Gallon size zip block bags
- Lysol Spray
- Clorox Disinfecting wipes
- Paper Towels
- Box of snacks, chips, or candy for daily menu (class incentive)

Thank you for your help!

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16
17 REMEMBER TO BRING \$ FOR STUDENT COUNCIL LUNCH Happy Bday Dominic C. (8/16) Happy Bday Landon K.	18 STUDENT COUNCIL MONEY DUE	19 Double Points / Double Bonds	20 Student Council Lunch: Pizza, chips, drink \$4 	21 Sports Shirts, Champion, Nike, Adidas Champions Day! NO RIPPED JEANS!!!! 
24 REMEMBER TO BRING \$ FOR STUDENT COUNCIL LUNCH	25 STUDENT COUNCIL MONEY DUE	26 Double Points / Double Bonds	27 Student Council Lunch: Grilled Cheese \$2.00-1 \$3.00-2 	28 Out of Uniform if you wear Crazy Socks! Can wear sandals and crocs. Must still have gym shoes! No Ripped Jeans!!!! 
31 REMEMBER TO BRING \$ FOR STUDENT COUNCIL LUNCH	1 STUDENT COUNCIL MONEY DUE	2	3 Student Council Lunch: 2 hardshell tacos, chips, drink \$5 	4 Bright Colors Day! NO RIPPED JEANS!!!! 