



Administration

Mr. Michael Motyl
President

Mrs. Melissa Valadez, '90
Principal

Mrs. Donna Barron
*Vice President of Academy
Advancement &
Alumni Affairs*

Ms. Natasha Lopez
Dean of Students

Counseling Department
Ms. Lindsay Irwin
*Director of Counseling/
Student Advocate*

Mrs. Olga Cisneros
Counselor

Mrs. Stephanie Machinena
Counselor

Mrs. Vilma Wolfe
Counselor

Champagnat Learning Center
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: 445 students in grades 7 – 12
- Accredited by AdvanceED/SACS CASI and the Texas Catholic Conference 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; Fitness 0.5; Speech 0.5; Computer Science 1; Elective 0.5.

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, 1.10; Honors/Dual Enrollment, 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 2017-2018 school year, there were 91 students in the Class of 2017. The highest GPA in the class on a 100-point scale was 103.73, and the lowest GPA in the class was 72.55. The median GPA was 89.05. 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 2017 participated in the SAT.
2017 Mean SAT Scores: SJA 1058; District 1043; Total Group 1070
57% of the Class of 2017 participated in the ACT
2017 Mean ACT Scores: SJA 21.8; State: 20.7; Nation 21.0

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. A completed Writing Portfolio is a graduation requirement for all students.

Advanced Placement: In 2017, 125 SJA students in grades 10–12 took 233 AP exams in 12 subject areas, achieving qualifying scores of 3 or higher on 51% of the tests. In 2017, 16 SJA students earned AP Scholar Awards for their performance on multiple exams. These included 4 AP Scholars with Honor and 1 AP Scholar with Distinction.



AP Courses in 2017-2018: Calculus AB, Chemistry, Comparative Government and Politics, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, French Language and Culture, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Physics 1, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, Studio Art, U.S. Government, and U.S. History.

Dual Enrollment: Saint Joseph Academy offers dual enrollment credit in English and Mathematics through Texas Southmost College.

Honors Courses: Language Arts 7, Language Arts 8, English 9, English 10; Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus; Environmental Systems 8, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy; World Geography, World History; 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 they may apply to earn their Religious Studies credit through enrollment in Call to Ministry or Christian Service classes.

Class of 2017 College Matriculation

The members of the Class of 2017 achieved 100% college acceptance, and all are attending four-year universities. The 111 SJA graduates earned a total of \$8.7 million in merit scholarship awards.

College Acceptance of Recent SJA Graduates

Alfred University
Augustana College
Augustana University
Austin College
Baylor University
Boston College
Boston University
Columbia University
Dallas Baptist University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Georgetown University
Hampden – Sydney College
Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
Iona College
Johnson & Wales University
Knox College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
McGill University
New York Film Academy
New York University
Newbury College
Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences
Otis College of Art & Design
Our Lady of the Lake University
The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Reed College

Rice University
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Ryerson University
Samford University
Savannah College of Art & Design
Schiller International University
Schreiner University
Seattle University
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
St. Edward's University
St. Mary's University
Stetson University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University Kingsville
Texas A&M University San Antonio
Texas Christian University
Texas Lutheran University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
The New School
Trinity University
Tulane University
Universidad de Monterrey
Universiteit Twente
The University of Alabama
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of California Berkeley
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago

University of Dallas
University of Dayton
The University of Findlay
University of Houston
University of the Incarnate Word
University of Louisville
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri Columbia
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Washington University in St. Louis
Webster University, The Netherlands
Wellesley College