



The Montessorian

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SJMS Recognized by American Montessori Society for Learning At Home Video



Photo: American Montessori Society

American Montessori Society featured the video and plans prepared by the teachers of St. Joseph Montessori School in the April edition of their online newsletter.

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In their April edition of their online newsletter called *Prism*, the American Montessori Society shared the link to our Learning At Home video entitled “Keep Calm and Carry On.” The video was created by Jim Reese, an SJMS parent, which features images from our SJMS community learning at home during this period of social distancing. The video link has gotten great feedback from the Montessori community. See for yourself! Visit <https://www.sjms.net/new-page-4> to view this amazing video!



Photo: Video Excerpt by Jim Reese

The video featured images from our school families, including Charlotte D. (CH3) and Maggie S.

On March 16th, SJMS opened their doors to families to prepare for our upcoming social distancing and Learning At Home. On this day, Jessica checked out 479 books from our school library to add to the reading options at home.

To ensure that our students had enough fresh reading materials to enjoy at home, Jessica offered a library book drop off and pickup on April 7th. She created bags filled with new book selections. She checked out an additional 493 books and renewed 196 books.

For safety purposes, she followed social distancing expectations and wore a mask.

Library Books To Go



Photo: Cheralyn C.

Jessica shared bags filled with library books to keep the reading going at home during social distancing.

Spirit Week @ Home

To add some fun to our learning, SJMS celebrated Spirit Week with fun additions to our wardrobe. Monday was Pajama Day, Tuesday was Rock Your Socks Day, Wednesday was Wear a Hat Day, Thursday was Crazy Hair Day, and the week ended with School Spirit Day. Families were encouraged to share their pictures.



Photo: Cheralyn C.



Photo: Connor McMonagle



Photo: Tiasha L.

(L-R) Shannon C. (UE) enjoyed Crazy Hair Day from her home work space, Connor McMonagle (Music) joined in the fun with Crazy Hat Day, and Maya L. (LE) sported cozy socks for Rock Your Socks Day.

Portrait of a Graduate Characteristic: Global Citizen

For April and May, our Portrait of a Graduate Characteristic is global citizen. In this time in our history, it could not be more appropriate. Global citizens have a sense of community. They feel connected to the earth. They see their commonality with all humanity. Global citizens do their part to combat prejudice, to support poor and vulnerable, and to care for God's creation.

ACPA Science Day



Photo: Cheralyn C.

On March 10th, 7th and 8th grade students from ACPA (Arts and College Preparatory Academy) visited SJMS to share their knowledge and experience in the sciences in Ryan Hall. They shared a variety of science experiments for our Lower Elementary students. Our students were engaged in the experiments and asked great questions.

We look forward to a return visit from these future scientists.

The Lower Elementary 2 students and teachers were actively engaged in the science lessons shared by ACPA students.

Learning comes in many forms. During this period of mandated social distancing, the teachers of St. Joseph Montessori School developed plans and activities to keep the learning going at home. The staff worked as a team to develop the Learning At Home Plans that were shared with our students and parents. Each level received a comprehensive list of activities for each subject area. The plans were shared in two-week increments to help families with pacing.

In this digital age, SJMS also embraced the use of video conferencing for face-to-face conversations and lessons. Teachers would Zoom or Google Meets to check in with students and lead virtual lessons. Many teachers also created videos that could be used within a busy family's schedule.

SJMS Learning At Home



Photo: Cheralyn C.

Many teachers created videos to share with families, including Linda Miller (CH3) singing some morning songs.



Photo: Becky T.

Arya T. (LE2) introduced her sister Brienne (CH3) to the stamp game.



Photo: Kristin J.

Caden J. (CH4) uses his Practical Life skills by making his own lunch.

Alumni News

Class of 2001

Katie (Hickey) Helfenberger



Photo: Katie Helfenberger

Katie, and her husband Kay, welcomed new baby Amelia Louise on February 28th to their family. They live happily in Tsawwassen in Delta, British Columbia.

Class of 2007

Brooke Alexander



Photo: Studiotwelve:52

This spring, Brooke Alexander said “Yes!” to Chris Mergens to his surprise proposal. Wedding plans are in the works for the wonderful couple.

Class of 2008

Adam Henderson

Starting this fall, Adam will start law school at Yale University. He has also made a name for himself as a writer for the Iowa Starting Line, a news outlet for residents of Iowa. Some of his articles include, “How Iowa’s Coronavirus Rates Compare to Its Neighbors.”

Class of 2009

Brooke Lauer



Photo: Brooke Lauer

Brooke will fulfill her childhood dreams of working with animals by taking a new job as the Client Relations Director for a Roots Integrative Veterinary Care in Austin, Texas.

Anna Toborg

This fall, Anna Toborg will continue her path of “life-long learning” by moving to Washington D.C. to attend the Washington School of Law at American University.

Class of 2011

Courtney D’Angelo

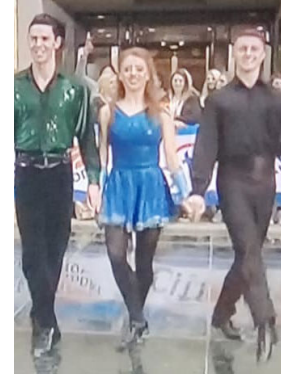


Photo: Colleen D’Angelo

In March, Courtney D’Angelo appeared on The Today Show on NBC with Riverdance. She performed with Riverdance for seven shows at Radio City Music Hall in New York City to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

Kate Ferguson

Kate was recently accepted into the graduate school program for I-O (Industrial and Organizational) Psychology at Xavier University.

Class of 2014

Bob & John Faller

This winter, John and Bob Faller played a friendly game of basketball... on different teams. John plays for Denison University while Bob plays for Case Western Reserve. No matter the victor, we are very proud of both of them.