



Dear Josephinum Community,

We hope this message finds you well. As we know, the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have certainly made an impact on all of us. In spite of that, we are so proud of our Josephinum faculty and staff for how hard they have worked in the transition to remote digital learning. We continue working diligently to educate all of our students, whether or not we are in the classroom.

We have come together to prepare for next year and innovate for our increasingly vibrant and diverse student population. **After careful consideration, we have decided to move away from the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.** Our resources will focus on an academic track that is consistently college preparatory, yet more inclusive and in line with our students' needs. And we will adhere to the principles of an IB education with our dedication to maintaining the highest level of academic rigor that Josephinum Academy is known for. Our course curriculum will continue teaching our students how to think, not what to think, graduating from Josephinum with the desire and ability to make positive changes in the world.

**This change will impact the graduating class of 2022 and beyond (current sophomores, freshmen, and incoming eighth graders). The current junior class will continue through the IB cycle that they began at the beginning of the current school year and will complete the program as graduates in June 2021.** Rest assured, our graduate classes of 2022 and beyond will still graduate Josephinum as college-ready problem solvers, critical thinkers, and global citizens. We will continue to provide a rigorous, inspirational program that builds holistic educational skills. And the goals and criteria of a Sacred Heart education will continue to guide this purpose in a faith-filled setting.

Why did we make this change? Over the last few years, we have found the IB program to be too rigid and inflexible for the wide-changing needs of the Jo's student population. With this change, our dedicated faculty will expand upon the flexibility to create lessons and experiences that are more tailored to our students' needs and interests. In addition, we will continue to offer opportunities for college credit, including Advanced Placement (AP) and dual-enrollment classes. Our curriculum and small class sizes will still prepare students for their post-secondary education and for the real world, teaching research, writing, reading comprehension, and critical thinking skills in every subject. Students will complete projects in their classes that stimulate both their curiosity as well as their intellect. They will be given countless opportunities to explore who they are, what they believe, what they love, and who they want to become.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and how it is impacting education, the administration of Josephinum believes this change is the best direction for the future of our school and the young women that we serve. We need to move forward – leveraging our current resources to ensure we are here for the years to come. Life is sustained through our faith and occasionally with tough decisions. This has been our approach over the past 130 years and how we continue to fulfill our mission. Josephinum will always be a place of joy and inspiration, a place that fosters curiosity in the most spiritual and organic ways. We look forward to the opportunities that will allow us to best serve our students, prepare them for their future, and continue to guide their success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Schrantz".

Colleen Schrantz  
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patti Tuomey".

Patti Tuomey, EdD.  
President