

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
Co-curricular Programs

Academic Challenge: Ms. Johnson, tjohnson@vasj.com

Students from VASJ compete, in teams of three, at the local WEWS television competition, *Academic Challenge*. Students need to be willing to study basic facts in all disciplines and need to be able to recall these facts quickly and aggressively in order to compete. Students who want to participate but are not quick or aggressive with answers or are not interested in actual competition can still be involved by helping others on the team to prepare. Participation is open to any students at any grade level who is willing to play an active roll. The group meets once a week to practice in a competitive manner. Practices will be increased to twice per week in the month prior to competition. Practice will be daily the week prior to competition. (The competition date is set by WEWS and varies year to year.) Time is also spent determining team strengths and weaknesses and devising methods to take advantage of these strengths and to lessen or correct any weaknesses.

Academic Decathlon, Mr. Seitz, bseitz@vasj.com

The mission of Academic Decathlon is to promote and recognize learning and achievement by emphasizing the value of academic excellence for all students by fostering fair and challenging team competitions. Students compete in ten categories, language and literature, mathematics, science, economics, music, speech, interview, art, social science and essay. The value in competitions lies in each participant's stretching his or her capacities and bonding with others. The emphasis on personal growth of each student, who, by meeting the challenges with honesty and integrity, reaps the rewards of greater self-knowledge and self-confidence for the future.

Academic Scholars: Mrs. Kulbago, lkulbago@vasj.com

The VASJ Academic Scholars Program is an invitation-only program that offers academically talented students extended educational opportunities to augment their studies. By participating in this program, gifted students are able to take advantage of a variety of enriching activities outside the classroom that are meant to help develop and nurture their talents and broaden their education. Some of the activities include field trips, tours, guest speakers and workshops. Students who complete the independent study project and have met all the requirements for this program will receive an Academic Scholars distinction and will receive recognition during their graduation awards program.

Altar Servers: Mr. Flynt, kflynt@vasj.com

Students will assist the priest during school masses. Students must be Catholic to serve.

Ambassadors: Mrs. Lorek , mlorek@vasj.com

Students who apply and are selected serve as greeters, shadow hosts, tour guides, and general promoters of VASJ. Meetings are as needed. Ambassadors frequently have off campus and evening obligations. Students may apply for the Ambassador program in March.

Athletic Programs: Mr. Zavorek, nzavorek@vasj.com

VASJ has one of the most comprehensive and complete athletic programs in the area, with twelve sports offered on the interscholastic level: Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Softball, Football, Golf, Soccer, Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling. Participation in 2 full seasons of any of the above sports after July 1, 2011, and prior to the end of student's junior year, will fulfill Physical Education requirement. Athletics are charged a yearly fee: \$300 for the first sport; \$150 for each additional sport the student participates in.

Audio Visual Club: Ms. Nahra, cnahra@vasj.com

Students interested in audio-visual communications can use their talents during assemblies, Liturgies, Prayer Services, as well as with Drama during the Fall Play and Spring Musical. Time commitment is minimal.

Board Game Club: Mrs. Kulbago, lkulbago@vasj.com

This is a fun club that meets after school approximately twice a week to play board games. Students are encouraged to bring their own games, or play the games provided. Attendance is optional.

Book Club: Ms. Johnson, tjohnson@vasj.com

The Viking Book Club is a organization in which students gather each month in a casual setting to discuss books of their choosing. Students will have to at least read the book of the month in order to participate in the club, but no notes or anything more than that is expected. The meetings will consist of a discussion on the book and voting on next month's book. All genres will be explored!

Catholic Students for Peace and Justice (CSPJ): Ms. Latkovich, jlatkovich@vasj.com

Students in CSPJ meet monthly with other high school students to participate in social justice activities. The club works cooperatively to carry out programs of information and service. CSPJ is open to all students. Depending on the activity, a parent permission slip and/or a small fee may be required.

Chef's Club: Mrs. Ealy, beealy@vasj.com

Students learn to plan and cook/bake meals and desserts. One of the Chef's Club goals is to foster and develop a sense of family commitment and teamwork. The Chef's Club meets at least once a month after school. Officers are selected by voting or by appointment. The club does not have a budget, so funding for activities is dependent on fundraising. Fundraisers must be approved by administration. Past fundraisers have included Thanksgiving Pie Sale and Valentine's Day Chocolate Covered Strawberry Sale. The Chef's Club is responsible for baking cookies for Halloween on Campus, Christmas on Campus, and Open Houses.

Drama Club: Mrs. Lorek, mlorek@vasj.com

The Drama Club will produce one mainstage production at the conclusion of each school year. Meetings will be held once a week during the fall semester and twice a week during the spring semester. Students can audition to be on stage during the performance, or sign up to work back stage.

GEM Club: Ms. Johnson, tjohnson@vasj.com

Ms. Perusek, mperusek@vasj.com

GEM (Girls Empowerment Meetings) is a club geared towards young ladies who are seeking a safe space to share and discuss the unique experiences that bond us as women and participate in activities that aim to enhance self-image, self-confidence, and other topics pertaining to opportunities for women. Potential topics include: healthy relationships, women in the media, women in the workforce, conflict resolution/ relationships with friends, preventing sexual assault, and self-defense. The club sheds a positive light on what it means to be a happy, healthy, and strong female. GEM meets monthly.

L.I.F.E. : Ms. Perusek, mperusek@vasj.com

Mr. Preto, ppreto@vasj.com

The Living In Faith Experience group is a faith sharing group for young people based on the spirituality of William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary. The young people are encouraged to build a Christian community through mutual support, prayer, conversation, service projects, and fun. LIFE meets once per month after school. The leaders get to experience a week-long faith and leadership building retreat with other students from Marianist schools across the country.

Peer Ministry: Ms. Latkovich, jlatkovich@vasj.com

Peer Ministers work to plan and facilitate Liturgies, Prayer Services, and retreats. Peer Ministers are upperclassmen chosen by Campus Ministry after an application and interview. Students can apply at the end of their sophomore year and serve their Junior and Senior year if admitted.

National Honor Society: Mrs. Joseph, mjoseph@vasj.com

The purpose of NHS is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to encourage a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection is by faculty committee, and the process for selection of students for membership in the National Honor Society follows the guidelines set forth by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Students can be invited to NHS as a sophomore, junior, or senior. Membership in the VASJ chapter of NHS is governed by directives enumerated in the VASJ “NHS Criteria for Membership” and the by-laws for the VASJ Chapter; both are posted on the VASJ website. Each year, NHS conducts a variety of volunteer and educational activities, recycling, tutoring, recognition of academic excellence, and service projects selected by the members. NHS members also assist the administration at school-sponsored functions such as Honors Assemblies, Baccalaureate, and graduation. NHS meets minimally once per month.

Public Relations Club: Mrs. Robinson, erobinsion@vasj.com

The purpose of the Public Relations Club is to give VASJ students real-life experience with aspects of journalism, marketing, and public relations. Through the roles of writing, photography, editing/proofing, overseeing the digital sign and school TVs, updating the content of the school's website, assisting with the production and planning of the school's marketing, helping with marketing eNewsletters, and giving input in the production of VASJ Magazine, students will be directly involved in all aspects of marketing the school.

Red Cross Club: Ms. Armbruster, rarmbruster@vasj.com

The Red Cross Club partners with the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross to host blood drives. Members of Red Cross promote and facilitate multiple blood drives during the school year. Membership is open to juniors and seniors. Meetings are clustered in the two weeks prior to a blood drive.

Robotics: Mr. Minadeo, gminadeo@vasj.com

Our robotics club is comprised of a six member “A” Team that competes in the annual AWT Bottle Bots competition in April. Other members of the club learn robotics by working with the A Team on smaller robot kits progressing through various levels of robots. Based on participation and proficiency members are selected for Battle Bots development Teams “B” and “C” to design their own Bot as well compete for the “A” Team..

Science Olympiad: Mrs. Kulbago, lkulbago@vasj.com

Science Olympiad is an academic competition covering a variety of areas in science, technology, engineering, and math. Teams compete against other schools in 23 events, similar in format to a track meet. Team members prepare for their events and attend multiple competitions starting in October and concluding in March.

Snow Club: Mr. Cardwell, scardwell@vasj.com

Ms. Najpaver, snajpaver@vasj.com

Students ski and snowboard at Brandywine/Boston Mills Ski Resorts. Skiing typically starts the first Monday in January and meets every Monday through March (holidays included), or as long as the ski resort is open. Cost is set by the ski resort and may vary from year to year. (2015-2016 expected rates: own equipment is \$140, equipment rental is \$200, plus \$100 for transportation.) Transportation is from the school at 4:00 p.m. by school bus or school van. Participating students are exposed to safety skills and techniques. Trips are weather permitting.

Spanish Club: Ms. Nahra, cnahra@vasj.com

The purpose of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School's Spanish club is to promote a better understanding and awareness of Hispanic culture and to encourage good citizenship through various activities throughout the year. The club will raise funds, work on a service project, and enjoy cultural activities through field trips, movies, etc. The club will be open to any student who would like to participate.

Student Council: Mrs. Grai, mgrai@vasj.com

Student Council values the Ursuline and Marianist Characteristics, especially Family Spirit, Community and Bondedness, and Servant Leaders. Elected officials of the Student Council govern the student body's social activities, class fundraising, and provide policy input to the administration. Students desiring to be elected to a Student Council or Class Officer position must possess and maintain a 2.5 GPA and not be on disciplinary probation. Additionally, to run for Executive Student Council, the candidate must have one year experience as a Class Officer, Homeroom Representative, or Committee Chairperson. Homeroom Representatives do not have a GPA requirement, but must not be on disciplinary probation. Student Council General Assembly meetings are monthly with officers meeting more frequently. Major Student events are Homecoming, sports rallies, dress down days, spirit weeks, elections, and Homecoming All students can volunteer to work on the following committees: Homecoming Dance, Spirit, Election, and others as necessary.

Ventures / Writers Club: Mrs. Marxen, pmarxen@vasj.com

Miss Spangler, rspangler@vasj.com

The mission of the Writers Club is to publicize a writing/art contest in order to solicit and select students' original works. The club meets bi-weekly during the first semester and weekly during the third quarter. Literary works in a variety of genres are chosen and art teachers help staffers select winners. Club members vote on a theme, font, stock and ink colors. Using word processing, the editorial staff then prepares final selections for layout and ultimately for publication in the annual literary/art magazine *Ventures*. The staff is responsible for meeting the printer's deadline in early April; the distribution date is in May. Membership is open to all students.