



SJA Athletics Year-End Summary

2024 - 2025

This year has been filled with incredible achievements and unwavering Charger spirit across all of our athletic programs. From the volleyball court to the cross-country trails, the basketball arena to the sidelines with cheer, and finally on the track, our athletes have demonstrated dedication, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence. Here's a look back at the highlights.

Volleyball

In Fall of 2024, the Volleyball program was strong with **93 SJA athletes** competing across **10 teams** in the Tri-County Catholic Conference. In their first season of play at SJA, our Girls 5A team finished the regular season tied for second in their division, and our 8A boys finished runner-up in the end of season tournament. 8th graders **Dean Giudice** and **Riley Nicholas** received TCC All Conference honors.

The teams' hard work and dedication were evident in every game. Congratulations to all the players and coaches for a memorable season!

Cross Country

Our Cross Country team, comprised of **48 fifth to eighth grade runners** and **20 fourth grade runners**, displayed incredible endurance and perseverance this season. Runners consistently pushed their limits, achieved personal bests and contributed to the team's overall success. Some highlights of the season include:

Suburban Parochial League Conference:

Boys - Division AA Champs

Boys - Overall 3rd Place

Girls - Division AA 2nd Place

IESA Sectional:

Boys - 3rd Place (Team)

Girls - 7th Place (Team)

Damian Schulz - 1st Place (Individual)

IESA State Final:

Boys - 12th Place (out of 25 teams)

Damian Schulz - 7th Place (Individual)

These achievements are a result of remarkable teamwork and dedication throughout the season, setting a strong foundation for future success. Well done to all our runners and coaches!

Basketball

The Basketball program brought energy and excitement to the court this year with a total of **99 players** rostered across **13 teams**. The fifth grade boys and girls both had two teams (A and B). The program is looking strong and growing in numbers.

Our 8th Grade Boys and Girls A teams both finished the regular season at the top of the conference. Our 8th Grade Girls A team were conference tournament champions with our 8th Grade boys losing the conference semifinal. All conference players in 8th grade were **Will Branca, Sydney Carr, Kamryn Gunn, Gillian Kelly, Shannon Renicker, Cass Vaupel** and **Hillary Whorlow**.

The teams' passion for the game was contagious, and their teamwork was commendable. Great job to the players and coaches!

Cheer

Our Cheer team elevated school spirit to new heights performing cheers and half-time dance entertainment at **24 boys and girls basketball home games** this season! The Varsity squad of **10 eighth-graders** led the charge with enthusiasm and leadership, while our **6-member JV team** supported the excitement and developed strong fundamentals throughout the season. Both squads saw major progress in stunt execution, sharper motions, and more confident crowd-leading.

The final highlight of the season was the Little Charger's Cheer Clinic with a performance during the 8th-Grade Classic basketball game in February. A wonderful group of **37 young girls** filled the gym floor, learning routines and cheering alongside our varsity and JV squads. The energy was electric!

The Cheerleaders' performances were always full of energy and enthusiasm. Thank you to the cheerleaders and coaches for their dedication and Charger pride!

Track and Field

The SJA Track team, **comprised of over 75 athletes**, showcased incredible speed, strength, and agility throughout the season. Competing in 5 meets, including 3 regular season, the Divisional and Championship meets, many personal and team successes were achieved.

While impossible to cover all of the successes throughout the season, we would like to highlight the accomplishments from the Championship meet held on May 17th. The Junior Varsity Girls team took 5th overall and the Varsity Boys team took 4th overall.

SJA Championship Results

JV Girl Highlights

- Lucy Nicholas earned 1st in Javelin
- Isabelle Galant earned 2nd in high Jump, and 3rd in triple jump
- Greta Olejnik earned 3rd in triple jump
- Celeste Buch earned 3rd in the 600m run
- The 6th grade 4x100 team (Wangler, Olejnik, Leoni, Buch) earned 3rd place.

Varsity Girls Highlights

- Morgan Zilm took 2nd place in shot and discus
- Riley Nicholas took 3rd in high jump
- The seventh grade 4x100m team (Duggal, King, Zilm, Lenihan) took 3rd place
- The eighth grade 4x100m team (Carr, Burokas, Yenter, Nicholas) took 3rd place

JV Boys Highlights

- Chester Hantsch won 1st place in high jump
- Perry Vaupel earned 3rd place in high jump
- Brody Kafka earned 3rd place in triple jump

Varsity Boys Highlights

- Will Branca won 1st place in high jump
- Damian Shulz won 2nd place in the 800m and 1600m run
- Kamryn Gunn won 2nd place in the 75m hurdles
- Cass Vaupel won 1st place in the 400m run
- The seventh grade 4x100m team (McIntyre, Campbell, Soraparu, J. Soraparu, M.) won 1st place
- The eighth grade 4x100m team (Gunn, Kafka, Branca, Costello) earned 3rd place
- The eighth grade 4x200m team (Costello, Branca, Kafka, Gunn) earned 2nd
- The eighth grade 4x400m team (Schulz, Duggal, Kroupa, Vaupel) earned 3rd

The Chargers demonstrated exceptional athleticism and determination in every event. Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches!

Looking Ahead

This year in SJA Athletics has been one to remember. The hard work, dedication, and Charger spirit displayed by our athletes and coaches has been truly commendable. We would like to thank all of the coaches who assisted in preparing the athletes all season. Each of you have been instrumental in guiding our athletes to success both on and off the court/field. We look forward to seeing you all back again next year!

Looking ahead, the Athletic Board continues to work on ways to expand and improve on our Athletics program. This summer we launched the first ever **SJA Summer Sports & Saints Program** focusing

on agility training, volleyball and basketball development. There are currently **136 rising 4th-8th graders** working hard in the gym in preparation for next year!

We are also excited to announce the installation of a **Hudl camera** in the gym, which will be live this coming volleyball season! This will provide the opportunity for our families to watch the Chargers online when they are unable to make it to the game. It will also be a useful tool for our coaches to review games with their teams. More info to come!

Get Involved!

If you are interested in becoming more involved in SJA Athletics in the coming school year, please reach out to any member of the Athletic Board ([here](#)). We are currently looking to fill the following roles for the 2025-26 school year:

- **Volleyball and Track Coordinator Shadows** (Over the course of the next few years we will be looking to transition some of our Coordinator roles and are looking for individuals to learn the roles so they can step in)
- **Assistant Cheer Coach**
- **Jr. Dance Program Coordinators**
- **Open Athletic Board position**

We are looking forward to another successful year of Athletics! Go Chargers!