October 1, 2024

Dear Saint Joseph Students, Parents and Teachers,

We are excited to share a new opportunity with all of you to celebrate KINDNESS in our community. We are challenging every student (public school, private school and homeschool students) in Saint Joseph to identify the kindest person that they know who lives in Saint Joseph and to write an age appropriate essay about who that person is and how they are making a difference in our community. All completed essays are to be turned in at Noyes Home, by mail (801 N Noyes Blvd; Saint Joseph, MO 64506) or delivered in person, no later than Friday, November 8th, 2024. All essays will be read by a panel of judges, with the top ten essays from each grade (kindergarten through 12th grade) being selected for a final reading by a second panel of judges in the month of December that will determine the top prize for each grade.

Winners from each grade level will be notified in early January 2025. Each Student Essay Winner and their Kindest Nominee will be interviewed for a video to be shared at our Kindness Saint Joseph event scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2025. Each winner will receive 4 complimentary tickets to the Kindness Saint Joseph event (one ticket for the student, one ticket for their nominee and two additional tickets for parents/guardians). More information about the event will be made available when the winners are notified.

We are also looking for nominations for the Kindest School in Saint Joseph. A panel of judges will visit the top three nominated schools to experience their "culture of kindness" firsthand. If you would like your school to be considered for this honor, please write an essay explaining what makes your school unique and how the school staff and student demonstrate kindness.

We are eager to learn about all the Kindness Keepers in our community and honor the top nominees in the spring!

With kindness and gratitude,

Chelsea M. Howlett, MS
Executive Director

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— **Saint Joseph** —

Writing Prompt Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Understanding	Thoroughly understands the prompt and addresses all parts.	Understands most of the prompt and addresses main ideas.	Addresses some aspects of the prompt but lacks depth.	Fails to address key aspects of the prompt.
Clarity	Clear and concise with well-organized thoughts and ideas.	Mostly clear but may have minor organization issues.	Some unclear ideas, with several organization problems.	Confusing or disorganized ideas throughout.
Creativity	Exceptionally creative, with original and engaging ideas.	Some creative or original ideas, though not fully explored.	A few creative elements but mostly predictable.	Lacks creativity or original thinking.
Grammar & Spelling	No errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Few errors that do not detract from readability.	Some errors that occasionally detract from readability.	Frequent errors that affect the overall readability.
Development	Ideas are fully developed with strong supporting details.	Well-developed ideas but may need more supporting details.	Ideas are somewhat developed but lack significant details.	Ideas are underdeveloped with minimal or no supporting details.

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Name: _____ **School:** _____ **Grade:**_____

Instructions for grades K-2: Who is the kindest person you know from St. Joseph? Write a few sentences about the kindest person you know. State who they are and what they do that is kind. Write your description below and draw a picture in the space provided.
Deadline for submission for Essay Contest is 11/8/2024.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Draw your picture in this space:

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Essay Contest for Saint Joseph Students in grades Kindergarten-12th Grade.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Address:_____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name & Phone Number:_____

School:_____ Grade Level:_____

Teacher's Name:_____

Teacher's Email:_____

Name of Person Nominated for Kindness Saint Joseph: _____

Their Address:_____

Their Phone Number:_____

Essays are due by November 8th and are to be mailed or delivered to Noyes Home for Children located at 801 N. Noyes Blvd; Saint Joseph, MO 64506. Call 816-232-5650 with questions.

NOYES HOME
for **CHILDREN**
— Established 1894 —

801 N NOYES BLVD, ST JOSEPH, MO 64506