

## Other projects funded by the SJPS Foundation

**Third in the Nation!** - In the Spring of 2012, St. Joseph Chamber Orchestra students traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, per a special invitation to compete in the National Orchestra Festival. This is the first time that St. Joseph was ever presented with such an invitation. With support from friends, family, staff and the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation, the students not only brought home third place overall, but also had the opportunity to participate in several workshops. St. Joseph has always had the reputation of a stellar orchestra program, but this was an amazing accomplishment for all those involved.



Additionally the SJPS Foundation has now taken on the task of funding new school instruments for both the band and orchestra. Many of these instruments are over 40 years old and are no longer able to be repaired. We are hopeful that within the next 1-2 years funding will be available to replace these instruments and help our students and teachers continue with this strong tradition of excellence.



**Classrooms of Today** (2009) - Walk into Room 250 at St. Joseph High School and you'll see instantly that this isn't the classroom you grew up in. It looks like a high-tech meeting room at any area corporation. We call this the Classroom of Today.

All the audio/visual systems a teacher needs are in this classroom. A wireless remote lets students and teachers move seamlessly from information on a computer to DVD to VCR to TV to external digital devices. That means if a student brings in a podcast or PowerPoint® presentation downloaded on his/her MP3 player or phone, he/she can share it with the entire class with a click of the remote.

The Classroom of Today also has a 3-D object projector that lets a teacher project items on the screen for an eyes-on learning experience. An interactive white board lets students and teachers project their computer screen. The board also saves notes written on it, prints or e-mails them to everyone in the class and to students who are home sick. A digital response system lets students take quizzes electronically so teachers know instantly the class' mastery of the lesson. The room also features tables with chairs on casters so teachers can quickly reset the room for individual or group learning. Non-reflective lighting improves the learning environment, also.

A total of five pilot classrooms were installed throughout the District, solely funded by the SJPS Foundation, including donations from the *Tom & Marie Yeager Family Foundation, Whirlpool Supply Chain, Dr. Gyl Kasewurm, Bill and Jane Marohn, Allegretti Architects, Prism Science & Technology, LLC, Insurance Management, Marzke Realty, Smith/Dahmer Associates and Vail Rubber Works.*

The success of these rooms led in part to the passage of a \$38 million bond issue to improve all classrooms in the district as well as other improvements in safety and security and energy efficiency in the Spring of 2011.

**Civic Lessons** - Learning about government and citizen's rights starts at a young age for students in St. Joseph. In October of 2011, the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation, with funding from Steve and Elizabeth Upton, brought the National Constitution Center from Philadelphia, PA to present workshops, presentations and assemblies to students at all grade levels. Topics included the Emancipation Proclamation, Being an Active Citizen, Growing Up American Style, and the Citizenship Show.

