

Writing

THE NEXT CHAPTER





**DILLON'S ABILITY TO UTILIZE HIS SPECIALIZED
MOBILITY EQUIPMENT TO WALK AROUND THE SCHOOL
BRINGS HIM GREAT JOY AND INDEPENDENCE.**

Brandon and Kat Pendergraft

Writing THE NEXT CHAPTER



The Joseph Sams School is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and life skills development of children and young adults who are intellectually, physically, or developmentally challenged.

The Joseph Sams School opens up a world of possibilities for our students and their families as they embark upon their educational journey. It's the collaboration between parents, students, staff, and volunteers that make what we do at JSS extraordinary.



**TOMORROW IS THE FIRST BLANK PAGE OF A
365 PAGE BOOK. WRITE A GOOD ONE!**

-Brad Paisley

THE JOSEPH SAMs SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WHAT IS OUR?

Next Chapter

Well, the pandemic is finally over, or so we have been told. All of us have been so focused on COVID over the past two plus years – staying healthy, helping others stay healthy, dealing with COVID after getting it, and managing all the restrictions and disruptions – that it can be hard to figure out what's next. Where do we now turn our focus?

The Joseph Sams School is no different. The entire JSS community has done a phenomenal job the past two years serving our special students during the pandemic. The administration, teachers and other staff have truly been remarkable. Their commitment to continuing to provide the best learning environment and opportunities for our students while managing all the COVID restrictions and disruptions was a breathtaking achievement. And the financial and other support from the greater JSS family has been unwavering. On behalf of the JSS Board of Directors, thank you all for all you have done to support JSS and the students!

But now what? JSS can't tread water forever. What do we do now? What will the next JSS chapter look like? How can we continue to meet the ever growing and changing needs of our students and community? How do we provide the best physical learning environment for an ever growing number of special kids? As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, how can JSS provide a better and more technologically advanced learning environment? How can we better prepare our students for a productive and meaningful role in a society that is dramatically changing. What new skills will they need, and how will JSS help them develop those new skills? Where are the gaps between what JSS currently provides and the needs that are not being met? For example, how can we help our students after they graduate given the dearth of JSS quality learning and development programs in the communities?

These are all important questions as JSS embarks on writing its next chapter. And finding the answers and then making them happen will be challenging. But standing pat is not an option. Doing things the way we always have is not the answer. Benjamin Franklin said "when you're finished changing, you're finished." Oprah Winfrey put it this way, "we can't become what we need to be by remaining what we are." If we want JSS to continue to be the source of hope, inspiration, and possibilities it has always been to the students and their families, we cannot stand in place. Our students deserve more. Our communities need more.

So let's write the next chapter – a new chapter – together. A chapter that focuses on the possibilities, not the obstacles. A chapter that asks how high can we set the bar, not what bar can we comfortably reach. As a parent of a JSS graduate, I believe I speak for the parents of all of our students – setting the bar higher is why we came to the school in the first place! As the famous writer T.S. Eliot put it, "only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." Let's find out how far JSS can go!

Wagne Hillis | Board President | December 2022



Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. *T.S. Eliot*

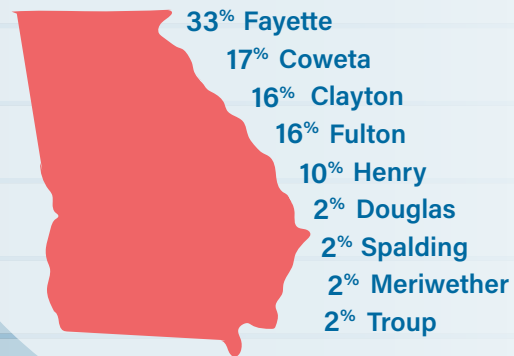


Nearly everyday, Taylor walks into school with an interesting smirk on her face or a silly laugh. She is excited to come to school. She is excited to hear the morning greetings from teachers, friends, and speech therapists. We have found our sense of community at JSS. The Joseph Sams School has provided the social connectedness, support, and sense of belonging that Taylor has needed to thrive. Daily, Taylor is gaining confidence and discovering the power in her voice.

Linda Tatum

Facts & Figures

STUDENTS BY COUNTY



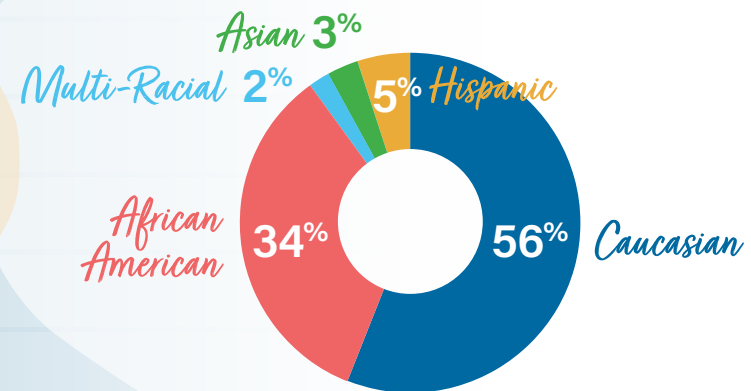
ENROLLMENT BY NUMBERS



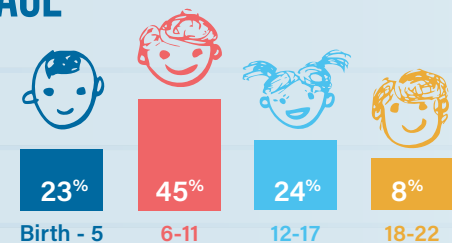
SOURCES OF FUNDING



ETHNICITY



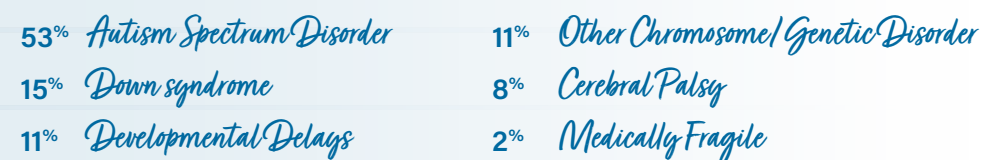
AGE



AREAS OF SPENDING



DIAGNOSES



Programs Highlight



CAMPING TRIP

Each year, the students in ATLAS (Adult Transitional Living and Support), Upper School, and JSS alumni have the opportunity to attend a 3-day overnight camping trip at Camp Twin Lakes. Thanks to adaptive equipment, all students can participate in a variety of camp activities, such as zip lining, rock wall climbing, fishing and mini golf. Memories are made, and bonds are built during the camping trip!



PROM

The JSS Prom is a night where our ATLAS, Upper School students, and alumni get to shine! The evening is filled with music, dancing, laughter, and quality time spent having fun! The DJ keeps the tunes flowing, and our students get a chance to dress up to enjoy a memorable evening!



Programs Highlight CONTINUED



SNACK SHACK

The JSS Snack Shack is a student-run business that works on prevocational skills in a functional environment. Upper School students take inventory of the items, restock the shelves, shop for new items, count money, create and deliver invoices, and go to the bank. The students are able to incorporate a variety of different skills, such as communication, academic, vocational, fine motor, and social.



BAKE SHOP

The ATLAS Bake Shop—a weekly favorite for staff and students! A great deal of planning and work goes into operating this student-run business. Students work together as a team and have ownership of individual jobs. They begin by creating and distributing a flyer to advertise the weekly baked good. The students make shopping lists, buy the ingredients needed, and take orders by visiting classrooms and offices. After baking and preparing, students deliver the baked goods and collect the payments. Through this opportunity, students develop and enhance crucial life skills that will help them upon graduating from The Joseph Sams School.



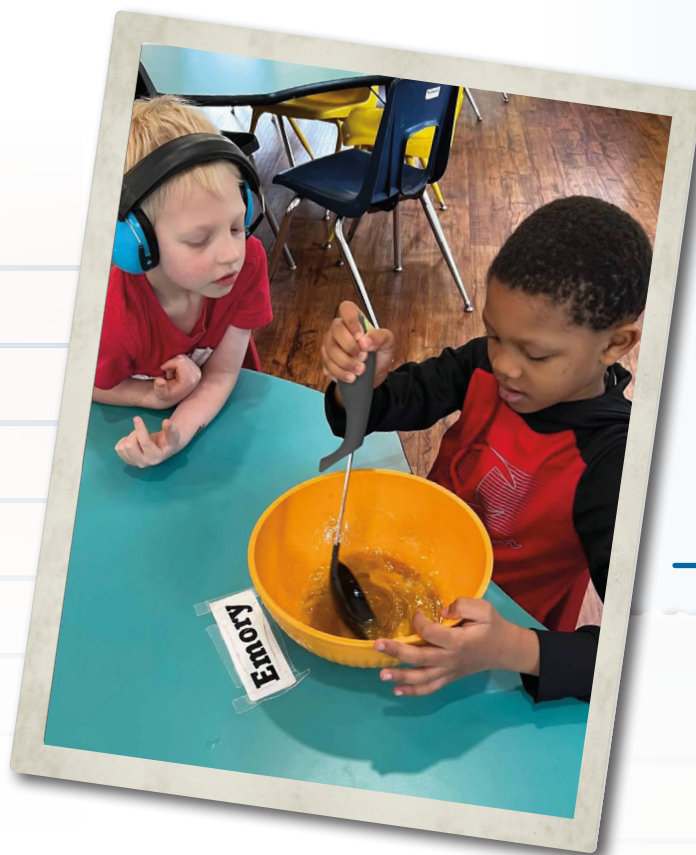
ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISER

Ms. Carly's Elementary class chose to do a "Spooky T-shirt fundraiser" for the Halloween season to raise money for a fun Christmas outing this December! The students were able to help with almost every step of the process, including making the t-shirts. They had the opportunity to work on several pre-vocational skills, such as taking orders, making invoices, collecting, and counting money, working to earn money for something they want, and delivering orders. The students and staff enjoy these project-based learning opportunities to help the students continue to learn both inside and outside of the classroom!



PRIMARY AND LOWER COLLABORATIVE COOKING ACTIVITY

Each week, the Primary classes and the Lower Collaborative class come together to do a cooking activity from our school-wide curriculum. The cooking activities pair with a current event and provide our classes an opportunity to collaborate while providing high-quality, engaging lessons that work on many skills.



“Vanessa has shown so much progress because of the wonderful staff at JSS.

Ann Guider

Student Spotlight

JANIYAH ZOOK

Janiyah began school at the age of three, being nurtured by some great teachers. We saw her grow, but each year we also learned more of what Janiyah was NOT able to do. However, when we came to The Joseph Sams School, we found a place that has taken us into a chapter of reframing our thinking and discovering the vastness of what Janiyah IS able to do. From the application and the initial IEP meetings, we were impressed as to how intentional the staff is in their efforts to understand Janiyah and our goals for her. Their insight and experience then guided us to think further than we realized was possible for her.

Janiyah's speech has always been limited, so we came to JSS with a newly received AAC device for assistance in communication. We wanted her to learn to use her AAC device to communicate her needs and wants. The staff, however, had the vision of how important it was for Janiyah to use her device to interact socially. Today, she not only interacts socially with her device, but she also uses it along with her spoken words to tell us about her friends, the highlights of her day and to say funny things to make us laugh. Janiyah's impulsivity, along with her tendency for sensory overload and dysregulation was often the deciding factor for our family to do certain activities or routines. The regular Community Based Instruction (CBI) outings at JSS, however, have helped her to not only cope with shopping trips, but for outings to be enjoyable. Her skills learned in the kitchen at school have not only made her able to be in the kitchen at home, but to be a significant contributor- voluntarily helping with dinner cleanup, making coffee, and preparing lunches for school. Her overall confidence has grown, and our perspective on her potential has changed in the loving environment at Joseph Sams where she is a part of a family, not just a student at school. Before The Joseph Sams School, we were uncertain and often discouraged by her future years. With the help of JSS, however, the next chapters of her story have been rewritten and we are forever grateful.

-Missy & Phillip Zook

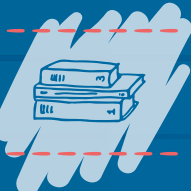


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Foundation Support

GENERAL OPERATING



<i>Clothes Less Traveled</i>	<i>Pennies From Heaven</i>
\$28,000	\$15,000
<i>Coweta-Fayette EMC</i>	<i>The Oleta and Timmy Collins Family Fund</i>
\$25,000	\$12,000
<i>Cisco Foundation Matching Gift Program</i>	<i>Sue Ekkebus Family Fund</i>
\$23,000	\$5,000

TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CLASSROOMS



<i>Frances Wood Wilson Foundation</i>	<i>Lehigh Hanson - Fairburn Ready Mix</i>
\$10,000	\$2,500

SCHOLARSHIP



Henry County students	
<i>William and Sara Babb Smith Foundation</i>	<i>The Oleta and Timmy Collins Family Fund</i>
\$20,000	\$12,000
<i>Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust</i>	<i>Creel Family Fund</i>
\$15,000	\$5,000

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM



<i>Bennett Thrasher Foundation</i>	<i>Fair Family Fund</i>
\$6,000	\$2,500

FUTURE BUILDING NEEDS



<i>Fayette Civitan Club</i>	<i>The Oleta and Timmy Collins Family Fund</i>
\$6,000	\$5,000

Fundraising at JSS

Every donation you make to The Joseph Sams School makes an impact on students and their families. Like most non-profit organizations, we rely heavily on the generous philanthropic support of corporations, foundations, and community gifts from both businesses and individuals, as well as fundraising through events. All these areas have been challenged by recent economic pressures and the recovery post-pandemic but thanks to the school's judicious use of its financial resources, we remain healthy. To grow our reach and capabilities in the future, and therefore help more, we must grow our share in all these potential areas so that we may look forward with hopeful optimism.

Our annual event plan appeals to a broad range of audiences and participants to raise money and awareness for The Joseph Sams School. Our events include a 5K race, a Sporting Clay Tournament, a casual musical event we call Southern Flair and our largest and longest-running event the invitation-only, Dinner Dance and Auction. Other ancillary events throughout the years are hosted by community members, businesses, civic groups, organizations, and individuals that also raise funds for The Joseph Sams School.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon. com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Joseph Sams School! When signing up, make sure to select The Joseph Sams School as your charity of choice and shop away!

Wish List

✓ **\$2,500,000** *cost per year to operate the school*

✓ **2.58** *student to staff ratio*



THE AVERAGE DAY AT THE JOSEPH SAMS SCHOOL INVOLVES:

✓ **16** *pieces of standing & walking equipment*

✓ **32** *group therapy sessions*

✓ **106** *speech devices for facilitating verbal and non-verbal communication*

✓ **10** *Specialty visitors*



PLEASE CONSIDER PROVIDING A FINANCIAL GIFT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THESE MUCH NEEDED MATERIALS OR MAKING A GENERAL DONATION TO SUPPORT THE NECESSARY OPERATING COSTS OF THE JOSEPH SAMS SCHOOL.

\$25,000

Could purchase:

- + Interactive whiteboards for all classrooms
- + Playground surfacing

\$10,000

Could purchase:

- + Adaptive playground equipment
- + iPads for classrooms

\$2,500

Could purchase:

- + AbleSpace: IEP goal-tracking app
- + Adaptive cognitive toys

\$500

Could purchase:

- + Adaptive living supplies
- + Adaptive technology devices & components

\$15,000

Could purchase:

- + Building/Facility and technology enhancements
- + Touchscreen classroom computers
- + Unique Learning System curriculum

\$5,000

Could purchase:

- + Supplies for Sensory Lending Library
- + Gasoline for a year for the JSS bus
- + Mobility equipment parts & accessories

\$1,000

Could purchase:

- + Augmentative and alternative speech devices
- + Art supplies
- + Music therapy supplies

\$100

Could purchase:

- + PECS Supplies (Picture Exchange Communication System)
- + Communication and instructional apps for iPad

Apogee Scholarship

Did you know you can choose where your tax dollars go?

It is your choice. You can send your money to the State at the tax deadline, or you can move your money into this scholarship fund to help The Joseph Sams School children reach their fullest potential. It is just that simple...

It is exceedingly rare that you have the opportunity to give without having to donate any of your own money. The Georgia Educational Tax Credit makes this possible! Georgia's independent school tax credit scholarship program allows you to tell the state how you want a portion of your tax dollars spent. It costs you nothing, but it has a significant impact on our students. It ensures that families can access therapies and services that they so desperately need. This program offers a unique opportunity for you or your company to redirect your tax dollars to provide tuition assistance to JSS students.

JSS partners with the Apogee Scholarship Fund, a Georgia registered SSO (Student Scholarship Organization) administering the tax credit program.

Go to www.apogee123.org and select the "go paperless" link.



My child is no longer an afterthought; she is now the focus with caring intention and love and purpose."

Joanna Enck

2022 APOGEE SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

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Dallas and Ashley Olson	
Brandon and Katherine Pendergraft	
Todd and Kellie Reed	
Jim and Marie Sams	

Circle of Hope



SCHOLARSHIP GIVING SOCIETIES

Although scholarship donations are made at various times throughout the year, The Circle of Hope members continue to provide the bulk of our needs-based scholarship donations. The Circle of Hope is a Giving Society that the organization created in 2008 to help ensure funding was available to award scholarships to students whose families qualified for needs-based financial assistance with their annual tuition.

To qualify for The Circle of Hope, members give \$1000 or more in a cash donation during the year. Friends of the Circle of Hope are those who are donors who give less than \$1000 a year. These two giving societies combined have provided more than \$1.8 million in scholarship funding and more than four hundred twenty scholarships to JSS students and families since its inception. Our 2021-2022 Circle of Hope members have grown to an extraordinary group of benefactors and their contributions are met with the utmost appreciation and admiration.

CIRCLE OF HOPE DONORS 2022

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This list is only representative of our fiscal year, and is only reflective of cash donations received from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

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“It's as if a light has come on in PJ, his facial expression, body language, and use of words has been amazing. We are grateful for all of the efforts and dedication that each staff member has given to PJ and his peers.

Jerome and Keisha Perrien

Partnerships

Apogee Scholarship Fund
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Bloom Closet
Brightmoor Amphitheater
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Fayetteville First Baptist Church
Fayette FACTOR
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Fayetteville First United Methodist Church Women's Group
Fayetteville Main Street
First Georgia Physician Group
Flat Creek Ladies Golf Association
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One Church
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Partner's Pizza
Passion City Church
Peachtree City Library
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Publix
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Southside ABA
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Charlie Feldt
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Sarah Kalin
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Point University
Clayton State University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Military College
Georgia State University
Grand Canyon University
Mercer University – Department of Special Education
University of Georgia – Department of Special Education (Griffin)
University of Georgia – Department of Special Education (Athens)
University of West Georgia

Continual In-Kind Service Providers

Chick-fil-A Towne Center
Country Fried Creative
E.E. Armored Protection
Ennis Exterminating



“Before Reese started at JSS, she could barely talk, let alone speak to a stranger or greet someone. She is now a social butterfly. She greets and speaks to everyone she sees and loves to compliment people. She is so happy being able to communicate and learn about all the differences in the world.

Kim McDonald

Staff & Faculty

Administrative Team

Amy Murray, Executive Director
Danielle Clements, Principal
Amber Phillips, Assistant Principal
Lynda Price, Business Manager
Faith Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Instructional Support Team

Vicki Allen, Preschool and Pre-K
Lucy Barton, Primary
Leah Bear, Upper Collaborative
Joy Chapman, Primary
Debbie Clark, Upper School
Carly Gates, Elementary
Lisa Johnson, Upper School
Jamie Kitchens, Lower Collaborative
Heather Kontos, Physical Therapist Consultant
Carol McLain, ATLAS
Tekela Walker, Elementary

Fine Arts

Misty Lackey, Therapeutic Art Instructor
Madison Smith, Music Therapist

Fundraising & Development

Krista Massey

Speech and Language Team

Brooke Barnes, Speech/Language Pathologist
Payton Hoerner, Speech/Language Pathologist
Ellen Jeffers, Speech/Language Pathologist
Rhendi Finley, SLP Assistant
Alison Schmidt, SLP Assistant

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Elizabeth Duncan
Tasha Freeman
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Stacey Kinney
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Rashida Shamshad
Hailee Sieli
Christine Smith
Caroline Strickland
Sylvia Strickland

Team Assistants

Michael Crofton
Alex Goodman



The Joseph Sams School has changed our family's life forever. When my daughter started, she had lost most of her ability to walk due to her condition. Upon arriving to The Joseph Sams School, Jailyynn has made many strides, from going from a wheelchair to a walker to walking on her own, not to mention her ability to walk up and down stairs with assistance. Her personality has been elevated, and her confidence is through the roof! We love the staff and appreciate all that they do as a unit! My baby felt welcomed from day one, and I'm so grateful my family has made the sacrifice for her to attend The Joseph Sams School.

Alicia Bryant



“JSS has given my family HOPE and PEACE... Hope in knowing they all are in this marathon with my family to continue to pour so much love and support into Nicholas. We have peace of mind knowing Nicholas is safe and happy. He loves school; his energy is so good when we approach the drop-off line.

Lucretia Portwine



THE JOSEPH SAMSSCHOOL | 280 BRANDYWINE BOULEVARD | FAYETTEVILLE, GA 30214
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