

One of St. Joseph Catholic School's newest teachers proves his class is everything about . . .

ROCKET SCIENCE



Photo by Bailey Miller/The Bear Facts

Mr. John Banks, "Super B" to his students, prepares to launch a rocket made of two-liter soda bottles. The launch was an activity in Mr. Banks' physics class. Mr. Banks is one of several new teachers this year at St. Joe.

By BLAINE TURNER
The Bear Facts

As Mr. John Banks' B Period Physics students prepared to the launch their rockets on a cool Monday morning, many students filled with excitement in hopes that their rockets would successfully launch.

Mr. Banks, better known as "Super B" is one of the 13 new teachers this year at St. Joseph.

He has brought many changes and new approaches to the school, particularly the science department he now chairs.

So far this year, the 12-member physics class has completed a ball-dropping experiment, a cartwheel experiment and, most recently, the rocket project.

All were among the many experiments completed during the first quarter of Banks' physics class. Many more are planned for the rest

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of the school year.

One of the next experiments the class will complete will use solar ovens to cook hot dogs.

Mr. Banks has brought several changes to St. Joe this year – including the way students learn physics. He also plans to spruce up the school’s science department.

“This year’s physics class is really fun, and ‘Super B’ keeps his class very interesting and makes sure that all students participate and have fun while learning,” senior Amari Wells said.

In the B-period class, Mr. Banks makes his class more interesting by highlighting different colors for each

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*– Jonathan Banks,
science teacher*

week day. For example, Mr. Banks colors his hair pink on Monday; blue on Tuesday; and yellow, black, or white on Wednesday.

In addition to Banks’ approach to teaching, he also hopes to change more than just his classroom and the way his students learn. He plans to change the whole science department approach to teaching science.

“I am going to make regular drop-in observations of the teachers and their students in my department,” Mr. Banks said. “The purpose will be to promote continued good teaching and to give positive feedback.”

Mr. Banks also encourages other

teachers to get students to participate in the annual science fair on Jan. 18, 2018. For his physics students, a science fair project will be required.

Banks also hopes to get the feeder schools and the St. Joe community involved in science activities.

Mr. Banks wants to start a monthly science night during which students and community members will have a chance to look at the stars from the observatory and participate in other science activities.

He also plans to host a “Happy Haunted House” and a “Super B Productions Magic of Science” for the St. Joe feeder schools.