

Saint Joseph
Academy
Presents

The
Congressional
Soundbyte
Symposium

1-Minute
Answers
on
Topics

Asked
by
Bilingual
Students

from two
Countries

May 3, 2012

Saint Joseph Academy
Brownsville, TX



The Saint Joseph Academy Civics Youth Group cordially invites you to attend our inaugural

- “Congressional Soundbyte Symposium,” sponsored by the SJA Civics Youth Group and the Student Council.
- The symposium is scheduled for May 3 at our Student Center.
- The event is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. and will last approximately 50 minutes.

As you might know, St. Joseph Academy is a college preparatory, Catholic school serving students of the lower Rio Grande Valley and the Matamoros, Mexico, area. It was founded in 1865 by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In 1906, when Marist Brothers arrived from Mexico, the school became Marist.

This event designed to be a symposium, not a debate, during which, at the latter, candidates would present the affirmative and negative sides of an issue or proposition. The symposium dates back to Platonian times, when it was, literally, a drinking party for men of good families. Symposiums would take place on special occasions, such as the induction of a new young man or some sort of victory celebration. The men were free to express opinions in an orderly fashion. Today, the symposium is known as a conference or meeting to discuss a particular subject.

Our symposium will be run this way:

A theme will be presented – such as immigration or education or international trade or infrastructure -- and attendees will have one minute to respond. In the rare case a candidate attacks another candidate personally, the challenged candidate will be given a one-time, 15-second rebuttal.

Media coverage will be provided by the Hound Collar and Channel 23

reporter Matthew Searcy, an SJA alum. The “Hound Collar” is an online newspaper, updated daily, in order to inform SJA alumni around the globe about current events at our school. We also plan to publish a taped presentation on YouTube.

One theme -- border security -- will be presented in Spanish and, in a similar way, it is expected to be answered by all candidates in Spanish, too. It will be asked in Spanish, because of the large number of bilingual students at St. Joe and many of those cross the border, every day, to obtain an American education.

It is important to note, too, that while a number of the attending students are Mexican citizens and do not have opportunities to vote, they also have been educated in the U.S., many since kindergarten. Their parents, many of whom are businessmen and / or owners of maquiladoras with businesses that influence the economy of District 34.

The symposium will be attended by SJA juniors and seniors, many of whom are of voting age.

Also, please know, too, that these students will go home and inform their parents of their opinion about each candidate.

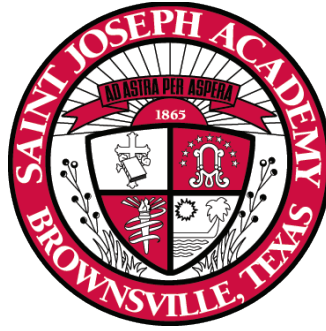
We sincerely hope you accept our invitation. If so, we ask you to arrive by 1:30.

- Due to seating limitations, we ask candidates to bring no more than two adults.
- Attached is the map of the school and the parking spaces designated for candidates.
- **If you have any questions, please contact...**

Leticia Davila
Moderator - Civics Youth Group
(956) 341-8136

Santiago Juarez
President - Civics Youth Group

Andres Cardenas
President - SJA Student Council



RULES OF THE GAME

- **1 Minute Answers**

- Signals will be given by the time keeper at :30 sec, :15 sec, and at STOP.
- After STOP you may only complete your sentence.

- **ALL Speakers will speak from the podium provided.**

- Any speaker making speeches outside the designated area will be asked to suspend participation in the event.

- **:15 Second Rebuttles**

- In case a candidate is attacked personally, the attacked candidate will have a one-time :15 sec rebuttle

- **Style of the Symposium**

- Students will present a topic.
- Candidates will have 1 minute to discuss the topic from their perspective.
- There will be no questions.

- **Language of the Symposium**

- One topic will be presented in Spanish
- Candidates will be expected to respond to the topic for one minute in Spanish.
- Candidates may read from a prepared statement.
- The Topic to be discussed in Spanish is:
“Border Security” - “Seguridad Fronteriza”

- All other topics will be presented and responded to in English.
- Topics to be discussed in English are:
Education | Infrastructure | Immigration | International Trade

- **This is a student led, student run event created for students by students.**

- Each candidate may bring two (2) adults with them to the event.
- The event venue is a closed private school campus and therefore does not allow general public supporters to attend.



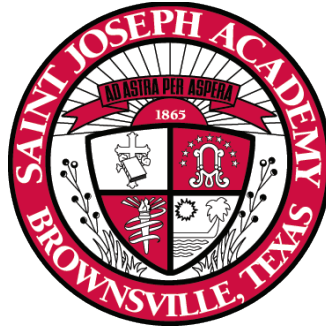
HOUND COLLAR INTERVIEW

• Candidate Interview

The Hound Collar cordially invites each congressional candidate to be interviewed.

The Hound Collar is St. Joseph Academy's student run newspaper that publishes online daily. Our goal is to collect a brief biography of each candidate through a 10-15 minute interview. These interviews will be published the day of the event. Questions will include background information, platform and experience. I invite you to contact me via the number below. Thank you again for taking the time to consider our invitation.

Shadia Ajam
Managing Editor
SJA Hound Collar
(956) 346-3953



YOU ARE INVITED TO A CANDIDATE RECEPTION

St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville Texas

will be hosting
a candidate reception
immediately following the

U.S. Congressional Soundbyte Symposium

**In the SJA
President's Reception Area**

Candidates and their two guests are cordially invited to interact with student leaders, many of whom are registered voters, and with faculty and staff.

Brother Richard Sharpe FMS
President / CEO
Saint Joseph Academy

Lucy Williams
Principal
Saint Joseph Academy



PRESS RELEASE

St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville Texas will be hosting an event, the Congressional Soundbyte Symposium on May 3, 2012. The event will begin at approximately 2:15 p.m.

All 8 democratic candidates and all 3 republican candidates from district 34 who are currently running for Congress have been invited to participate.

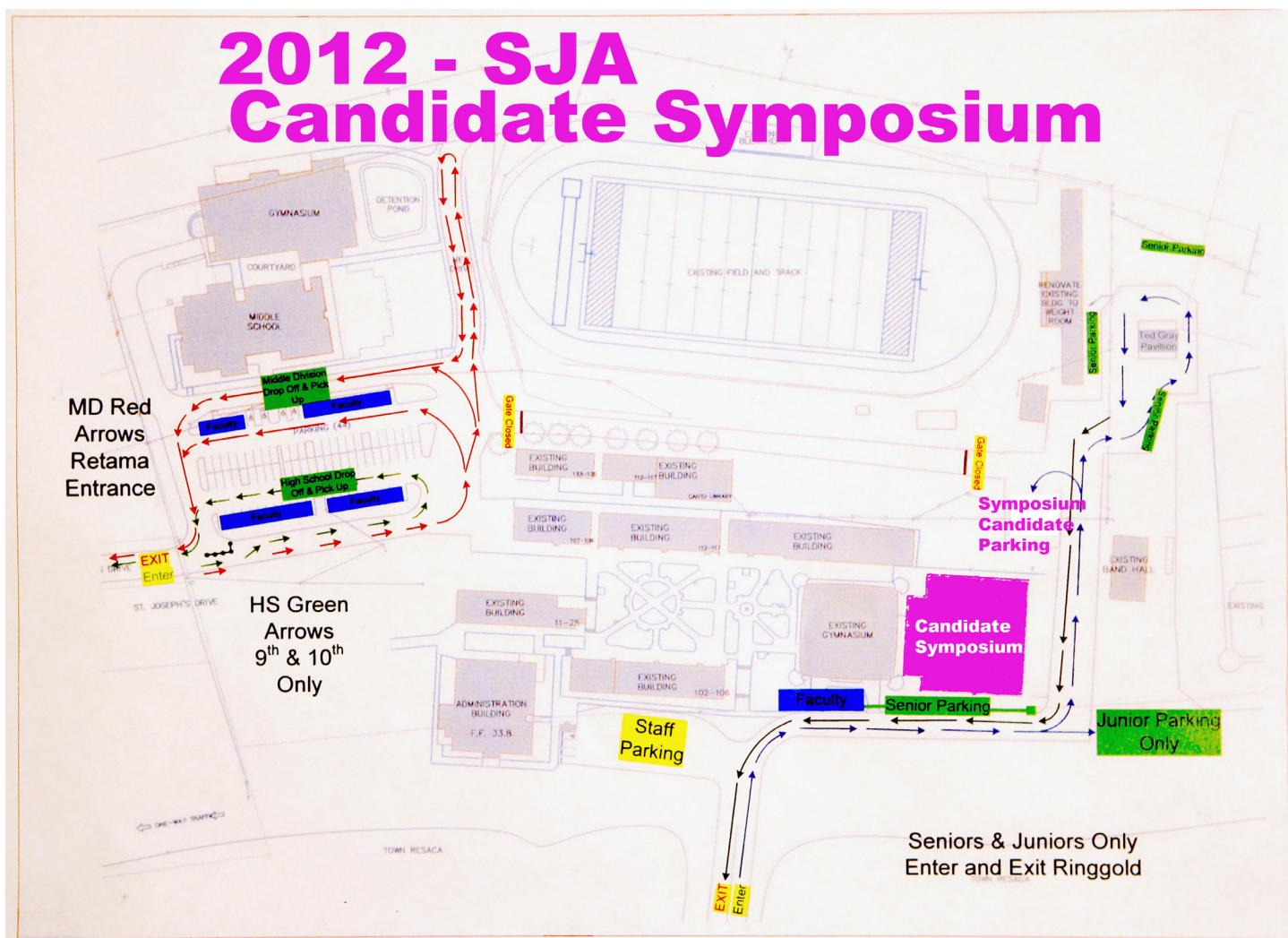
The symposium is also biligual, meaning that there will be questions asked in Spanish with the expectation that the candidates should give that answer in Spanish.

The reason the event is called a Soundbyte Symposium is because each candidate has approximately 1 minute to answer any question that is given.

Shadia Ajam
Managing Editor
SJA Hound Collar
(956) 346-3953



2012 - SJA Candidate Symposium



- **Off the Expressway: Exit Boca Chica**
- **Turn onto Palm Blvd.**
- **Turn right onto Ringold Street**
- **Enter Saint Joseph Academy through Main Gate**