



# SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH + FAMILY + RESPONSIBILITY + RESPECT

525 E. 14th Street + Crete, NE 68333 + 402-826-2318

Dear Parents,

August 16, 2019

Welcome to a new school year! It is a joy to have your children with us again and we thank you for entrusting them to our care. The faculty and staff are so happy to have the children back at school. Everyone is off to a great start! A very special welcome to our new students and families. We have 110 children this year which is the highest opening enrollment in the past five years. More children are having the opportunity to grow up knowing Jesus and the Church He established. Such good news!

Though today is the very first day for your children, the teachers have long been at work preparing their rooms and lessons. They have also had many professional development opportunities over the summer. Some attended the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and others attended sessions on techniques for teaching reading skills. I am very proud of our teachers. Many of you were able to greet them at our Open House on Wednesday morning and I hope you will be able to attend our upcoming Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 27 at 6:30 pm. This evening provides another opportunity for you to know your children's teachers and how you might support them at home.

As noted in the summer mailing, we will focus in on practicing **virtue** this year. It seems I cannot read often enough these words below from St. John Chrysostom.

"When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving, to be generous, to love others, we instill virtue in their souls and reveal the image of God within them. This, then is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgement-seat?" St. John Chrysostom

Please pray and work with us so that we may indeed educate ourselves and our children in this godliness of which St. John speaks. We will take the plunge at once and study the virtue of charity. For homework this weekend, see if you and your children can memorize these definitions. You might then talk together about people you know who you believe to be virtuous and charitable.

### **Definitions to memorize:**

**Virtue:** A virtue is a good habit.

**Charity:** Charity is one of the three theological virtues in which we love God with all our heart, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

I could talk for a long time and give many examples of the virtue of charity that I see so frequently in you parents. May God continue to bless you and your families as we begin this new school year!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

## Coming Home Today in the Communication Envelope:

Parent Student Handbook  
Updated School Calendar  
Emergency Parent Contact Form  
iPad Acceptable Use Policy  
Hot Lunch Free and Reduced Forms  
Hot Lunch Menu  
Medication Authorization Form  
Student Allergy/Action Plan  
Parent Volunteer Form  
\$crip Order Form  
Crete Park and Rec. Fliers  
Box tops for Education Fliers  
Boy Scouts Fliers

## Upcoming Dates

August 26 – Vision and Hearing Screening  
August 26 – 1:20 pm dismissal  
August 27 – Back to School Night at 6:30 pm  
September 2 – No School – Labor Day

**Prayer to Saint James** St. James the Greater, patron of our school, enkindle in our hearts the same burning love you had for our Lord. May we answer His call, as you did, to be “fishers of men”. May we possess your zeal for Christ, a love that led you to be the first Apostle to die for the faith. Protect, direct and bless our school family. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Back to School Night** Be sure to attend Back to School Night this coming Tuesday, August 27. We will have a brief SFA meeting in the new parish hall beginning at 6:30 PM after which you may visit your children’s classrooms and learn about all the good things the teachers have planned for the year. Last year we had close to 80% of all our families attend! Baby-sitting will be provided.

**Volunteering at St. James School?** Please make sure that you’ve completed the online [Safe Environment Training](#) and have filled out a *background check form*. *Information can be found in the school office if you are unsure whether you can volunteer. If you completed these last year, you do not need to complete them again!*

**SCRIP:** SCRIP is a great fundraiser for St. James School and is easy to do on your part. Please consider using SCRIP for all your shopping needs. You purchase gift cards at face value and the school gains a percentage from each of your purchases. We have many vendors in stock for you to select from. We can also order something for you if we don’t have it on hand. Orders can be filled in the school office during school hours.

**Tardy/Absence Policy:** To be on time, your child must arrive at school by 8:05 am. If you arrive after 8:10 a.m. please walk your child (K-6) into church; do not have them wait alone in front of school. If you are going to be late or have a sick child, please call the school office to let us know. If we notice that your child is absent and we do not know why we will call you to confirm their absence.

**Sick child?** If your child shows symptoms of being ill (fever, vomiting, etc.) they should be kept home until they are free of these symptoms for 24 hours without the aid of medication.