



October 2, 2019

Dear Parents,

Today!! Scarlett Lewis will be presenting to the faculty and staff of St. James today after school from 3:45 – 5:15 pm in the parish hall. Scarlett Lewis is the founder of a social emotional learning program called *Choose Love*. As a mother of a child victim in the Sandy Hook tragedy, Scarlett has a powerful message to bring to us. I also invited representatives from the Crete Public School to attend as we care for all children. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please note, however, that we will not be providing babysitting because I want all the school personnel to attend. This session is for adults only.

Tomorrow!! Welcome to Parent Teacher Conferences time! St. James parents always do a tremendous job in attending and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow, Thursday, October 3 from 9:00 – 12:00 pm, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, and 6:00 – 8:00 pm. If you have forgotten your time, please call the office at (402) 826-2318. Below are some helpful tips for parents regarding conferences. I found these notes in one of my folders and am not sure whether I wrote them myself or borrowed them from another source. In either case, I think they have some helpful information for conference time.

Be willing and ready to share information about your child and family. Families are the most important influence in a child's life. You know your child better than anyone else and have valuable insights to share with the teacher. Share things about your child's life at home—personality traits, challenges, habits, friends, hobbies, and talents. Focus on the things you believe the teacher needs to know. What kinds of things do you enjoy doing with your child? How do siblings relate to their brother/sister and vice versa? What kind of discipline do you use? What are your dreams for your child? What are your concerns?

Stay focused on your child. In our childhood, some of us might have been shy students who avoided the teacher's gaze. Others were very active and seemed to always need the teacher's help to stay on task. It is natural for our ideas about teachers and their role to be shaped by our own experiences. Think about, and then put aside, your personal past experiences as a student. Stay focused on your child and his or her unique temperament, individual needs, and special interests.

Attend every parent-teacher conference. If your work schedule makes it difficult to meet during regular hours, make this clear to the teacher and try to set up a meeting time that is good for both of you. If you can't visit in person, schedule a telephone call to discuss your child's progress. Whether in person or by phone, use the conference as a time to exchange information with the teacher and discuss ways to work together to enhance your child's education.

Arrive on time. Teachers usually have a tight schedule for conferences—typically 10 minutes per child and family. If you would like additional time to talk, ask for it ahead of time so you and the teacher will have plenty of time to discuss your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Be considerate of other parents whose conferences will take place after yours. Remember that the teacher needs a few minutes between conferences to record the information shared and to prepare for the next parent.

Be prepared. You might think about or write down one or two questions to ask the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the most important question first, in case time runs out.

Keep the conversation focused on what can be done for your child. When there are problems, both teachers and parents need to stay calm and work together for the best interest of the child.

Each year after conferences are finished, the teachers and I visit. Inevitably the teachers express how glad they are to have the conferences. In meeting with the parents, the teachers feel they come to know and understand their students even better. Thank you for making the time to come and talk with your child's teachers!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

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.

No School: School will not be in session on Friday, October 4, or Monday, October 14.

Safe the Date: Sunday, October 27th Celebration of the Saints with the Sisters at Villa Regina Motherhouse

Volunteering at St. James School? The diocese has a new requirement. Every volunteer must complete the Safe Environment Training every year. Even if you have taken this before, you need to do it once again this year.

Coming Home Today in the Communication Envelope:

Scrip Order form

Tuition Envelope

Parent Teacher Conference Reminder Slip

Health Screening

Doane Homecoming flier

School Sister of Christ the King Workday flier

School Sister of Christ the King Celebration of the Saints flier