



**SAINT JAMES**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH † FAMILY † RESPONSIBILITY † RESPECT

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

Dear Parents,

January 8, 2020

Welcome back to a happy new year and to a happy new semester at St. James School. What is so new? First, we have had two wonderful new children join us and a possible third one is on the way. We welcome Ninah Hobbs and Anabelle Wagoner to our St. James School Family. Our total enrollment for grades Pre-K through 6 is now 109 magnificent children from 70 different families. We are so happy to have each child with us. They are precious in God's eyes and in ours.

Second, we adults of the St. James School Family are about to embark upon a new adventure called strategic planning. At our upcoming School Family Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, we will explain in detail the various facets of the strategic planning process. We hope that every family will have at least one parent at the meeting. Two is even better! The school will provide babysitting so you can more easily attend. We will have headphones available to make the English-to-Spanish translation flow smoothly. Parishioners and community members who support the mission of St. James School (to provide a Christ-centered education) are also encouraged to attend. If you care, we want you there!

Strategic planning means that we value your thoughts and ideas and that we need your help to make our school the best it can be. Before Christmas break, we sent out a survey asking your opinion on how well the school was doing in educating the children spiritually, academically, and socially. At the January 21 meeting, Eva Fujan, our strategic planning leader, will share the results of the surveys, which over 60% of our parents thus far have completed. (I am excited to see the results myself as no one but Eva has been privy to the answers.) She will also explain the next steps in what we will do with these results. If you would still like to take the survey, you may do so by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STJAMESCRETE> or asking the school office for a copy.

We are entering the strategic planning process for multiple reasons. We want to take an honest look at our strengths and make them even better. We want to take an honest look at our weaknesses and do something about them. We want to get creative and reach for the heavens! What would the ideal 2020 Catholic elementary school look like in Jesus' eyes? How can we take some steps together to become that school?

We want to hear the ideas and hopes of everyone involved with the school both past and present. We also want some team leaders. If you would like to be a part of the strategic planning leadership team, please ask the office for an application. The larger the variety and experiences of the leadership members, the better for the whole school.

New beginnings are a gift from God. Let us ask Him to bless our new semester, our new adventure of strategic planning, and most of all our ever new 109 irreplaceable children for whom St. James School exists.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

### **Important Dates**

January

- 08 Report Cards come home
- 13 1:20 pm dismissal – Faculty Meeting
- 14 First Penance Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
- 21 SFA Meeting – 6:30 pm

**Textbook Loan Forms:** There is a very fast turnaround for the textbook loan papers this year. **Please sign your papers today and return them tomorrow.** This enables the school to receive Music, Math, Social Studies and Science textbooks for your children.

**SFA Meeting:** Please plan to attend the January 21 SFA meeting beginning at 6:30 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. At this meeting we will explain the Strategic Planning process and also give an update on the Good Shepherd Scholarship program. It is an important meeting and we need all who care about our school to be present. Babysitting will be provided.

**Calendar Lottery:** We are looking for parents to help with the Calendar Lottery which is the main fundraiser for our school. The jobs are not complicated. If interested, please contact the school 402 826-2318 or Anne Hobbs at 402-321-6697.

**SCRIP:** We hope that every school family and all school faculty and staff purchases SCRIP at least for your grocery and gas needs.

**Christmas Programs:** Special thanks for Mrs. Karla Tranmer and Mrs. Shannon Ward for the fabulous Pre-K and grade school Christmas programs!

**School Closings:** St. James School will follow the Crete Public Schools for school closings and late start days due to dangerous weather conditions. Call School Closing (402) 826-7890 or, in Spanish, School Closing: (402) 826-7888. If the message says that Crete Public Schools are closed or have a late start due to inclement weather, know that the same is true for St. James School. Our announcement will also be on KLNK-TV Channel 8 and KOLN.KGIN TV Channel 10/11.

**COMING HOME:** Textbook loan papers, tuition envelopes, and Scrip Order forms.