



SAINT JAMES

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH + FAMILY + RESPONSIBILITY + RESPECT

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

Dear Parents,

November 18, 2020

It has been a busy time in the education world these last two weeks. Crete Public Schools announced that they would be taking off November 23 and 24 for extra teacher planning time. I can understand how this would be a good decision for CPS.

St. James School is in a different situation, however. We currently have only one student quarantining and all our faculty and staff are here and healthy. At present, we have no cases of students or faculty with COVID-19. Therefore, St. James plans to continue with our regular schedule. **St. James will have school on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24.** Parents of children who ride the bus, please make arrangements for transportation. There will be no CCLC these days. We will be off for Thanksgiving break from November 25 – 29. School resumes again on Monday, November 30.

Crete Public School recently sent home a digital equity survey. St. James is doing the same. The Nebraska Department of Education requested this survey of all public and private schools. Please fill this out today by clicking on these links. [Spanish Survey](#) [English Survey](#) Please complete the survey even if you already filled one out for CPS. We need to account for all our families. We are sending home a hard copy, but would prefer you take the survey online if you are able to do so. It should take ten minutes or less.

Even though the survey inquires about your digital access at home, this does not mean that we are planning on distance learning. It is a precaution. St. James School plans to stay open with children in the building as long as it is reasonably safe to do so. Even if Crete Public School were to decide to educate completely online, St. James could and may stay in session with children in our building. We would choose to do so if our faculty and staff remained well and if we would not cause harm to the community. We are a smaller school and that makes a big difference in lessening the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile you can help keep our school open for children. Please keep your children home if they or anyone in the household are showing symptoms (fever, cough, loss of smell and taste, etc.,) They should remain home until which time, after being tested, you are sure it is not COVID. Overall, I think our parents have been doing a very good job monitoring and keeping children home if there is any doubt. We appreciate how quickly you have them or other family members tested so we can be sure we are not dealing with COVID-19. Thank you for your morning calls to the office which let us know what is happening. You are being thoughtful of the whole school family and wider community.

With the above said, we have some happy things coming up soon.

- Tuesday, November 24 will be a jeans and T-shirt day. Please make sure clothing is appropriate.
- Friday, December 4: St. Nicolas will visit the school bringing treats for the children.
- Wednesday, December 16 is the **Pre-K and Kindergarten Christmas program**. We hope to have it live but may need to go online. Times are 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 pm. If live, we would be very

careful with spacing and seating arrangements and tape the program for those not able to attend.

- Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 pm is the 1st – 6th grade program. Once again, we hope to have it live but may need to go online. If live, each family would be limited to two attendees. The children would perform the program twice with one half of the audience being present for the first performance in the parish hall and the other half having a chance to spend some time in church before the Blessed Sacrament. In Church, there would be instrumental music, an opportunity for confessions, and a peaceful atmosphere for prayer. After the first performance, which would last just 25 minutes, the adults would exchange places. We have 50 school families from our 1st through 6th grades. Counting faculty and staff, this means that at most 60 adults will be present in the parish hall and 60 in Church. We would tape the program for those not able to attend. All would be required to wear masks. Again, it may need to be only online. We will make our final decision soon after Thanksgiving break. Your opinion on the choice would be welcome.
- Friday, December 18 is our last day of school before Christmas break. Parents and children are invited to a miniature Las Posadas from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. Once again, we will be careful with numbers and seating arrangements. More information on the Las Posada will be coming soon.

Whichever way we finally decide regarding the Christmas programs, we will do our very best to hand on these treasured traditions of our faith. May God bless you!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

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