



Dear Parents,

April 14, 2021

Blessed Easter: The octave of Easter saw all kinds of classroom celebrations at St. James. I think my favorite was the second and third graders' resurrection rolls. The children wrapped bread dough around butter-and-sugar dipped marshmallows. The rolls became hollow when baked and made a splendid representation of the empty tomb. The children certainly loved learning how to bake, share, and eat these Easter treats.

ITBS test Scores: The third through sixth grade results are back from the standardized tests taken in March.

83% of our children scored in the average range or higher in English Language Arts. This included areas of reading comprehension, grammar, writing composition and spelling. 17% of our children scored below average.

81% of our children scored in the average range or higher in Math which included computation, graphing, geometry, and reasoning skills. 19% of our children scored below average.

Our children did well, especially considering this year of COVID-19 in which many students had to quarantine. We are grateful to God for the gift of learning and for our teachers who work so hard for the children.

2021-2022 School Year Calendar Dates: While the official calendar is sent to you in May, we can share with you these important dates for your planning purposes:

August 13, 2021	9:00 – 12:00 pm.	Open House and Pictures
August 16, 2021	8:05 – 3:20 pm	Opening day of School PreK – 6 th grade
December 22 – January 4		Christmas Break
May 24		Last day of School

Calendar Lottery Thank you for selling tickets. **All tickets must be turned in to the school office by this Friday, April 16 at the very latest.** The drawing takes place on Sunday, April 18.

A Peek at Your St. James Teachers' Summer Professional Development: Our teachers love to keep learning how to better teach your children. This summer Mrs. Karla Tranmer and Mrs. Megan Vasa will attend a workshop for early childhood teachers. I hope to join them too.

The **Topics** include...

- a. Heart-Centered Teaching
- b. Whole Child Development
- c. Child Brain Development
- d. Student Behavior – Impacts of Trauma, Anxiety, and Stress on Young Children
- e. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

A Peek at Your St. James Teachers' Summer Professional Development cont.:

Some of the teachers in grades 1-6 will be attending the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education's National Convention which will be held in St. Paul Minnesota. Teachers from around the country will come together to deepen their understanding of the nature and purpose of Catholic education and its roots in the classical liberal arts tradition. The theme of the conference is *Regaining a Catholic Vision in a Secular Age*. Teachers will be able to choose from among forty different breakout sessions some of which include:

- "The Power of Memorized Language"
- "Struggling Students in the Classical Liberal Arts School: Personalism and Self-Knowledge in the Learning Services Room"
- "The Importance of Latin for the Church and the World"
- "Introducing New Faculty to a Liberal Arts School Using a Strong Philosophy of Education"
- "Seminars as the Seedbed of Culture"
- "The Role and Practice of Logic in the Classical Curriculum"
- "Homer, Dostoevsky, and the Beatific Vision"
- "Living the Liturgical Year in the Classroom"
- "Closing the Gap: Reading, Writing, and Speaking"
- School Leaders Roundtable and Grade Level Teacher Presentations

Others of our teachers will be attending the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education's Spirit and Craft workshop in Nashville, Tennessee. This week of learning is a hands-on, sequential program which immerses teachers in the theory and practice of classical liberal arts pedagogy or instruction. Our teachers will be able to explore seven educational principles that can be used in any subject and at any grade level.

We are grateful to our School Family Association (SFA) for financing a significant portion of these professional development opportunities for our teachers! Hooray for the SFA!

SFA Meeting: Please join us on Tuesday, April 27 at 6:30 pm for the final School Family Meeting of the year. We have much to share about the year and the year to come. Baby sitting will be provided.

Fun! Fun! Fun! As the risk dial continues to stay low and the end of the year approaches, we are planning to have field trips, Pioneer Day, May Crowning, the Spring Program, 6th Grade Promotion, and more. Information will be coming your way soon.

Coming Home Today:

- Tuition Envelopes
- Scrip Order Form
- School Sister of Christ the King Workday Flier

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.