



SAINT JAMES

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH + FAMILY + RESPONSIBILITY + RESPECT

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

+
J.M.J.A.

Dear Parents

September 6, 2023

Practicing safety drills has been a custom in American schools for decades. Parents who attended elementary school in the USA probably remember having fire drills. If you lived in the Midwest, you probably had tornado drills too. I imagine that back in the 1800s Nebraska teachers practiced “blizzard drills” with their children. In our time, along with 10 fire drills and 2 tornado drills each year, we practice violent intruder drills twice each year.

Last week I met with Officer Jonas from the Crete Police to go over our violent intruder plan which she approved. She, or another available officer, will be present when we practice with the children this fall. Our faculty and staff make it a priority to be calm and peaceful when we have these practices. We do not want to burden the children with unnecessary anxiety or fear, yet we want to be reasonably prepared. After the practices (only two per year), we get right back to the normal school routine or do something light hearted. If ever you would like to talk with me about how we go about these practices, please give me a call and I would be more than happy to explain.

One aspect of the plan which Officer Jonas and I changed was the relocation point. Previously we had chosen the Crete Public Library, but this location involves our children crossing the busy Highway 33. In the very unlikely event of our children needing to run from danger in the building, I do not want them to have to cross that highway. Therefore, upon Officer Jonas’ recommendation, we chose the Wanek Community Center at 1410 Main Ave. Our children can access this building by going straight down 14th street. The walk is close enough even for our youngest preschoolers. The building has the capacity to hold our whole school and contains restrooms and a kitchen if ever the stay were prolonged. There is a parking lot next to the building along with a side door entry for reunification with children.

There is a strategic process to this reunification and we would like to practice this with some volunteer parents in October. A volunteer form will be sent to you in an upcoming newsletter. For now, the important thing for you to know as parents is that we do have an approved plan and that our new reunification point is at the Wanek Community Center at 1410 Main Ave.

To end this newsletter on a far different and much more joyful note, we have something beautiful coming up soon! On Sunday, September 24 from 10:00 - 11:30 am and then from 12:30 – 1:00 pm, St. James is holding an Open House so that parishioners, benefactors, and neighbors may see our newly renovated school. Many of you have been in the building for Back to School Night, but you have not seen all of the new paintings and interior décor, some of which is still being delivered. We are hoping to have it all ready for you by the 24th. Teachers will be stationed in the hallways to give explanations about the paintings. There will be coffee and rolls available in the parish hall and a special presentation in honor of John and Anna Mae Buser (the renovation’s primary benefactors) at 10:30 am. Please feel free to invite friends to come along, especially if they have children of elementary school age. We believe so much in the goodness of St James School and would like as many Catholic or Christian children as possible to come to our school. To know the Lord as a child and to begin to receive all the splendors of His love is a magnificent gift. We hope our renovated school in some way reflects this beautiful gift, which we would like to offer to the children of Crete.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Congratulations Thank you to the many fourth grade parents who applied for the John and Marlene Bals scholarship. The committee met and chose the scholarship winner. This family has been notified. If any other scholarships come available, we will be sure to let you know.

Picture Retakes: Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, September 21.

CK Sisters Outdoor Fall Workday

Sat., September 30, 1:30-4:30 p.m. We will be planting trees, mulching, cleaning up our vegetable garden and cutting trees. Helpful items to bring include shovels, work gloves, wheelbarrows, pickups and chainsaws. Children are also welcome – and can use this for service hours! Mark your calendars now and contact Sister Mary Angela at sr.mary-angela@cdolinc.net if you would like to come and help. Please also print and complete a liability [form](#) (one per adult; children added to adult form.) Villa Regina Motherhouse, 4100 SW 56th St., about 2 miles west and south of Pioneers Park. (Walk-ins also welcome.)

Parent-Teacher Conferences: St. James School will send out a sign-up link for Parent-Teacher Conferences which will be held on Thursday, October 5. You may also come into the school office to sign up for your conference.

Coming Home Today: Family Directory, CK Workday Flyer, Girls Scout Flyer

