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J.M.J.A.

Dear Parents,

March 6, 2024

Teachers, to be joyful, competent, and vivacious instructors, must continue to learn about their profession. Our weekly Monday faculty meetings have provided a golden opportunity for this professional development. Either I, or one of our teachers have led most of the sessions sharing articles, books, and the best of our own experience. We have also benefitted from several outside professionals coming in to teach the group. Each session lasts an hour with about ten minutes reserved for announcements and miscellaneous items. I thought you might be interested in some of the topics we have covered so far this year.

- Sacramental Imagination and Catholic World View (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)
- Classroom Management Techniques (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- Characteristics of a Catholic Classroom (Sister Mary Alma, C.K. and Mr. Christopher Teixeira)  
\*calm, organized, welcoming, invigorating, active, strategic, collaborative, obedient, frugal
- Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- Forming Family Spirit through *Communio* groups (Mr. Teixeira, Mrs. Talkington, and Sister Peter Marie, C.K.)
- Christ-Centered Classroom/Christian Anthropology (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)
- Memory, Imagination, and Resilience (A video presentation by Dr. Andrew Pudewa from the Institute for Excellence in Writing)
- Review of Emergency Procedures/Standard Response Protocol/Violent Intruder Protocol (Sister Mary Alma, C.K. with advice from Officer Dawn Jonas of the Crete Police)
- Responding to Seizures (Kathy Hoebelheinrich, RN)
- Using Dictation to Enhance Spelling (Sister Mary Guadalupe, C.K.)
- Apple TV and Math Flashcards in the Classroom (Mrs. Shannon Ward)
- Catholic Philosophy of Elementary Education (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- The Benefits of Narration (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- The Formative Gains of Reading Quality Children's Literature (Video lecture from Christendom College)
- Review of the MTSS Process (Sister Mary Alma, C.K. with advice from Katie Bevins of Crete Public School)
- Review of Reunification Plan and Walk to New Location (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- Advent as a Season of Longing (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- Teaching with Artwork (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)
- Brainstorming Behavior Goals (Mental Health Professional Michael Renner from Crete Public Schools)
- Behavior Goal Writing (Mental Health Professional Michael Renner from Crete Public Schools)
- Deeper Questioning and Meaningful Discussions (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)

- Recitation, Copywork, Rendering, Dictation, Narration, *Imitatio*, and Re-enactment (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)
- Great Questions and Polite Habits of Listening, Agreeing, and Disagreeing in Book Discussions (Sister Mary Alma, C.K.)
- Coming up March 11: Subject Integration: (Sister Mary Gabriel, C.K. of the Diocesan Education Office)

\*Learning meaningful and authentic ways to integrate content across subject areas and how this integration aids in education the whole person.

I want to thank all our parents for making the special arrangements necessary for the one-hour Monday early dismissals which enable us to have these meetings. Several faculty members have commented on how helpful they are and we hope to do this again next year. We offer special gratitude to our team of parents who stay after school on Mondays with the CCLC children.

St. James parents, you have given a great gift to the school’s faculty and children!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

**Pre-K Open House:** If your child will be 3 or 4 years old by July 31, 2024 he or she is eligible for St. James Little Apostles Pre-K. Come to our **Open House today, Wednesday, March 6 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.** See the classroom, learn about our program, and meet Mrs. Tranmer our wonderful Pre-K teacher!

**No Afternoon Bus or CCLC:** Crete Public School is dismissing early on Thursday, March 7 and perhaps Friday, March 8 due to the State Basketball games. Go Cardinals! We hope you win! St. James will have regular 3:20 dismissal on both these day. There will be no afternoon bus or CCLC program on Thursday, March 7. If the team wins on Thursday, there will be no afternoon bus or CCLC program on Friday, March 8.

**Calendar Lottery:** Please see the enclosed information regarding are main school fundraiser! We are counting on all of you to sell the tickets. Thank you for helping our school!

**Good Shepherd Scholarships:** The deadline for these scholarship is fast approaching. We would like all applications completed by March 8 if possible. This gives us a few days in case some part of the application is missing. The absolute final day with no exceptions is March 31. You should qualify if your income falls in the range on the chart below. Please don’t wait. To apply for Good Shepherd go to:

% Poverty Level	
Family Size	225%
2	\$44,370
3	\$55,935
4	\$67,500
5	\$79,065
6	\$90,630
7	\$102,195
8	\$113,760
9	\$125,325
10	\$136,890

<https://www.st-james-crete.org/parents/grants-and-scholarships/>

If you need assistance, school personnel are happy to help you complete the application.

**Stations of the Cross** with the school children will be held in the Church at 2:20 p.m. on the upcoming Fridays of March 8, 15. On March 22, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will present “Living Stations of the Cross.” You are very welcome to join us.

**Coming Home Today:** Calendar Lottery Information, School Registration for 2024-2025, Hot Lunch Balances, Tuition Reminders ( if needed).

**Important Upcoming Dates:** March 13 Confirmation Retreat Day, March 14 Confirmation 7:00 pm  
 March 19 SFA Meeting 6:30 pm – Smart Gen! March 28, 29 Holy Thursday and Good Friday ( No school)  
 April 3 School Resumes