



Dear Parents,

October 16, 2024

Thank you to all who attended the SFA meeting last evening. You asked thoughtful questions regarding both the scholarship programs and the school's behavior management plan. It was an engaging and interactive evening!

I would like to say a little bit more regarding our behavior program. If a student is showing behaviors that are disruptive, the teacher first will use regular classroom management techniques to redirect the student. Usually, a teacher will try a nonverbal redirection first such as:

1. The Teacher Look - pausing and looking directly at the student for a few sustained moments
2. Proximity - moving closer to the student

If more is needed than these nonverbals, the teacher goes to a spoken redirection which should be quick, calm, and firm. Example, "I see you are having trouble standing in line. Can you keep your hands to yourself even though it may be hard?"

If the misbehavior continues even after a spoken redirection, the student is asked to move to the Safe Seat. As mentioned last evening, the Safe Seat is another seat located in the classroom. It allows the student to continue learning with their classmates and teacher. The purpose is to provide a place where the student can calm down, refocus, and get back on track. A student usually stays in the Safe Seat for the length of a learning activity. For PK, K, and 1st grade students, it may be as short as 3 -10 minutes. For 5th and 6th grade students, it is often around 15-25 minutes. When a student is sent to the Safe Seat, it is expected that the teacher will follow up and kindly problem solve with the student.

Parents, please do not be upset if you learn that your child is sent to the Safe Seat on occasion. We do not want the students to feel like they are in trouble, but rather to know that we care about their success and are trying to keep them out of trouble. If your child is showing a pattern of being in the Safe Seat, we will contact you and together plan for the next steps of what will be helpful for your child's positive behavioral development.

A student may also ask or choose to go to the Safe Seat. This is a good thing! It is often a sign that the student is becoming aware of their own emotions and needs and is choosing a positive way to help themselves.

The goal of our program is that the children are strengthened to use their free will for the good. We want them empowered to make good choices even if they are angry, even if they feel lazy, or even if others are making poor choices. Children who develop these capabilities at a young age will be all the happier in high school and in their adult life. They might even develop heroic virtue for the Saints had these very qualities! May God bless all our St. James students!

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Eucharistic Revival: “The Holy Eucharist is the perfect expression of the love of Jesus Christ for man.” – Saint Maria Goretti

“In an ever-changing world the Holy Eucharist is a constant reminder of the great reality of God’s changeless love.” – Saint Teresa of Avila

Scholarships: Parents, would you like to have no more tuition payments this year? If you already have a scholarship, would you like to help the school and parish in a big way? It could really be possible, but we must act within the next 5 days. Application link <https://nebraska.withodyssey.com/login/>

Book Sale Report: We sold many wonderful books 😊 and now we have \$803.33 which we can use for new books for the school library! Thank you, parents, for your support. Special thanks to Mrs. Cervený for organizing and hosting the I55 book sale.

October 22 First Penance Meeting for parents of children in 2nd grade. 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

October 31 The first graders present the “All Saints Parade” 1:15 pm. Parents are welcome.

Mission Carnival follows at 1:45 in the parish hall. Parents are welcome.

Coming Home today:

LB1402 – Odyssey Scholarship Flyer

Nebraska Catholic Conference Flyer against LB439