



SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH † FAMILY † RESPONSIBILITY † RESPECT

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

Dear Parents,

June 26, 2026

We have a new pastor at Sacred Heart Church and that means the school has a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) who needs to know all about St. James. How do I put into words all that this little grade school means to families, to the parish, to the community? How do I explain the love within my own heart, a love which I believe somehow comes from God, for the children, present and past, and all who are a part of St. James?

St. James seems to me like the Israelites of old. They were the smallest of nations, quite stubborn, and yet always the apple of God's eye, His darling, His favorite, His treasured possession and the one nation chosen to bring salvation to all. Deut. 7:6, 14:12, 26: 18-19, 32: 9-10, Ps:135:4, Is: 41: 8-9. 42:6, Gen. 12: 2-3

God formed the Israelites in the desert, a barren and harsh land, and led them through difficult trials of hunger, thirst, poisonous serpents, and battle. Spiritually speaking, the landscape of our nation is the same. If knowledge and love of God are food and drink, our land is famished and parched. If temptation and sin are snake and sword, our children and youth are bitten and pierced.

No matter, however, for day and night God stayed with the Israelites feeding them, leading them, teaching them, forgiving them, healing them, and forming them until they were strong enough to recognize and love Him, the one true God. Once they knew Him, false gods were discarded as so much rubbish. Knowledge of God was itself an interior entrance into the "Promised Land." They crossed over into joy. That is what mattered!

Such is what I believe God desires and continues to do with our little St. James "Israelites." The desert still surrounds our St. James children, just like the children in other non-Catholic schools. Our children too are tempted. Our children too fall into ugly sin. Our children too, like the Israelites, are at times slow to learn and stubbornly refuse correction. The difference is that God is continually here with our children at St. James. He feeds them each morning at daily Mass with the Sacred Scriptures and with the Eucharist. He teaches them in Religion class, the most treasured lesson of the day. He teaches them through all our carefully chosen curriculum which purposely focuses on that which is true, good, and beautiful and vigilantly guards against that which is not. He heals them in the sacrament of Penance and through the daily interactions with a community on the same journey. He is in the hearts of the leaders, the St. James faculty and staff who, though not perfect, firmly believe and deeply love Him and desire the children to know and love Him.

God had a great purpose for His little Israelites. The benefits He gave to them He wanted to give to all. They were to be a light to the nations! Through them, the world was to come to know God. Through them, the Messiah was to come and bring salvation. Likewise, I believe God has a great purpose and plan for the children who attend St. James. They, though so small, are His chosen ones. They are to carry His love, His hope and His salvation to all they encounter.

What would Crete be like, without St. James? Some would say, "Few would even notice if St. James were gone." I think many ancient civilizations would have said the same about the Israelites, if they even knew they existed. If this were their thoughts, however, they would have been greatly and gravely mistaken. No other nation in all of history has ever done so much good for the world. John 4:22 The same is true, I believe, of our St. James School. We cannot even begin to comprehend the good it has done and has yet to do for the world. It is ineffably precious and needed.

May the Lord our God always keep St. James as the apple of His eye, stay with us each moment as we journey through the desert to the Promised Land, and make us a light to the nations!

In the Heart of Chris the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

PS I did not even have to explain this to Father Daro. He already had it firmly in his own good heart.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Big New Projects Underway at St. James School!



New Schoolyard: The schoolyard and playground area are getting a makeover. During the second week of June, twenty-four parent and parish volunteers, along with youth alumni, helped shovel out the pea rocks under the playground equipment and shovel in over 10,000 pounds of green rubber mulch. The whole area now has a deep cushion which should really help soften the impact of any falls. It also looks beautiful!

By the beginning of the school year, we plan to have a new sod field

complete with a sprinkler system. Work on this part of our project should begin around mid-July. Special thanks go to Dennis Bargman, Norm Pavlish, and Jerry Wessel for their hours of work organizing and seeing the playground and schoolyard project through to the end. Thank you to all who helped by raking, shoveling, laying and cutting the cloth, hammering in the borders, and supplying donuts!

New Safety Feature: While schoolyard improvements are quite visible, an invisible safety improvement already happened during the last week of May. We had safety shield film placed on the north and south classroom windows and entry doors, as well as the cafeteria windows. You won't be able to see any difference unless you look carefully for the sealant around the frames, but every window and door mentioned above is covered. The purpose of the safety shield film is to protect against severe weather and accidents involving broken glass and to keep anyone with ill intent from vandalism or easy access to the building. Another nice bonus is that it shields UV rays.

New Uniform Guidelines: Our new uniform company is Schoolbelles. As always, you can purchase navy, white, or maroon polos and navy and khaki pants from any vendor, including Schoolbelles. (Please be sure that the pants you purchase do not have pockets on the outside.) In regard to shirts, to simplify, we are discontinuing light blue and yellow shirts from the uniform dress code. All jumpers must be ordered from Schoolbelles or obtained from our uniform supply at school.

New Skirts: This year, 5th and 6th grade girls may have the option of wearing skirts instead of jumpers. The skirts are of the same plaid as the jumpers and should be knee length. Please see the Schoolbelles' ordering information. Jumpers may still be worn by 5th and 6th grade girls if this is the preference.

New Wellness Policy: The Wellness Committee worked hard last year in establishing a robust policy for St. James School. You can read the policy on the school website. Our main areas of focus are nutritious eating and physical activity, though we will also address good mental health practices. As always, we will continue to strive for a school environment of Christ-like charity and friendship.

Monday Early Dismissals: St. James will be dismissing at 2:20 p.m. every Monday so that the faculty can meet for professional development and planning purposes. Families are asked to find transportation for their children. Volunteer parents watch children whose families are truly unable to make necessary arrangements. **Please check your email for the very important Monday Early Dismissal Survey.**

Vacation: Remember not to take a vacation from the practice of your faith over the summer! Make Sunday Mass a priority. Perhaps you can even find extra time to worship and praise God at daily Mass. On long car trips consider praying the rosary.

Open House and School Pictures: Please come to the St. James 2026-2027 Open House on Wednesday, August 12 from 9:00 – 12:00 pm. Have your children dress up for their school pictures. Drop off your child's classroom supplies as you visit the classroom and meet the teachers. This Open House is for all St. James students grade Pre-K – 6 and their parents.

First Day of School: St. James School begins on Tuesday, August 18 at 8:05 am. Children may be dropped off by the flagpole. It will be a full day with a 3:20 pm dismissal.

Uniforms: Start the year on a positive note by having your children in proper uniform on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 18. If you want to trade, buy or give away school uniforms please come to the school office during June, or on Wednesdays in July. Please call before you come (402) 826-2318 to be sure someone is here to help you. Jumpers are \$5; pants, sweaters and shirts are \$1. Unused jumpers are always needed. "Hair should be clean, well-groomed and its natural, God-given color (no hair extensions/feathers). Extremes in hairstyles are not acceptable. No shaved designs in the hair, please. Boys' hair may not go below the collar, ear lobes or eyebrows."

First Tuition Payment: The first Tuition payment is due from each family by **August 1**. Thank you for paying promptly; this is very helpful with summer bills! An email will be coming to those who have not yet completed their tuition agreement form.

Papers Already Sent Home: You should have already received the school calendar and student supply list for the 2026-2027 school year. It was sent home in the Communication envelope in May. If you do not have these, please check the school website <https://www.st-james-crete.org/> or call the office at 402-826-2318.

Summer Office Hours: June: Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. July: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (The office will be closed on July 22.)

We are proud to present our St. James Faculty and Staff for 2026- 2027.

Faculty

Karla Tranmer	Pre-Kindergarten
Diane Swinscoe	Kindergarten
Donna Talkington	Grade 1
Sister Teresa Marie, C.K.	Grade 2
Cloelia Braunsroth	Grade 3
Leo Van Horn	Grade 4
Sister Mary Vianney, C.K.	Grade 5
Sister John Marion, C.K.	Grade 6
Shannon Ward	Student Support, Title I, ELL, Computer
Terry Van Horn	PE
Tana VanSlyke	Music
Sara Graeve	Library

Father Santiago Izquierdo

Weekly Classroom visits.

Staff

Staci Tyma

Administrative Assistant

Beth Brahm

Finance and Hot Lunch Accountant

Irma Lopez

Head Cook

Alycia Bates

Hot Lunch Assistant and Wellness Policy Coordinator

Silvia Adame

School Custodian

Dennis Bargman

Building Maintenance

Administration

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Principal

Father Doug Daro

Chief Administrative Officer

Important Dates

August 12

Open House and Picture Day - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

All PK – 6th grade students and parents are welcome.

Drop off school supplies, meet teachers, and see classrooms, and have your child's picture taken.

August 18

Opening Day for K-6 Regular school schedule 8:05 am – 3:20 pm

August 25

SFA Back to School Night - 6:30 p.m.

