



Dear Parents,

October 14, 2026

We have a very exciting School Family meeting planned for this Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. and we encourage you to attend! At this meeting, the SFA Board and I hope to ascertain your interest level in expanding St. James to include 7th and 8th grades. This is something which could be done as early as next year if we combined grade levels so that 5th and 6th students were in one room and 7th and 8th in another. It takes the right kind of teacher to make combination class work well. (I have one right now who I know would do a great job and who is excited to make it happen.) It also takes some careful curriculum planning and I am willing and able to put in that effort if including 7th and 8th grades is something parents desire and would support.

Please find enclosed today a survey form, created by our SFA President, Guadalupe Garcia, to help us know your interest level in this endeavor. This is something we will do, only if the parents of St. James desire it. Otherwise, we will continue with St. James as a PK – 6th school and make it the best elementary school we can. All parents are asked to please fill out this form and return it before Tuesday, October 20.

I have invited Dr. Peter Fletcher, the principal of St. John Paul II (JP II) Academy in Omaha, to speak to us on October 20th. He will tell us about JP II Academy, a flourishing K- 12 Catholic classical school with multiple combination classrooms. He will speak to us about some of the advantages and challenges of combination classrooms.

Further exciting information at the SFA meeting on Tuesday will be shared by Lauren Garcia from the Opportunity Scholarship of Nebraska. She will speak on the new and upcoming federal tax credit program which has potential to make a huge financial impact on St. James.

As briefly explained on the OSN website, in 2025, the U.S. Congress passed a new federal tax credit to fund scholarships nationwide. Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN) will serve as a Scholarship Granting Organization when the tax credit goes into effect January 1, 2027.

Any taxpayer with federal income tax liability will be able to contribute up to \$1700 (\$3400 for joint filers) to OSN and claim a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. The taxpayers will then be able to designate St. James, or any private school, as the recipient of these funds.

If we all got on board, opportunities and programs for our St. James children could open as they have never done before, including funding to enhance a seventh and eighth grade.

It will be an evening of important information with time for questions and answers and exciting group discussion. Babysitting will be provided. Please do all you can to come and meet with us on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Coming Home Today: St. James 7th and 8th grade Survey form, School Sisters of Christ the King outdoor workday flyer.

Upcoming Dates:

October 16	Health Screening
October 20	6:30 p.m. SFA Meeting
October 21	Report cards sent home
October 30	1:15 p.m. All Saints Parade – grade 1 2:15 p.m. Mission Carnival for the whole school. Thank you 5 th and 6 th graders.
November 2	8:15 a.m. Mass of Remembrance

A passage from **Praying to God as a Friend** by St. Alphonsus Ligouri

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with God. Speak with familiarity and confidence as to your dearest and most loving friend. Speak to God often of your life, your plans, your troubles, your joys, your fears – of everything that concerns you; but above all, converse with God confidently and frankly, for God is not likely to speak to one who does not want to share.

Speak of all your thoughts freely, with confidence. Know that God does not wait until you come but anticipates you and comes to you. Consider that no one, friend or lover, father or mother, sister or brother, loves you more than your God. This relationship in friendship that God offers is a precious treasure through which all of us, poor and sinful though we are, can become dear friends of our God.

