

ST. JAMES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & CHILDCARE CENTER

January 2020

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that Monday begins the second semester of our 2019-2020 school year. The first half of the year has been full of activities and learning as our students continue to work on STREAM projects and utilize technology in all curriculum areas.

Our students are busy preparing for their second MAP test. This standardized test is an improvement over other tests that we have used, in that it highlights the specific skills in which each student is strong or needs improvement. It is also administered three times, so that the teachers can track the progress of each student on an ongoing basis, rather than waiting until the end of the year to see growth. Another advantage of the MAP test is that it coordinates with IXL, our individualized skills based program.

This school year is an accreditation year at St. James. Our faculty and staff are diligently working on the accreditation process. Earlier this year, AdvancED, our accrediting organization, became part of Cognia, a multi-national company that has been serving educators for over 100 years. We are confident that the accreditation process will help St. James improve our pedagogy and educate students who are ready to take on the challenges of the 21st century. St. James will be visited by the accreditation team in late March, and we look forward to their input.

Once again our students are focusing on service. Our projects include Birthday Bags, Wands for Wildlife, Sock Drive, Hat and Glove Drive, Thanksgiving Food Drive, 214 Challenge and our Green Bean Project.

We are continuing automatic re-enrollment with the 2020-2021 school year. SMART forms and commitment letters will be sent home with your student the week of February 3rd. If you have chosen to pay your registration fee before February 28th, please include your check when you return this paperwork to the school. This year, we have kept the tuition increase approximately 3%. Financial assistance is available for families who qualify through the diocese and through our school Tuition Angel Fund. Information about these programs was sent home and made available on our website.

As you entrust your children to our care, you can be assured that each student will be treated as an individual child of God who will be challenged to become a responsible citizen and leader as disciple of Christ. Thank you for choosing St. James.

In His Service,

Monsignor Charles W. Cicerale
Pastor

Frances C. Comiskey
Principal