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Jack E. Lynch, Principal

July 2018

Dear St. James Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds everyone doing well and that each of you finds the time to power down and enjoy family time this beautiful season of summer, with all its blessings. Before we know it, the new school year will be starting and we will fall back into our hectic pace of life. To prepare, there is much going on to ready St. James for a productive academic year in 2018-2019. I will be sharing these plans with you in a separate letter soon.

This year, our entire staff, as well as Fr. Art and Fr. Ruggerio, are focusing on **academics** and our **Catholic identity** at St. James. The best path towards success in both of these areas is a strong collaboration between home and school. As parents and guardians, I invite you to be fully engaged and committed to your children's education and to partner with us. As such, I encourage you to reach out to our new pastor at St. James, 'Father Art' Mollenhauer, and to welcome him into our community. Make it part of your daily routine to log-on and connect via our parent portal, Rediker Portals Plus, which will be utilized as our primary point of information for all things St. James. It is very important that you make a meaningful connection with your child's teachers, starting with our "**Meet and Greet**," which will be held on **Monday, August 27th at 6:00 p.m.** in the gym (along with our uniform exchange).

The more you invest in St. James, the more that your children will benefit. Join the St. James Parent Association (SJPA) and support the events that they are sponsoring. Our newly elected leadership team, for the 2018-2019 year includes: *Co-Presidents:* James Butler and Jean Smith, *Co-Vice Presidents:* Jaime Bereski and Edgard Loyola, *Co-Treasurers:* Audrey Simon and Yeimmy Rana and *Secretary:* Heidi Prenty. I hope you will join me in providing both support and gratitude to these parents for their leadership and dedication. The SJPA is here as the forum for parents, faculty, and school staff to discuss any issues or concerns. Your participation and voice as we make decisions are important to our school's continued success and necessary in order to make this community stronger than ever.

We rely on fundraisers such as Bingo and events like Touch a Truck, to continue to keep tuition increases to a minimum. We rely on each family to step-up and own the current family volunteer requirements in order for St. James to remain financially strong.

Currently families have to work 3 Bingo nights annually or elect to pay not to work at a cost of \$100 per night. Each family is also required to sell tickets for the annual cash raffle of \$150. There is an incentive for selling additional tickets which will be highlighted in the letter included in the mailing when the tickets are sent home in November.

This year, we will also ask families to give a minimum of 10 hours of service to any of the number of fundraisers that are held each year. In the past, these have been organized through the generosity of spirit that exists within a small number of parent volunteers. Those fundraisers and the revenue that they generate help us to offer the quality education that you entrust us to provide for your youngsters and helps keep your tuition more affordable.

We have one immediate and critical concern -- the need for Bingo volunteers through the summer. Please [click here](#) and schedule your volunteer commitment today. Each time Bingo cancels for lack of volunteers, we are all impacted. If you would prefer to be billed instead of working Bingo, please email Natalia Zamachaj at Natalia.zamachaj@sjsst.org and your bingo fee of \$100 per night will be billed through your FACTS account. Also, we are looking for new Bingo callers. If you would like to learn more about what this entails, please call the office.

A number of parents have been asking for a school supply list. I have attached the updated list to this letter. You may also find it on our website ([click here](#)).

The school uniform did not change this year. The dress code policy and requirements are attached for your reference and available on our website ([click here](#)).

Our calendar for 2018-2019 has been approved. Please see attached or [click here](#) to view the 2018-2019 School Year Calendar. In addition, please make note of the following:

- o Aug. 13th - Summer Packets Post on St. James Portal and Website
- o Aug. 15th - Preschool (3's & 4's) Orientation 7:00 p.m. (parents only)
- o Aug. 24th - Summer Packet Due Date – Hot Lunch/Milk Orders/Emergency Card
- o Aug. 27th - Staff Meet & Greet / Free Uniform Exchange, 6:30 p.m. in the gym
- o Aug. 30st - First Day of School Grades K-8; Early Dismissal at 11:25 a.m., Mass 9:00 a.m.
- o Aug. 30th - Preschool Storytime, 11:00 a.m. (details to follow)
- o Aug. 31st - Early Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.

- o Sept. 3rd - School Closed, Labor Day
- o Sept. 4th - Preschool, Hot Lunch and After School Programs Begin
- o Sept. 6th – Virtus Training Session, 4:00 p.m. at Parish Center (sign up at virtus.org)
- o Sept. 13th - Back to School /Meet the Teachers Night, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Summer packets will be available online on Monday, August 13th. You will receive notification when the information is ready to view. All forms must be completed and returned to school by Friday, August 24th. We ask for your cooperation and promptness in order to start our school year smoothly.

Our parent portal will close for maintenance on August 1st. On August 13th we will send out log-in information to our new parents and open the portal for our new year, at which time you will find student teacher assignments posted. I know how anxious your children are to learn this information, but please be patient.

I plan to take some time away from school over the next few weeks to recharge and be ready for the new year so that I may continue to give my complete attention and energy to continuing this journey with you and your children. I truly love your children and give 100 percent each day to their benefit. I am exciting about both the office team and teaching staff we have in place for 2018-2019 and I look forward to working with each of you to continue the forward progress and positive momentum we have begun over the past few years.

Please know that I am here, as always, if you have questions or comments.

May God bless you, your family.

Best regards,

Jack E. Lynch
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack E. Lynch", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.