



April Newsletter

We have had a fun March Madness with different activities each day. You can see the crazy hair and buddy reading photos in this newsletter. We were able to turn a long month into something the students enjoy but continue learning. We plan to add one more part to March Madness next year. Teachers will individually plan conferences giving you another chance to be informed.

You have had two trimesters with the new reporting system. The school hoped that this would give you more information about your child's progress. Please send any feedback about our new reporting system to me (nancy.naimey@portlanddiocese.org). Next year, you will also have two scheduled conferences but remember, you can meet or talk with teachers at any time.

Middle school parents might notice that your child's music grade has changed. Mrs. Al Tesini has adjusted the grades based on a greater understanding of students.

I am happy to report to you that our illnesses have gone down to a normal level. Thank you for keeping your child home when ill, waiting for twenty-four hours to allow your child to return to school after having a fever and stressing the importance of handwashing. That is what helps to keep our school healthy!

I know that when a student is ill, they are staying home to get better. A large number of absences (more than 10%) cause students to fall behind and is a barrier to learning to read and being successful in school. Please plan trips during the school vacation weeks and keep your child in school when they are well to help them to succeed!

We will have two retirements next year. Madame McGinty and Mrs. McDonald are both retiring for the second time. We have been so fortunate to have these two women as part of our school. Please wish them well. Mrs. McDonald may be back on a volunteer basis. We are working on finding a replacement. We have hired a new French teacher for next year. His name is Christophe Goebel. He was born in France and is a native speaker and has been teaching French for over thirteen years. We are so excited to have him join us and I will be sending more information soon about him!

Our indoor track program has merged with Saint Brigid and Holy Cross to be a part of the Southern Maine Catholic team. We are excited for students to meet other Catholic school students and this allows us to be able to compete with other larger schools in our league. Most schools in our league have over fifty athletes. Saint James has twenty-two athletes and Southern Maine Catholic has thirty

athletes, so this allows us to be more competitive. We will be able to have relay teams in all areas, which we had not had before. The change is for the meets only. We will still practice in our gym. We will keep the same coaches and we will keep the same uniforms. Students will still be able to pick their events, but we will run under the Southern Maine Catholic name.

We have a lot of improvements to Saint James in the works. We are excited to have our lights changing to LED lighting over April vacation. We are using the patrimony funds from the sale of Notre Dame School and we are taking advantage of substantial rebates from Efficiency Maine to complete this job. We have a playground committee looking as to how to improve the play area for students. Good Shepherd Parish is starting a capital campaign and money is allocated towards different projects. The surface and fencing of the school yard are one of the projects for Saint James School. The other projects are to repair the roof seals and to update the surveillance system. This summer, we will do some work on the boiler to be ready for next heating season.

High School seniors came back to Saint James School for the Senior Luncheon. Ninety six of them are going on to college. They were all on the honor roll in high school with sixty five per cent of them being on the honor roll all four years. They were all accepted into colleges with sixty five per cent getting into every college to which they applied. Forty three per cent were going into the sciences (pre-med, pre-dental, dental, chemistry, chemical engineering, biology and physics), thirteen percent were going into business/finance, with other fields such as cybersecurity, criminology, communications, broadcast journalism, music or undecided. Seven per cent were going into the trades. It was so wonderful to see them all and hear about their high school experience. They definitely thought Saint James gave them a leg up in high school and when asked if they would send their children to a Catholic school someday, they all said yes. They were appreciative of the morals and values that were taught at Saint James School and the foundational skills that they received that made their high school experience better. Can't get much better than that! It is why we do what we do every day! Peace, Nancy Naimey

