



March, 2018

Dear St. James Family,

**We are truly blessed to have a rich and caring community at St. James.** We continually strive to maintain a sense of family and academic excellence, and extracurricular opportunities that each student deserves. Our attention to faith formation is constant. Religion is not just a class but a continuous state of being, thinking, and acting.

St. James School has been selected by families for a variety of reasons

- Our modern, well-maintained structure
- Our commitment to smaller class sizes in the primary grades
- Our assurance to a rigorous research-based curriculum
- Our over-arching dedication to faith development

St. James School graduates confident and competent students who are prepared to successfully tackle the challenges of high school and college. We are proud to consistently see long lists of St. James alumni on high school honor rolls, receiving admission and scholarships to outstanding universities, and selected as honorees for community awards. **The graduate of St. James is an outstanding product.**

In order to maintain and grow our mission, we must look to the future and plan so that this excellence will be in place for future students and their families. One of our primary goals is to continue to offer an affordable Catholic education at St. James to all students. This goal translates into the growing need to provide financial assistance for a growing number of students.

With this in mind, the **St. James Tuition Assistance Program** was restructured to be a sustainable form of support for families who would otherwise not be able to educate their children in our Catholic school. Additionally, we continue to work on plans for tuition alternatives and tax-deductible donations, by which our school and its programs are attainable and families who are desirous of Catholic education can be assisted throughout an elementary school career.

In an effort to provide a Catholic education for families who cannot afford the full price of tuition, financial aid is available. A simple click on the home page of the school website will provide information about the material needed to be submitted to see if a family qualifies for tuition assistance <http://www.stjameschoolah.org/admissions/financial-information/>

As most of you know, tuition dollars simply do not cover the day-to-day operational costs to educate a St. James student. **Every St. James School student receives tuition aid from our parish.** The generous support from the parish and donors helps to make tuition as affordable as possible.

Additionally, a multiple child discount has helped to ease the cost for families who have more than one child attending K-8 at St. James School. The Archdiocese has asked that parishes offering this discount work on minimizing it to avoid financial setbacks in the future. Discounts for 2, 3, and 4 child families are supported with significant discounts of 17%, 24%, and 35%.

When broken down, **the parishioner rate for one child in grades 1-8 comes to \$31.43 per day.** Many folks pay much more for an hour of tutoring or a babysitter on a weekend evening! Realizing that the cost increases per child, this rate is still a bargain for a first rate Catholic school education!

Comparing SJS to neighboring schools, the tuition is competitive. Keep in mind that SJS does not require a “mandatory” fundraising fee, does not have a fee for registration (that is separate from a book/supply fee), and has not added a charge for SMART Tuition.

Tuition agreements are being sent home this week. Know that the School Council works diligently to make the most reasonable recommendation regarding tuition rates. Along with the parish Finance Council, the parish and school administration realize that the investment you make is significant. **Our graduates demonstrate that the “product” is worth the investment!**

The St. James School Community and Parish have always been extraordinarily generous. They have acted upon Scripture; *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”* Luke 12:48

**Thank you for your consistent generosity and willing spirit. We truly appreciate your support of Catholic education at St. James School!**

Most sincerely,



Father Matt Foley  
Pastor



Mrs. Judy Pappas  
Principal