

What's New at St. James

FROM THE DESK OF MS. SAUNDERS

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month.

Amen.

OCTOBER IS UPON US

I am proud to say (and honestly a bit surprised) that we have made it into October without having to shut down the school or even individual classrooms so far due to Covid. That fact alone is extremely encouraging to me. We are doing our best to celebrate our small successes as they come.

I haven't given a school-wide Covid update, but I would like to do so now. To date, we have had many individual quarantines of students. Staff is working very hard to do their best to provide face-to-face instruction to students who are in the building while at the same time sending work and instruction to those who must be at home. It is a challenge to say the least, but we truly value the education that we deliver to students. We have had one positive Covid case, however, the affected individual was in quarantine when symptoms developed, and as a result, no one here was exposed. Praise God!

We will continue to work hard to keep our staff and students safe and to keep as many students in school as possible. In order to help us do this, please continue to remind your kiddos to bring their masks to school, continue with the temperature checks, and have conversations with your child about keeping a safe distance from others both at school and out and about during their daily lives. Hopefully, if we all work together, we will be able to remain open and keep each grade level in the building. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of the help that you have given us!

Ms. Saunders



7TH & 8TH GRADE MSHSAA ATHLETICS

Due to the high number of Covid exposures we have had the past several weeks and our dedication to keep kids in school, the decision was made to cancel our Middle School MSHSAA Volleyball season midway through this year's fall season. It was an extremely difficult decision to make and was made in conjunction with the principals at St. Francis and Cathedral. We have worked hard to keep kids in cohort groups here in the building, and the mixing of St. James students with those from other schools was beginning to impact our ability to keep St. James kids in our classrooms.

The same general consideration is being given to 7th and 8th Grade MSHSAA basketball this season. The principals plan to make a decision on October 21 whether we will be able to have a season. I will keep you posted. Please know that I am praying for a reduction in Covid cases and exposures in St. Joe so that we can continue with a season. The trends at this time are not very encouraging.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/teacher conferences are currently scheduled for October 20 and 22. This year we will not be requiring mandatory fall conferences. Since the Diocese is asking us to keep folks out of the building, we are going to only have face-to-face conferences when parents or teachers request because they feel they are absolutely necessary.

I am asking that teachers reach out to each family via email or phone call regarding individual student progress. Teachers will then schedule conferences as needed either in face-to-face fashion or via phone. I encourage each of you to reach out to respective teachers if you have questions or concerns. Please don't feel you need to wait until conference time to address a concern. We are happy to discuss your child's progress at any time!

HALL OF FAME PARTIES

Halloween parties this year are scheduled for Friday, October 30. Once again, since we are being discouraged from having parents in the building, we are asking room parents to plan party activities and send supplies to the classrooms for teachers to implement. I truly believe our kids deserve to have these parties as a reward for all of the sacrifices they have had to make this year. I hate that we are not able to have parents participate. I am hopeful that once Covid restrictions lift, we can find extra opportunities to welcome our families back into our classrooms. That cannot happen soon enough for me.

Thanks again for all of your patience and understanding this school year. I am continually reminded how blessed I am to work with such caring and supportive families.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

End of 1st Quarter: October 16 (no school)

No School, Professional Development for Teachers: October 16

Parent/Teacher Conferences: October 20 (conferences by appointment)

Parent/Teacher Conferences: October 22, early dismissal (conferences by appointment)

No School: October 23

Picture Retakes: October 28

Halloween Parties: October 30

FOR THE COMING MONTH

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32

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