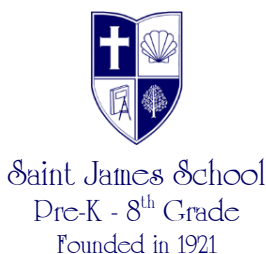


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October 23, 2020

Dear Saint James School K-8 Families,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent survey regarding our return to school this fall. We feel very blessed to have such a supportive parent community and truly appreciate all the positivity and thoughtful feedback that was interwoven throughout the responses. Please know that I have been sharing your comments with the appropriate teachers, knowing they will appreciate and benefit from your feedback as well.

At the close of the survey, we had received 214 responses, which represents two-thirds of our kindergarten through grade 8 student population. We had strong participation from every grade level, giving us a well-rounded look at how parents felt about this school year. As you may recall, the survey had two different sections of questions – to be completed depending on if your student is an in-person learner or attending school remotely. As with all surveys that we conduct at SJS, please know I read every comment - looking for common themes that might suggest areas we needed to tweak or innovative things that teachers were doing that might benefit other grades.

Our in-person learner parents shared some very interesting comments about what teachers are doing to encourage teamwork and imaginative play despite the limitations in place this year. There were suggestions about students having more time to be active and more time to interact socially while at school. And, while some of the younger grades utilize Go Noodle in the classroom and do take “stretch breaks”, we will be implementing additional protocol in the near future to enhance these areas. Additionally, our in-person parents asked questions about classroom windows remaining open throughout the colder weather. While we understand the concern, this is one of the health and safety protocols strongly suggested by health experts. As the weather becomes cooler, we will be turning the heat on in the building which will regulate the temperature in the classrooms. In addition, the school is in the process of purchasing air purifiers for all the classrooms - one of the suggestions discussed during our Return to In-Person Learning Committee meetings this summer for when the colder weather begins.

In the remote learning arena, we also received a lot of great feedback from survey respondents. Technology struggles seemed to be a common theme. However, we know this challenge is not unique to Saint James School and we continue to work through any hiccups as they develop. We have also allocated a second support staff member to assist with technology issues as they arise. Here again, we have looked through the comments in detail and plan to share some feedback with teachers on things that are working and things that are not. We appreciate families sharing their thoughts in a constructive and helpful way.

I am grateful to our parent community for the support, patience, and understanding of the challenges that have come along with this school year. Please continue to monitor your child(ren)’s health each morning and always err on the side of caution when it comes to sending them to school. I look forward to sharing additional information with you in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out to myself or your child’s teacher with questions.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Bridget Zorger

Bridget Zorger
Principal



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