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Saint James School  
Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Founded in 1921

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October 5, 2020

Dear Saint James School Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to equip Saint James School students with an exceptional, well-rounded education during their formative elementary and middle school years, we have opted to integrate a formal, biblically-based, social and emotional literacy program (SEL) into our school's daily curriculum. The program we selected was developed through the non-profit organization **Friendzy**. You can check them out online at <https://www.friendzy.co/>.

While the core learning competencies of SEL — responsible decision-making, social awareness, relationship skills, self-awareness, and self-management — have always been part of our whole-child education here at Saint James School, the **Friendzy** program gives teachers (and parents/guardians) additional tools to ensure students are mastering these important life-long skills.

Research shows that social and emotional literacy supports success in every part of a student's life, with positive gains in both academic achievement and interpersonal relationships. The long-term benefits are also clear - employers seek individuals with the very traits that SEL develops: problem-solving, teamwork, character, and perseverance.

Our classroom teachers received preliminary training on the **Friendzy** program during Tuesday afternoon's Professional Development session. Much like our home-grown "virtue of the month program," lessons will be integrated into religion classes, as well as interwoven into general lessons throughout the school day.

We look forward to sharing more information and resources from the **Friendzy** program with our school families throughout the upcoming school year. Please reach out to me, or your child's classroom teacher, with any questions.

Peace in Christ,

*Mrs. Bridget Zorger*

Mrs. Bridget Zorger  
Principal



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