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Saint James School
Pre-K - 8th Grade
Founded in 1921

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October 1, 2021

Dear Saint James School K-8 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, this year we will again be integrating the biblically-based **Friendzy** social and emotional literacy (SEL) program into our school's daily curriculum. Our first **Friendzy** lesson will commence next week and will focus on the merits of teamwork and lifting up those around you.

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 skills. Lessons will be integrated into religion classes, as well as interwoven into general lessons throughout the school day. Saint James School teachers received additional training in the many facets of social and emotional learning and skill development as part of last Tuesday's professional development day.

Research shows that social and emotional literacy supports success in every part of a student's life. Positive gains are seen in both academic achievement and interpersonal relationships through the cultivation of problem-solving skills, teamwork, character development, and perseverance. 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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