In an area gripped with poverty and lack of jobs, we are educating the whole child through a high standard of academics within a faith-based environment. Support comes from the many—teachers, volunteers, leaders, tutors, parents and board members—who care about young people most in need of a first rate education.
WE ARE EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD.
November 26, 2012

Dear Supporters,

Very few of our students have stable family lives—they experience daily inconsistencies. Many live with aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers, and are routinely transported from house to house.

All of our students are faced with daily doses of trauma, like noise pollution, family incarceration, malnutrition, gun violence, neighborhood instability and drugs.

Providing a stable, structured environment is critical for our students from the surrounding neighborhood of Allegheny West in North Philadelphia. School is the most critical part of a young life, and we work to create a safe space for students by establishing consistency and structure.

Providing Structure

At St. James School, routine provides teachable moments and academic discipline. A recent report shows that 8 of every 10 middle school students in our country do not have the academic discipline they need to be on track for college. Good work habits, time management and organizational skills within a structured environment is the St. James School student experience. Teachers and instructional assistants teach and model how to keep an organized binder, manage a project deadline, and how to use study hall time effectively. STOLS (silent, no talking, one head behind the other, ladies first and straight line) provide for a quick and safe way for students to transition to their next class or activity. And for those students who struggle to stay on task, instructional assistants and other school personnel are always available for support.

When you walk through the bustling, well-lit halls of St. James School—lined with rows of high quality donated books of all levels and subjects—you can hear the sounds of students immersed in learning and feel the energy of passionate teachers transforming lives. When you visit our morning meeting, you can see how our students’ diverse talents and interests, values, and leadership result in a vibrant and engaging school culture.

St. James School is a place where teachers engage students in critical thinking, and challenge them to look past basic questions and answers—a place where questions are more important than answers. It’s a place where learning, growth, and the pursuit of excellence shape their every experience...both in and out of the classroom.

Our intensive curriculum brings together the study of sciences, humanities and arts, with a special focus on understanding the role of faith and spirituality in our daily lives. The weekly student-led Mass in the historic Church of St. James the Less is the most important ritual of the week. The 1846 stone structure on our park-like campus creates a hearth for spiritual learning on the coldest winter days and under the warmest summer sun. Inside, our community of students, staff and volunteers gather for prayer and Eucharist, and all are welcome to share in the fullness of this special school worship.

Opportunities abound outside the classroom: from field trips to academic enrichment for student leaders, to arts and sports clinics and special clubs (such as choir, medical club, chess and dance) to a flourishing school garden. Enrichment classes and field trips provide St. James School students the access to explore their passions and find their voices in the context of a supportive and nurturing community.

2012 Year-End Giving Campaign: Advance the Mission

Your support for our 2011-2012 inaugural year enabled us to exceed expectations on many levels. Now, we ask for your continued financial commitment throughout the 2012-2013 year—and many years to come. The need for funds to support the children entrusted to our care will increase as we work to establish a full 5-8 grade middle school.

For new contributors to our year-end giving campaign, we thank you and welcome you to our community! For those making a second annual fund gift, please consider increasing your support by 10%. Any gift makes our current and future work a continued reality.

Thank you for joining us in our work to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Sincerely,

David J. Kasievich, Head of School
Audrey Evans, MD, Co-Founder
The Rev. Sean E. Mullen, Co-Founder & Board Chair
“Kyheem is a bright kid, he wants to learn and he strives to do his best. We at SJS just need to continue encouraging the change of behavior and the respect factor—and with that, they will go far. We have excellent teachers at SJS who are totally committed to urban education, and giving each student that comes through the doors the opportunity and level of commitment from us that they deserve and need.”

— Fabian Austin, Instructional Assistant
Notre Dame Mission Volunteers - AmeriCorps

“I HAVE STRENGTHS. I WILL SUCCEED. I AM A ST. JAMES STUDENT.”

“When Ajia joined Academic All Stars—an enrichment program I lead at the school—my first impression of her was how she was so very excited to have been chosen for this group. I think she was hesitant at first because she did not know what to expect and whether she would be up to the task.

Ajia has many dreams about what she would like to be and accomplish in her life. Ajia has become a lot more confident about participating and knowing that her comments are interesting, valuable, and substantively correct.”

— Rosalee DiLulio, Volunteer
Academic All Stars
Dear Friends,

We broke the mold of many other school networks and systems by accepting students based on income—not academic or behavioral history. We aim to have all students graduate 8th grade on or above grade level and able to compete with other graduates of independent schools. While many charter schools sacrifice the extra-curricular activities, we have enriched the experience with visual and performing arts, character education, adventure based trips like skiing & rock-climbing and enhanced nutrition education through our urban garden. In order to make this all possible, St. James School has extended its day to 9 hours, has extended its school week to include Saturdays, and has extended the school year to 11 months.

St. James School decided to take a bold stance on behavior management and understand that trauma has a great effect on the mind of a child. We have strived to be therapeutic and restorative rather than punitive in dealing with students. Our large staff of compassionate professionals listens and works to find resources to help a child in need.

In comparison to the schools with concrete slabs, metal detectors at the front entrance and police roaming the hallways, our school is an environment that has been revolutionary to our children. They have the ability to test boundaries, question the world around them and make mistakes in a safe and structured environment. This year, as their trust in us has developed, our students transformed from timid to confident, from unknowing to curious, from one of many to members of a family.

We do all of this with a standards-based, rigorous curriculum focusing on inquiry and higher level thinking skills. Even though students come to us sometimes three years below grade level, we challenge them every day to excel. We use assessments to find where we need to improve so that we can remain dynamic and flexible to meet the need of every child.

We guide, equip, and empower teachers to do what they do best. We foster an environment that encourages collaboration among teachers. We provide teachers with individualized instructional coaching, assessment resources, and the best curriculum materials used by successful teachers. Our teachers and instructional assistants are to be commended for their high quality work.

Lastly, I cannot express how much our students benefits from our consistent and highly committed volunteers. They provide individualized tutoring and instruction for students most in need of support and for those who yearn for that extra challenge. If you haven't been to the school yet, please come and meet the students and experience the difference that is St. James School.

We look to continue to provide this and more in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura Hoffman-Dimery
Principal
“Semaj is the first of the new fifth graders with whom I worked. I was impressed by his very natural politeness. We have been working on reading skills, and a story that Semaj wrote revealed some things about the role violence plays in his imaginative (and perhaps) actual world. His previous school experience left much to be desired. My two hours per week at St. James School are a high point of my week, and I always leave feeling that I have received much more than I have given.”

— Dr. Douglas Marshall, Volunteer Tutor
Secretary, Board of Directors

“I see a lot of potential in John, because I think I see a lot of myself in him. John is a very intelligent young man who has the ability to grasp the concepts of each subject. It appears as though personalized instruction is where he really thrives. He is someone who gets easily excited. Once he gains your attention, it is hard to dial him down, which often leads to getting in trouble. With the professionalism and leadership I see at St. James School, I’m sure this will be a much easier phase for John to grow out of.”

— Dinh-Huy, Volunteer
Student, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012
Unaudited statement of revenue and expenses for the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$168,721</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(annual fund, unlock the gate campaign, monthly giving, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor the Students Program</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(full scholarship - $16,000 &amp; half scholarship – $8,000)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations, Grants, and Corporations</td>
<td>$292,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family and Summer Camp Fees</td>
<td>$6,808</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$19,004</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(events, fundraisers, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$531,871</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(administration, faculty &amp; support staff)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(classroom and office supplies, printing, copying, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(PGW, PECO, Water, Phone, Internet, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance and Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(repairs, contractors, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Programing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(transportation, uniforms, books, sports, art, music, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DONORS ‘11–’12

JULY 1, 2011 — JUNE 30, 2012

AMBASSADORS
$5,000–$9,999
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Marta Zamora

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### 2012-2013

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Principal  
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#### INSTRUCTORS

Annie Lerew  
5th Grade Teacher;  
BA Mathematics, Albion College;  
MAT in Mathematics, Bard College  

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Urban Blazers  

Danielle Stullak  
Urban Blazers  

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### OUR PEOPLE

#### 2011-2012 VOlunteer Roster

Johanna Agnew  
Elaine Ballengee  
Daniela Bartley  
Kellie Beasley  
Joanne Behm  
Lisa Berton  
Jeff Bingeman  
Ann Blackstone  
Sarah Briant  
Alleem Bush  
Elizabeth Burke  
Al & Jamin Cassidy  
Barbara Chilcott  
Jack Coleman  
Mikia Croon  
Andrea Davaro  
Caroline Davidson  
Rosalee & John Dilullo  
Nicole Elquise  
Maura Fay  
Dr. Jeanne Felter  
Henrietta Geitz  
Lauren Golden  
Jane & Rosalie Good  
Leila Gresh  
Julia Hondsros  
Jay Joyce  
Andrew Kellner  
Ashley Korkidis  
Rachel Kosbab  
Rachael Kuhn  
Wade Kuscher  
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Than Nguyen  
Alex Olivera  
Kristen O’Rourke  
Brianna Perris  
Nico Petrozzi  
Diane Powell  

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**Sponsor the Students Half Scholarship Program ($8,000)**  

**Sponsor the Students Full Scholarship Program ($16,000)**  

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And to all those who gave of time and treasure, but are missed in honest error.

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**Sponsor the Students Full Scholarship Program ($16,000)**  

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And to all those who gave of time and treasure, but are missed in honest error.
“When I first began working with Tyrena she appeared to be somewhat distrustful. Our academic focus centered around language arts, and in the beginning we spent a lot of time working on basic phonic skills. We looked at familiar endings such as ‘tion,’ and it seemed that Tyrena began to develop an understanding that language did have these relationships and they were fairly consistent. I learned that she is a very private person who is just beginning to trust others. Tyrena seemed to blossom with the academic structure at St. James School but she would never admit it! She became more vocal, and I discovered that she is a very thoughtful young girl.”

— Elaine Ballengee, Volunteer Tutor
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VOLUNTEER • DONATE • SHARE

ALLEGHENY WEST

www.StJamesPhila.org
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Philadelphia, PA 19132

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