



“ Holy Week - the week that changed the world continues to change our lives.” - anonymous

March 29, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This week we celebrate **Holy Week**, marking the days leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection on **Easter Sunday**. Beginning with **Palm Sunday**, it is the holiest week of the year for Christians, and emphasizes God’s love for each of us. Just as we look this time of year (Spring) for signs of rebirth in nature (trees, flowers, etc...) we look for the rebirth of hope in our world and in each one of us. The resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday reminds us of the power of hope, that light conquers darkness, and eternal life prevails over death.

Family Teacher Conferences have been completed. Thank you for partnering with teachers to ensure your child is working hard, staying on top of all assignments, and growing as a learner.

Staff Update: Mr. English is no longer working at St. James School. If you have any questions about uniforms, Family Fees, or other topics, please contact Mr. McDonough.

COVID-19 Update: Many of the teachers and schoolhouse staff have been vaccinated. Layered mitigation strategies remain the most important for reopening schools and keeping the community healthy and safe.

We hope to add four more strategies in the upcoming weeks:

- a. New and improved masks
- b. Plexiglass tri-fold desktop shields for each student
- c. Wide open windows (warmer weather - hello Spring!)
- d. Rapid 15 minute testing each week for students & staff

Depending on the status of COVID in Philadelphia in the next few weeks, we may make changes to schedule for Grades 6,7,8 beginning April 26. Look for more information next week.

The **Welcome Table** is partnering with the **Sayre Clinic** to provide **COVID-19 vaccinations for the RAH community** here in the St. James Church. If you are interested in being vaccinated, please contact Paul Barrett in the Welcome Table at 215.226.1276 ext 109

Wellness Center: Please contact Nurse Ayton if any person in your house is not feeling well, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or travelled out of state. We can offer support and take steps together to minimize community spread. Tracking COVID cases and possible exposures helps keep us all safe! Two helpful websites:

1. The Black Doctors Consortium of Philadelphia’s website has a wealth of COVID-19 information on its website at <https://blackdoctorsconsortium.com/>
2. The www.phila.gov website is a good resource for information regarding the vaccine, common questions, and roll out schedule.

Student Recruitment: We are currently accepting applications for students entering grades 4-8 Fall 2021. The deadline is May 1. The sooner applications are submitted the better! Please contact Ms. S. Carroll for assistance. scarroll@stjamesphila.org // office: 215-226-1276 ex 105 // cell: 267-606-0018

8th Grade Families - please save the dates, more details to come in the upcoming weeks:

Thursday, June 17 6pm 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation rehearsal

Friday, June 18 6pm 8th Grade Graduation !

Student Uniform:

- Students look good, and now that weather is warmer (and drier) we are back to school shoes, school pants, and school sweaters. Uniform questions? Please call the Front Desk or speak with Mr. McDonough
- A reminder that only students in Grades 6, 7, 8 may wear nail polish. No acrylic nails for any students.

Need help? We recognize this remains a challenging time for all. Please contact the school if you need any assistance re: tutoring, medical information, counseling, technology assistance, food or other needs.

One School, One Book: To build community and our *LOVE* of reading, starting on April 19 all students and staff of St. James will be reading Lesa Cline-Ransome's *Finding Langston*. All students will be given a novel, and a reading plan from their homeroom teacher. Families can read along too!

Important dates:

April 2 last day of Marking Period #2

April 4 Easter Sunday

April 5 NO SCHOOL

April 10 RAH Clean Up Day

April 12-16 Spring Break, NO SCHOOL

April 19-23 RED schedule, all classes are via Zoom for the week

April 24 Family Service Day

May 1 new student applications due

May 7 Family First Friday

May 8 Academic Clinic

May 22 Academic Clinic

May 28, 31 Memorial Day weekend, NO SCHOOL

June 4 Family First Friday

June 5 Academic Clinic

June 17 6pm 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass

June 18 6pm 8th Grade Graduation !

June 21-July 2 Student Vacation

July 5-July 30 Summer programming for 4th-7th graders (mandatory)

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough