

New Beginnings

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. -Jeremiah 29:11

*The older I get, the more I appreciate how true clichés can be.
Necessity is the mother of invention ~ An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
Love is blind ~ Change is good*

As most of you already know, our beautiful lakeside school is undergoing many changes as we enter into the 2023-2024 school year. Established in 1954, St. James the Apostle School has remained a parochial school, meaning our operation was based on tuition income, fundraising and the support of St. James the Apostle Church and Parish. On September 1st, St. James the Apostle School will become part of the Catholic School Region of Northern Westchester Putnam. This change will alleviate any further financial burden. Change is good.

In mid-February, the Archdiocese also announced that St. James the Apostle, along with two other schools in our region, would be reduced to a PreK – 5th Grade Elementary School model. We appealed valiantly, logically and respectfully to have this decision overturned, but to no avail. This decision affected our entire school's population, students, parents, faculty and staff. Yet our students managed to finish out the school year acing their exams and proving to us all that they are St. James Strong!

As part of our rebirth and reinvention, when our students return to school in September, they will notice many new and exciting changes to our school building, including our new, state-of-the-art STREAM Lab and our new Music Area, located on the stage, for their music classes. We have completely remodeled two of our classrooms as we welcome into our building two new UPK classes in addition to our own PreK class, taught by Ms. O'Connor. I have hired two new teachers this summer, Mrs. Diana Poli (UPK) and Mrs. Marianna Udler (Music) and I look forward to their fine work with our students and staff. New classrooms, new furniture, new students, new families, new learning experiences! Change is good.

On Sunday, July 30th, St. James the Apostle School will be hosting an Outdoor Movie Night. Flyers with details can be found on all of our social media platforms. All are invited to attend this very special event. **On Sunday, August 27th,** we will be hosting a Welcome to St. James New Family Breakfast (for enrolled families) followed by an **Open House** from 12:00pm – 1:00pm for any and all families that would like to come in a take a tour of our beautiful school.

Although many changes have occurred over the past few months, there is one thing that will never change. St. James the Apostle School, our faculty, staff and clergy, will continue to provide quality Catholic education, committed to academic excellence and service to others.

Small School...Big Rewards!

Heavenly Father, thank you for being with us in all that we have accomplished and all that we have yet to accomplish. Continue, we pray, to guide us and protect us in all that we do this summer and in the exciting new school year ahead!