



Hello St. James Families!

As your PTO Officers, we look forward to working with each of you. As stated in the PTO by-laws, the object of the PTO is to act as "the official St. James Parish organization for the promotion of parent-teacher activities...to unite parents and teachers for the purpose of coordinating the spiritual and educational forces of the home and school." We believe in that objective and we are excited about the opportunity to help foster the parent-teacher relationship - one that has always been strong at St. James. This year's PTO Officers are parents of children in classes that span every grade level. These various levels of experience should help mold a PTO whose work has impact in many ways and is representative of both new families and "veterans."

Each of us, along with each of you, has made a decision to invest in our children's education by sending them to St. James. We believe it is imperative that parents, students, faculty and staff work together to positively effect the St. James environment. Research shows that students whose parents are involved in their education have better grades and fewer discipline problems. Involvement at the school also makes it easier to establish positive relationships with teachers and other parents.

Our primary objective as a PTO is to provide the school funds to deliver programs, resources and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child. To meet this important objective, and afford services that are not covered by our school budget, we ask school families to fundraise and volunteer. The PTO's main fundraiser is the annual Auction and Holiday Bazaar. PTO also provides Room Parents, a Courtesy Committee and even coordinates "staffing" of "Donut Sundays," which are all great ways to be involved in parish and school community building activities.

In addition to PTO fundraising and volunteering, we hope to continue to cultivate a PTO that engages parents in issues and ideas connecting the classroom with home that are positive in the development of our children and thereby positive in the development of St. James. A huge time commitment from volunteers is not expected. An hour can be a big help and we have positions and tasks to fit all schedules and interests. The time given to PTO and the school will be worth while—and fun!

We know communication is critical, and we need parents to help us determine where the PTO can be most effective, as well as implement the tools and programs that help parents support teachers and staff. You will hear more detail about each PTO activity, and we will be asking you for information that helps us plan based on whether a program, event, or activity interests you and when you might be free to help. In this world of "green," efficient and of course cost-saving communication, most PTO information will come to you and be available electronically. PTO can be reached by email at [pto@stjames-school.org](mailto:pto@stjames-school.org)

The success of the PTO is dependent on parent involvement. St. James parents have always given above and beyond expectations, and we know we can count on you. Once again, we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,  
St. James PTO Officers

Rozanne Witherow, President  
Rachel Richardson, Vice-President  
Staci Bonderer, Secretary  
Jeff Richardson, Treasurer