

Hello St. James Parents!

As your PTO Officers, we look forward to working with each of you, and want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and highlight some of our ideas about the upcoming school year.

As stated in the PTO by-laws, the object of the PTO is 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 in the school. Two of us are in the early stages of involvement, one in the middle, and one finishing. These various levels of experience should help mold a PTO whose work has impact in many ways across the entire school and is representative of both new families and “veterans.”

Each of us has made a decision to invest in our children’s education by sending them to St. James. The next few years, as St. James conducts an Annual Appeal and Capital Campaign, are critical to the future of the church and school. It is imperative that parents, students, faculty and staff work together to positively effect the St. James environment. As Mrs. Doherty communicated in her letter to parents at the end of the school year, the survey parents completed in the spring is an important tool that will be used to help frame “keepers” and “polishers” for the future of St. James. But a survey is just the beginning.

We want to expand parent involvement in PTO activities, and cultivate an organization that engages parents in issues and ideas that connect the classroom with home, that are positive in the development of our children and thereby positive in the development of St. James. We know communication is critical, and will 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.

These “enhanced” PTO programs are in addition to the current PTO activities including Room Parents, the Auction and Holiday Bazaar, Courtesy Committee, Buddy Families and other volunteer and involvement opportunities. Making these programs successful requires assistance from many, and we will look to you for support.

The first opportunity for parent involvement is the PTO-sponsored Ice Cream Social, which will be held at the end of Back-To-School Night on Sunday, August 16. After your children have met their new teacher and dropped off the back-breaking bag of school supplies, make sure you stop by the information tables in the gym, then spend some time outside with other parents socializing, swapping summer stories and enjoying a tasty treat.

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. You’ll be hearing from us soon, and we’ll see you on August 16.

Sincerely,  
St. James PTO Officers,

Jeff Richardson  
Rachel Richardson  
Elizabeth Schneider  
Rozanne Witherow