

December 2, 2018

Dear Friends of St. James School,

The St. James School Education Foundation (“Foundation”) was shocked and saddened to hear the terrible news on November 28, 2018 about the misconduct of the St. James School’s (“School”) former principal. The Foundation, like most of you, does not know any more details about the situation other than what was stated in the letter from Monsignor Meyers. Therefore, the Foundation does not have any additional information or guidance at this time. However, the Foundation believes it is very important that we pass along the following information:

The Foundation is an independent entity and its assets have been and always will be separate and apart from the School’s assets. In addition, at no time did the former principal have any control over the Foundation’s invested assets. All funds the Foundation provided to the School were given pursuant to a formal request from the former principal to the Foundation’s Board. Each funding request was subject to the Board’s approval and was within the Foundation’s core mission and purpose which is the enrichment of the educational experience for St. James School students. Once approved, all funds were made payable to St. James School via check or paid directly to certain vendors. The programs that we have supported over the years include but are not limited to the following; Music Program, Hands on Art, STREAM, P.E. Program, Class Field Trips, Spanish Program and Technology updates.

The Foundation cooperated with the Archdiocese’s internal investigation by providing copies of the Foundation’s cancelled checks for all payments made payable to St. James School over the past 7 years. Per discussion with Monsignor Meyers regarding the internal investigation, the results of this inquiry showed that all checks from the Foundation were deposited into appropriate school accounts.

The Foundation will consider hiring an independent auditor to conduct its own audit and will internally discuss additional improvements to our current processes. The Foundation will be unable to provide any further comment on this unfortunate situation. However, we will continue to keep you informed on relevant information as it becomes available.

The Foundation remains dedicated and steadfast in its support of the School, has full confidence in Mrs. Maricich’s leadership and will continue to offer its full support to her going forward. We believe St. James School remains a very special place because of the people who make up our community – people like you, the School’s faculty and staff, and your extended families. We continue to pray in faith and healing for our St. James community.

Sincerely,

The SJSEF Executive Board