

Good morning SJS Community,

I wanted to provide some planning details we are drafting for the 2025-26 school year.

Right now, we have 251 students enrolled for next year. This still includes a 95% retention rate and 41 new students (22 in preschool). We expect to add a few more students over the coming months and start 2025-2026 in the mid 250s. Currently we have a few seats open in Grade 1 as well as single seats in Grade 4 and Grade 7.

In our middle school for next year, we are still looking for a full-time math teacher and a part time (0.4 FTE) Theology teacher. Once we have these roles in place, we will announce homeroom teachers. Without our current Grade 8 class (which is currently in a cohort model), scheduling becomes much simpler and more flexible. For planning purposes, you will see no changes in the middle school – why change something that is working and amazing! Dr. Lundy, Mrs. Bowers, and Mrs. Ross are excited to welcome new colleagues to the team.

Our upper elementary will experience a few changes next year. First, we are adding Grade 3 and Ms. O’Leary to our upper elementary level. The past few years we have utilized a Grade 4 – 5 model for teachers and students. We are going to slightly tweak that for next year by adding in grade 3. This will allow the teachers in those grades to work together more effectively and try some new things. For example, we are exploring a weekly cross grade enrichment period for Grades 3 – 5. For Grades 4 and 5

-Mrs. McMillan will continue to be the Grade 4 homeroom teacher. She will teach Math and Religion to Grades 4 and 5. She will also teach Grade 4 Social Studies and Science.

-Mrs. Johnston will continue to be the Grade 5 homeroom teacher. She will teach ELA to Grades 4 and 5. She will also teach Grade 5 Social Studies and Science.

-In order to establish a deeper connection with the middle school and continue our commitment to grammar and writing, our Grade 5 students will have Dr.

Lundy (middle School ELA teacher) for up to two periods a week in his classroom for a deep grammatical dive.

We are excited that Mrs. Novogratz will be joining our lower elementary level team (Kindergarten – Grade 2), working with Mrs. Hart and Ms. McGrath. These three grades will continue to work together to ensure that we have critical thinkers, confident writers, and fluent readers entering our upper elementary level.

Our early education level (Preschool – Kindergarten) will continue to work together using the philosophy of learning through play while establishing the solid foundation for reading, writing, and math skills that we are known for. Yes, Kindergarten is special as they are part of two levels! After numerous years of discussion, we will be adding a fifth special to preschool and prekindergarten – library. So, preschool and prekindergarten students will receive a period of library once a week.

With our specials, we are excited that Ms. Keough will be returning as our Performing Arts and Visual Arts teacher. We will also welcome Mr. Wehr into the physical education teacher role. Our hope is that Mrs. Neeser will return sometime this school year in Spanish and remain with us next year. As for STEM, I will open a search for a new teacher soon. We are also exploring contingency plans in case our search fails, including an enrichment reading period or technology skills.

As for student supports, Mrs. Fleming and Nurse Kiley have been fantastic this year, and we fully expect to continue our current academic support team (both remediation and enrichment) with Mrs. Czarnecki, Mrs. MacLeod, and Mrs. Ross.

And who cannot forget about Mrs. Foster who has seamlessly moved into the Administrative Assistant role and made all our lives easier. She is one of the unsung heroes of SJS.

With our curriculum, there are a few texts that we need to review. Our elementary science text is near the end of its contract, but I strongly believe we will renew for at least a year. Mrs. Ross and I are discussing Middle School Social

Studies texts as we may need a refresh. For religion, Sadlier has come out with an updated religion text that we will review and determine when to move to it. Finally, we are excited to choose a Confirmation workbook for Grade 8 for sacramental prep.

We will also continue to update our technology infrastructure by replacing some Chromebooks, iPads, and SMART Boards. Mr. Hall, who will continue to serve as our Technology Coordinator next year, has some additional technology ideas as well.

As for facilities, we are still on track to replace the entire parking lot this summer, which a large undertaking. This will most likely occur in July. Next year, there will be an open classroom on the third floor and we are exploring ways to utilize it for specials (Spanish and STEM) in order to free up the library for other uses (small groups, enrichment, etc.).

As more information becomes available for next year, I will let you know. Please share our open positions and let me know if you have any questions.

Chris