

Dear SJV Parents,

Greetings! My name is Abe Fisher, and I write to you today as chair of the long-range planning committee of SJV's School Committee, to invite and encourage you to return the parent survey that will open next **Wednesday, Apr. 22nd**.

Over the last few months, the long-range planning committee has been working with President Pyzyk and Principal Gordon to revise the survey, and prepare it for this year's implementation. Our revisions have focused on two primary goals: first, to improve the content of the survey questions so as to solicit feedback on issues of greatest interest to parents; and second, to provide school administration with data best suited to support their efforts at continual improvement of every facet of our school.

Of course, the greatest obstacle to generating good survey data is always participation. We are aware of the many demands on your time, and have worked hard to find a good balance between a helpful level of detail and a reasonable time commitment. In particular, we have introduced a new format for part one of the survey, which we hope will provide a quick and easy way to comment on a wide range of school elements.

We are also aware that often surveys are not returned because parents feel the opinions they share do not make a significant impact. In fact, not only do the SJV administrators *appreciate* the opinions, trends, issues, concerns, and accolades emerging from the survey, they depend on them in many ways. Allow me to present the following as a small sample of decisions resulting from last year's survey data:

- Concerns with the **availability of the accelerated math program** resulted in the elimination of the extra charge, and moving the program to the regular school day.
- Requests for the **continuous enhancement of technology** resulted in making the purchase of Chromebooks a focus of Bids-for-kids.
- Requests for **more options for students**, has led to schedule changes so that students are with different groups throughout the day, as well as the introduction of **middle school electives**.
- Requests for more **differentiated instruction**, especially for high-achievers, has led to an expanded focus on differentiation, and the introduction of more instructors in certain classes to enhance differentiation.
- The **Shamrock Success** publication was started in 2011-2012 by Mrs. Pyzyk in response to earlier surveys, and continually enhanced in response to comments from more recent surveys to become an elegant expression of our school's mission, ethos, and identity.
- An emphasis on **improved communication** spawned several new initiatives, including:
 - ♦ moving all communications to electronic formats
 - ♦ Mrs. Gordon hosting "parent coffees"
 - ♦ upgrading "constant contact" to smart-phone capability;
 - ♦ focused topics addressed in Shamrock weekly (sent out via email and archived on the SJV school website).

President Pyzyk, Principal Gordon, and all of us on the long-range planning committee look forward to hearing your thoughts this year, and incorporating them into our ongoing efforts to enhance the faith, excellence, and community of our school. Please take a few minutes over the next couple of weeks to complete the survey, to strengthen and enhance our communal commitment to Catholic education.

Sincerely,

