

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Catholic Schools
835 N. Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611
tel 312.534.5200
schools.archchicago.org

January 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of St. Jane de Chantal School,

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Chicago, I regret to inform you of some difficult news. St. Jane de Chantal School has faced declining enrollment in recent years, which has created financial strain on the school. As a result of the loss of students in the last three years, the Archdiocese set a fundraising target for the school of \$357,000, which would allow the school to continue operations for another school year.

In early January, we were informed that the school had not met financial targets, despite strong efforts. As such, the school will close at the end of this school year, effective June 30, 2020.

I recognize this news has a difficult impact on you and your family. We are committed to making the transition caused by this closure as easy as possible. In the coming weeks, a representative from the Archdiocese of Chicago will reach out to you regarding nearby Catholic schools. Realizing you have choices to make, I hope you will consider enrolling your child at another Catholic school in order to continue his or her learning experience in a faith-filled environment while also providing a well-rounded education.

It is important that families who were planning to apply for a 2020/21 Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship continue to do so. The application will reserve your spot in line, and you will be able to identify a new school for your children when you complete the tax credit scholarship reservation and application processes with Big Shoulders Fund and Empower Illinois. Applications for the tax credit scholarship open on January 14 at 8 a.m. for Big Shoulders and January 15 at 6:30 p.m. for Empower Illinois. We encourage you to apply promptly to receive your date-time stamp. Please visit schools.archchicago.org/applying-for-a-tax-credit-scholarship for more information.

In order to assist you in this transition, we have prepared materials to help you in conversations with your children about these tough issues. We have also put together a map of neighboring Catholic schools. Copies of these materials will be available in your school office.

I commend the dedicated leaders, faculty and staff of St. Jane de Chantal School for their tireless work to foster an academically rigorous and faith-filled community. St. Jane de Chantal School has provided a strong education to generations of young men and women helping them develop intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Please know we remain committed to your children's Catholic education and will do everything we can to assist you in the days, weeks and months ahead.

I am praying for you, your family and the St. Jane de Chantal School community.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rigg".

Jim Rigg, Ph. D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Chicago