

Dear Lourdes Families,

The first three weeks have passed by extremely quickly. As I shared in the last weekly parent letter, there is so much going on at LCS. Our calendars are filling quickly. It is my hope that you and your families are enjoying as much time together as possible.

Again, we are still working on filling open positions. **Your help is needed!** Please share with your friends and on social media the need for a K-8 Spanish teacher, a K-8 music, band, and choir teacher, and an Athletic Director. If you or someone you know is interested in one of these openings, please have them contact Michael Hughes at (563) 359-3466. Interested parties can also view current openings on the Teach Iowa website: <https://educateiowa.gov/teach-iowa>

The events calendar is being built and updated frequently. I encourage you to visit the calendar often for current happenings and events! [Lourdes Calendar Link](#)

Now that I have had the opportunity to settle in and take in the many wonders of Lourdes, I can tell you this is not a school, but a truly loving and supportive community. As with all communities, changes are inevitable. Mr. Chad Steimle, principal at JFK, shared information about upcoming changes. I am giving him credit as I have taken this from his newsletter:

Regionalization and Diocesan Initiatives

Movement toward a unified Scott County Catholic Schools (SCCS) system continues. The complete transition should be completed by July 1, 2023. Below are some of the highlights to date:

- The SCCS corporation was formed with roles for the bishop, a board of trustees (pastors), and a board of directors. All of the legal necessities have been and/or are in the process of being completed.
- A Catholic school subsidy model was developed and approved for all the parishes in Scott County, and a transition plan was determined as some parishes would see large increases, and some would see decreases. (For example, St. John Vianney's subsidy would increase significantly, and OLV's would decrease.) Parish subsidy is the second largest source of funding for schools after tuition.

July 25, 2022

- The ownership of assets and lease agreements have been agreed upon.
- Transition staffing for SCCS is underway with a president (Andy Craig), interim finance director (Carey Jones), and interim human resources director (Nikki Gartner). Many, many financial and HR policies/practices are being adjusted at all sites.

If regionalization is not a big enough challenge, there are also other major diocesan initiatives at play:

- Parishes and schools are transitioning to a diocesan health insurance plan. Overall, with a larger pool of employees, rates will go down.
- A new payroll/human resources system went into effect July 1st.
- The Diocese of Davenport has licensed a student information system (SIS), PowerSchool, for all schools in the diocese. This transition is also time consuming, and we may end up operating our “old” SIS, JMC, simultaneously with PowerSchool until things are up to speed.

Please take a few minutes as a family to reflect upon this week’s scripture verse for July 31, 2022:

Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” ~ Luke 12:15

Have a faith-filled week!

