



January 29, 2019

Find below a number of Frequently Asked Questions concerning the future of our school for your review

IS OUR SCHOOL GOING TO STAY OPEN?

Yes, however for this to take place our school will have to change our designation to an Independent Catholic School. St. George Independent Catholic School will continue to operate as a small Catholic school in Port Richmond with education provided in much the same way it always has been: small class sizes, family atmosphere, engaged teachers, and a strong Catholic faith.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL?

Saint George Independent Catholic School will be independent in its finances and governance. It will still operate as a Catholic school with the approval and support of the local parishes and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The school will be governed by the Board of Limited Jurisdiction. The Board's Operating Principles will guide the organization and running of the school. These operating principles are clearly stated and consistent with the best practices of state-of-the-art 21st-century education as well as our Catholic faith.

WHY SAINT GEORGE?

St. George Independent Catholic School is not the only school in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to be making this move. In fact, St. Mary's Inter-parochial Catholic School has been operating in this fashion for many years. This school has been very successful and it's Board of Limited Jurisdiction has offered to assist us through the transition. By becoming an Independent Catholic School, St. George will be able to remain open and finally be free of the year-to-year question about its future. Through this model of education, the future of St. George Independent Catholic School is very bright. B

WHAT ARE THE TUITION RATES FOR NEXT YEAR?

1 Child	\$4,500	Full Day Pre-K and Kindergarten	
2 Children	\$6,700	With Sibling in 1-8	\$2,800
3 or More	\$7,400	Without Sibling 1-8	\$3,300

WILL MY CHILD'S TUITION MONEY STAY AT SAINT GEORGE?

Yes, it will stay at Saint George to help pay for programs for the students and operating expenses. Additionally, fundraising profits will stay within the school.

WILL THE SCHOOL MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH THE ARCHDIOCESE?

Yes, in all matters of faith and religious education; our relationship with the Roman Catholic Church will be overseen by the Archbishop of Philadelphia. Likewise, St. George Independent Catholic School, as a part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will be eligible for all of the professional support that is available through the Office for Catholic Education. This Includes professional development for our teachers, curriculum guidelines, tuition assistance, and state funding. Otherwise, St. George Independent Catholic School will be governed by the Board of Limited Jurisdiction.

WILL OUR CHILDREN MAKE THEIR SACRAMENTS?

Yes, as students in a Catholic school, the children at St. George Independent Catholic School will receive sacramental preparation as part of their religion curriculum. Typically, sacraments will be received in the parish to which the family is registered.

WILL THERE BE MONTHLY LITURGIES?

Yes, there will be monthly liturgies held for the students at St. George Independent Catholic School. As a Catholic school, the four pillars of Catholic education (teaching our beliefs, worshiping God, joining in prayer, and living morally) will continue to be part of the life of the school.

WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE?

The principal is in charge of the day-to-day operation of any Catholic school, including St. George Independent Catholic School. In this, the principal oversees teachers and other personnel, implementation of curriculum, support services, and student safety. The principal will receive support from the local pastors and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Board of Limited Jurisdiction will support the principal in the day-to-day operation of the school and also oversee the finances, strategic planning, marketing, and maintenance of the physical plant. The principal, local pastors and the Board of Limited Jurisdiction are accountable to each other, each being held accountable to their sphere of responsibility. This is very similar to the way schools of higher education operate.

WHO SUPERVISES THE PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS?

Teachers are supervised by the principal as has always been the case. The principal is in turn supervised by the Superintendent for Elementary Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The principal is also held accountable by the Board of Limited Jurisdiction.

All teachers, support staff, and adult volunteers will be properly qualified and receive all appropriate security clearances in order to ensure a safe environment for all of our children at St. George Independent Catholic School.

WHO IS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE PARENTS IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?

As always, parents have several avenues for advocacy in any Catholic school including St. George Independent Catholic School. Whenever a parent has concern involving their child, their first recourse is to speak to the classroom teacher. Then, they are always welcome to raise their concern with the principal of St. George Independent Catholic School. They are always free to bring their concerns to any of the local pastors and also to the Office for Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All of these people, from the classroom teacher to the Superintendent, are intensely concerned about Catholic education and the children who have been entrusted to us.

WHAT SERVICES WILL MY CHILD HAVE?

All children at St. George Independent Catholic School will be entitled to all of the same services they currently have provided from a variety of sources. Some services are provided internally by the school, others by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and still others by state-funded agencies such as Catapult or CORA services. Naturally, as in the past, St. George Independent Catholic School will always be striving to provide better support services for all of our children.

HOW WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE THOSE SERVICES?

All services will be delivered in much the same way as they have in the past. Children at St. George Independent Catholic School will likely not notice any difference in the way they receive services in the future from the way they receive them today.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION?

The Board can be reached at: saintgeorgeblj@stgeorgecatholic.org