



The St. James Academy community is mourning the loss and preparing to celebrate the life of classmate and friend, Connor McCullough. Please plan to join the ceremonies planned for Connor. These events also affect school schedules over the next two days.

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Student car pools are encouraged! The east parking lot will be closed Wednesday morning. Student parking will only be permitted on the west lot and overflow will be in the field to the east.

- 10:20 a.m. All-School Mass for Ash Wednesday.
2:45 p.m. School dismissal, as scheduled. The main doors of the school will not be accessible. Students will exit the building from the academic and gym entrances. Student access after 3:00 p.m. will be only through the gymnasium/east entrance. The academic wing, commons, dining hall and media center will be closed.
- 4:00 – 8:00 Wake* in John Paul II Chapel at St. James Academy.
Enter the main school doors for the Wake.
At 6:00 p.m. visitation will break for the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
At 8:00 p.m. Monsignor Burger leads the Rosary.

Thursday, February 23, 2012 - NO SCHOOL

- 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass* at Church of the Ascension, 9510 127th St., Overland Park KS 66213 Burial follows at Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea KS
- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held, as scheduled.

Friday, February 24, 2012 – NO SCHOOL (as scheduled)

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Parent Teacher Conferences.

The McCullough family has chosen to have an open casket for the visitation. It is recommended that parents escort their student to the Wake and Mass.

As this week unfolds St. James students begin a journey of healing. One of the best ways we can help our kids through their suffering is to walk humbly beside them and show them that we – adults, parents, teachers, and administrators - too suffer. Listen and acknowledge that it's okay to be angry, it's okay to be sad, it's okay to cry.

Connor united his suffering with the suffering of Jesus, and in doing so brought us all to the foot of the Cross. He gave us the strength to carry our tiny crosses and lift them up in honor of Connor, of the amazing man of God he was. It doesn't take away the pain and the sadness, but it brings hope that he had done exactly what he was supposed to do and was called home. He brought people closer to Christ through his strength, his perseverance, his honest and fearless love for God. The love for him truly will hold us all together and will provide us with the warmth through this scary storm.

The St. James Academy Campus Ministers, Counselors and every House Mentor are working with students through this difficult time. We are talking openly and respond as needs are recognized. Encourage your student to depend on any of these resources as they cope.

Attached is information regarding grief and loss from a Christian perspective. It shares different biblical stories and bible verses that may be a helpful guide when approaching different questions you may be asked.

Thank you all so much for the love you have for this community.

Keeping Faith
✠ *One Holy Catholic Apostolic*