



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
*Catholic Schools Office*



July 3, 2019

Feast of St. Thomas, Patron of India

Dear Infant Jesus School Community,

In March at the State of the School meeting at Infant Jesus, parents and teachers reviewed the financial history and current financial situation of the school. During the meeting, the community understood that the school would require 77 registered students by April 30 in order to maintain the current classroom structure with one teacher per grade for next year. On May 8, 2019 parents were informed that the school will need to transition to multi-level classes to educate the 60 students enrolled as of April 30, 2019 and that the school needed to maintain a minimum of 50 enrolled students to ensure the continued operation of the school. Assured of this enrollment, the Catholic Schools Office and the school made plans for Professional Development for the staff including assigning mentors and scheduling training to aid in the transition to multi-level education. This week we have become aware of the principal's resignation, the resignation of contracted teachers, and that only 42 students have signed financial contracts for the 2019-2020 school year.

While working on this plan for IJS over the past several months, the Catholic Schools Office has been in dialogue with the leadership at Infant Jesus, St. Christopher, and Nashua Catholic to create a vision for the future for all three Catholic schools. In a recent Catholic Schools Vision meeting, it was determined that by 2022, all three schools would be merged into one Catholic Academy in Nashua, comprised of Nashua Catholic Middle School with grades 6-8 and St. Christopher Elementary School with grades PK- 5 (Infant Jesus and St. Christopher's unified). In light of these recent developments at Infant Jesus, we have made the decision to implement the first phase of our vision by closing Infant Jesus School effective immediately and welcoming your families with students in PK-6 into the St. Christopher School community. We will then add 6th grade to Nashua Catholic in September 2020.

The Catholic Schools Office and St. Christopher School would like to make this merge as smooth a transition as possible for you and your families. With this in mind, St. Christopher's will honor all financial agreements that have been made with IJS, and will remain committed to providing financial aid each year to families in need. We understand that attending a new school will bring the additional cost of changing uniforms; therefore, each student transferring to St. Chris will receive one free uniform this summer. In addition, Principal, Cindy Clarke has been in contact with the City of Nashua, and they have assured us that bussing will be available to St. Christopher for all students in Nashua this fall.

Members of the Catholic Schools Office, Principal Cindy Clarke, Fr. David Harris, and staff and faculty of IJS will be available at the meetings scheduled on *Option C* for Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 4pm to answer questions and provide families with informational packets. Saint Christopher is also hosting an Open House for prospective students on Thursday, July 11 at 6pm to meet teachers and families currently in the St. Christopher school community.

We sincerely hope that you will join us and embrace this wonderful opportunity to create a blended community that is committed to offering the most comprehensive, continuous, academically excellent, and authentically Catholic Prek-6 education for Nashua students and families. Thank you once again for the opportunity to aid you in educating your children, and entrusting them to our care. Please do not hesitate to call upon any of the staff at the Catholic Schools Office and/or the leadership team at St. Christopher School if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David Thibault  
Superintendent