

Dear Parents and Guardians of the St. Ambrose Class of 2024,

Thank you for your input into the decision regarding the annual 8th grade trip to Space Camp. As Mr. Baird shared with you, the costs to attend have gone up considerably. After further consultation with the St. Ambrose School Board and the St. Ambrose Development Director (*Erin Kochan*), I have been tasked with making the final decision regarding the future of Space Camp for St. Ambrose School.

Over the past several years, fundraising for the 8th grade trip to Space Camp has come up short. In most cases, individual families were able to cover the costs through additional personal donations. While some families may be able to cover the cost for their child when not enough funds are raised, not all families will be able to do so, and some children may not be able to participate in this class trip.

With the rising costs associated with Space Camp, and the purpose of Space Camp being a CLASS trip with an educational component, the difficulty in fundraising (especially in this COVID recovery phase and the higher cost of living), it is unreasonable to ask the St. Ambrose Class of 2024 to undertake this enormous effort. The stress involved will far outweigh the excitement of the trip itself.

Sadly, there has never been a year in my time as Pastor that I haven't heard the concern about a few families doing almost all the work of fundraising.

Therefore, after consultation with Mr. Baird, the St. Ambrose School Board, and Erin Kochan (Development Director), I have determined that St. Ambrose School can no longer support an annual trip to Space Camp.

The 8th grade class, beginning with the class of 2024, will participate in a class trip that will be much more cost friendly and continue to meet the educational component of such an experience. The details of this trip have yet to be determined but will involve input from the class itself.

I realize that this decision will not set well with some families, and I do regret that. However, I must keep the entire class and all future classes before me when making these kinds of decisions.

Thank you and God bless you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.