

## **WELCOME TO THE SAINT JAMES SCHOOL HSA**

**Dear Parents and Guardians of Saint James School Students,**

The Home & School Association (HSA) would like to welcome all new and returning families to the 2018-2019 school year. We are excited for a fun-filled year! This **Welcome Packet** is designed to give you the basic information you need to learn about the HSA and see what is happening this year. It includes:

- HSA Board Members and Contact Information
- HSA Meeting Dates
- Event and Fundraiser Dates
- Event and Fundraiser Summaries and Volunteer Opportunities

The HSA (what other schools may call the PTA or PTO) seeks to bring together “home” and “school” so we can work together to build school spirit and positively impact the education of our children. To accomplish this, the HSA organizes many social and fundraising events throughout the year. All parents and guardians of SJS students are automatically members of the HSA upon registering at our school, and we hope that you will be actively involved. We are always in need of volunteers to make our activities successful, and we have opportunities of all shapes and sizes to fit your talents and your time.

Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria**. We strongly encourage you to attend. You will have a chance to meet the HSA board members, hear what is happening in the first few months of the school year, and find out how to get involved. It is also a great time to meet other parents and network. We will also be holding a morning meeting on **Wednesday, September 5 at 8:00am in the lower church** so if you cannot attend in the evening, please join us the following morning. Whichever meeting best fits your schedule, we'd love for you to join us!

We value your participation, feedback, and questions so please contact us at anytime.

We are looking forward to a great year!

**Sincerely,**

**The 2018-2019 HSA Board**

Alicia Poth, President

Erin Daley, Vice-President

Kate Davis, Fundraising Chair

Beverly-Anne Cattanach, Secretary

## **2018-2019 HSA Board Members**

Alicia Poth, President  
[aliciapoth@gmail.com](mailto:aliciapoth@gmail.com)

Erin Daley, Vice-President  
[erindaley6416@gmail.com](mailto:erindaley6416@gmail.com)

Kate Davis, Fundraising Chair  
[70greenbean@sbcglobal.net](mailto:70greenbean@sbcglobal.net)

Beverly-Anne Cattanach, Secretary  
[beverly.fiumara@snet.net](mailto:beverly.fiumara@snet.net)

### **HSA Contact Information**

HSA email address: [HSA@SaintJamesSchool.net](mailto:HSA@SaintJamesSchool.net)

HSA Website: [saintjamesschool.net/hsa/](http://saintjamesschool.net/hsa/)

## **2018-2019 HSA Meetings**

During the monthly HSA meetings we review events of the past month, plan for upcoming months, discuss new ideas, and address concerns and questions. This year we are holding meetings on a rotating schedule and are running both morning and evening meetings to better accommodate busy schedules. *We understand that many parents are unable to attend meetings and we want you to know that you can still participate actively in the HSA even if you cannot attend.* We will be sure to keep you informed via newsletters, email and our website.

### **HSA Evening Meeting Dates**

Evening meetings are held from 7:00-8:30pm in the school library.

Tues, September 4  
Thurs, October 4  
Weds, November 14  
Tues, December 4  
Thurs, January 3  
Weds, February 6  
Tues, March 5  
Thurs, April 4  
Weds, May 1  
Tues, June 4

### **HSA Morning Meeting Dates**

Morning Meetings are held from 8:00-9:30am in the lower church hall.  
Please feel free to bring along young children.

Weds, September 5  
Friday, October 5  
Thurs, November 15  
Weds, December 5  
Friday, January 4  
Thurs, February 7  
Weds, March 6  
Friday, April 5  
Thurs, May 2  
Weds, June 5

## **2018-2019 HSA Event and Fundraiser Dates**

(Please note that these dates are subject to change.)

August 30: "Boo Hoo/Woo Hoo" Welcome Back Coffee for Parents, 8-9am, cafeteria

August 31:: Cherrydale Catalog Fundraiser Begins

September 4 & 5: HSA Kick-Off Meetings

September 17-20: Scholastic Book Fair

September 21: Family Fun Night: Movie Night

September 21: Cherrydale Catalog Fundraiser Ends

October 23: State of the School Presentation / Student Fun Night

October 26: Grandparents' and Special Persons' Day

October 27: Halloween Trunk or Treating

October-November: Botticello Farms Mum Sale

November 16: Family Fun Night

December 12: Christmas Store

December 14: Middle School Dance at St. Bridget School

January 25: Family Fun Night

March-April: Munson's Chocolates Fundraiser

March 1: Middle School Dance at St. James School

March 23: Silver & Gold Soiree

April 5: Family Fun Night (tentative)

April 6 or 27 (TBD): Father/Daughter Dance

May 18: Mother/Daughter Tea

May 24: Staff Appreciation Luncheon

### **On-Going Fundraisers:**

BoxTops for Education Collections

Spirit Stick Sales

Dine Out Restaurant Nights

Note-to-School Notepad Sales

### **To Be Scheduled:**

Mother/Son Event

Father/Son Event

Moms' Nights Out

Middle School Nights Out

Community Outreach Activities (HSA GIVES)

## **HSA Event Summaries and Volunteers Opportunities**

Below are descriptions of many of the social and fundraising events we will be running this year, as well as explanations of where volunteer help is needed. If you have any questions about events or how you can help, please feel free to contact the event chairs or any HSA board members. For additional information and photos from past years, please visit the HSA website at [saintjamesschool.net/hsa/](http://saintjamesschool.net/hsa/).

### **Parent's Night Out and Auction**

Wear jeans or your favorite cocktail dress and join us for a fun night out for parents as we raise funds for our wonderful school! The "Silver & Gold Soiree" will be held in March in the "Saber's Den." There will be live and silent auctions, raffles, delicious food and drinks, and a DJ & dancing.

*There will be a special event committee that holds meetings throughout the year for this event. There will be many opportunities to help out!*

### **Cherrydale Catalog Fundraiser**

The first major fundraiser of the school year is a catalog-based fundraiser run through Cherrydale Fund Raising. There is something for everyone with items such as wrapping paper, home decor, kitchen gadgets, candy & nuts, cookie dough, pies & cakes, candles, and lots more. There are also fun incentives to get the students excited to sell!

*For this fundraiser, we need help distributing items to families when they are delivered to the school in early November. Typically we have several parent volunteers organize and distribute orders to families during afternoon pick-up.*

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Our week-long Scholastic book fair is held in September in the school gym. Children can preview the books and then return to shop the following days. The fair is also open during the evenings of "Meet the Teachers" nights for parents to shop with their children. Proceeds from the sale of books at this event will fund the purchase of new books for the SJS library and the classrooms.

*Volunteers are needed to help set-up the fair and to help students as they visit the book fair each day.*

### **Grandparents' and Special Persons' Day**

This annual tradition is a wonderful way for students in grades K-5 to share a morning with a grandparent or special person. Guests are honored at a ceremony in the gym where students share poems, skits, and songs and also enjoy a concert by the school band. Following the ceremony, guests visit the classrooms.

*Prior to the event, volunteers are needed to help plan and coordinate the event and assemble raffle baskets. The morning of the event, volunteers assist in set-up, greeting guests, serving refreshments and clean-up.*

### **Halloween Trunk or Treat**

Students in all grades and their families are invited for some Halloween fun! Come in costume and decorate your trunk! Enjoy a costume parade, trunk or treating, a “tricked-out trunk” contest, yummy treats, dancing, games and a lot of fun!

*Volunteers are needed to help plan, set up/clean up and help out at the event.*

### **Christmas Store**

In early December, the school Gym is transformed into a shopping plaza for a day. Each class has an allotted time during which children may shop for and purchase inexpensive items for their family. Every year our students are so excited to pick out something special for their loved ones and family members love unwrapping their special gifts on Christmas morning.

*Volunteers are needed to set-up/clean-up the store and help during the school day as students shop.*

### **Family Fun Nights**

Several times throughout the year we will be hosting “family fun nights” to provide families with the opportunity to come together for some fun and socializing. Every event will have a different theme such as candy bar BINGO, dance party, minute-to-win-it games, sports fun, or “potluck & play.” Join in the fun!

*Volunteers are needed to help plan, set-up, run and clean-up the events.*

### **Middle School Dances**

There are 2 dances for the middle school students of St. James and St. Bridget schools. This is a great way for our older students to have fun and meet up with friends.

*For the dance hosted by SJS, six parents are needed to set-up, monitor behavior, and assist with refreshments. For the dances not held at SJS, two parents are needed to assist with sign in/sign out.*

### **Mother & Daughter Tea**

In May, girls in all grades may invite mom or a special lady in their life to a Spring tea party. Tea & lemonade, tea sandwiches & treats, crafts & game,s and lots of fun make this event a great way to share some special “girl time!”

*Volunteers are needed prior to the event to help prepare food and decorations and organize activities and crafts. The day before and the day of the party, we need volunteers to set-up, serve and clean-up.*

### **Father & Daughter Dance**

Our annual Father/Daughter dance is traditionally held in the spring and features an evening of DJ music, games, dancing, and snacks. Attire for girls is dressy and attire for dads is office casual (keep in mind it can get quite warm in the gym).

*Volunteers are needed to help organize food, games and decorations in advance. At the event, moms are needed to help set-up, oversee and clean-up.*

### **Dine-Out Nights**

Every month a local restaurant hosts SJS families and donates a percentage of the evening's sales back to our school. This is a fun way to meet up with friends for dinner and tasty way support our school!

### **Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

This special luncheon is a way for SJS parents to show their appreciation to the teachers and staff for all the help and support they give our children during the year. Staff are treated to a delicious luncheon hosted at the school for all staff members.

*Parents are needed to help prepare the daily treats for parents, watch the children in the classrooms (from 12:00-1:30) the day of the lunch, and to set-up, serve and clean-up the lunch.*

### **HSA GIVES**

HSA GIVES (Get Involved, Value Everyone, Share) is a way to help the school and church communities reach out to the local community. We will be organizing several activities over the year to help improve the lives of those around us. Some ideas include Christmas caroling at assisted-living facilities, making/delivering sandwiches to MACC, and collecting items for food pantries and homeless shelters.

*Volunteers will be needed to organize various activities.*

### **Father/Son Event**

Get all the guys together! This event is a great way for SJS boys to have some fun with dad or any special man in their lives. This year the event will occur at Dave & Busters. We are always open to new ideas so please share any you may have!

### **Mother/Son Event**

Every year we organize an event for moms and sons to share some special time. In the past we have attended a Wolf Pack hockey game, UConn Basketball game, and enjoyed kickball, pizza & swimming at Star Hill Athletic Center.

### **ON-GOING FUNDRAISERS**

**Note-to-School Notepads:** Rushing to get out the door when you remember you need to send a note to your child's teacher? Can't find a piece of paper? We've got you covered! This year we are selling notepads so you can easily drop a note in your child's folder and be on your way!

**Spirit Sticks:** Spirit Sticks are a fun way for students to express themselves and decorate backpacks. Spirit Sticks will be available to add to your collection throughout the year. They make great stocking stuffers, Easter egg fillers, and incentives. They can be displayed on our custom SJS Key Rings, also available for purchase. Key Rings are also great for parents and grandparents to show school spirit!

**Box Tops:** Families are asked to clip "Box Tops for Education" and send them into the school. Each Box Top you clip earns 10¢ for Saint James. Last years earning totalled \$1567.00!! Everytime Box Tops are counted, the class that brings in the most Box Tops will win a dress down day.