



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Happy October! It has truly been a blessing to have our students and staff back at school these past three weeks; to walk through the building and once again be surrounded by the joyful sounds of learning and laughter spilling out from the classrooms. I am so impressed – as is our faculty and staff – by how quickly our students have adapted to the challenges of schooling during a pandemic. From the first day, our in-person learners – from Pre-K on up – were comfortable wearing their masks and practicing social distancing; our remote learners were online, following the protocol and ready to be part of the classroom experience. I am exceptionally grateful to our parent community for your diligent and proactive preparation for this unique school year. Your steadfast support continues to be one of the many reasons that Saint James School is such a special place!

By the same token, as we enter into the dreaded cold and flu season and with always the possibility of an uptick in COVID cases, it is essential that every family in our community continue to be vigilant in their health and safety practices. If your children are participating in any town sport programs or attending a social gathering, I ask that you help guide them to make good choices. While we have heard this phrase a lot in the recent months, we really are, “all in this together.”

Please continue to conduct a health assessment and temperature check on your children EVERY morning before you leave the house. If there is anything that seems unusual, please err on the side of caution and keep your children home.

Please know how grateful we are for your support and commitment to our school.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Zorger

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:09

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint James School provides a quality Catholic education inspired by the Sisters of Mercy and based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We strive to develop the full potential of every child, encourage service to others, and build a foundation for independent life-long learning.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 1** HSA Mask Fundraiser ends
- October 7** Cherrydale fundraiser ends
- October 9** Midterm progress check
- October 12** NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)
- October 21** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- October 22** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- October 23** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Faculty Professional Development)
- November 2** Winter uniform begins

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Punctuality is important; late arrivals disrupt classroom time. Please take care to have your student to school on time. Student absences should be called into the school by 8:00am.
- Parking cannot occur in certain areas as it blocks the buses and disrupts traffic flow. Please refer to the following pages for detailed information.
- Please check your email daily for information from the school.
- Academic/behavioral concerns should always be discussed with the teacher first.
- Crossing Guards are in place to safely help you cross the street. ONLY cross at cross walks and wait for the Crossing Guard to signal it's safe before stepping into the street.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Saint James School will have early dismissal days (12:05pm) on October 21st and 22nd for Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. Formal conferences for all grades, Pre-K3 through Grade 8, are held twice a year.

Please note:

- A Fall Conference is required for every student;
- Conferences will take place via ZOOM;
- Only one conference slot may be scheduled per student;
- K - 5th grade parents will conference with the homeroom teacher;
- Middle school parents can select from any ONE of their child's teachers to conference with.

Links to sign up for a conference will be sent out via email in early October. Please be on the lookout!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PAUSED

Saint James School has made the decision to pause all Extracurricular activities, with the exception of Instrumental Music. At this time, most extracurricular activities offered by the school require the mixing of cohorts, which is not in line with our return to in-person learning plan. Extracurricular activities may be reinstated in the months ahead. Please watch the email blasts and Saber Stories Newsletters for updates.

GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL PERSONS DAY UPDATE

Unfortunately our long-standing tradition of hosting Grandparents' and Special Persons' Day has been put on hold this year due to COVID-19.



Each time you make a purchase from Amazon through the www.Smile.Amazon.com website, Saint James School will receive 0.5% of the purchase price, with no cost to you.

The website experience is exactly the same as the traditional Amazon website, but when you enter through the "smile" link, you will be prompted to select a charity to support. Saint James School can be found by searching "**St. James Parish Corporation**" (which allows your support to come directly to our school's Fundraising account) or by clicking [this link](#).

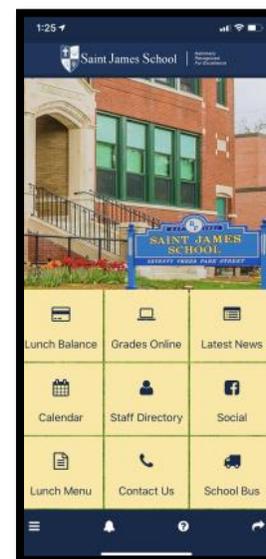
Since the program began, Saint James School has earned **\$1,757** via this free program!

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL MOBILE APP

If you don't already have our SJS App installed on your mobile device, please visit the App Store or Google Play Store and search for St. James School Manchester CT.

Be sure to say "YES" to receiving notifications. We do occasionally send text notices this way.

Any questions or problems regarding the App, please reach out to Amy Guenther via phone or at aguenther@saintjameschool.net.



FROM THE NURSE

Absence Calls: Parents must call the school nurse before 8:00am to report any absence (use option 3 on the automated menu). Please give your name and your relation to the student, the student's name, homeroom, and the reason for the absence.

If your child is ill, please report the nature of the illness. Please follow these guidelines to protect your child and the rest of the school community from illness:

- Be sure that your child is eating healthy foods and getting plenty of exercise and sleep
- Frequent hand washing for everyone at home
- Get a flu shot (now is the best time)
- Change out school masks daily (ensure a second clean mask is always in your child's backpack)
- Take your child's temperature **every day** before school and assess general health daily. Please keep children home if any complaint of illness and contact your child's health care provider for advice for:
 - * *Fevers with cough or sore throat*
 - * *Complaints of feeling too ill for school*
 - * *Severe sore throat or swollen glands*
 - * *Diarrhea or vomiting - must wait 24 hours after vomiting/diarrhea ends before returning to school*
 - * *Rash of unknown origin*
 - * *Eye conjunctivitis (pink eye)*
- Send your child back to school only when they have been cleared by a general practice doctor or physician's assistant AND are:
 - * *Fever free for 24 hours AND not using analgesics for temperatures*
 - * *If on antibiotics, at least 24 hours after first dose and feeling better*

Students are required to remain at home if:

- They test positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed/in contact with someone who has tested positive. **If this happens the parent/guardian needs to inform the Saint James School nurse immediately. If a positive test result is received after 3:00pm or over the weekend, please email Mrs. Zorger immediately at bzorger@saintjameschool.net.**
- If a student has traveled to any of the current CT DPH COVID-19 hotspots, he/she will need to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school.
- They experience any high risk COVID symptoms including
 - * *Fever (above 100.0 F or per clinical judgement with OR without fatigue/body aches/chills)*
 - * *New unexplained loss of taste or smell*
 - * *Respiratory symptoms (lung congestion, shortness of breath)*

2020-2021 SCHOOL BOARD

(Advisory Board for Building and Grounds, Catholic Identity, Finances, Long-Range Strategic Plans & Advancement)

Chair: David LaMonica

Vice Chair: William Pfeiffer, Jr.

Members: Kathy Camposeo, Ginny LaFontana, Andrew Bushnell, Matthew Curtin, Kevin Dowd, Edward (Tom) Kelly, and Megan Schladetsch

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION BOARD

(Social events and fundraising for the school)

President: Jodi Talaga

Secretary: Beverly Cattanach

Fundraising Chair: Kate Davis

Thank you for volunteering your time and talent!



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

This September, Mr. Corcoran welcomed 24 new students into the Future Musicians Instrumental Music Program.

This year, our intermediate and advanced band students will practice on Wednesdays, with 1st year/beginning band students meeting on Thursdays.

UNIFORM CLOSET

Now that school is back in session, please note that the Uniform Closet is only open before school (7:30am-7:50am) or after school hours (2:05pm-2:30pm). Thank you for your kind consideration of our littlest students and their teachers!



Congratulations to the following Saint James School students who recently made their First Communion (postponed from May):

Hunter Caldwell	Luc LaChance
Christiano Clark	Matthew LaMonica
Kristyn Fennimore	Gavin Lowe
William Flenke	Olivia McCarthy
Ethan Garcia	Eduardo Quiros-Miranda
John David Garcia-Nieves	Rachel Roraback
Alexa Ghezzi	Vanessa Ryan
Connor Howard	Luke Szpryczynski
Katherine King	Christian Ysui
Sophia Kurpiewski	

ANNUAL FUND

As is the case with many privately-funded institutions, Saint James School relies upon donations to its Annual Fund Campaign to help finance necessary improvements that simply cannot be covered by the tuition paid by our families and are not supported by our other funding sources.

Annual fund donations, which come directly to our school, have helped us make many critical improvements in recent years such as bright, energy-efficient windows in the majority of our school and new, energy-efficient roofs over our classrooms and breezeway.

- Our 2019 Annual Fund Campaign raised \$39,222 which was applied towards the new roof and new dormer windows on the Pre-Kindergarten building.
- Donations to the 2020 Annual Fund Campaign will help offset the cost of improvements and purchases associated with reopening our school buildings during the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information please visit us at: <https://saintjameschool.net/annualfund/>

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Would you be interesting in subbing this year, or know of someone who would like to be a substitute teacher? We would appreciate your help.

Qualifications

Two-year degree
(not necessarily in education)

Please contact the school office and specify the grade level you are interested in and Mrs. Anderson will contact you with more information.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SJS

United Way

The 2020-2021 United Way Community Campaign is currently underway at many of our local companies. Please remember you can donate to Saint James School through the United Way by utilizing our code - AG0681-1 or going to the section "Write In/Other" and writing in "Saint James School, Manchester, CT."

Amazon Smile

Amazon's charitable giving program, AmazonSmile, will donate 0.5% percentage of your eligible purchases to SJS!

Simply type <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0653122> into your website browser and begin shopping. Or, visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and, when prompted to select a charity, enter St. James Parish Corporation (which comes directly to our school account) or 06-0653122 in the search box.

Grocery Cards

Please help Saint James School to purchase educational supplies by registering your store cards:

Stop and Shop: Code 07431

Shop Rite: Code - 18386
www.shopriteforeducation.com

Box Tops For Education

Please continue to collect physical Box Tops for Education from product labels and use the Box Tops App to scan digital Box Tops. We count on these funds for our school and appreciate your participation.