



## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

It is hard to believe that November is already upon our doorstep! The commitment, adaptability, and fortitude exhibited over the last two months has just been incredible and I am so proud of our school community for, once again, rising to the challenges before us.

During this month, our thoughts move away from settling into a new school year and focusing on enjoying the spirit of the season. November at Saint James School always comes with focus on gratitude and recognizing the many blessings we share. This month we will celebrate Veteran's Day, Catholic Schools' Week, and – of course – the Thanksgiving Holiday. While these time-honored traditions will look a little different at SJS this year, the messages and teachings remain steadfast.

Showing gratitude by participating in service to the community has always been an important facet of our students' education. We have kicked off this season of sharing already with our Halloween \$1.00 dress down day. Money collected will be donated to the St. James Parish Social Action Committee so they can purchase gift cards for families in need. We will also do a Thanksgiving food collection for MACC Charities in Mid-November and our Friendly lessons for this month will focus on showing gratitude through compassion and kindness. Additionally, older students at Saint James School are participating in service projects outside of school as part of their religion requirements.

Of course, in talking about gratitude, I would be remiss if I did not mention how thankful we are here at Saint James School for you – our parent and grandparent community! Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children and for recognizing the life-long value of a strong, Catholic school education.

I look forward to another great month of learning and growing at Saint James 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

November 2	Winter Uniform Begins
November 13	Trimester 1 Marking Period Ends
November 20	Report Cards Distributed
<b>November 25</b>	<b>12:05pm Dismissal</b>
<b>November 26/27</b>	<b>No School—Thanksgiving Recess</b>

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## IMPORTANT NOTES

- A decision has not yet been made regarding winter sports/basketball in the Archdiocese of Hartford. We will relay information to our families as soon as we know more.
- 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 follow posted parking signs every day.
- Please check your email daily for information from the school.
- 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.

## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The HSA would like to thank everyone who helped make our fall fundraisers successful! Our fundraisers through October have made the following profit for SJS:

Cherrydale — \$9,393

Mums — \$180

Mask Sales — \$900

Coming up in November, we will have our online Scholastic book fair in addition to raffling off the awesome class baskets that were created back in March for our Blue & Gold Soiree. (As you may recall, the event was cancelled due to schools closing by the Governor's mandate ). The next HSA meeting will take place virtually Thursday, November 12th at 7:00pm. Please check the daily email blast around the 12th for the call-in information.

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## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

One of our favorite events at Saint James School is the annual Scholastic Book Fair. Due to current health and safety protocol, this year the book fair will take place completely online.

The event will run November 2nd - 15th with 25% of every purchase going towards the purchase of new books for our school library and classrooms!

Book purchases of \$25+ will ship to your home for free!

You can enter our book fair [HERE](#).

Please click [HERE](#) to view the library and classroom wish lists. Please check off any books you purchase for them.



## FOOD DRIVE FOR MACC FOOD PANTRY

During the **week of November 9th**, Saint James School will be collecting food to donate to the Manchester Area Conference of Churches food pantry. Each grade will be responsible for a food item as noted below. Your generosity is appreciated as we help local families in need have a very blessed Thanksgiving.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Stuffing

**Kindergarten:** Instant Potatoes

**Grade 1:** Cornbread, Bread Mix

**Grade 2:** Canned Vegetables

**Grade 3:** Pasta

**Grade 4:** Desserts (Puddings, Cookies, etc.)

**Grade 5:** Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate

**Grade 6:** Juice & Water

**Grade 7:** Cranberry Sauce or Pasta Sauce

**Grade 8:** Gravy, Pickles, Olives

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## FRIENDZY SEL PROGRAM

This month we move on to the second unit in our social and emotional literacy program:



In this unit, students will be reminded that God's Word calls us to show love all the time, not just when it is easy or convenient. Students will be challenged and equipped with the tools to show compassion and kindness in various circumstances they might encounter each day. We encourage parents to continue the conversation at home by asking students to share what they are learning.

*Research shows that social and emotional literacy supports success in every part of a student's life, with positive gains in both academic achievement and interpersonal relationships.*

We welcome you to revisit our FRIENDZY program kickoff letter [HERE](#).

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS 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)
- Please remain vigilant in monitoring your child's health and wellness every day. Take your child's temperature every morning before leaving for school and assesses their general health daily. Please keep children home if they have a temperature and/or any complaint of illness and contact your child's health care provider for advice on:
  - \* *Fever, cough, or sore throat*
  - \* *Complaints of feeling ill*
  - \* *Diarrhea or vomiting - must wait at least 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 to/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](mailto:bzorger@saintjameschool.net).**
- **Your child is involved with an activity where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, and you have been told your child needs to quarantine. Exposed individuals can still spread the virus even though they may not be experiencing any symptoms.**
- 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-19 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)*

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



On Thursday October 29th members of the school's Advanced Band came together for a socially-distanced performance of two Christmas songs, which were videotaped for the town of Manchester to use in a Holiday-themed video. The band also performed, for video, *Marches of the Armed Forces*, which will be used as part of Saint James School's Veteran's Day celebration.