

October 2021

SABER



STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Happy October! It has been wonderful seeing all our students and their families back at Saint James School during the past month. Thank you for your diligence in helping us ensure a smooth return to school through the strict adherence of our health and safety protocols and published procedures for arrival/dismissal. Your support continues to be one of the many reasons that Saint James School is such a strong community and a special place for our students to grow and learn.

As we settle in here at school, I am pleased to share that Saint James School has welcomed 95 brand new students this year, many of whom are the children of, or relatives of, Saint James School alumni. We have also had a large number of students come to us by way of referral from our current families and we gratefully thank you for sharing your experiences with those around you.

Everyone loves a new book! We will kick off the month of October with our Scholastic Book Fair. Students in all grades (including Pre-K) will have the opportunity to visit the book fair in our school's gymnasium during school hours, with additional times before and after school hours for parents to shop. Proceeds from the Scholastic book fair help fund the purchase of new books for the Saint James School library and classrooms.

On October 20th and 21st we will have early dismissal for parent/teacher conferences as we mark the half-way point in our first trimester. Our fall conferences are mandatory for all students, providing a formal opportunity to discuss how students are adjusting to the new year and get ahead of any potential concerns.

We will conclude the month of October with a black & orange dress down day on October 29th to get us in a festive spirit, followed by Trunk or Treat on Saturday afternoon (hosted by our Home & School Association).

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. Thank you again for your support and commitment to our school.

Peace in Christ,
Mrs. Zorger

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 4** Scholastic Book Fair Begins
- October 11** NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day)
- October 15** Trimester 1 Midterm progress check
- October 20** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- October 21** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- October 29** 12:05pm Dismissal Day (Faculty Professional Development)
- November 1** Winter uniform begins

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Punctuality is important; late arrivals disrupt classroom time. Please take care to have your student to school before 7:50am. 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 signs and school protocol.
- 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.

FRIENDZY PROGRAM RETURNS

We live in a climate and culture where students are more technologically connected, but more socially disconnected than ever before. This is contributing to higher levels of anxiety, depression, and relational challenges.



This year we are continuing to proactively equip students with skills to build strong relationships with a biblically based Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum called Friendzy.

Each week your student will learn God's design for healthy relationships and be introduced to core competencies and skills that develop self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness, and relationship tools. Stronger relationships lead to stronger communities.

Research has shown that by combining SEL with academic development it improves academic performance, attitudes, relationships with peers, and reduces behavior challenges, depression, anxiety, and social isolation. This type of learning will continue to improve our campus culture, and benefit your student and our communities for a lifetime.

You will have the opportunity to engage with your student on Friendzy topics through monthly Friendzy email updates, parent discussion in the Friendzy student workbooks, and fun conversation starters that can be used at home.

As we kick off our first Friendzy Unit in October, we will be discussing the idea that we are **Better Together** and talking about ways to adopt a "we" versus a "me" mindset.

Over the next few weeks, the goal is for every student to begin using the unit's catchphrase: "**Better Together**" in their everyday life. You can help them by beginning to use this in your conversations at home. This is the main point that students will catch onto and remember and use over and over.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Saint James School will have early dismissal days (12:05pm) on October 20th and 21st 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!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Saint James School's annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held October 4th - October 7th in our school gymnasium. The book fair is a great way to encourage reading and build home libraries. It is also a great way to support our school with up to 50% of purchases going towards the purchase of new books for our library.

Students will be visiting the Book Fair during the school day with their teachers. Students in Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 5 will visit on Monday or Tuesday to make a "wish list" of books. Parents will be able to look over the list and send in payment the following day for their child to purchase the books. Grade 6 - 8 students will visit the fair on Wednesday and should come with money to make purchases.

Students can pay with cash, check payable to St. James HSA, or eWallet. Please follow [this link](#) to learn more about the eWallet option - a convenient, cash-free way to send money to school with your child. Please send a shopping bag for purchases.

Parent Shopping Hours

Parents, grandparents, etc. may stop by the school gymnasium to browse the book fair at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, 10/5: 1:15pm-2:45pm

Wednesday, 10/6: 7:15-7:45am and 1:15-2:45pm

All parents that visit the fair can enter to win one of the raffle baskets of books!

Continued on Next Page

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR (continued)

Pre-Order the New Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book
"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot" will be released on October 26! You can pre-order an exclusive paperback copy at our school's Book Fair for \$9.99. To place an order, visit the Fair during Parent Shopping Hours. The books will arrive at school in early November and be delivered directly to your student.

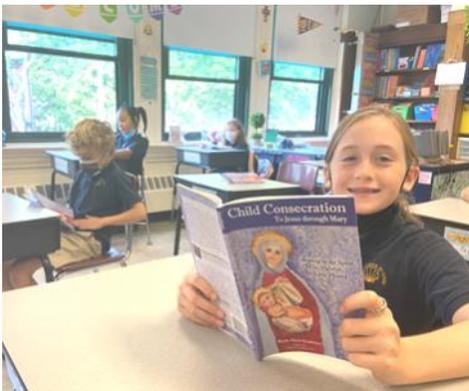
Support Classroom Libraries, Too!

While visiting the Book Fair you can also help our teachers build their classroom libraries. Check the SJS email blast during the Book Fair dates for our teacher wish lists. You can purchase these books at the fair during our parent shopping hours or by adding the books to your child's wish list. Thank you for supporting our teachers!

CONSECRATION JOURNEY UNDERWAY

Saint James School Kindergarten through Grade 8 students are currently participating in an age-appropriate Consecration journey, designed to bring them closer to Jesus by building a prayerful relationship with Mary - the Blessed Mother. During their daily religion lessons, students have been participating in prayers, reflections, and stories designed to help them grow in faith and be firm in virtue using the book *Child Consecration: To Jesus through Mary—Following in the Spirit of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower* as a guide.

Please note that Saint James School has extra books for families to participate at home. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Sager to request a copy to be sent home with your child.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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](#).

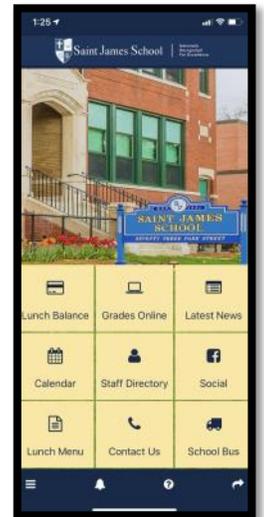
Since the program began, Saint James School has earned **well over \$2,000** via this free program!

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.



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Our Cross Country team has been working hard since early September in anticipation of their upcoming races. The first race for our 23 runners in grades 5 through 8 will be held Monday October 4th at 4:00pm at Illing Middle School in Manchester (runners arrive at 3:15pm to stretch and walk the course). Check out our school's [Cross Country Calendar](#) for all the upcoming races and come out to cheer the team on to victory.

HSA NEWS AND EVENTS

The SJS Home & School Association would like to thank everyone who supported our school and made our September fundraisers so successful:

Cherrydale: \$11,370 in profit for our school (\$24,588 in sales)!

Mum Sales: \$208 in profit for our school

Mask Fundraiser: \$236 in profit for our school

Lucky Taco Dine-Out: \$415 in profit for our school

Spiritwear: \$434 in profit for our school

The next HSA meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7th at 7PM in the cafeteria as well as via Zoom. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Trunk or Treat - Save the Date!

The HSA will be hosting its annual Trunk or Treat event the afternoon of Saturday, October 30th. It will be a fun afternoon of trunk or treating, contests, face painting, and costumes! A flyer will go home in the SJS email blast shortly to sign your family up to participate. We can't wait to see everyone there!



\$1.00 HALLOWEEN DRESS DOWN DAY (in support of Alzheimer's Research)

In keeping with the fun spirit of Halloween, students and staff may pay \$1.00 to come to school in Fall/Halloween color dress down attire on Friday, October 29th.

Money collected from the dress down day will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association to fund important research into finding a cure for this terrible disease which impacts so many families each year.

Dress down attire must be black, orange, white, green, and/or purple. NO masks, **NO costumes (except K and Pre-K)**, NO face paint, NO colored hair.

As a reminder, here are the dress down guidelines from our handbook:

- Clothing must not have indecent writing or pictures, inappropriate slogans or advertisements.
- Revealing clothing (including short shorts, halter tops, half shirts, tank tops, and see-through tops) is not allowed.
- Leggings are not allowed (unless the student is wearing a long shirt that comes down to mid-thigh)
- Waistbands must not sag below the waist. Pants legs must not drag on the floor.
- High heels, platform shoes, flip-flops, open-toe sandals, and shoes with no backs are not allowed.
- Clothing must not be torn, ragged, or have holes.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES



Mr. Corcoran welcomed 17 first year instrumentalists into our school's Future Musicians Instrumental Music program this year. All three levels of band - beginner, intermediate, and advanced - have begun practicing in preparation for their Christmas performance.

2021-2022 SCHOOL BOARD

Saint James School's Advisory Board for Advancement, Buildings and Grounds, Catholic Identity, Technology, Finance, and Long-Range Strategic Planning,

Chair: David LaMonica

Vice Chair: William Pfeiffer, Jr.

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

2021-2022 HSA BOARD

The primary purposes of the Saint James School Home & School Association are fundraising for the general use of the school and promoting family-oriented social activities that enhance community spirit for students, families and staff. We encourage all SJS families to get involved in these important initiatives.

President: Jodi Talaga

Vice-President: Patricia McCarthy

Secretary: Amanda Stewart

Fundraising Chair: Kate Davis

Thank you to ALL of our awesome volunteers for donating their time and expertise!

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 2:45pm or over the weekend, please email Mrs. Zorger immediately at bzorger@saintjameschool.net.**
- If a student has traveled and not met return-to-school guidelines.
- 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)*

If your child is in the process of getting vaccinated against COVID or will be receiving the COVID vaccine in the months ahead, please submit a copy of their completed vaccination card to the school nurse AFTER they have received their 2nd shot.