

June 2025

SABER



STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Congratulations on another successful year of academic, social, and spiritual growth here at Saint James School! It is hard to believe, but in just a few short days we will celebrate our **99th** graduation with a special Mass at Saint James Church. Many of our graduates have been with us since they were 3, 4, or 5 years old - we have literally watched them grow up before our eyes.

While 8th grade graduation is always a bittersweet event, we know that the thirty-six students who are receiving their Saint James School diploma on June 5th are well-prepared to tackle all of the new adventures that await them in high school and beyond. We look forward to hearing great things about the Saint James School Class of 2025 in the years ahead!

Our annual Pre-K4 and Kindergarten stepping-up ceremonies will be celebrated on June 11th and June 12th, respectively. I am very much looking forward to celebrating all of these important milestones with our students and their families over the next few weeks.

For families that will not be returning to Saint James School next year - whether your youngest child is graduating, your family is moving out of the area, or your educational plans have changed - we hope that you will remain in touch!

Of course, for all the families who will be returning back to Saint James School next year, we look forward to seeing you back in late August/early September to further build the educational and spiritual foundation that makes Saint James School such a special place for our students to grow and learn.

Have a fun, safe, and relaxing summer!

Mrs. Zorger

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint James School provides a quality Catholic education based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, building a foundation for independent, lifelong learners. We strive to develop every child's full potential through faith, academics, service, and character formation.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 4th - All SJS Library Books Due Back

June 5th - Grade 8 Graduation

June 10th - Field Day for Gr. K-7

June 11th - 12:05pm Dismissal Day & Last Day of School for Pre-K (all classes)

June 12th - 12:05pm Dismissal Day & Last day of School for Kindergarten

June 13th - 12:05pm Dismissal Day & Last Day of School for Grades 1-7

IMPORTANT NOTES

- The First Day of School for the 2025-2026 school year for Pre-K4 and K-8 students will be **Thursday, August 28th** (12:05pm dismissal day; aftercare will be in session). On **August 27th** families are be invited to drop-in to meet the homeroom teacher, see the classroom, and drop-off school supplies (includes all Pre-K).
- The First Day of School for Pre-K3 will be as follows:
 - * Thursday 8/28: First Day of School for Pre-K3 Full Day students with last names beginning with A - H (12:05pm dismissal day);
 - * Friday 8/29: First Day of School for Pre-K3 Full Day students with last names I - Z (students that attended on Thursday do NOT attend this day);
 - * Tuesday 9/2: All Pre-K3 Full Day attend
 - * Wednesday 9/3: Pre-K3 Part Time First Day
- All students entering Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 7th Grade must have an updated physical form on file at SJS **before the first day of school**. If your student falls into one of these categories, please submit a copy to



THANK YOU

A great big thank you to all the very special people who make Saint James School such a special place - the staff, the children, the parents, the Home & School Association, the School Council, the coaches, the Saint James School Foundation, our Parish community, and all the other supporters that work on behalf of our school. Working together as a team - home and school - works!

STUDENT MEDICATIONS

A reminder that parents/guardians will need to make arrangements to pick up all student medications from the nurse prior to the last day of school. **Students cannot bring medicines home themselves.**



Also, medication authorization forms need to be renewed annually for each school year. It is the parent's responsibility to bring medication and a completed and signed medication authorization form to the nurse when we return to school in September. The most recent medication authorization form can be found on the school website under Forms/Docs.

CHROMEBOOK COLLECTION

SJS Middle School Students will return their Chromebooks on the following dates. Please make sure they have their charger packed in their Chromebook case on this day.



Grade 8 - Monday, June 2nd

Grades 6 & 7 - Monday, June 9th

A \$39.99 replacement fee will be charged for missing Chromebook chargers. Chromebooks will also be inspected for damage not consistent with standard usage of the device.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION THANK YOU



Thank you to our Home & School Association President, Mrs. Patricia McCarthy, along with all the wonderful parent volunteers who helped with organizing fundraisers and social events for our school this year! Volunteerism is an important part of our school community and one of the many things that makes Saint James School so special. As school resumes in late August, please be on the lookout for ways to help out our school community! **In the meantime, a special Shout Out to the following event chairs who signed up to lead the efforts this year:**

School Supply Fundraiser: Alicia Poth

Trunk or Treat: Patricia McCarthy

Dine-Out Events: Julianne Klaassen

Cherrydale Farms Fundraiser: Kate Davis

Scholastic Book Fair: Alicia Poth & Erika Cantin

Butter Braids & Cookie Dough: Patricia McCarthy

Christmas Store: Kristin O'Hara, Brittany Devanney

Munson's Fundraiser: Caitlin Dennehey

Father/Daughter Dance: Sarah Scholsky

Mother/Daughter Tea: Katie Waters

Woodland Gardens Fundraisers: Syrma Middlebrook

Yard Goats Game: Jodi Talaga

Under the Stars Gala: Jana Tierney & Brittany Devanney

Teacher Appreciation Week: Patricia McCarthy, Brittany Devanney, Sarah Scholsky, Syrma Middlebrook, Caitlin & Mark Gordon, and Brie & Chris Sheehan.



2025 FIELD DAY

Saint James School will host a fun-filled field day for all Kindergarten through 7th Grade students on Tuesday, June 10th.

On that day, students should come to school in their SJS gym shorts, gym sneakers, and designated-color short sleeve T-shirt: Kindergarten: White, First Grade: Red, Second Grade: Orange, Third Grade: Yellow, Fourth Grade: Green, Fifth Grade: Blue, Sixth Grade: Purple, Seventh Grade: Tie-Dye

Please be sure your student brings a refillable water bottle to school on field day!



FIRST EUCHARIST

Congratulations to all the SJS students who completed their First Reconciliation and First Communion in May:

Scarlett Aitken	Paige Kennan
Rylee Anderson	Jamey Klaassen
Claire Callahan	Gwendolyn Kupiecki
Isla Carney	Nathan LeBlanc
Mia Colon	Dylan Manfre
Reid D'Agata	Eleanor Meggers
Ava Doncaster	Hannah Miroslaw
Aaron D'Rozario	Jaxson Piolunek
Natalie D'Rozario	Jayden Piolunek
Leanna Fernandez	Noah Rounseville
Skyler Fernandez	Claire Schwabe
Valeria Fidelo-Hernandez	Sawyer Solis
Michael Fiereck	Madeline Stewart
Lillian Gordon	Shane Waters
Grant Gurzler	Arthur Win
Griffin Gurzler	Amara Wisz
Cypress Jones	Anthony Yester



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in scanning Box Tops for Education receipts in support of Saint James school this year. We received just over \$630 in funding from Box Tops as of the end of May. While we unfortunately did not meet the \$1,000 goal, Saint James School still benefits from your support! Please keep scanning over the summer!

NEW VOLUNTEER REMINDER



As a reminder, any parents, grandparents, etc. that would like to volunteer at Saint James School must go through a VIRTUS training session and complete a background check. This process only has to be completed one time during your family's tenure with SJS (and can be done over the summer so you are ready for next year).

The VIRTUS training session is currently being held online so we encourage families to complete this requirement now while it can be done at your convenience. The VIRTUS session is focused on identifying signs of abuse in children so you will want to complete this while your children are NOT in the same room.

To register and begin the online session, please go to: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>.

Choose the green box titled, "FIRST-TIME REGISTRANT" in the left-most column and follow the prompts including the drop-down menu to choose HARTFORD Archdiocese. Select the online class option (a link will be emailed to you). At the end of the course, please print off the CERTIFICATE and send it in to the Saint James School office so we can have a copy in your file.

Please reach out to Mrs. Thornton in the main office to get a copy of the background check form. Once you complete the form, Saint James School sends your background check form in for processing.

2025 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

As in the case with many privately-funded institutions, Saint James School relies upon donations to its Annual Fund Campaign to help finance items that simply cannot be covered by the tuition paid by our families.

This year, Annual Fund donations will be used to further enrich the faith-filled educational experience provided to our students, support our talented faculty, and respond to unforeseen needs and opportunities that may arise. Every gift makes a difference! For additional details or to make a donation online, please visit saintjameschool.net/annualfund

Thank you for your consideration.

END OF YEAR STAFF RETIREMENTS & FAREWELLS



As we approach the conclusion of our 2024-2025 school year here at Saint James School we wanted to share some staff changes that will be taking place for the upcoming school year:

Mr. Joel Grout

Mr. Grout is officially retiring after 6 years of service to Saint James School. He has previously worked at Manchester Community College in their maintenance division, and joined us at SJS upon his retirement from there. We wish him all the best in his *official* retirement!

Mr. James Corcoran

Mr. Corcoran is also retiring after 46 years of teaching instrumental music at Saint James School! Please see our latest SJS Community Newsletter for more information about the generations of students he has worked with. In his retirement, Mr. Corcoran will continue to play professionally.

Mrs. Brianna Hawkins

Mrs. Hawkins will be leaving Saint James School at the end of this year to return to teaching science at Northwest Catholic High School. We are grateful for the knowledge she has shared with our students this year and wish her all the best. At the same time, we are pleased to announce that **Ms. Brigid Utz** will be taking over the Middle School Science program. She is certified to teach middle school science (along with other areas) and is excited to embrace this new challenge. We are excited to have her jumping into this role!

Mr. John Adams

After 7 years of commuting over an hour each way to be part of the SJS faculty, Mr. Adams was ready to join a Catholic school community closer to home. We are grateful for his years of service to SJS and all the history, geography, and social studies knowledge he has passed on to our middle school students. We wish him all the best! Joining us for the upcoming school year to fill this position, Saint James School has hired **Mr. Michael Conlin**, who brings 20 years of experience teaching this subject matter at the middle school level. He has a Master's degree in US History and has most recently been teaching this same curriculum at St. Gabriel School in Windsor. We are very excited to have him joining the faculty at Saint James School!

Mrs. Jennifer LaMarche

Mrs. LaMarche has been a wonderful part of the faculty at SJS for 8 years (with 12 years in Catholic education at another school prior to joining SJS). While she is a gifted classroom teacher, she has made the decision to retire from teaching to start a family business with her sisters! We are very grateful for her service to SJS and wish her all the best in her new endeavor!

Mrs. Barbara Alexander

Mrs. Alexander has worn many hats during her 20 years at Saint James School, most recently as a 1st grade teacher. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Alexander and her husband fulfilled a dream of relocating to the Connecticut shore. We are grateful for her many years of service to our school (including making the long commute to finish out this year) and wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Mrs. Kathryn Pennington

Saint James School has been blessed with Mrs. Pennington's leadership in the health and care of our students for the past 3 years. A graduate of SJS whose own children attend our school, she has decided to take some time to be home with her family while her children are still young. Taking over will be **Carol Walker**, who has most recently been working in the Manchester public school system, as well as holding other health care positions throughout her career. She has already been in to shadow Mrs. Pennington and will be a wonderful addition to our school community!

Mrs. Jackie Smith

Mrs. Smith has served as a classroom and cafeteria aide this past year. We are grateful for her flexibility throughout the year and continued dedication to Saint James School.

Mrs. Carally McKeever-Deleon

Mrs. McKeever-Deleon, our middle school music teacher, has also decided to step away from teaching after this year to pursue other life goals. We are grateful to have had her with us for the past few years inspiring our students with her talent!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Saint James School Class of 2025!



Brendan Abbamonte

Cooper Alvarez

Ananya Anand

Tiffany Barbieri

Charlie Bauer

Jaiden Carr

Victoria Castellon

Adam Clough

John "Jack" Curtin

Matthew Davis

Alexander DiBenedetto

Kayden Dinh

Aiden Duah

Julius Emmons

Ava Fiereck

Camryn Gaidos

Addison Joyner

Michael Kellerman

Annika Klopfer

Violet Nicholes

Makeyla Nielsen

Brigid O'Connell

Rhea Rao

Nicholas Rataic

Kaden Repoli

Anna Revett

Katelyn Rutar

Vanessa Ryan

Ava Santodonato

Saanvi Sethi

Scarlett Sherman

Lilly Sika

Madelyne Smith

Loreen Tammo

Jane Tierney

Ethan Traboulsi

**Good Luck in High School!
May All Your Dreams Come True!
God Bless You All!**