

February 2026

SABER



STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

February marks the beginning of an exciting time for us at Saint James School – a time when we ask you to renew your commitment to our school by registering your child/ren for the upcoming school year, as well as a time when we begin inviting new students to join us in the Fall.

During Catholic Schools Week, we took time to reflect on the many benefits of Catholic education and the well-deserved recognition it receives for its high standards and its unique blend of traditional and innovative learning. At Saint James School, we were excited to begin this school year with waitlists in most grades, and we expect the same for this upcoming year. To ensure your child's spot, please be sure to complete your 2026-2027 registration by the February 20th deadline. We are grateful for your continued support in sharing the positive experiences our school provides with your family and friends.

Speaking of our wonderful school community, I wish to reiterate my gratitude to all the parent and staff volunteers who have volunteered to provide such a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for our students and families this winter. SJS is the wonderful place it is because there are so many people in our community willing to go above and beyond with their time, talents, and treasure. Thank you!!

After a short winter recess, students will observe the start of Lent with an Ash Wednesday prayer service. Throughout the Lenten season, students in kindergarten through grade 8 will also take part in the Stations of the Cross, embracing this sacred time of prayer and reflection.

I thank you again for your commitment to Catholic education and look forward to another great month of learning and growing here at Saint James School!

Stay warm, stay safe, and God Bless You,

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

- February 2– Returning Student Registration Begins
- February 13 through 17 – NO SCHOOL (Mid-Winter Recess)
- February 23 – Returning Student Registration Deadline

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will take place this month for returning students. New family enrollment will begin in late February/early March for any remaining available spots by grade. Re-enrollment information will be sent via email to families with a student in Pre-K3 - Grade 7 on February 2nd.
- Please make sure your child has weather-appropriate outerwear (coat, hat, and gloves) when they come to school EVERY day.
- If your child needs to leave school for an appointment, you must send a note in to your child's teacher that morning. If it is a last minute change, please call the main office.
- **Thank you for adhering to our school's parking rules when picking up and dropping off your students each day. Your support helps to ensure the safety of everyone in our community in addition to continuing a long-standing, positive relationship with our neighbors.**



RETURNING FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2026 & NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

Returning student registration information (for families with a child currently in Saint James School's Pre-Kindergarten through 7th grade) is expected to be sent out **via email** on Monday, February 2nd and must be completed by Friday, February 20th to reserve your child's spot for next year. New student and new family registration will begin in late February/early March based on remaining available spots in each grade (siblings of returning students will receive priority). Please note, registration will be done via the FACTS portal, similar to the process this past year.

Informational tours of the school are also being conducted by appointment. If you have a child that will be new to the school next year or have any friends who may be interested in learning more about our school, please reach out to Stephanie Holmes at admissions@saintteresacatholic.org or (860) 643-2403 x 155 as soon as possible as we anticipate many grades will have a wait list again next year.

HEALTH FORM REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR



The following students are required to have an updated State of CT Health Assessment Record (with immunizations and signed by the child's pediatrician) on file in order to start the 2026-2027 school year:

- All Pre-K3 students & All Pre-K4 students
- All Kindergarten students
- All students entering 7th Grade

For students who will be in Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten next year: Health Assessment Records (physicals) need to be dated after **September 1, 2025**. An updated immunization record needs to accompany the physical. Please submit this to the SJS nurse before school gets out unless your student has a summer appointment (in which case it must be emailed, faxed, or dropped off over the summer).

For students entering Grade 7: Health Assessment Records (physicals) need to be dated **after January 1, 2025**. An updated immunization record needs to accompany the physical. Please submit this to the SJS nurse as soon as possible.

- All students new to Saint James School next year will also be required to submit a current CT Health Assessment Record.

ABSENCE REMINDERS



With the uptick in illness that typically occurs at this time of year, we wanted to reiterate some of the absence policies from our handbook:

- If a student is absent due to illness for 3 consecutive days a **doctor's note is required in order to return to school**.
- Students must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication before they can return to the classroom.
- If a student is absent, he/she is not allowed to attend any school-related activity after school that day.
- For the first 9 absences, a student's absences are considered excused when the parent or guardian provides proper documentation including the reason for the absence. Such documentation could include an email note from the parent or guardian, a voice mail message regarding the absence, or a telephone call confirming the absence. For the 10th and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school **will only be considered excused** as documented in the handbook (illness, family emergency, observance of a religious holiday, etc.).
- Students must satisfactorily complete all work missed during an absence. If a student is absent for two consecutive days due to illness, a parent may call the school to ask that the teacher prepare make-up work to be picked up in the office after 2:00pm. **If a family takes a vacation which does not coincide with the school calendar, teachers do not have the responsibility of preparing class work ahead of time for the student.** Missed work must be submitted within 3 school days of the students return to school.



HSA NEWS AND EVENTS

The SJS Home & School Association would like to thank everyone for participating in our school’s fundraisers and FUN-raisers!

The next meeting is February 5th at 6:00pm in the school cafeteria. We hope to see you there!!

Shake Shack Dine-Out



Dine Out at Shake Shack at Evergreen Walk on Tuesday, February 10, all day (10:30am—10:00pm) and 25% of your purchase will be donated back to Saint James School when you mention SJS Donation Day at checkout or use the code DONATE for online orders. Please see the [Shake Shack Dine Out Flyer](#) for details.

Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser



Saint James School is bringing back the Butter Braid fundraiser, with delivery in time for Easter!

There are two ways to participate:

1) take orders on the [paper order sheet](#) that will be sent home with students on March 2nd Turn in orders with payment to the SJS Main Office by Monday, March 16th (Please ensure checks are made out to St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, noting *SJS Fundraiser* in the memo field).

OR

2) register to take orders online through the MCM fundraising link.

Important: Ordered items will be delivered to SJS on April 1st and will be available for pickup at afternoon dismissal. Butter braids and cookie dough are frozen items and are unable to be stored at school so please mark your calendar! (For students in aftercare that day, items will be brought to the cafeteria for you to take home).



Mother/Son Movie Night

The HSA will sponsor a mother/son movie night on Saturday, February 28th. Come in your PJs and enjoy pizza, popcorn, and a movie. The event will start at 5:00pm. Details will be forthcoming in the email blast.

FRIENDZY SEL POGRAM



Learning to set healthy boundaries is an essential life-long skill. Having healthy boundaries means we recognize the importance of limitations with regards to how we act, how we feel, and in our interactions with others. In this lesson our catch phrase is:

Know Your Limits

Students, along with their teachers, will be discussing the following at an age-appropriate level:

Social Awareness

- Perspective
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others
- Ethical responsibility

Responsible Decision-Making

- Identifying problems
- Analyzing situations
- Solving problems
- Evaluating
- Reflecting

Parents are encouraged to continue the conversation at home by asking their children about each unit in the FRIENDZY program.

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL SOCCER REGISTRATION



Plans are being finalized for the 2026 Connecticut Catholic School Spring Soccer Season for students in Grades 3 - 8! The season will run from early April through early June,

Please be on the lookout for additional details as well as sign-up information in the daily email blast in the weeks ahead.