September 2026

SABER STORIES

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

It is an honor to welcome our students, families, faculty, and staff back to 73 Park Street for Saint James School's 104th year of growing in knowledge, building friendships, and deepening our faith.

As we prepare to begin a new school year, this month's newsletter includes helpful information to guide your family through the start of the year. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Throughout the year, we will share important information and updates with families through our school email blasts and Saber Stories newsletters. We ask that you read these communications carefully and stay informed about our school policies and procedures. A strong school community depends on a shared commitment, communication, cooperation, and support.

Thank you for choosing Saint James School and for partnering with us in your children's education. It is a true joy to serve a community that means so much to me. I look forward to strengthening the relationships I have built with students and families through my years as a second-grade teacher, while creating new opportunities to support and celebrate our students and community.

I look forward to working alongside you throughout the year to make 2026-2027 another joyful, meaningful, and faith-filled school year.

Warmly,
Mrs. Nunes

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. ~ Proverbs 22:6

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

- **August 26th –** Supply Drop-off/Meet the Teacher visits from 8:00am - 11:00am (drop in anytime)
- **August 27th –** First day of school for K-8, PK4, and PK3 full-time. This is a 12:05pm dismissal day. Before and After School Care is in session for registered students
- **August 28th –** Full day of school + first day for PK3 part-time
- **September 2nd –** 1st Home & School Association Meeting
- **September 3rd –** Grade 6 Family Orientation at 6:00pm
- **September 13th –** St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish Picnic (all SJS families welcome)
- **September 14th –** Individual school pictures all grades. This will be a dress-down day for students in grades K-8. Pre-K class pictures will also be taken this day
- **September 16th –** K-8 Class Pictures (Specific uniform attire required)
- **September 22nd –** 12:05pm dismissal day

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Morning arrival time for K - 8 students (not using before-care) is 7:30am - 7:45am. **After 7:50am K - 8 parents must report to the main office with their student to sign them in.**
- Punctuality is important; late arrivals disrupt classroom time. Please take care to have your student to school on time. Absences should be called in to the nurse (ext. 4) by 8:00am.
- Parking cannot occur in certain areas as it blocks the buses and disrupts traffic flow. Please refer to the following pages and our email blasts for detailed information.
- Please check email daily for school information.
- 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.**

CLASSROOM VISIT DAY



On Wednesday, August 26th between the hours of 8:00am and 11:00am, all Pre-K through grade 8 parents and students are invited to stop by the school to visit the classrooms, meet the homeroom teachers, and drop-off student's school supplies. Mrs. Walker, Saint James School nurse, will be in her office to accept medications for students. We look forward to seeing you!

Please bring with you:

- All School Supplies
- Paperwork & Medication For Nurse
- Signed Handbook Form
- Signed Technology Agreement (K-8)
- Chromebook Insurance Form (Grades 3-8)
- Aftercare Handbook Signature Page (only for families using the program.

PARKING



On-street parking is limited around the school, especially at dismissal. We highly encourage parents to park in the St. James Church parking lot and walk up to the school. **The large staff parking lot between the Pre-K and K-8 building will be open for morning arrival parking only.**

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 to cross.

Please do NOT stop/park your car:

- On Park Street, Otis Street, and Church Street in areas marked with "No Parking" signs and/or orange cones. These areas are blocked for important traffic flow reasons.
- Anywhere we have placed orange cones.
- In any of the staff parking lots (one exception noted above in bold).
- On Church Street from the corner of Park Street to Oak Place/Locust Street - this is where the school buses park.
- Where it will block a driveway or is private parking (i.e. Otis Street Condos parking lot).

Click to View Acceptable Parking & Map

Pre-K families should arrive no earlier than 7:51am to allow the K-8 traffic to dissipate.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM



Students in grades K-8 have the option to enjoy hot lunch on each day of school. The hot lunch program is available to us through the town of Manchester.

Hot lunch costs for the 2026-2027 are as follows:
Grades K-4: $3.85
Grades 5-8: $4.35
Milk Only $.40

If you would like your student to purchase hot lunch at school or purchase milk to go with a lunch from home, please make sure you put money in their school account, using the EZSchoolPay app or by sending a check in to the school made out to "Manchester Public Schools."

A monthly Hot Lunch calendar will be sent out via email, and posted on the school's website homepage

SCHOOL SNACK POLICY



The policy of daily snacks for K-8 will begin on the first day of school. Students have the option to bring whole or cut up fruit and vegetables or protein (cheese/yogurt) to school for a snack. Please make sure containers can be opened by your student. A water bottle (with water only) should be brought to school daily by all students. Refillable water bottle filling stations are available on all floors of the K-8 building.

SCHOOL-WIDE EMAIL BLAST



Saint James School sends regular email communication to parents in an effort to cut down on the amount of paper coming home while still keeping parents well-informed about school happenings. Please be sure to check your school emails daily so you do not miss out on important notifications such as unexpected schedule changes.

UNIFORM CLOSET



Once school is back in session, please note that the K-8 Uniform Closet is only open before school (7:30am-7:50am) or after school hours (2:05pm-3:00pm).



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

At Saint James School, we believe the education of our children depends on a strong bond between "home" and school, hence the Home and School Association.

The HSA is similar to what other schools may call a PTA or a PTO. The primary purposes of the Saint James School HSA are fundraising for the general use of the school and promoting family-oriented social activities that enhance community spirit for students, families and staff.

There is no fee to join the HSA and all families become members upon registration of their children at the school. We encourage all Saint James School parents, guardians, and grandparents to actively participate in our social activities and fundraisers.

Your 2026-2027 HSA President is parent volunteer Sarah Scholsky (HSA@SaintJamesSchool.net).

COME LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HSA:

Stop by the HSA table at the Meet-the-Teachers event on 8/26! And, be sure to mark your calendar for the 1st HSA meeting of the new school year on Wednesday, September 2nd from 6:00pm-7:00pm, in the school cafeteria. Everyone is welcome!

FUNDRAISER NEWS

As a reminder, all school fundraisers are optional but participation is strongly encouraged since they help fund items not covered by tuition.

Cherrydale Fundraiser

The first week of school, all students (PreK-Grade 8) will receive a fundraising packet from Cherrydale Fundraising. This catalog-based fundraiser offers a wide-range of items and is one of our largest school fundraisers each year. Fun, weekly incentives are available for participating students.

School Supply Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone that participated in our school supply fundraiser. Together we raised just over $600 for SJS!



SAVE THE DATE

Trunk or Treat/Fall Festival
Saturday, October 25th
All SJS families welcome!



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 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, and fund enhancements to our STREAM Innovation Lab.

All funds donated to our 2026 Annual Fund Campaign will help us enrich the faith-filled educational experience provided to our students, support our talented faculty, and respond to unforeseen needs and opportunities.

As always, we thank you for supporting our school!

https://saintjamesschool.net/annualfund/

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SJS



United Way

The 2026-2027 United Way Community Campaign is underway at many of our local companies. 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"

Box Tops For Education

Please use the Box Tops App to scan digital Box Tops. We count on these funds for our school and appreciate your participation.

FROM THE NURSE



If your child will need medications administered during the school day, a Medication Authorization Form must be signed by a physician and parent and brought to the school before the first day. Students cannot bring in medication or carry it in their backpack. Only parents or guardians should deliver medications to the nurse. Please reach out to Mrs. Walker, our school nurse, with any questions at 860.643.5088 (#4).



PICTURE DAYS

Individual Portraits - Sept. 14

Standard Dress Down Guidelines Apply:

- No ripped or torn clothing
- Shorts/Skirts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee
- No leggings/yoga pants unless the student has a shirt that covers to mid-thigh
- No tank tops, camis, halter tops, spaghetti straps
- No high heels, platform shoes, flip-flops, backless shoes, open-toe sandals
- No clothing with inappropriate or political logos, slogans, advertisements

These are school rules, please adhere to them. Parents will be required to bring a change of clothes if they are not followed.

Class Portraits- Sept. 16

K-8 Students MUST come to school as follows:

Grades K-5 Girls: Skort with SJS polo with navy knee high socks;

Grades K-5 Boys: Khaki pants with SJS polo;

Grades 6-8 Girls: Skort with SJS oxford with navy knee high socks;

Grades 6-8 Boys: Khaki pants with SJS oxford and tie;

CROSS COUNTRY



This Fall, Saint James School will once again be fielding a Cross Country team for students in Grades 5 – 8 who enjoy running! In order to participate students must have the endurance to run at least one mile without stopping.

Please remember that students running Cross Country or participating in any other school sport this year will need their Athletic Health Form completed & signed by the child's doctor for the start of school (students cannot participate until this form is on file). Please return the Health form, the XC Permission Slip, and the activity fee to the school office by Friday, August 28th.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES



With the end of the FMI program, Mr. Barakat, our instrumental music teacher, is launching The Scholastic Band Project. Participating students in grades 4 and up will continue with small-group instrumental lessons, the same Ed Sueta Band Method book, and our traditional Christmas and Spring concerts. Registration should be completed online HERE by September 18.

On September 17th there will be a parent meeting for new students in grades 4 and up interested in joining band will be held at 6:00pm. Band and lessons begin at Saint James School on September 23rd and 24th.



IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

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 includes volunteers for field trips, classroom parties, and HSA events. This process only has to be completed one time during your family's time with SJS.

The VIRTUS training session is online and 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, SJS will send your form in for processing.



ASBESTOS INSPECTION REPORT

In compliance with AHERA regulations, we are required to inform parents, teachers, employees and other individuals associated with Saint James School of the Asbestos Inspection Report and Management Plan. This Report/Plan is on file in the school office and is available for review by any parent, teacher, etc. during normal school business hours of the school. Please make your request for reviewing this file to **Mrs. Nunes.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We, at Saint James School, consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. It is your right and duty to become the primary role model for the development of your child's life—physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Your choice of Saint James School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his or her life.

Since you have chosen to enter into a partnership with us at Saint James School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (Pre-K to Grade 8), your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty in order to develop his or her moral, intellectual, physical, social, and cultural endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest of challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his or her potential. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good, mature behavior and relationships.

Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. As this natural process occurs, a child needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it is boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security.

As partners in the educational process at Saint James School, we ask you to:

- Set rules, times, and limits so that your child:
  * Gets to bed early on school nights
  * Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day
  * Dresses according to the school dress code
  * Takes responsibility for grades earned and is accountable for completing assignments on time
  * Has an appropriate snack and a nutritional lunch every day
- Actively participate in school activities such as fundraisers, social events, extra-curricular events and Parent-Teacher conferences
- See that your child takes care of books and school property responsibly
- Provide the school with a written note of explanation when your child has been absent or tardy
- Notify the school of any changes of address or important phone numbers
- Meet all financial obligations to the school
- Inform the school of any special situations regarding your child's well-being, safety, and health
- Complete and return to school any requested information/forms promptly—please ask your child for any and all notices every day

Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child become the best person he or she is capable of becoming.

Sincerely,
The Staff of Saint James School