

Addendum to Student Handbook

Saint James School, Biddeford, ME

Patron Saint

Our patron saint, St. James the Greater, was one of the first four Apostles. The New Testament reveals that James and his brother John left their father, Zebedee mending nets in their boat to follow Jesus (Mark 1:16-20). James, along with Peter and John, were Jesus' closest friends. They witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in Gethsemane. James and his brother were nicknamed "the sons of thunder" by Jesus. He was the first Apostle to be martyred.

History

Founded in 1992, Saint James School became a regional Catholic School encompassing the three former Biddeford parish schools of Saint Joseph, Saint Andre, and Saint Mary. A dedication ceremony was held in the spring of 1993 on the front steps of the building with Bishop Joseph Gerry presiding. Our motto became "We Are One Family ~ United in Love".

In the fall of 2011, a second merger took place with Notre Dame de Lourdes School of Saco. We have truly become "United in Love" and continue to thrive and service students from surrounding communities as "One Family".

Mission

Maine Catholic Schools evangelize students by nourishing faith, providing academic excellence, community and service in a nurturing environment.

St. James School is

SERVICE
ACADEMICS
FAITH
EXCELLENCE

Vision

St. James School staff partners with parents, parishioners and our community to provide students with opportunities to become faith-filled Catholics, creative and critical thinkers, life-long learners and confident contributors to Church and society.

Code of Conduct

Students are expected to follow the mission of St. James School. Teachers will handle any misconduct in their classroom by either speaking with the student or another age appropriate response. If a student continues to make poor choices, the parent will be contacted. Should the situation warrant further attention, the principal will be involved.

Dress Code

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are required to adhere to the dress code at St. James. Unlike a uniform which only has one choice, this dress code has many different options. The intent is to help our students develop into ladies and gentlemen. The dress code will engrain a sense of purpose and discipline by knowing the difference between casual (play) clothes and learning (work) clothes. Another facet is to help students see each other beyond the tags on their clothes, to embrace all students rather than be exclusive, and to leave fads outside of our faith community. It is also the hope that wearing the school colors will build a spirit of camaraderie, esprit de corps, and identity with the school's mission.

Students are expected to follow the dress code each day.

- Navy blue or khaki trousers or slacks, no cargo pants or jeggings. Girls can also wear navy blue, khaki or plaid jumpers, skirts or skorts. The length should be just above the knee.
- Black, navy or white leggings or tights or socks should be worn with shorts, jumpers or skirts.
- Navy blue or khaki shorts until November 1st or after April 1st, no short shorts or cargo shorts. The length should be just above the knee. No short shorts.
- Long or short sleeve polo shirts, dress shirts, turtlenecks (white, navy or light blue). The logo will be a requirement in the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-2016 school year, a logo is required on days that we are at Mass, when volunteering (such as the Haddock suppers) and any special occasion.
- Shirts need to be tucked in with a belt on days that there is a Mass.
- Ties may be worn, but are not required, with dress shirts.

- Navy sweater or sweater vest with a logo over a shirt. If a sweater or sweater vest with a logo is worn, the shirt needn't have a logo.
- Shoes or sneakers must be worn each day. Sneakers cannot be all neon or light up. They can have neon accents but cannot be all neon. No slipper like shoes.
- Boots may be worn to school but shoes or sneakers should be worn inside the building. In the spring and fall, closed toe and closed back shoes can be worn.
- Socks or tights are required with shoes and sneakers.
- Hair should be conservatively cut, shall not be over the ears or touch the collar. Hair should remain its natural color. Hair cannot impair vision.
- Girls can wear small studded earrings.
- Nothing should be a distraction.

On gym days, students will wear a

- Students should use the Saint James gym bag to transport sneakers to the gym and help to preserve the gym floor.
- St. James gray t-shirt or a gray t-shirt with blue shorts, wind pants or sweatpants.
- St. James crew neck sweatshirts can also be worn on gym days.
- 8th Grade can wear their 8th grade t-shirt on gym days. This will also be the shirt worn on the Faculty vs. 8th grade basketball game.

Middle School students (grades 6-8) has additional options-

- Students can wear any color shirt with a fleece vest, sweater, or sweater vest. The outer layer must have the logo.
- Girls can wear drop earrings in middle school.
- Students can wear their athletic shirt with uniform bottoms on the day of a home game.

Casual Days/Casual for a Cause

The second Friday of each month beginning in October will be a Casual for a Cause day. Student Council will select the causes each month. In order to dress down, a contribution must be brought in for this cause. The last Friday of each month is also a casual day just because. On these days, students must dress conservatively or in business casual attire which includes clean, conservative jeans. Shoes must be the same, for safety reasons. If clothing is a distraction to a student or a teacher, the student will be asked to change and another option will be provided. Nothing should be a distraction.

Grade Scale

100-99	A+
98-93	A
92-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-78	C+
77-73	C
72-70	C-
69-68	D+
67-63	D
62-60	D-
>59	F

Service Component

Students and staff at Saint James School work together throughout the year not only to serve one another, but also the greater community and world at large. Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, the service learning component at Saint James School is introduced gradually in the early elementary grades with school sponsored service activities such as food and clothing drives. As children advance through the grades involvement in service deepens and hands on service projects are integrated into the curriculum. As part of the school's religion requirement, seventh and eighth grade students document twenty service hours by using their own gifts and talents to minister to others, participate in parish programs, liturgical ministries, or by serving the poor, elderly, and others in need. By giving witness to their faith the Saint James School community instills in its members a lifelong commitment to being the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus for others.

Cell Phone

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones at all during school hours. Students may either keep it in their backpacks or bring it to the office. If there is an infraction of these rules, they must bring it to the office. Any emergency calls made during the school day must come from the office.