

Saint James School

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Thank you!

I am pleased to tell you that Saint James School was just voted the Best Private School and the Best Preschool by Journal Tribune readers. This is a big deal as there were over 1,000 votes cast so we are so pleased that we received this award for the second year in a row. The staff works really hard here to do their best for each individual child and we put our students first,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and the New Year is starting out well for you. I am very excited to tell you that 2017 begins the 25th anniversary year of Saint James School. Even though Saint James School has only been here 25 years, there is a rich history of Catholic education in the Biddeford/Saco area and Saint James School is the last remaining Catholic School so we are celebrating Catholic education this year! A committee is at work planning special events and if you are interested to help out, please let Mrs. Naimey know.

Catholic Schools Week begins with a 4:00 mass on Saturday, January 28th followed by a turkey supper. Come and join us to celebrate with our school family. It ends with skating at the West Brook Skating Rink on Saturday February 4th with many activities in between. Thank you for choosing Saint James School and making the sacrifices that you do to send your child to us. We love our children and we love our school!

When picking up your child, it is really helpful if you walk closer to the stairs so we can see you. It is hard to see all the way to the sidewalk because everyone is bunched up. Thank you.



Upcoming Events

February 1

Calendar Raffle ends and Winter Fundraiser begins

February 2

Academic Fair

The 27th of January, February and March

Open House 9-2, Spread the Word!

Important Announcement

Saint James School hosts the baked haddock suppers every Friday during Lent. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to put this together and it is very successful for the school. Volunteers will be needed. You will be getting information to sign up for volunteering. 7th and 8th grade students can volunteer and get volunteer hours or you can just come and enjoy the meal! Thank you for doing what you can!

Our Open Houses fall on the 27th for the next three months. Do you know someone that might benefit from a Saint James School education? Why don't you invite them to come and see our school? Spread the word. You are our best advertising and we appreciate it! On that note, many parents will look on the Internet before they even contact the school. Do you have suggestions for our webpage? There are some third party websites that have area where you can write a review. This is also really good advertising so if you feel so inclined, any positive review you write about the school, would be really helpful! Thank you!

We are very appreciative for our Parish that financially supports the school with a subsidy. Our PFTA also works so hard to keep education costs down. A Saint James School education currently costs over \$7,500 but because of the subsidy, donations and our fundraising events, we can keep tuition lower. We really appreciate all the help that you give to the school to chair a fundraising event, volunteer your time or help out in any way that you can!

We are ending our calendar raffle sales on January 31st and will begin drawing names in February. The cash awards are greater this year and I hope you all win! The PFTA decided to change our Magazine Fundraiser to include more items so you will be getting three catalogues from which to choose items in February. The next PFTA meeting is on January 18th at 6:00. We decide in the spring what fundraisers we will do each year and we appreciate any feedback that you give us on which fundraiser and how many to do each year.

If possible, it is really helpful if all students are here for Morning Prayer at 7:50 a.m. This helps us to start the day as a whole school. I know there are times where you are running late or you get behind the dreaded school bus but please make an effort to get your child to school on time. It helps to set up a great start to their day. We will be doing the NWEA testing again this month. You can check with your child's teacher for the exact times. It is especially important on those days that your child gets a good night's sleep, has a good breakfast and gets to school on time. Thank you!

My door is always open. Please come to me with any questions or concerns. Or join me on Friday, February 17th after Morning Prayer for another Coffee with the Principal. This is an informal time for you to ask me any questions or to offer suggestions or to clear up any misinformation.

What is happening at the Catholic Education Board meetings?

Our Catholic Education Board is advisory and works many issues offering guidance to the principal and the pastor. Some things that we talked about are finance, creating an endowment for the school, NEASC, creating an alumni database, our anniversary year celebrations, technology, marketing, building and grounds to list a few.

Our three main goals for the year based on our strategic plan are to differentiate in the classroom meeting students where they are and taking them as far as they can go, integrating technology in the classroom using our new Chromebooks and iPads, and staying true to the mission and faith formation in our school. Our full strategic plan is on the Saint James website under the Dress Code/Policies tab.