

SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

June Newsletter

UPCOMING MAY/JUNE DATES

5/30-Grandparent's and Special Friends day and Spring Finale Concert

5/31-Hot Air Balloon Launch (weather permitting)

6/1-Talent Show in Gym, 12:30

6/2-First Communion, 8:30 & 11:30

6/4-Field Day, rain date is 6/5

6/6 Middle School Final Concert with alumni

6/7 8th Grade Class Trip

6/8 8th Grade Service Project

6/9 8th Grade Activity

6/11 8th Grade Retreat

6/12 8th Grade Awards Ceremony and Graduation Practice

6/13 8th Grade Graduation Practice

6/14 8th Grade Graduation

6/15 Last Day of School with a 11:30 dismissal, no bus

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

I can't believe that the year is coming to a close. Each year seems to go faster and faster but I think it is because of how much I enjoy Saint James School and all our families. While I look forward to a more relaxed schedule in the summer, I do miss seeing the smiling faces of our children. We all work hard for the best interest of our students and it makes the years fly by!

2018-2019 CALENDAR DATES

You all received a copy of the 2018-19 school calendar in Friday's News. We try very hard to put all the major events on the calendar one year in advance for you but it is not always easy to do. We will be updating the online calendar as the year progresses. For example, we already added three open house dates on February 26, March 26 and April 26th that were not on your print version. If you have a question, the online calendar on sjsbiddeford.org have the most updated copy.

What is new at Saint James School?

Steve Burnette has been hired as the new facilities manager/development for St. James School. Steve returns to Maine and the St. James family with his wife Sarah and son Isaac (5th grader) after two years in Ponte Vedra Florida. He has spent the majority of his career wearing a variety of hats in the performing arts industry, and is close to securing a space that will become a new performance venue for the region. As Steve operates his theater in the evenings he'll be spending his days keeping our school and auditorium in shape while offering his years of business management, public relations, and marketing skills to assist us with development.



*Check out the heavenly light
shining on Saint James School!*

We are still in the process of finding our new fifth grade teacher. We have started the interview process. We will let you know when our interview team makes that final decision.

Next year, we will have some changes.

Saint James School is going to switch to trimesters next year with report cards on December 3, March 15 and the last day of school. Teachers have been working on a reporting system that better reflects what is learned in the class. We will be using these new report cards next year. These will be available on RenWeb, which is our new online reporting system. You will receive more information on RenWeb at the start of school.

Teachers and staff will be fully trained before school begins and we will start the year off using RenWeb. You will get your access codes at the Open House Barbecue on August 28th.

We are going to be using new textbooks for Science in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The new program includes life science, physical science and earth science each year in an integrated format. There is a very good online component to this series and it relates very nicely to our curriculum. I think the students will enjoy them!

Middle school has been using some different math books in the classroom and we will be continuing using these books. Fourth, fifth and sixth grade will use the new math series from Sadlier and other grades will continue to use the Progress in Math series from Sadlier. This math series differentiates nicely to meet the needs of all our students. The format of the books is more user friendly and the students have commented that these books are easier to follow. Please note that the book is not the main part of the class. We have a very seasoned staff that are lifelong learners, always willing to improve. Our teachers teach the curriculum and the books are a tool to teach the curriculum. We will continue to supplement and do what is needed to meet the needs of our students.

Enrollment is going very well for next year. Thank you for spreading the word about Saint James School to your family and friends! You are our best advertising! Thank you for sending your children to Saint James School, they are our greatest gift and the reason that we are here every day!

SUMMER

During the summer our school is cleaned from top to bottom as we work on getting the school in tip top shape. Teachers cannot tutor in school but we have several teachers that tutor at different locations over the summer. If you need the names of these teachers, please contact Mrs. Naimey

Over the summer, be sure you give your children time to read and write, practice math facts and write whenever they can. We do have a MANDATORY summer reading program that is focused on "student choice" and that will be going home in Friday's Folders. It is also available online. They basically read books of their choice and choose something about the book to record in their journals. This is everyone's first grade in September. Please give them time to read and write. If your child reads every day, they will starting the year off in a much better place so it is not to read one or two books but to read all summer long!

In the summer, the office is staffed in a more relaxed manner. All information will be updated online, including our supply lists. The office will be covered every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00. Mrs. Naimey is reachable via email all summer long and is in the school, as well. Should you want to meet with Mrs. Naimey, it is best to email first if it is not a Tuesday or Thursday.

I will look forward to spending this last month with your children and I hope you all can rest and recharge with your children, spend quality time enjoying the many gifts that we have in this beautiful state of Maine.