

Saint James School

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<https://www.facebook.com/SaintJamesBiddeford/>

Saint James is growing! We are carefully looking at the kindergarten class as enrollment increases and may be splitting the large class into two smaller classes. It is a good dilemma to have! Regardless of whether we split the class or not, we will be moving some classrooms. Ms. Peck will be conducting band and music out of what is now the band room. Middle School French will be moving to what is now the music room. That allows the current French room to be used either for another kindergarten class or for a space where an aide can take the students for small group work.

Rita Gervais is our reading and math specialist. She works full time and currently oversees the Biddeford Title One teacher that works with students at SJS. Mrs. Theriault, Mrs. Souza and Ms. Peck all assist in classrooms, as well. Now, we are adding another educational technician to work with students at Saint James School for about twenty five hours a week. This ed tech will be housed in the small room outside of Ms. Fournier's class. There will be a strong presence in the second grade classroom starting on day one and will be a nice addition to what we already have at SJS. Mrs. Gervais will work closely with our first grade and will schedule assistance in grades 3-5, as needed. Mrs. Gervais will coordinate these adults in the classrooms based on student needs. The educational technicians placement will be fluid, meaning they will be moved around to assist teachers as needed. All these adults will ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our students and teach them at their level and take them as far as they can go! It is all very exciting! Saint James is growing! God is good!



SAVE THE DATE

May 31

Grandparents and Special Friends Day, 11:00

June 8

8th Grade Graduation, 6:00 mass and ceremony

June 9

Field Day

June 16

Last day of school, have a great summer!

SUMMER READING

Watch your Friday folders this week for instructions on our required summer reading program and the SJS website also has information. Students are to read books of their choice and record in their summer reading journals. Middle school has requirements to read a book of their choice on a specific topic. This is the first grade that students will receive in September so don't put it off! Please call the school should you have any questions.

We level students in math in middle school so that students can work at their own pace. Every now and then there is a group with greater diversity so to best meet their needs, we are splitting next year's eighth grade math class into two small groups. When we split the math class, the other half of the class will be in the ELA/SS classroom. They will all be together one day a week in math and ELA/SS so there can be a whole group lesson or activity. They will be together in all other eighth grade classes.



Artist in Residence

Rob Duquette will be here on Monday, June 12th

Rob Duquette is a local musician that will meet with individual classes throughout the day as part of his World Music Program.

You are invited to a concert from 1:15-2:00 to culminate this special event.

Thank you PFTA for sponsoring this wonderful event!

We split the schedule into forty minute blocks for next year. This creates a shorter time for specials in prek through fifth grades. This will allow us to offer two physical education classes a week for middle school and a library time. Mr. Vachon is also going to teach a health class one day a week to middle school students. We are also planning to add digital literacy for our middle school students.

More Important News

The PFTA raised additional monies above their goal and will be enriching Saint James with the following purchases and events.

Rob Duquette will be here this year (see sidebar) and Rob Surette will be here next year on Friday, February 2nd for an afternoon and evening show. Rob Surette is a Catholic artist that has painted the large portraits that hang in our school and in our gym (Jesus, Mother Theresa, Abraham Lincoln and Albert Einstein). He is a speed painter so the pictures evolve right before your eyes. As he is painting, he spreads a positive message to his audience. He puts on an amazing show so save the date and invite your friends and family to join us!

They will also be putting an additional coat of protection on the gym floor and they will be purchasing a 3D printer for the school! The 3D printer will be housed downstairs so the STREAM classes, science classes and art classes can use it. How exciting is that? They are hoping to put the additional money into a fund to be used for a larger purpose. I am waiting from the Diocese to see how to make this happen. Thank you to everyone that helped out at all the PFTA events throughout the year because you made this happen!

Thank you for sharing all the exciting things that are happening at Saint James School. Thank you for submitting positive reviews online at the various sites. The consumer is now shopping online first before they visit Saint James so most people have looked at our website and read the reviews before they even make an appointment to visit. Keep spreading the good news as Saint James School continues to grow and improve. As always, I appreciate your helpful suggestions, your kind words, your positive reviews and your goodwill. You are our greatest advertising. My door is always open. God bless you all, Nancy Naimey