



# Saint James Elementary School



*From the desk of Jo Ann Giordano*

September 6, 2020

Welcome back! I hope that your summer was filled with many fun family activities. All of us here at Saint James are excited to have your children back in our school, filling the halls with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

I want to thank you and your children for following the protocol of wearing masks. The children are doing a great job!

Following the safety protocols outlined in our school's reopening plan is paramount in keeping us all safe. One of the protocols is completing the **Daily COVID-19 Screening Check in Parent Portal**. This report **MUST be completed by 7AM for students K to 8 and preschool students attending AM EDP, and by 8AM for all other preschool students. ALL students** must complete this report—even those students who are on remote learning. If we have 100% compliance then the time spent for morning entry into the school will be quick and efficient. We have been lucky these past 3 days, the weather has cooperated. Students have not been left out in the rain while our staff checks the list of names who have not completed the screening report. I know and appreciate the fact that morning routines are hectic, however, we all need to work together to have a safe and successful school year. If you have any problems signing onto your Parent Portal please contact Teresa Portela at [tportela@mysaintjames.com](mailto:tportela@mysaintjames.com).

I would also ask that when picking up your child either on Broad Street/Peters Place or Drummond/Gold Street, that you disperse quickly in order to minimize congestion, and enable local businesses to appropriately accommodate their clientele and use their private driveways. For the safety of all SJES families, we are requesting that face covering be worn at pick up locations when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Following are lunch reminders:

- Lunches
  - Grades K to 4 will eat in their classrooms.
  - Grades K to 2 **MUST** bring in lunch.
  - Grades 3 & 4 **MUST** preorder if they want to purchase lunch.
    - Please see your teacher's website or [click here](#).
  - Grades 5 to 8 will eat in the cafeteria and may purchase lunch.
- All students should bring in a snack for snack time.

This summer we added new members to our already amazing staff. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members and we wish them a great year!

- Mrs. Heidi Sheehan: music for preschool to grade 5.
- Mrs. Patricia Conway: Spanish for kindergarten to grade 8.

- Mrs. Emily Wooley: art for kindergarten to grade 8.
- In grades K to 8 we welcome:
  - Mr. Christopher Stone: 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher and who will also be teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion, 6<sup>th</sup> grade math, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies.
  - Ms. Patricia Bidwell: middle school math and science teacher.
  - Ms. Annie Flego: 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom, religion, social studies, and technology.
  - Ms. Alecsa Unruth: 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher.
  - Ms. Michele DiLeva: kindergarten teacher.

At the beginning of each school year, we typically have Back to School Night to review policies and procedures and meet teachers. Due to the restrictions placed on indoor gatherings, this year Back to School Night will be virtual. More information on dates and times will be forthcoming.

This year may be different than past years, but it will be a year of learning and growth for all of us. As a community we will do what it takes to make sure the safety and well-being of the children is a priority.

May we all experience a year filled with academic achievements, gratification and spiritual renewing.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Giordano  
Principal

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