



**Think ~ Believe ~ Become
Excellence-No Excuses**

St. James Episcopal School

Sharing a Campus with the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Rector: The Reverend Milton E. Black, Jr.

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SCHOOL MOTTO

Via--Veritas--Vita, found on the School's crest, is Latin for **Way-Truth-Life**
"Jesus answered Thomas, **'I am the way, the truth, the life.'**" (John 14:6)

SCHOOL PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, St. James School, and send your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we'll be led to all goodness and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Scholars Do the Right Thing Because It Is The Right Thing To Do!

Contractual Obligation: I understand my scholar must abide by the policies, rules, and regulations of the School as they may be developed, changed, or modified from time to time at the School's discretion. I also understand decisions regarding discipline, including but without limitation to, decisions about detention, suspension, probation, and/or expulsion are within the sole discretion of the School, as well as decisions concerning curriculum development, grade level and teacher placement, testing, and other academic matters. The School may terminate enrollment when the scholar, parents, guardians, grandparents, or financially responsible parties violate School policies, rules, and regulations. The School reserves the right to remove any scholar whose parent, grandparent, guardian, or representative in the School community does not comply with school policies in the Parent/Student Handbook; whose behavior constitutes an impediment to the School's ability to meet its mission, and/or other educational objectives for any scholar; or who is unable to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with the School. This determination will be made at the sole discretion of the Head of School.

Scholar's Name _____ Teacher/Grade _____

PLEASE BE SURE ALL FAMILY INFORMATION IS ENTERED IN FACTS FAMILY PORTAL!

St. James Episcopal School 2026-2027 Parent/Student Handbook

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

St. James Episcopal School (SJES) [School] is a mission of the Church of the Good Shepherd [COTGS] and operates independently as a 501(c)(3). The Board of Trustees provides governance and hires the Head of School. The Head of School hires all other School employees. The parent organizations include the Friends of St. James and the Athletic Booster Club. Parents are communicated with through Classroom Teachers' Week At A Glance (WAAG) and two newsletters: The ARK (weekly), the Jag Spirit (monthly).

St. James Episcopal School is comprised of three divisions School Day

School begins at 9:00 am on Mondays and 8:00 am Tuesday thru Friday

Primary School-Pre-Primary, Primary, and Pre-Kindergarten 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lower School- Junior Kinder, Kindergarten, 1st-4th Grades 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Middle School-5th - 8th Grades 8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Mission Statement

The mission of St. James Episcopal School is to develop each child to his or her fullest potential; spiritually, intellectually, and physically, that each child may grow in grace, enjoy freedom through knowledge, and lead a healthy, productive, and meaningful life.

Philosophy

The Christian tradition is the foundation upon which St. James Episcopal School builds its educational philosophy. Within this context, the School recognizes learning how to learn is as important for today's society as knowing what to learn. The complexities of life demand each individual be knowledgeable, productive, self-reliant, and responsible.

The St. James educational program is grounded in tradition yet remains flexible and adaptive to individual needs. The School helps each scholar develop the ability to understand, to analyze, to question, and to think creatively and critically while learning to communicate and collaborate.

We strive to assist each scholar's spiritual and intellectual growth. Inherent in the educational process is the obligation to promote the development of positive attitudes and habits and to aid in building sound, sensitive, healthy individuals who will be good citizens in the community. We believe education, both religious and secular, is a continuous process and the attitudes and skills acquired during the years of an individual's formal education advance each individual toward the realization of his or her full potential.

Profile of a Graduate

THINKS

- Reads, writes, computes, speaks, and thinks critically on all levels
- Is an independent learner and self-advocate who perseveres in the face of academic rigor and is willing to take intellectual risks
- Is media-literate, able to detect bias, and distinguish between reliable and unsound information, and applies relevant technologies
- Evaluates, analyzes, and applies creative problem-solving skills
- Communicates well, listens actively, speaks effectively, facilitates discussions, sees different perspectives, forges consensus, works collaboratively, and negotiates outcomes
- Views challenges as opportunities for growth
- Works well as a member of a team
- Appreciates culture and fine arts

BELIEVES

- Demonstrates an eagerness to serve
- Lives life with an attitude of thankfulness
- Is a caretaker of the environment
- Demonstrates a healthy understanding of self
- Maintains an empathetic and compassionate attitude
- Makes reasoned and ethical decisions
- Values himself or herself as a child of God

BECOMES

- Exemplifies St. James values and traditions
- Is willing to step up to leadership
- Exhibits courage in advocating for justice and compassion for those with differences
- Demonstrates multicultural fluency
- Comprehends and can converse about global issues
- Works effectively in a climate of diversity
- Sacrifices for the common good

Core Principles

At St. James, our educational mission, philosophy, and decision-making are rooted in our community's belief in:

- A values-based educational environment rooted in Christian, Episcopal traditions, which fosters intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth.
- The education "intimacy" provided through small class sizes, attention to the individual, and positive parental involvement.
- A curriculum that rewards academic excellence within a challenging, inspiring program that also seeks to address the individual learning differences of average to above average scholars.
- An experiential, integrated curriculum that values STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics), sports, and outdoor education as it expands the walls of the traditional classroom.
- A structured class day and learning environment characterized by clearly defined behavioral standards.
- Inspiring scholars and staff to strive for personal excellence and to work at a level consistent with their personal potential.
- A safe community for scholars, parents, and friends based upon mutual respect and openness of thought.

ATTENDANCE

School Hours-9:00-3:30 Monday, 8:00-3:30-Tuesday-Friday, Primary School releases at 2:00 PM.

- Before School Care is offered only on Mondays at 7:40 in Munds Hall. Scholars will be walked to class by Instructional Aides supervising Before School Care on Mondays. To help limit the number of scholars, **please use Before School Care only if necessary due to work schedule.**
- 7:40 AM Teachers on Duty/Scholars admitted to class (8:40 on Mondays)
- **7:55 AM All scholars should be in their classes. (Doors close at 8:00 sharp.)**
- **8:00 AM Scholars are tardy.**
- 8:00 AM Scholars arriving at or after 8:00 are tardy and must report to the Office.
- 7:40 AM - 4:00 PM Office Hours (3:45 Fridays)

Scholars will value learning and timeliness if families emphasize punctuality and attendance.

Scholars are expected to be in class in proper uniform by 7:50 AM daily and are tardy at 8:00.

Scholars who are tardy miss important instruction and interrupt the learning of others. *Tardies are a time restricting burden on Office personnel.* Parents of any scholar who is tardy must sign in scholars in the Office. Families with excessive tardies will be contacted by the Head of School. Based on the contractual agreement, scholars with excessive tardies or absences may have their contract revoked. In such cases, families are still obligated financially to the terms of the contract.

In the event of an illness or emergency, **parents should contact their scholar's teacher (preferred) or call SJES at 883-0835 by 9AM. Please send a note to your child's teacher when the child returns to school.** Parents are asked to work within the parameters of the School holidays for their family trips. If an absence of over five days is unavoidable, we ask parents to secure prior permission from the Head of School at least one week in advance. If a scholar misses **more than eight (8) days per semester**, it affects student achievement and may indicate the need for academic probation and removal from after-school athletics. Parents of scholars who have accumulated eight (8) absences will be notified by letter that the scholar has been excessively absent and notified again by letter when the scholar reaches 16 absences. Parents are responsible for keeping up with absences and tardies through FACTS Family Portal. **Scholars must be in attendance 90% of the school year to be eligible for promotion.** If a scholar is absent more than 10% of the school year, the Attendance Committee (administrators/classroom teacher) will meet to discuss the scholar's eligibility for promotion. As per the School contract, the Head of School makes the final decision regarding promotion.

Campus Arrival, Dismissal, and Continued Health Procedures

DROP OFF

Staff is available at all drop-off and pick-up locations.

Pre-Primary/Primary scholars and one parent per scholar will enter through the back door of Foster to sign your scholar in with their teacher. Parents will exit through the glass doors by the courtyard.

Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade drop-off is in the main parking lot, and scholars will enter through the back door of Foster.

Second, Third, and Fourth Grades will drop off in the Water Street parking lot.

Middle School scholars will be dropped off in the Middle School parking lot.

DISMISSAL

Pre-Primary, Primary, and Pre-Kindergarten dismissal at 2:00 PM and at 3:30 PM will be outside in assigned areas by teacher behind Foster Hall in the parking lot by the playground. JK-8th Grade scholars may join sibling Primary School scholars at 3:30 dismissal behind Foster Hall.

3:30 PM dismissal, parents are required to drive through horseshoe areas to pick up scholars.

Junior Kindergarten through Fourth Grade pick-up is in the Main Office parking lot by grade. If your scholars are only in the Middle School and/or the Water Street building, you may pick up in those parking lots.

Middle School (MS) dismissal will be in the MS parking lot. Parents of scholars in MS and Foster building will pick up in the Main parking lot. MS scholars will come over to the Main parking lot.

Health Procedures

- To ensure the well-being of our scholars and staff, keep scholars home with fever of **100.4F** or higher, **excessive** episodes (two or more) of vomiting, and/or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Scholars sent home sick must be symptom-free (without fever reducing medicine) for **24 hours** before returning to school.

Absences and Make-Up work

If your child is ill and absent, make arrangements with the teacher for make-up assignments. Assignments will usually be given after the scholar returns. Scholars have one (1) day to make up assignments for each day absent. Absences due to religious holidays are counted as excused.

Physical Restrictions

To ensure the safety of our scholars, if an injury or illness occurs that limits a scholar from normal daily activity, please provide a signed note to the teacher from the ordering health care professional specifying restrictions as well as a projected date of resuming normal activity at school. **Orthopedic Injuries:** Physician's documentation is required to clear scholars to resume normal physical activity.

ATHLETICS

All scholars in Grades 4-8 are strongly encouraged to participate in interscholastic teams in basketball, track, volleyball, golf, tennis, soccer, and cross country. Games and meets are held at St. James and other school campuses. 6th-8th Grades may also participate in six-man football and 7th and 8th Grades participate in sailing. Parents provide transportation to and from games on other campuses. **Scholars must be passing all subjects with a 70 or better to attend practice and play.**

Philosophy for Scholar Athletics

The Athletic Program (grades 4-8) aims to instill a solid understanding of the fundamentals of various sporting activities and emphasize the overall importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship. We encourage every child to participate. Our goal is to offer scholars an opportunity to be part of a team and to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle. Parents are asked to encourage each child to participate. **All scholars (grades 4-8) dress out for PE in required daily athletic wear purchased from Stitch It.**

Athletic competition at St. James Episcopal School is guided by the following ideals:

Participants will be positive St. James ambassadors at all times by behaving appropriately, being good team members, treating fellow teammates and opponents with equality, kindness, compassion, respect, and encouragement. No pass/no play is followed at SJES.

Coaches will serve as positive role models and act in a professional manner at all times. Coaches will hold players accountable for appropriate behavior and academic performance.

Parents/Spectators will serve as positive ambassadors and appreciate and commend good effort and skill for all individuals and teams. All individuals will treat officials, home and opposing cheerleaders, players, coaches, and fans with respect and courtesy.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

At SJES, academic excellence and meeting individual course requirements is of primary importance. Scholars must achieve grades of 70 or higher in each graded class each quarter to qualify for participation in extracurricular activities. Scholars are placed on Academic Probation, and parents will be notified by letter if they earn:

- a 69 or below in any subject on EITHER the Progress Report or Report Card;
- a "U" in any area on EITHER the Progress Report or Report Card (Including Conduct)

Any scholar on academic probation MAY NOT participate in after-school extracurricular activities for a minimum of the following three (3) weeks. When the grade average(s) in question has (have) improved to 70 or above, or the "U" grade has improved, reinstatement will take place. Scholars must show evidence of improvement or may be asked to withdraw from St. James Episcopal School.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB/FRIENDS OF ST. JAMES (PARENT ORGANIZATIONS)

Dues for Friends of St. James (all grades) and the Booster Club (Grades 4-8) are included in tuition. Membership in the Booster Club is optional for PP-3rd Grade families and the cost is \$10. Parents are encouraged to participate in all Friends activities. Parents of scholars in PP-3rd grade are also encouraged to bring younger scholars to the home games to watch older scholars play. Learning to be a team player, even as a spectator, is an important part of each scholar's educational journey.

BILLING COLLECTION POLICY (TUITION AND INCIDENTALS)

Invoice Payment Plan - Invoices emailed by FACTS Tuition Management 15 days prior to due date.

ACH/Credit Card Payment - Reminders emailed by FACTS six days prior to auto-withdrawal.

Incidentals - Including but not limited to Aftercare, Outdoor Ed, Field Trips, lost/damaged [equipment, library/textbooks, sports uniforms,] late fees, etc. are billed monthly and payments may be made through FACTS, Auto Pay, or in the School Office. FACTS Tuition Management emails invoices on the 10th of each month, due at the end of the month.

The following steps are the process for past due accounts:

0 - 30 Days (No Late Fee)

31 - 60 Days *Charged a 1.5% late fee on tuition and additional fees past due over 30 days, personal email sent from Finance Associate to individual family.

61 - 90 Days *Charged a 1.5% late fee on tuition and additional fees past due over 30 days, personal email sent from the Chief Financial Officer to individual family.

91+ Days *Charged a 1.5% late fee on tuition and additional fees past due over 30 days, certified letter sent from Head of School.

101+ Days *Charged a 1.5% late fee on tuition and additional fees past due over 30 days, account turned over for collections, and scholars are suspended and prohibited from returning to school until account is current. (If account becomes 101 days past due during fourth quarter, and/or if satisfactory payment arrangements are made through FACTS and in writing, decision for suspension rests with the Head of School.)

*Payments are expected to clear financial institutions whether delivered by check or drafted by FACTS Tuition Management. A charge of \$30 will be assessed for each returned payment.

BIRTHDAYS

Children may celebrate birthdays at school. Please check with your scholar's teacher **PRIOR** to providing birthday treats. **Acceptable birthday treats** are cake, cupcakes, or cookies to share with the whole grade/class. Please remember personal parties for selected friends is divisive and feelings get hurt. Invitations distributed at school **MUST** include ALL girls, ALL boys, or ALL grade members. Deliveries of flowers, balloons, etc., limo rides, party bus, locker decorations are not allowed.

CAFETERIA/LUNCH

Lunch menus are provided by Crave-It Nutrition through **Lunchtime** software. You must create a payment account and add funds prior to the day of service to ensure your scholar is able to make a meal purchase. There will be an option to preorder lunches weekly or monthly. Parents (JK-8) are allowed to eat with their children. **(Only once a week and special occasions, please!)** Parents may bring lunch for their child only if they are planning to eat with them.

NO MEAL DELIVERIES are allowed. (Parents **MAY NOT** drop off lunch, order from GrubHub, etc.)

CELL PHONES/SMART WATCHES (Policy Change)

Smart Watches are prohibited on campus, and cell phones are prohibited below 5th Grade.

We want to encourage scholars to communicate with each other. In 5th-8th Grade, scholar cell phones are for emergency use only, and must be turned off, kept in the homeroom pouch during the day, and in backpacks before and after school. Any inappropriate use of cell phones will result in confiscation, and a parent must retrieve the phone from the School Office.

CHAPEL AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION-EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

Episcopal schools are created to be communities which honor, celebrate, and worship God as the center of life, are models of God's love and grace, and serve God in Christ in all persons, regardless of origin, background, ability, or religion. They are created to "strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being." The School welcomes children and parents of all faith backgrounds. Christian and non-Christian faiths are represented in our student body. This diversity encourages understanding and adds depth to the spiritual experience. All scholars participate in all Spiritual Formation experiences. Worship experiences and religious holidays are Christian in orientation. Specific accommodations need to be discussed with the Head of School.

Spiritual Formation Classes are offered to JK-8th Grade scholars. These classes offer explanations of the Episcopalian prayer liturgy, Bible stories, and discussions of world religions, life issues, and lessons in leadership. **The School's Chapel services** provide the community the opportunity to gather weekly and share a common spiritual experience. All scholars and faculty are expected to attend chapel. **Parents may attend All-School Chapel (Jr. Kinder-8th) on Thursdays at 8:10.**

CLASSROOM VISITATIONS

Parents are allowed for classroom visits such as parent/teacher conferences, volunteering, class parties, etc. Parents must bring a current driver's license or current ID and check in with the Raptor System in the Office. All classroom visits must be scheduled with your scholar's teacher. **Please make sure your scholar has the lunch, supplies, and necessary materials to make it through the day prior to morning drop-off.** (Scholars bring their necessary tools.) **No lunch deliveries are allowed.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

Character plus intelligence; that is the mark of true education. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Scholars' behavior is directly related to teacher and parent expectations. To guarantee all scholars the learning climate they deserve, we utilize Scholarly Behaviors and a Positive Phrasing Discipline Plan. St. James is committed to high expectations, positive attitudes, and reinforcement of appropriate behavior. Teachers will instruct scholars about expectations and scholars will be praised, complimented, and expected to have polite, courteous behavior. Teachers will keep in touch with parents through weekly emails, Agenda Planners, phone calls, and conferences.

School-Wide Expectations for Appropriate Behavior

We do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

- Use the appropriate tone of voice.
- Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- Keep feet, hands, and other objects to yourself.
- Safeguard the well-being of all scholars and the School.
- Be dressed in proper dress code attire.
- Maintain appropriate work-ethic behaviors.

School-Wide Expectations for Appropriate Work Ethic

- Work when you are supposed to work.
- Complete all work and turn it in on time.
- Keep materials and learning environment organized.
- Do your own work. (Use of other's work must be cited and documented.)
- Listen respectfully.
- Follow directions.

Scholarly Behaviors

- Scholars access multiple resources.
- Scholars ask many questions.
- Scholars thirst for knowledge.
- Scholars save important information.
- Scholars ponder the big ideas.
- Scholars see from different perspectives.
- Scholars bring their necessary tools.
- Scholars exercise their intellect.
- Scholars set goals.
- Scholars listen respectfully.
- Scholars create a safe learning environment.
- Scholars take a closer look to go from good to great.

Severity Clause (ALL-SCHOOL)

Scholars will be sent to an administrator immediately for the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Profanity/Obscenity
- Racial slurs
- Disrespect to adults
- Bullying
- Physically aggressive behavior (Primary School, when intentional)

Parents will receive a call for any Severity Clause infraction. Any serious infraction of the rules may result in Suspension or Expulsion. Severity Clause results in immediate loss of an 'S' Conduct grade. Disciplinary consequences are confidential and made at the sole discretion of the Head of School.

Primary School Discipline

Primary School Parents must sign the Agenda Planner daily.

Primary School discipline encourages scholars to make the right choices and practice appropriate behavior. Parents and teachers are a team, working together to reinforce appropriate behavior. Teachers will document scholar's behavior in the Agenda Planner daily, either with a sticker for positive choices made or detailed information about inappropriate behaviors. Continued inappropriate choices and/or causing personal harm to another person are considered Severity Clause and will result in an Office Referral. Administrators will investigate all sides involved in any situation requiring administrative intervention. Parents will receive a call from an administrator for any Office Referral. Please refrain from discussing your scholar's behavior during drop-off/pick-up.

Lower School Discipline

Lower School staff will document all inappropriate behavior in the Agenda Planner daily.

Agenda Planners must be initialed daily by a parent.

Work ethic and appropriate behavior provide the foundation for success. Some grade levels use colored cards (example below) and some grade levels use Class Dojo or other methods to track positive behaviors. Each grade level will discuss their behavior management system at Open House. Example of Colored Card System: All scholars start the day with a Green Card.

- 1st - Warning - card turned to yellow
- 2nd - Loss of Privilege - card turned to orange
- 3rd - Administrative Action and Parent Contact - card turned to red

Administrators will investigate all sides involved in any situation requiring administrative intervention. Parents will receive a call from an administrator for any Office Referral. (See Severity Clause-Pg. 9) Behavior documentation in the Agenda Planner will affect the Citizenship Grade.

Middle School Discipline

Scholars in SJES Middle School are expected to adhere to the philosophy, “Excellence, No Excuses”.

The following are the expectations for appropriate behavior for Middle School scholars.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Appropriate classroom, cafeteria, gym, Chapel behavior | • Keep hands, feet, and objects to self |
| • Appropriate language | • Speak with permission |
| • Appropriate hallway/locker etiquette | • Respect for classmates and teachers |
| • Prepared for Instruction/Homework/Tools | • Follow directions |
| | • *Adherence to Dress Code* |

Any inappropriate behavior (other than Severity Clause) will be documented individually in the **SJES Middle School Scholar Behavior Log (LOG)**. Each scholar starts with a blank log sheet at the beginning of each quarter in the LOG which travels from class to class with scholars.

Offense #1=Scholar/Teacher Conference

Offense #2=Break Detention, Scholar/Teacher Conference

Offense #3=Lunch Detention and Scholar/Parent/Teacher Contact

Offense #4=MS Director Conference and Parent Contact

Offense #5=Head of School Conference/Parent Contact/Office Referral, loss of ‘S’ conduct grade.

Adherence to Dress Code is documented separately and follows the same consequences above.

Administrators will investigate all sides involved in any situation requiring administrative intervention. Parents will receive a call from an administrator for any Office Referral.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The School's philosophy encourages service to the community. Service recommendations will be reviewed at Parent Orientation at the beginning of the year. Kinder-Third Grade will have separate goals from Fourth-Eighth Grades. Fourth-Eighth grade scholars at St. James are encouraged to set a yearly goal of 25 hours of community service. Eighth Grade scholars meeting a 100-hour service goal (total) receive a special ribbon and recognition at graduation.

CONFERENCES, GRADING, AND REPORTING

Scholar academic progress is conveyed through the Agenda Planner, FACTS Family Portal, and the Report Card. Year-end report cards are maintained in the scholar's permanent record folder. Each grade level will hold Glow and Grow conferences in the fall. Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grades will have spring conferences as needed. Teachers are available for personal conferences at School by appointment. By Board of Trustees policy, School records, including report cards and transcripts, are withheld for failure to meet contractual, financial obligations.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF SCHOOL RECORDS

The scholar's permanent record is confidential; available only to the current classroom teacher, parents, legal guardians, and such School staff the Head of School has decided has a legitimate purpose in seeing the files. The teachers review files of their current scholars in order to plan academic programs and to better meet the individual needs of their scholars.

DEVELOPMENT/ FUNDRAISING/ ADVANCEMENT

The School Advancement Office coordinates all fundraising campaigns, grants, and solicitations of support in conjunction with the St. James Board of Trustees. Such philanthropic endeavors are closely tied to the internal and external community perception of the School. All contributions are recorded in the Finance Department. Donors receive proper gift acknowledgement/tax receipts. Unless the Advancement Office receives a request for anonymity, Annual Fund donors are listed in The ARK. The Friends of St. James occasionally holds additional “fun” events to build community and family involvement. These events raise additional funds for the School and are completely optional. Fundraising includes **three distinct events**, and every family is strongly encouraged to participate.

- **Scholar-led Fundraiser** - To encourage an attitude of service and philanthropy, scholars are asked to participate in a schoolwide fundraiser held at the beginning of the year.
- In the fall, we hold our **Annual Giving Campaign**. This campaign is crucial to raise funds to cover the 20-30% of our operating budget tuition dollars do not cover. Families are asked to participate to achieve our 100% participation goal which helps us with grant applications.
- In the spring, we hold our **Spring Fling Gala/Auction**. This event is for adults over the age of 21 and is an evening of fun, food, amazing auction items, and great fellowship.

Philanthropy - Ways of Supporting St. James - Celebrating our 80th Anniversary!

The School annually receives support through the following opportunities:

- **Grandparents** - Please inform grandparents of School events and performances, especially Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Grandparents may be solicited for support. Please add contact information for grandparent(s) in the FACTS Family Portal.
- **Alumni Association** - Alumni and parents of Alumni are vital to the community spirit of St. James and may be solicited for support of various types. Alumni may share news through the ARK and the Jag Spirit, and on the school website Alumni page.
- **Memorial Gifts** - St. James often receives gifts to honor the memory of departed loved ones. An acknowledgement card is sent to the donor and to the family members. Unless otherwise noted, memorial gifts are directed to the Annual Giving Campaign, the SJES Endowment Fund, or the Operating Budget.
- **Honorary Gifts** - Each year the School receives gifts that name special persons whom a donor wishes to honor. Acknowledgement cards are sent to the honoree. Unless otherwise noted, honorary gifts are directed to the Annual Giving Campaign, the SJES Endowment Fund, or the Operating Budget. Honoree names and donors are listed in the Annual Report.
- **In-Kind Gifts** - These are non-cash gifts that are offered to individual classrooms, to the Library, or to other areas as appropriate.
- **Endowment Gifts** - Gifts to the St. James Episcopal School Endowment Fund are permanently restricted, producing revenue used to support the School. There are also several endowed Scholarship Funds, which generate income to be used each year to award merit scholarships and need-based financial aid to deserving scholars.
- **Grants** - Grants are received in response to formal requests for funding through corporations and foundations. Contact the SJES Office if you wish to suggest that a particular corporation or foundation be approached.
- **Planned Giving** - These are gifts of fiduciary instruments of any size, such as gifts of insurance, appreciated stock, real estate or annuity funds. Bequests also fall into this category. Planned gifts typically offer substantial tax benefits to the donor.

As an IRS 501(c) (3) corporation, all gifts to St. James Episcopal School are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the tax-code laws. Tax receipts are produced for all gifts and/or pledge payments. For additional tax receipts, or to discuss your specific gift verification needs, please contact the Advancement Office.

DIVORCE DECREES, TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS, AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

When legal issues affect family life, they also impact life at School. The School focus is always on the children in its care. To fulfill this commitment, the School must be made aware of all legal documents currently in place. Parents are responsible for giving the School all properly executed divorce decrees, restraining orders, and other Court Orders. These documents remain confidential.

EMERGENCY FORMS

Emergency and family information must be entered in FACTS Family Portal within the first week of school. St. James maintains emergency contact information, approved carpool drivers, health care information, and immunization records. **All necessary forms must be properly filed in the School Office to ensure admittance to classes prior to the first day of school.**

EMERGENCIES/EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

In an emergency, the Head of School will send a FACTS Family Portal Alert Text message. Please be sure appropriate cell phone numbers are entered in the FACTS Family Portal.

WEATHER

When a weather emergency occurs, the Head of School will send a FACTS Family Portal Alert Text message to communicate with the School Community. Parents are advised to check the School website (www.sjes.org) for updates and current information regarding an emergency or school closure. When a weather emergency occurs during the School day, scholars are safest within the School buildings. Parents are discouraged from coming to campus during an emergency to remove scholars from School. **Please leave phone lines open during emergencies.**

FIRE

- Each classroom has an evacuation plan prominently displayed.
- Each teacher instructs the class on the correct route to safely leave the building.
- Each scholar learns and practices reaching a pre-determined gathering location.

Procedures

- In the event of an actual fire or pending fire, activate the nearest fire call.
- Upon hearing the fire bell/tone, teachers should calmly and safely evacuate the building.
- Evacuating scholars remain with their class, and teachers should account for each scholar.
- Scholars who are not in their assigned rooms (i.e. using a tutoring room, library or restroom) should evacuate the building immediately and report to their teacher at the assigned area.
- Teachers/scholars should quietly **wait for “all-clear”** to re-enter the building.

COMMUNICATIONS DURING EMERGENCIES

- Should an emergency require St. James to delay or cancel the regularly scheduled opening, OR to institute an early dismissal, the Head of School will send a FACTS Alert Text message.
- The School Office shall monitor the City of Corpus Christi 911 emergency broadcast system and use FACTS Family Portal to notify parents about procedures to follow.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips, by contract, are a mandatory aspect of the curriculum, not part of tuition, and will be billed separately from tuition. Scholars must have the proper forms signed prior to leaving and must use seatbelts/child seats as required by law. Parents who serve as drivers for class trips must make alternate arrangements for siblings or other children. All drivers driving scholars other than their own children are required to file proof of a valid driver's license, State of Texas prescribed minimums for liability insurance, and proof of Safeguarding God's Children training in the School Office prior to serving as a chaperone and/or trip driver. The School reserves the right to check a registered driver's driving record with Texas DPS.

ALL PARENTS ATTENDING ANY FIELD TRIP MUST SIGN IN WITH THE RAPTOR SYSTEM IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE THE DAY OF THE FIELD TRIP.

GRADE PLACEMENT

Advancement from Pre-Kinder-8th Grade will be based on attendance, academic readiness, parent-teacher conferences, teacher recommendation, developmental readiness (Gesell Observation), and fulfillment of contractual agreements. Final decision for placement rests with the Head of School.

HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES

Scholar Health Records

The Medical Information portion of the FACTS Enrollment Packet must be completed at the beginning of every school year. The **Emergency Contact** information is accessible to all SJES staff through FACTS. It is a requirement by the State of Texas to present the most up-to-date Immunization Record prior to the beginning of each school year, including the dates of administration for each vaccination. Under individualized circumstances (religious, medical, philosophical, etc.), the *Texas Department of Health and Human Services* can grant an exemption for the state-required immunizations. Parents requesting an exemption must submit an affidavit request that complies with the exemption requirements under Texas Education Code 38.001. A valid, notarized affidavit must be submitted to the School Nurse for each scholar.

All forms must be received, and the online medical information must be submitted by the start of school, or the School reserves the right to exclude the scholar from class.

Administration of Medicine

If a scholar needs medication to be administered during school hours, either prescription or ***over the counter (OTC)*** and **not** already authorized within the Medical Information portion of the Enrollment Packet, the medication *must* be brought to the school nurse or administrator by an authorized parent/guardian. The medication must be in its original packaging or prescription bottle. *Medication(s) outside of its original packaging of any kind (OTC or prescription) may not be administered at school.*

- a. An Authorization Form may be obtained from the School Nurse and must be filled out and signed for each medication received. This form provides parent/guardian consent, verifies dosage, frequency, prescribing physician, and expiration date.
- b. Scholars are not permitted to carry any type of medication in their backpacks, OTC or prescription. If a parent or staff member becomes aware of medication in a scholar's backpack, please contact the school nurse or administrator.

Expired medications, *including Epi Pens and inhalers, will not be authorized or used. When an authorized medication expires, the School Nurse will notify home, and the medication must be picked up at the School Office by the scholar's parent/guardian. *The School is not permitted to discard prescription medications*, even if the medication has expired.

Check the expiration dates on your scholar's prescription medications, specifically the '*as needed*' (PRN) medications that may not be administered on a routine basis (Epinephrine pens, Albuterol Sulfate inhalers, etc.). Prescription refills for medications such as these can be a timely process.

****All medications must be picked up from the Office by a parent/guardian at the end of each school year. Medications will not be sent home with a scholar.**

Children with communicable illnesses should be kept home. Special health problems should be discussed with the teacher. Any special arrangements must be in writing and a copy given to both the teacher and the School Nurse. When a scholar has been exposed to a communicable disease, parents are urged to notify the School immediately. After an absence due to a contagious illness, scholars must have a physician's statement saying they are cleared to return to school.

SCHOLARS MUST BE FEVER AND SYMPTOM FREE A FULL [24] HOURS WITHOUT FEVER REDUCING MEDICINE BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.

Health-Related Notices

All information regarding who to contact in an emergency must be completed in the designated section of FACTS Family Portal. Office personnel have access to the scholar health records. In the event of an accident or sudden illness, the School will notify the scholar's parents. If the parents are not immediately available, the emergency contact(s) or designated physician will be notified. **If the situation warrants, the scholar will be taken directly to the hospital.**

Health Screening

Vision/hearing screenings apply to scholars enrolled in Pre-Kinder, Jr. Kinder, Kinder, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and to any other first-time entrants. Scoliosis screening will be conducted on Middle School scholars based on birthdates.

HOMEWORK

Homework is considered an integral part of the academic program. Work will be assigned by the teacher to reinforce what was taught in class and is to be completed at home rather than during the school day. Homework must be handed in on time. Each teacher will send home specific grade level guidelines for assignments. Homework assignments will assist scholars in mastering grade level curriculum and will increase academic achievement. Appropriate activities may include additional skill practice, projects, reports, and other activities necessary for mastery of objectives.

Homework shall be assigned for the following purposes:

- Practice Assignment-Independent work reinforcing skills after instruction has occurred.
- Preparation Assignments-Independent work that gives background data before topics are introduced.
- Enrichment Assignments-Work that encourages the use of higher-level thinking skills and enriches classroom activities.

Homework must be completed nightly.

Every night (Monday-Thursday) scholars in Lower School will have homework in Reading, Spelling, and Math and should take about 1 - 1 1/2 hours to finish. No homework will be assigned on Friday, although projects may be assigned early in the week and may extend past the weekend. Scholars should read and practice math facts nightly. They also may have additional homework in one other subject. Contact your child's teacher during their planning about any homework challenges. (Planning is during their PE time.) **Homework is not unfinished class work.** Unfinished class work is work your child did not complete at school and may add to homework time. **Scholars who consistently have late or unfinished classwork may be placed on Academic Probation.** Borderline averages (69, 79, and 89) are impacted by homework and work ethic.

Middle School scholars should expect homework every night (Mon.-Thurs.) as it is an integral part of their classwork. Projects may be assigned early in the week and extend past the weekend. Points are deducted for late homework or assignments. Late work is 10 pts. off for each day the assignment is late. After five days late, the grade recorded is a zero. All MS Teachers will communicate assignments through Google Classroom daily.

LOST AND FOUND

Please mark all clothing/personal items with name tags and/or permanent ink with child's name.

All found items will be taken to the gym or the Swap Closet. At the end of each quarter, all items left in Lost and Found will be put in the Swap Closet or donated to charity. **Label everything.**

MESSAGES FOR TEACHERS

Each teacher maintains a St. James e-mail account. E-mail addresses can be found on the SJES website (www.sjes.org). St. James staff emails are **firstlastname@sjes.org**. Parents are encouraged to contact St. James teachers through e-mail during school hours. All staff will respond in a timely and efficient manner. Please allow a 24-hour response time. Teachers are not required to give out their personal phone numbers. If they choose to do so, please respect their family time.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Outdoor Education Program (4th-8th Grades) is designed to enhance the academic curriculum while providing an opportunity to grow through participation in outdoor activities that promote cooperation, teamwork, responsibility, and self-reliance. Due to the integral nature of these experiences to the St. James curriculum, trips are planned during the school week, and teachers and staff serve as sponsors. By contract, attendance on Outdoor Ed trips is *“an integral and mandatory aspect of the school curriculum.”* The cost of each trip is **NOT INCLUDED IN TUITION** and will be billed separately from tuition. **Financial assistance is available by request to the Head of School.**

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The Parent-Teacher conference provides for strong two-way communication and helps both the teacher and parent to arrive at a better understanding of each scholar's strengths and opportunities for growth. All conferences must be scheduled in advance. Glow and Grow Conferences with every parent will be held before Fall Break. To schedule a conference about specific issues, contact your child's teacher before or after school or during your child's PE time.

PARTIES

Scheduled class parties are held at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the End of Year. All other holiday (mini) parties should be kept simple and approved by the teacher. Please respect your teacher's wishes about acceptable party refreshments/gifts. Classroom parties are by class or by grade level. Birthday Parties are addressed under Cafeteria/Lunch/Birthdays section. Friends of St. James provides a summarized yearly calendar of events/special dress days through the Room Parents.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE is part of the instructional program, and all scholars are required to participate. **Any illness preventing participation in PE requires a written excuse to the PE teacher. A doctor's excuse is required for scholars unable to participate for two or more days.** Scholars who have a written note and do not participate in PE still go to the gym and do not participate in recess. The School must be notified in writing by the attending physician when the scholar can return to normal activities.

SCHOLAR DRESS

ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS (local-online) OR LAND'S END. Khaki's other than Academic Outfitters or Land's End are not dress code.

Please mark all dress code items with your scholar's name.

The SJES uniform represents *80 years of Excellence in Education* and fosters great pride in St. James when seen in the community. Uniforms help create an atmosphere that promotes focused learning and respectful expressions of individuality. In fitting with our mission, a uniform dress code has been identified as a useful tool in promoting an inclusive school culture. Our policy aims to minimize differences associated with spending habits and maximize bonding through similar dress.

Scholars shall be in compliance with the Dress Code each day PRIOR to arrival at school.

The SWAP Closet is available for free uniforms. Swap Closet will not be opened to avoid Dress Code infractions. Compliance with Dress Code will earn scholars Friday Dress Code privileges and a Free Dress Day at the end of each quarter. Documentation of scholars not in compliance with Dress Code will be written in the Agenda Planner or on the Middle School Behavior Log. After the third dress code infraction, scholars will lose Friday Dress Code privileges and Free Dress Day at the end of the quarter and will be required to be in their daily uniform for the remainder of the quarter. Scholars start fresh each quarter. **Every aspect of Dress Code will be considered (including hair, shoes, make-up, etc.)**

Non-Discrimination Policy: St. James Episcopal School celebrates and welcomes a diverse population. We recognize that diversity encompasses differences in gender, race, religion, ethnicity, physical and academic abilities, family composition, and socioeconomic circumstances. St. James does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of the admission and educational policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, employment practices, and/or other school administered programs generally made available at the School.

BOYS DRESS CODE - Please mark all dress code items with your scholar's name.

ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS (local) OR LAND'S END.

Khakis/Blazers from anywhere other than Academic Outfitters/Land's End are NOT acceptable dress code.

All scholars (grades 4-8) dress out for PE in required daily athletic wear purchased from Stitch It.

***SHOES:** * Tennis Shoes must be solid white, black, grey, or blue.

Simple trim in an accent color is allowed. Shoelaces must be white, black, or predominant shoe color.

No soles that leave black marks on gym floor, no light-up shoes, glitter, or rolling shoes.

PRIMARY SCHOOL - Pre-Primary, Primary, and Pre-Kindergarten

CHAPEL DRESS

- Elastic waist khaki shorts or pants
- Long or short sleeve white polo shirt with SJES logo (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- * Tennis Shoes with white socks

DAILY UNIFORM

- Elastic waist khaki shorts or pants
- Long or short sleeve white, grey, navy, or light blue polo shirt with SJES logo (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- * Tennis Shoes with white socks

LOWER SCHOOL - Junior Kindergarten-4th Grade

All pants with belt loops must have a belt.

CHAPEL DRESS

- Khaki pants with belt loops (JK and Kindergarten may wear elastic waist uniform pants and no belt.)
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle
- Long or short sleeve white polo shirt with SJES logo. (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- * Tennis Shoes with white socks

DAILY UNIFORM

- Khaki shorts or pants with belt loops (JK and Kindergarten may wear elastic waist uniform shorts or pants and no belt.) *Shorts must be no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.*
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle
- Long or short sleeve white, grey, navy, or light blue polo shirt with SJES logo (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- * Tennis Shoes with white socks

MIDDLE SCHOOL - 5th - 8th Grade

CHAPEL DRESS - Scholars must arrive fully dressed for Chapel on Thursday.

- Khaki pants with belt loops
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle
- Long or short sleeve white button-down shirt, no SJES logo. (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- Two-button navy blazer (Lands End/Academic Outfitters) with SJES Crest (Purchased in School Office)
- SJES boys' tie (Purchased in School Office)
- Brown Topsiders with dark trouser socks

DAILY UNIFORM

- Khaki shorts or pants with belt loops. (No shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee)
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle
- Long or short sleeve white, grey, navy, or light blue polo shirt with SJES logo (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- * Tennis Shoes with white socks

FRIDAY DRESS FOR ALL BOYS

- Khaki, blue jeans, or blue jean shorts (Shorts must be no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.)
- Any sanctioned St. James t-shirt (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle
- **Dress Code*** Tennis Shoes with any colored socks

JACKETS/OTHER FOR ALL BOYS

- SJES sweatshirts, pullovers, shooter jerseys (with logo) may be worn indoors over Dress Code. (Scholar must be in Dress Code underneath SJES outerwear.) Special permission required for Outdoor Ed camp wear.
- Any jacket is allowed OUTDOORS during cold weather.
- No hair dye, highlights, bleach or hair color, piercings, tattoos, chains, or distracting jewelry allowed
- Boys' hair must be clean, neatly groomed, above the eyebrows in front, not below the collar in back

GIRLS DRESS CODE - Please mark all dress code items with your scholar's name.

ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS (local) OR LAND'S END.

All scholars (grades 4-8) dress out for PE in required daily athletic wear purchased from Stitch It.

Hair Decorations: White, light blue, or navy-blue bows or headbands only; Friday: any colored hair accessory.

SHOES:* Tennis Shoes must be solid white, black, grey, or blue. Simple trim in an accent color is allowed.

Shoelaces must be white, black, or predominant shoe color. No soles that leave black marks on gym floor and no sparkly, glitter, or light-up shoes.

PRIMARY SCHOOL - Pre-Primary, Primary, and Pre-Kindergarten

CHAPEL DRESS

- Light blue pleated jumper with white or blue privacy shorts underneath
- White middie blouse with light blue SJES tie ('St. James' on right side.)
- * Tennis Shoes with (white) socks, knee socks, or tights. No leggings

DAILY UNIFORM

- Elastic waist light blue shorts, light blue cotton split skirt, or light blue pleated jumper with white or blue privacy shorts underneath
- White or navy middie blouse with light blue SJES tie ('St. James' on right side.)
- * Tennis Shoes with (white) socks, knee socks, or tights. No leggings

LOWER SCHOOL - Junior Kindergarten-4th Grade

CHAPEL DRESS

- Light blue pleated skirt with white or blue privacy shorts underneath- JK-Kindergarten girls may wear light blue pleated jumper. Skirts-no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.
- White middie blouse with light blue SJES tie ('St. James' on right side.)
- * Tennis Shoes with (white) socks, knee socks, or tights. No leggings

DAILY UNIFORM

- Light blue shorts, light blue cotton split skirt, or light blue pleated skirt with white or blue privacy shorts underneath. JK-Kindergarten girls may wear light blue pleated jumper. Skirts or shorts-no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.
- White or navy middie blouse with light blue SJES tie ('St. James' on right side.)
- * Tennis Shoes with (white) socks, knee socks, or tights. No leggings

MIDDLE SCHOOL - 5th - 8th Grade

Khakis/Blazers from anywhere other than Academic Outfitters/Land's End are NOT acceptable dress code.

CHAPEL DRESS - Scholars must arrive fully dressed for Chapel on Thursday.

- Khaki pleated or A-line skirt. Skirts-no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.
- Long or short sleeve white button-down shirt, no SJES logo. (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- Two-button navy blazer (Lands End/Academic Outfitters) with SJES Crest (Purchased in School Office)
- SJES girls' tie. (Purchased in School Office)
- Brown Topsiders with no socks or white no show socks.

DAILY UNIFORM

- Khaki skirts, shorts or pants with belt loops. Shorts-skirts no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle. No studs or rhinestones
- Long or short sleeve white, grey, navy, or light blue polo shirt with SJES logo (Shirttails tucked in)
- * Tennis Shoes with (white) socks, knee socks, or tights. No leggings

FRIDAY DRESS FOR ALL GIRLS

- Khaki, blue jeans, or blue jean shorts (Shorts must be no shorter than a dollar bill width above the knee.)
- Any sanctioned St. James t-shirt. (Shirttails tucked in at home.)
- Brown or black leather belt with plain buckle. No studs or rhinestones
- * Dress Code Tennis Shoes with any colored socks

JACKETS/OTHER FOR ALL GIRLS

- SJES sweatshirts, pullovers, shooter jerseys (with logo) may be worn indoors over Dress Code. (Scholar must be in Dress Code underneath SJES outerwear.) Special permission required for Outdoor Ed camp wear.
- Any jacket is allowed OUTDOORS during cold weather.
- Hair neatly groomed-No artificial hair dye, highlights, bleach, or hair color.
- No artificial nails/distracting jewelry (limit: two bracelets, two necklaces), no piercings other than earlobes.
- Primary School-6th Grade-No make-up allowed. 7th/8th Grade girls may wear mascara/lip gloss.

PARENT SIGNATURE FORM This page must be initialed and signed.

PUBLICITY RELEASE

At St. James, we love celebrating our scholars' achievements, classroom experiences, and special events. To share these memorable moments with our school community, we regularly take photographs and videos of our scholars for use in school publications, marketing materials, and on our social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. In addition, the Frazier STREAM Innovation Center provides scholars with many unique opportunities to participate in photos, videos, and film projects as they engage in hands-on learning experiences. By initialing YES below, you give consent for photos and videos of your scholars to be captured and used by SJES for the purpose of promoting scholar activities on the School's website, publications, reports, social media, and marketing materials. **Please note:** All scholars will be photographed for the annual Yearbook, Spring Fling Class Books, and Grandparents & Special Friends Day photo badges. These materials are intended for school use only and are **not** shared publicly.

_____ Yes _____ No

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND USE

Scholars at St. James have access to the Internet and utilize our computer network every day. The School will provide adult supervision and guidance during computer use and individual teachers may provide written instructions to ensure technology usage is developmentally appropriate. The instantaneous availability of information, which at times may be graphic in nature, places tremendous responsibility on our employees and scholars to ensure the materials accessed either publicly or privately are consistent with the mission of SJES. The School does employ modern filtering hardware and software to provide appropriate safeguards and to reduce the risk of using any inappropriate information. **Initialing this section indicates parent expectation and scholar agreement to use all technology (including laptops and personal cell phones) appropriately. (JK-8th Grades)**

_____ Parent _____ Scholar

TUITION/INCIDENTALS COMMITMENT

SJES contracts with parents for the full academic year. The School then enters into legally binding contractual relationships with its employees, vendors, and other service providers based upon the anticipated enrollment for the coming academic year. Therefore, as stated in the Enrollment Agreement, "Cancellations of enrollment, whether by withdrawal or dismissal occurring on or after July 1, 2026 will result in my obligation to pay the full Annual Tuition and any supplemental balance as directed by School as liquidated damages in lieu of other damages to School for its losses caused by my scholar's withdrawal or dismissal." The School will collect tuition and fees for the entire year.

Outdoor Education, Field Trips, Aftercare, and other incidentals are not part of the tuition and are billed separately each month. Invoices are emailed on the 10th of each month and should be paid upon receipt. **Cafeteria accounts are set up separately with Lunchtime.**

I have read and discussed the St. James Episcopal School Parent/Student Handbook, including the Code of Conduct, Attendance/Tardy Policies, Technology Agreement, and Uniform Requirements with my child. I understand parent initials are requested nightly in the Agenda Planner from Pre-Primary through 4th Grade. We agree to adhere to these policies, follow the Dress Code, Attendance rules, **including being on time for school**, and we agree to do the "right thing" because it is the right thing to do. We fully support SJES policies.

Parent Signature

Print Name

Date

Teacher Signature

Print Name

Date

A copy of this SJES Student Handbook will be on the FACTS Family Portal and the SJES Website for parent access. All signatures are required on this page, and a copy will be kept on file with your scholar's teacher and in their cumulative record.