



Excited 5th graders on opening day

**OPENING
DOORS**
TO HIGH SCHOOL
& Beyond



**ST. JAMES
SCHOOL**

www.StJamesPhila.org • (215) 226.1276

3217 WEST CLEARFIELD STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19132



National Association
of Episcopal Schools

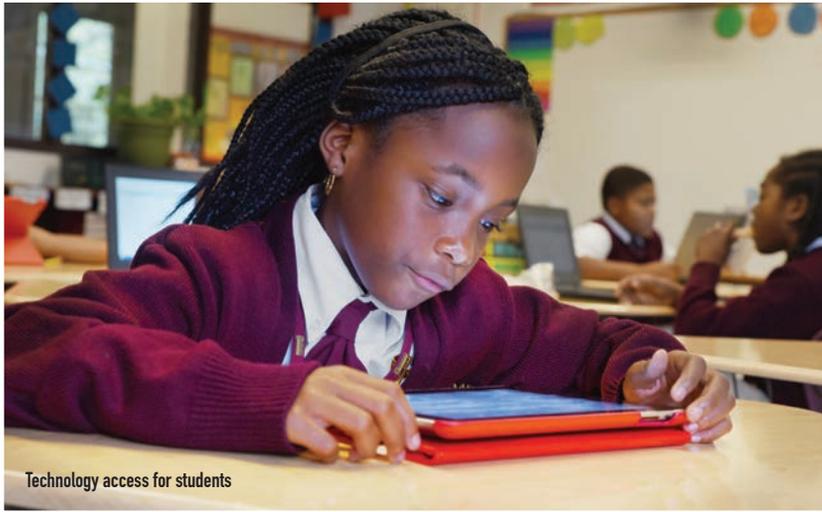


Proud 8th graders ready to receive their diplomas



**ST. JAMES
SCHOOL**

ALLEGHENY WEST • NORTH PHILADELPHIA



Technology access for students

MISSION

St. James School is a faith-based Philadelphia middle school in the Episcopal tradition, committed to educating traditionally underresourced students in a nurturing environment. The school is a community that provides a challenging academic program and encourages the



MORAL



SPIRITUAL



INTELLECTUAL



PHYSICAL



CREATIVE

GIFTS IN ITS STUDENTS.



Churchgoers gather for an event in what is today the school's science classroom

St. James School was featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer for its September 2011 grand opening



Then and Now

Built in 1846 as a country church, the Church of St. James the Less is a National Historic Landmark nestled in the Allegheny West neighborhood of North Philadelphia. After the 6-acre property was abandoned in 2006, the idea for St. James School was born.

The school's founders engaged with the community and one thing quickly became clear—families wanted a high-quality neighborhood school. Public schools serving Allegheny West struggle with overcrowding, low funding, lack of resources, forced cuts of critical positions like nurses and librarians, plus daily fights and bullying. These schools continually make the state's failing schools list.

In 2011, St. James School opened its doors in the property's parish hall, with the promise of providing a transformational education to a neighborhood that had been sorely neglected.

The lush green campus includes a historic cemetery, the Wanamaker Memorial Bell Tower, a former rectory now home to teachers and staff, and a small caretaker's cottage which serves as the Head of School's residence.

St. James School is a tuition-free neighborhood option for students who would otherwise be stuck attending a failing school. Most families live within walking distance, and all qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program.



NUMBERS

Highest poverty rate among
America's 10 largest cities

PHILADELPHIA

Biggest funding
disparities between
low income and high
income school districts
in the country

PENNSYLVANIA

71%

students reside in a
single-adult homes.

“Our students are resilient and overcome their obstacles as life often throws challenges their way. At St. James, students grow and flourish in a structured, safe, challenging and nurturing environment that embraces them and build on their God given strengths. We are proud of their successes and will continue to build on them.”

— Dave McDonough, Asst. Head of School

HOURS STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL

Philadelphia Schools: 1,197
St. James School: 1,757

1.5 GRADE LEVELS

Gains our students must make
annually after attending underper-
forming elementary schools to be
on grade level by high school

Compared to their public
school neighbors,
our students are in school
**560 more hours per year—
that's 84 more days
of school!**



Students complete a writing assignment in ELA (English Language Arts) class

MIDDLE SCHOOL: A CRITICAL TIME

Researchers point to the middle school years as a make-or-break period for academic accomplishment—especially for underresourced students. As they transition to adolescence, they are forming the attitudes, values, and habits that will largely shape their adult lives. Too often in underperforming middle schools, students are left unprepared for high school, college, and the world outside of the classroom. At St. James School we believe that every child deserves a school that supports them fully during this critical phase of life. And as the only Episcopal school in the city of Philadelphia, St. James School strives to be a community where we nurture students' gifts academically, physically, creatively, morally and spiritually.





WHAT SETS US APART

St. James School is more than a middle school. We are committed to walking alongside graduates through high school and beyond—providing **counseling, tutoring, mentoring** and all the tools they need to succeed. Learning does not stop in mid-afternoon—with **10-11 hours of programming a day, Saturday school twice a month**, and a school year that stretches until the **end of July**.

While our focus is on a students' academic needs, their emotional and physical health is just as important, St. James School provides: an **experienced chef** who makes inspired, healthy **family-style meals**; an onsite **nurse** practitioner; a team of trained **mental health professionals** who help students work through trauma and other adversity; extraordinary teachers and staff who are committed to going above and beyond every day.

St. James community members collect and deliver clothes and food to families who are struggling to make ends meet. Several live on campus and, even on their days off, can be found playing pick-up basketball games or helping with homework. With the investment of a wide network of donors, volunteers and friends, we see every day the incredible impact we are having here in North Philadelphia.

EDUCATING THE *Whole* CHILD

Today, St. James School provides a much needed alternative for the children of Allegheny West, serving 63 students in grades 5-8, as well as its graduates.

- Tuition-free model where all students receive full scholarships
- Rigorous academic programs including a unique array of enrichment activities like robotics, instrumental music, rowing, and chicken tending
- Faith-based learning in the Episcopal tradition
- Small classes of 18 or less students per grade
- Extended day, week, and year
- 5:1 student/instructor ratio
- Positive, nurturing, and holistic school culture
- Comprehensive, ongoing high school placement and graduate support
- Extensive family engagement, with parents committed to volunteering four Saturdays annually
- Picturesque campus with safe, green space to play and learn
- Freshly prepared healthy meals served family-style
- Computer and iPad access for each child
- Summer learning program includes an overnight camp



THE ONLY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL IN PHILLY

As a school in the Episcopal tradition, we invite every student to learn and share from our diverse community. Each student, family, faculty member and volunteer, offers the community unique gifts, which nurture the spiritual lives of all.

The Episcopal tradition provides the framework for this dialogue of faith, reason and experience.

School Worship, Community Life, Religious Formation and Study, & Social Justice come together to nurture the moral and spiritual lives of our students.

Seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself

Fifth grade takes advantage of a beautiful day on the school's lush campus



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Our transformative work is only made possible through the generosity of partners like you. Whether you visit to learn more, become a \$25 and up monthly donor, volunteer for a Saturday work day, or decide to invest in a scholarship, we invite you to join us in our mission!

To learn more about how you can join us, please contact 215.226.1276 or visit www.StJamesPhila.org



VOLUNTEER

We regularly hear from our volunteers how it fills their hearts to work in our school community. Volunteer opportunities include: mentors, tutors, administrative assistants, repair and maintenance personnel, librarians, program managers, and board and committee service members.

Whether for a one day service project or an ongoing volunteer position, volunteers are changemakers. To learn more visit our website.



SHARE

Tell your friends, family, church, and colleagues about how St. James School is working to break the cycle of poverty through education in North Philadelphia.

www.StJamesPhila.org



DONATE

General donations, monthly giving, in-kind donations of supplies, student scholarships, and special gifts toward important projects and programs—every form of donation helps sustain St. James School and upholds the many services provided to students and their families.

WANAMAKER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

Join this VIP group of donors investing in our most critical need—scholarships.



Remember us in your will, arrange a gift to provide fixed payments for life, or leave a percentage of retirement plan assets

TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Any PA business (and many individuals) can redirect tax dollars to a scholarship gift to St. James.

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

Remember or honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a special gift to St. James

Monthly Giving

For as little as \$10 a month, you can make a positive change in our students' future.

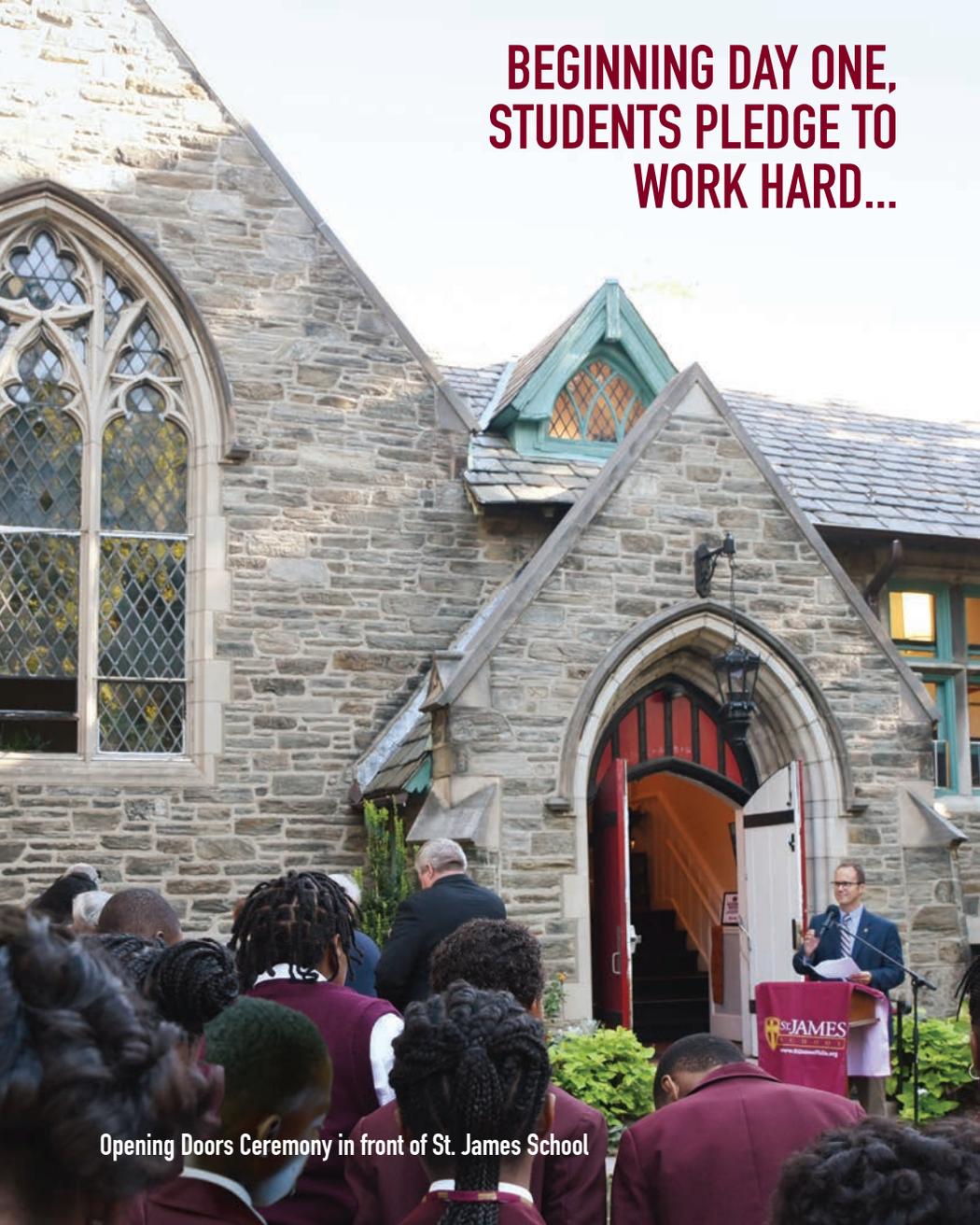
GIVE NOW

GIFTS OF ANY SIZE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

STJAMESPHILA.ORG

**BEGINNING DAY ONE,
STUDENTS PLEDGE TO
WORK HARD...**

**WHILE WE CONTINUE
OPENING DOORS TO HIGH
SCHOOL & BEYOND.**



Opening Doors Ceremony in front of St. James School



The graduating class of 2016 just after receiving their diplomas



John W. Hallahan
CATHOLIC GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL



*Little
Flower*
Catholic High
School for Girls



MERCY VOCATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL

PERK
THE PERKIOMEN SCHOOL



WEST CATHOLIC
Preparatory High School



SOME OF THE AREAS BEST-FIT HIGH SCHOOLS OUR GRADUATES ATTEND