



April 9, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We continue to monitor COVID in Philadelphia, and we are **hoping** to start the following **Schedule Changes for Grades 6,7,8 starting Monday, April 26. We are calling it a “DIMMED UP YELLOW” Schedule.**

REASONS:

- a. Students have been responsible on campus wearing masks, washing hands, keeping 6 feet, etc...
- b. Many of the teachers and schoolhouse staff have been vaccinated.
- c. Layered mitigation strategies remain the most important for reopening schools and keeping the community healthy and safe. Four more strategies are being added:
 - New and improved masks have arrived
 - Plexiglass tri-fold desktop shields have been ordered for each student & teacher
 - Wide open windows (warmer weather - hello Spring!)
- We will do rapid 15 minute COVID testing each week for students & staff starting April 26*. *Rapid Covid tests are only available to current students and staff, as part of a national research project. The project is designed to identify Covid 19 transmission patterns in schools. Test kits cannot be used for family members, guests or neighbors. Other community members who need Covid tests can refer to the phila.gov website, a doctor’s office, Sayre Community Health Clinic, CVS, etc.. to locate a site and schedule a free test.

DETAILS:

- a. All students in Grades 6, 7, 8 will be on campus 9:00 am-2:15 pm Monday through Friday b. We know this may affect students with siblings at SJS, so Grades 6, 7, 8 students can arrive anytime between 8:00-9:00am
- c. 5 classes on site 45 min each
- d. Lunch, recess, and a 45 min study hall on campus
- e. April 12th-16th Spring Break
- f. April 19th-23rd Voluntary RED Schedule (all classes & enrichment held on Zoom) g. April 26th-30th “DIMMED UP YELLOW” starts! (we hope - fingers crossed!)

BENEFITS:

- a. 2:15-5:30 Zoom enrichments, online tutoring, and staff meetings remain the same
- b. All Grade 6, 7, 8 classes can be in person!
- c. Ms. Stewart, Fr. Kellner, Ms. Parker-Watson, Ms. Nalubega, Mr. Austin, Ms. Harris, Mr. Lee can all teach students in person!

- d. All students in Grades 4-8 get a socially distant recess and lunch on campus!
- e. Same teachers for same classes so moving between YELLOW schedules is easy

At the **April 20th Family Guardian Meeting (6-7pm)**, we will walk families through the possible schedule changes, demonstrate a rapid COVID test that evening online, and answer any questions you may have.

7th & 8th Grade Families - Ms. John has assisted you and your child through SKILLS classes, the high school application process, and is now leaving the SJS community. Mr Austin will now be teaching Skills Classes. We thank Ms. John for her three years of service and wish her good luck in her future. Ms. John will be at Graduation. Speaking of Graduation, please save the dates, with more details to come in the upcoming weeks: **Thursday, June 17 6pm 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation rehearsal**
Friday, June 18 6pm 8th Grade Graduation !

5th Grade Families - Ms. DeLine will be shifting to teaching Upper School ELA classes with Ms. S. Carroll during Marking Period 4. Ms. DeLine has loved working with 5th graders this year and getting to know all of you as well. Ms. A. Carroll will be teaching all of 5th grade ELA & Math in Room 101 during Marking Period 4.

Student Recruitment: We are currently accepting applications for students entering grades 4-8 Fall 2021. The deadline is May 1. The sooner applications are submitted the better! Please contact Ms. S. Carroll for assistance. scarroll@stjamesphila.org // office: 215-226-1276 ex 105 // cell: 267-606-0018

Important dates:

- April 10 RAH Clean Up Day
- April 12-16 Spring Break, NO SCHOOL
- April 19-23 RED schedule, all classes and enrichment are via Zoom for the week
- April 24 Family Service Day
- April 24th Zoom Academic clinic 7th grade
- May 1 new student applications due
- May 7 Family First Friday
- May 8 Zoom Academic Clinic 5th grade
- May 22 Zoom Academic Clinic 6th grade
- May 28, 31 Memorial Day weekend, NO SCHOOL
- June 4 Family First Friday
- June 5 Zoom Academic Clinic 8th grade
- June 12 Zoom Academic Clinic 8th grade
- June 17 6pm 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass
- June 18 6pm 8th Grade Graduation !
- June 21-July 2 Student Vacation
- July 5-July 30 Summer programming for 4th-7th graders (mandatory)

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough