



“One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along, that while we need to be reassured of God’s arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home.” — Michelle Blake

December 11, 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

In this season of **Advent**, we focus on God coming closer in our midst each day, and the themes of Love and Hope in our world. Let us strive to remember that God is among us already, each and every moment of our lives. We wish you and your family a Happy Advent season!

Clearfield Street is full of **activities** Monday thru Friday, and Saturdays and Sundays too! In just the past ten days, we have had the November Awards ceremony, a Family First Friday, the Honor Roll Breakfast, Welcome Table Farmer’s Market, graduate trips, Student Council led Bake Sale, the 2nd annual Winter House Cup, Lessons & Carols Concert with our student choir and band, the Sunday 5pm Mass, and much more!

Calendar change: Friday, January 5 will be a 1pm student dismissal.

Calling all scientists! **The Science Fair** is this Saturday, December 16 from 10am-12pm. Come out and check out the future of science. Reminder - this event is mandatory for students in grades 6,7, 8. Students will need a chaperone 18+ present with them. Work will be on display for students in grades 4 and 5 as well!

Members of the Concert Band have been working diligently to prepare for the **Winter Band Concert** on December 19. The concert will begin promptly at 5:30! Please plan to arrive at 5:15 to support our students!

Saturday Academic Clinics will continue on January 6, 13 and 20. Any student with a D or F in Marking Period #2 will be required to attend all three sessions to receive academic support to raise their grades.

Family Teacher Conferences will be held Tuesday, January 16. As always, stay in touch with your child’s teachers re: their progress. Your child’s homeroom teacher will contact you to set up an appointment time.

Black Girls Love Math is now offering **FREE drop in tutoring** on Saturday mornings 10am-12pm & Thursday nights from 5-7pm in Room 201 for St. James students, graduates, AND neighborhood children.

Health and Wellness All students MUST HAVE necessary medications in stock at school! Many students with serious allergies do not have epipens! Several asthmatic students have no albuterol inhaler. Please help us keep your children safe! Call with concerns: ext 118.

- Parent/Guardians: PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE SCHOOL by 8 a.m. on any day your student is delayed or absent!
- Mental Health screening has begun and will continue this month and next.

The **Advent party** will be on Thursday, Dec 21 from 5:00-6:30pm. Students and family members are invited to enjoy prayer, time together, Advent activities, and some cookies and juice.

The next **Family Guardian Meeting** is Thursday, January 4 from 5:15-6:00pm.

Snow? In case of snow, we follow the School District of Philadelphia. If the SDP has a 2 hour delay, then we have a 2 hour delay. If the SDP is closed for snow, then we are closed.

Several families have begun finishing **Husky Household Hours** cards! Any events families are on campus count towards your hours. Please ask SJS adults to sign your cards to work towards your prize.

Important Dates:

- Dec 16 Science Fair
- Dec 19 Winter Band concert
- Dec 21 5:00-6:30pm Advent party
- Dec 22-Jan 1 Christmas Break, No School
- Jan 2 classes resume
- Jan 10-13 MAP assessments
- Jan 15 MLK Day; 1pm student dismissal
- Jan 27 end of Marking Period #2
- Jan 30 No School, Staff Professional Development Day

Please contact me at any time with suggestions or questions. Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough