



“The American dream belongs to all of us.” - Vice President Kamala Harris

October 21, 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Family Teacher Conferences will be on October 28th. There are no classes that day. Each family and student is required to come in to meet with the student’s homeroom teacher. In that meeting, all aspects of student performance will be discussed: grades, MAP scores, attendance, leadership, and conduct. We will celebrate student growth and identify areas of focus. If you have not yet scheduled your October 28 time slot, then please contact your child’s homeroom teacher ASAP.

While you’re on campus on October 28th, please also consider stopping by the annual **Note Signing Open House** in the main lobby to help with our largest annual fundraising mailing. Your personal notes help to inspire the gifts that keep St. James School tuition-free. Plus, there will be refreshments and a chance to win a raffle prize! See the flier in your child’s *Black Excellence Folder* for more details.



Crossing Guard volunteers: Student safety is important, especially walking to and from school. We are looking for adult volunteers to help Mr. Hill cross students across both Hunting Park Avenue and 32nd Street. If you are interested in helping at 3:15pm, 4:10pm or 5pm, please call the Front Desk.

Enrichments are underway. The 49 enrichment options provide an opportunity for students to learn more about topics like Gardening, get exercise in Lacrosse, develop skills in Art Club or Performance Theater, practice leadership in Student Council, get grounded in Yoga, and much, much more. A reminder that all school expectations and rules are in place during enrichments.

Election Day November 5th is a 1pm dismissal. Civics / Election Day lessons and activities are underway for all students. The back of this letter has basic information that all students and adults should know. The chart is a source of trivia questions asked each day by members of the Student Council. Have all adults age 18 and older in your family registered to vote yet? Make sure that your voices count!

Jupiter Grades: This year, Jupiter is for grades, communication and payment of Family Fees. Looking for a calendar, schedule, invoice? Please check on your Jupiter portal. Need help? Please contact the Front Desk.

Uniform Updates: All of our uniform vendors are experiencing delays from their distribution centers. Please place orders early. Uniform Pop Up Shops will be hosted in the lobby the first Thursday of each month from 7:30-8:15 for families that would like to have students try on pieces and order them in person from our SJS Online Swag Store. The first Pop Up will be November 7. Acrylic nails are NOT permitted for any age group at SJS and are a safety issue. All acrylic nails must be removed by 10/22/24. Lip gloss is not permitted in classrooms. Students may utilize chapstick.

5:00 dismissal: Students who stay for 4:10-5:00 dismissals need to be picked up before 5:05. If students are not picked up by that point they may be removed from their 4:10-5:00 enrichments.

Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Mr. McDonough
Principal

Civic Lessons for November 2024 Election

TOPIC	KEY INFORMATION	
When is Election Day?	November 5, 2024	
What is an Election?	An election is a process where citizens vote to choose leaders or make decisions on important issues.	
Who can vote?	U.S. citizens who are 18 years or older and registered can vote. Some states allow early or mail-in voting.	
Why do we vote?	Voting lets citizens have a voice in decisions about government leaders and policies that affect everyday life.	
Important elected positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President (every 4 years) - US Senators (every 6 years) - US Representatives (every 2 years) - PA State Senators (4 year term limits) - PA State Representatives (2 year term) - PA Attorney General (4 year term limit) - Philadelphia Mayor (every 4 years) - Philadelphia City Council (4 year term limit) 	
Political Parties	<p>Democratic Party: supports more government programs, social issues, and climate action.</p> <p>Republican Party: supports limited government, economic freedom, and traditional values.</p> <p>Libertarian Party: supports minimal government, challenges the power of the government and defends the rights of the individual.</p> <p>Green Party: supports peace, climate action, social justice, and democracy.</p>	<p><u>Kamala Harris and Tim Walz</u></p> <p><u>Donald Trump and JD Vance</u></p> <p><u>Chase Oliver and Mike ter Maat</u></p> <p><u>Jill Stein and Butch Ware</u></p>
How to Learn About Candidates	Research through debates, candidate websites, trusted news sources, and discussions with family or teachers.	
Key Voting Methods	<p>In-person voting: At local polling stations.</p> <p>Absentee voting: Vote by mail in some states.</p> <p>Early voting: Some states offer voting days before Election Day.</p>	
Why Civic Participation Matters	Voting, volunteering, and staying informed help strengthen democracy and ensure that the government reflects the will of the people.	
Key Issues in 2024	The economy, healthcare, climate change, education, immigration, foreign policy.	