

Principal's Parent Newsletter
August 2, 2026



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACULTY

We are happy to welcome the following teachers/staff to our SSPJ faculty.

Middle School Math & Science

We welcome Miss Sarah Gautreau for middle school math and science. Miss Gautreau graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary



Education and Biology. She completed her student teaching at Park Forest Middle School teaching physics and chemistry in 7th and 8th grades.

While a student at Penn State, Miss Gautreau taught a 4th grade PREP class at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church.

She is looking forward to joining our faculty at SSPJ.

Pre-K 3 Aide

We welcome Miss Teresa Seykora for the Pre-K 3 Aide position. Miss Seykora graduated from the Academy of Notre Dame and went on to achieve her bachelor's degree in History and Humanities from Villanova University. She has several years' experience



working with infants, toddlers, and young children in a home setting. She has also been a camp counselor for a choir camp.

She is looking forward to working with Mrs. McDonald with our pre-K 3 children.

Pre-K 3 Teacher

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Marianne McDonald will be our Pre-K 3 Teacher this year. Mrs. McDonald, who is a certified teacher, served as the aide last year with Mrs. Wolfe. She will be assuming the teacher's position this year.

Back to School Events

Please refer to the attached flyer with the Back to School dates and times.

Please note the change in the format for the Parent Back to School Orientation for grades 1 – 8. There will be ONE night for grades 1 – 8.

First, on Monday, August 31, parents of grades 1 – 4 will go directly to the classrooms.

Second, all parents for grades 1 – 8 will go to church for the general meeting.

Third, parents of grades 5 – 8 will go to the classrooms.

The flyer will have the times listed.

OPENING OF SCHOOL DATES

Tuesday, 8/25 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. –
Welcome Back Gathering Outdoors for
Grades Pre-K 3 to 8th

Wednesday, 8/26 – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Back to School Night for Pre-K 3,
Pre-K 4, and Kindergarten Parents only

Thursday, 8/27 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Parents and Children
Meet the Teacher and Visit the Classroom

HOT LUNCH FOR K-8 STARTS 9/8

CARES STARTS 9/8



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Every year, our faculty members continue their professional growth by participating in workshops, courses, and seminars that strengthen their knowledge and enhance their instructional practices. This August, the SSPJ faculty will participate in a full-day professional development program led by CCIU presenter Victoria Rodney. The training will focus on effective behavior management, meeting the social-emotional needs of students, and fostering meaningful collaboration among educators.

At Saints Philip and James Parish School, we are committed to lifelong learning—not only for our students but also for our teachers. Ongoing professional development equips our faculty with the skills, strategies, and confidence to create a positive, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive.

SAVE THE DATE –

GOLF OUTING – OCTOBER 9

FUN RUN – OCTOBER 16

**MORE INFORMATION COMING
SOON FROM HOME AND SCHOOL**

OPENING OF SSPJ SCHOOL INFORMATION

Welcome to the 2026 – 2027 school year!

Tuesday, August 25, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Grades Pre-K – 8 Welcome Back Social – Black Top & Playground

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 p.m.

Parent Orientation for Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten
Start in Church and go to Classrooms

Thursday, August 27, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 Children and parents visit classrooms

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Monday, August 31 - Grades Pre-K 3 to 8

PreK – (8:00 - 11:00); K – 8 (8:00 – 11:30)

Back to School Night

6:00 – 6:45 Grades 1 – 4 Classrooms

6:50 – 7:40 All Parents meet in Church

7:45 – 8:30 Grades 5 – 8 Classrooms

Tuesday September 1 – Grades Pre-K 3 to 8 (Full day)

Pre-K – 2:30 dismissal K – 8 (8:00 – 3:00)

Wednesday, September 2 - Grades Pre-K 3 to 8 (Full day)

Thursday, September 3 – Grades Pre-K 3 – 8 (Full day)

Friday, September 4 – NO SCHOOL

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 8 – Hot Lunch & CARES begin

***Friday, September 11 - Ice cream social followed by
Movie outdoors***

***“The main purpose of formation is to have “the same mind” as Jesus
Christ and “reflect the Gospel.” Pope Leo XIV***