

Enrollment Information

Saints Philip and James Parish School
721 East Lincoln Highway
Exton, PA 19341
610-363-6530
school.sspj.net



Early Childhood School

- Pre-Kindergarten three-year-old – five days per week – full or half days
 - Children must be able to use lavatory facilities independently
- Pre-Kindergarten four-year-old – five days per week – full or half days

Age Requirements

- Pre-Kindergarten three-year-old – must be 3 years old by September 1st
- Pre-Kindergarten four-year-old – must be 4 years old by September 1st

Elementary School

- Kindergarten through Fifth Grades
 - Kindergarten – five days per week – full day only
 - Kindergarten – must be 5 years old by September 1st
 - First Grade – must be 6 years old by September 1st

Middle School

- Sixth through Eighth Grades

Before and After School

- Children Are Receiving Extended Services (CARES)

Documentation Requirements – All Students

- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal Certificate (if not baptized at Saints Philp and James Church)

Documentation Requirements – Pre-K through 1st Grade

- Copy of Immunization Record
- Copy of most recent Physical Examination
- Copy of most recent Dental Examination

Enrollment Forms and Tuition Rates

- Please visit school.sspj.net

SS. PHILIP & JAMES SCHOOL

721 East Lincoln Highway
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
610-363-6530
www.sspj.net



January 3, 2022

Dear Parents,

Our school has been an integral part of the educational ministry of Saints Philip and James Parish for over sixty years. The commitment of parents to Catholic education has enabled many children to receive a superior education grounded in the Faith. The strong community spirit and active parent involvement continue to remain hallmarks of our school.

Despite the challenges since the onset of the pandemic, our teachers have demonstrated perseverance and dedication to provide an exemplary education for all their students in-person and virtual via Zoom. Interactive classrooms and STREAM projects are evident throughout the school. Because of the smaller class sizes, the students receive more opportunities to participate in class and more one-to-one assistance.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has recognized Saints Philip and James as a "School of Distinction" in 2019 and 2021. The Terra Nova test scores indicate that SSPJ students have demonstrated 90% to 100% growth at every grade level tested in every content area. The award was not given in 2020 since schools closed before the Terra Nova test was taken.

Funding from the EANS Grant has enabled us to purchase ViewSonic interactive boards to replace the aging Smart Boards. This funding plus Home and School fundraisers has provided new I-pads and Chromebooks to fully implement our 1:1 technology initiative. Our technology teacher has expanded robotics and coding into weekly classes and has introduced the use of the 3-D printer and the use of a drone into middle school classes. In addition, ongoing professional development supports the faculty to better utilize updated technology hardware and software. Students use software to practice, remediate, or extend skills that have been taught. This provides a more individualized approach in education.

Our overall costs to operate the school continue to climb, including pandemic-related expenses we are still absorbing. The increase in costs necessitates an increase in the annual tuition and fees. We continue taking measures to keep Catholic education as affordable as possible for all families. Along with the sustained support from Father Dieckhaus and the parish community, the new TuitionCare program will enable us to issue a greater number of tuition reduction grants – in this current school year as well as next. This is made possible in part by the very positive reception and generous support of our parishioners and school families. These grants, when issued from the Foundation for Catholic Education, will help our families absorb our planned tuition rate increases. We thank those families who believe strongly in Catholic education and are participating in this worthwhile program, and we commit to maximizing this benefit for all eligible families. This financial benefit accrues directly to our school families so we hope program participation will increase even more later this year.

SSPJ offers additional support for students with learning challenges through the CCIU in areas of reading, math, guidance, and speech. The Instructional Support Team (IST) enables classroom teachers to assist students through the implementation of their student support plans. Our Resource Teacher provides additional reading support which supplements and extends what the CCIU provides.

The School Board of Limited Jurisdiction, the Home and School Association, our Advancement Director, and the Enrollment and Marketing Committee are actively engaged in supporting our school. We count on our SSPJ parents to join with them in spreading the word of all SSPJ has to offer. Our goal is to grow our school to 20-24 students per class so that more students would benefit from a Catholic education at SSPJ. Let us introduce new families to our "Panther Pride" as we welcome them to our SSPJ community.

As we prepare to observe the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ may our hearts welcome Christ into our lives and celebrate Emmanuel - God with us!

Sincerely,

Sister Teresa Ballisty, IHM
Sister Teresa Ballisty, IHM

SS. Philip & James School

721 East Lincoln Highway
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
(610) 363-6530
www.sspj.net

Dear Parents,

January 3, 2022

This letter provides information regarding re-enrollment, tuition deposits, school fees and tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year.

Automatic Re-Enrollment:

All currently enrolled students in Pre-K 3 through Grade 7 will be automatically rolled over for the 2022-2023 school year. Tuition rates, school fees and parish scholarships will be recorded for every student in line with the attached tuition schedule.

Tuition Deposits:

The Tuition Deposit amount remains at \$200 per student for all grades (Pre-K 3 to 8th). Tuition Deposits for next year will be automatically billed in your tuition management account with payment **due by February 15, 2022**. As done in prior years, deposits will be applied toward the tuition amount for next year. Please contact me at dcallan@sspj.net should you have any questions regarding the deposit payment timeline.

Tuition Rates:

The attached schedule reflects the Cost per Student, Parish Scholarship and Annual Tuition amount as well as the tuition balance amount, inclusive of the Tuition Deposit. Every effort has been made to minimize the increased rates despite the impact of rising overall expenses, inflationary adjustments, and our current overall school population.

NEW THIS YEAR! Beginning with this current school year (2021 – 2022) we are participating in the TuitionCare program and families with students currently attending grades K through 8 will automatically receive a Tuition Reduction Grant (TRG) prior to the end of the current school year. No action will be required on your part! We anticipate this program will be available again in advance of our next school, helping to offset a portion of the Annual Tuition amount. As more families enroll in the TuitionCare program, each eligible family can receive up to \$1,000 in tuition credits each academic year.

School Fees:

Our bundled school fee, per student, includes the costs for the student information system, Homeroom fee, Home & School, and classroom and stationery supplies. New digital curriculum offerings and support of our IT are also included in the school fee. Over the past few years SS Philip and James School has dramatically increased access to technology for our students and teachers and we expect to continue doing so. We will continue billing the school fee through our tuition management system over the ten-month period, August 2022 through May 2023.

As in the past, grade specific items such as nap mats and tote bags will not be included in the bundled fee and will be billed in our tuition management system as separate line items. Field trips, graduation fees, seasonal celebrations and yearbooks are also not included in the student fee.

CARES Programs:

Charges for the CARES Program will continue to be billed through our tuition management system.

Tuition Assistance:

SSPJ will continue to utilize FACTS Management as the administrator to determine the qualification status for EITC Scholarships. Please refer to our school website for information on qualifying income guidelines. Applications are available at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Please note that Saints Philip and James School is not authorized to assess the qualification status for EITC Scholarships.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dave Callan

SSPJ School Business Manager

Saints Philip and James Church
107 SHIP ROAD, EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA 19341-2810
(610) 363-6536 FAX (610) 524-7359

Dear Parents,

January 3, 2022

As has become customary this time of the school year I write to thank you for your commitment to be a critical part of our parish school community. At the midway point of the academic year, I am reminded once again how dedicated our families are to our beloved Saints Philip and James School, and how creative and perseverant our teachers and staff are in creating and promoting a strong educational environment on our school campus. Under Sister Teresa Ballisty's guidance and leadership, we continue delivering comprehensive and challenging curriculum for all our students. Our school continues to be recognized publicly with accolades throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, while maintaining a strong Faith based community within our school walls. The last number of months persist as nothing short of challenging, yet we proceed with determination to carry out the mission of instructing our children in the Catholic faith.

Looking ahead to Catholic Schools Week at the end of January, the theme continues as **Faith. Excellence. Service.**, reflecting again our resolve to think about the purpose to form our students to be good citizens of the world, and love God and Neighbor by example of faith.

Included in our accompanying school communications are the 2022-2023 tuition rates for all grades which were recently approved by the Board of Limited Jurisdiction. These figures have been very carefully developed recognizing the cost to educate our students is now over \$10,000 per child. As in years past, we plan to subsidize these new rates by extending a generous SSPJ Parish Scholarship, funded by our Church contributions as you will see in the tuition materials. For this past and current year, the parish will have provided \$1,150,000 to school; \$800,000 to fund scholarships and school operations, and \$350,000 for building and equipment improvements.

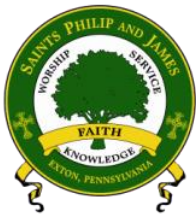
As a shared responsibility, there is the need to maintain a Church *Contribution Requirement* for all school families to qualify for the *Participating Family Rate*. The minimum contribution requirement per family remains again this year at \$20 per week (\$1,040 annually). Please contact Barbara Doyle at 610-363-6536, or bdoyle@sspjparish.net should you have any questions regarding your Church contributions.

The tuition rates for next year allow us to continue to provide the level of excellence for which SSPJ is known, considering reasonable salary increases for our faculty and staff, enhanced curriculum offerings and new competitive instructional materials. Of course, the cost of our utilities, insurance, and facility needs and the like, continue to rise as well. We realize and appreciate that many parents sacrifice to pay tuition, and are grateful for not only that sacrifice, but also the time and effort parents put into participating in school events and volunteering. We are immensely appreciative for those efforts that help keep our school community vibrant and strong.

Please do not assume that you cannot afford to send your children to Saints Philip and James School. The faith-based education and formation they receive here is simply too important to miss. Once more, we are very fortunate our individual and business EITC donors continue to be most generous in providing tuition assistance to qualified school families. In addition, new this year will be the positive impact of the TuitionCare program's Tuition Reduction Grants which will benefit all families with children in the Kindergarten through Eighth Grade levels. Please refer to the accompanying letter from our School Business Manager regarding re-enrollment, tuition deposits, school fees and tuition rates.

We look forward to another successful year here at Saints Philip and James School as we continue to provide a faith-filled Catholic education in an environment that manifests the love of God and mutual respect for all.

Gratefully in the Lord,
Reverend Joseph C. Dieckhaus, JCL
Pastor



Saints Philip & James School

A Blue Ribbon School (since 1989)

FAQs

Why do parents choose Saints Philip & James School?

1. The value of a Catholic school education at Saints Philip and James School (SSPJ) is in the Christian values integral to every facet of our students' learning. We partner with parents in the full development of their children. Respect, kindness, and community are hallmarks of this school, where students are taught in a warm and nurturing environment.
2. Academically, SSPJ consistently exceeds the national average on Terra Nova tests by 30-40%. In 2019, Saints Philip and James School was recognized as a School of Distinguished Instruction by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
3. SSPJ is one of the first elementary schools to be recognized nationally as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (since 1989), and is accredited by the Middle States Assoc. of Colleges & Schools.
4. The teacher to student ratio is 1:12, providing greater individualized instruction. Teaching aides assist our teachers in Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and Kindergarten.
5. SSPJ is 1 of 2 Catholic schools in Chester County chosen by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to be designated a STREAM school.

Do you need to be Catholic to attend SSPJ? Although most of our students are Catholic, we enjoy a community of many different faiths including Hindu, Jewish, Baptist, and non-denominational.

What does it cost to attend SSPJ? Tuition is very reasonable compared to tuition at many local private schools. Please see our Tuition and Fee Schedule on our website for details, <https://school.sspj.net/admission-forms>.

Is tuition assistance available? SSPJ participates in the EITC and OSTC programs for families who qualify. This is available for grades K – 8.

What curriculum do you follow? The academic curriculum at Saints Philip and James School, which strives to educate the whole child, is directed by the guidelines offered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office of Catholic Education. In addition to the core curriculum, Spanish, Technology, Library, Physical Education, Music, and Art are included.

Honors Math is an accelerated mathematics program offered to those students, beginning in Grade 5, who meet criteria established by the Archdiocese. Advanced math is available for 4th grade students who meet established criteria.

What types of academic services are provided? For students needing learning support, math, reading, speech and language, as well as counseling services are available through the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) and a dedicated SSPJ Resource Teacher. Services are provided on-site five days per week.

What is STREAM? STREAM is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that incorporates Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math. Students work on projects in small groups integrating various subject areas into a cohesive approach based on real-world problems, with a focus on problem-solving and critical thinking.

How is technology used in the classroom? Students use Kindles, laptops, iPads, or Chrome books to facilitate learning across our STREAM-intensive curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with Smart Boards.

Do you offer half-day or full-day Pre-K and Kindergarten? Both half-day and full-day Pre-K 3 & 4 options are offered. Half-day Pre-K is from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Full-day is from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Families can transition from half to full-day at any time once enrolled. Our Kindergarten program is full-day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Do you offer after school care? CARES (Children Are Receiving Extended Services) is a fee-based program that provides supervision and activities for children after regular school hours. CARES hours are 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on school days.

Is busing provided? Starting in Kindergarten, busing is provided by public school districts.

Do students wear uniforms? Students are required to wear uniforms. Details can be found online in the School Handbook. Our school's uniform exchange program offers gently used uniforms at no cost.

Can Parents get involved in their children's school life? There are many opportunities to get involved in our very active community.

Does SSPJ have a diverse student community? Approximately 25% of our students represent minority classification.

Please contact us today! Contact Mrs. Meghan Graveley, Advancement Director, at advancement@sspj.net or 610-363-6530 x 137. Be sure to visit our website at <http://school.sspj.net>.