



2025-2026

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to St. Jude Regional Catholic School! In choosing St. Jude School, you have demonstrated a commitment to the values and philosophy of a Catholic education.

Father Paul D. Lee, the Faculty and Staff, and I make every effort to ensure that your child is provided with an excellent educational environment. To help provide that environment, the St. Jude Regional Catholic School Handbook explains the school policies and our expectations for your child. The purpose of our school policies is to establish meaningful rules, which focus on safety, respect for oneself, other people, and property. Following these policies always is imperative.

Parents, teachers, and administration work together as partners to create a Catholic environment. By doing so, we create an environment conducive to learning in which the mutual rights and responsibilities of students and teachers are recognized and upheld.

The Student/Parent Handbook reflects the policies of St. Jude Regional Catholic School and the Archdiocese of Washington for the 2025-2026 school year. Please read this document carefully as it is an extension of the signed Admissions agreement. This agreement states that you agree to abide by the policies of St. Jude Regional Catholic School and the Archdiocese of Washington during the 2025-2026 school year.

St. Jude Thaddeus pray for us!

God Bless,

Jeanne Donatelli
Principal



MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1956, St. Jude Regional Catholic School is a Catholic community deeply rooted in traditions of faith, unity, and educational excellence, and committed to developing forward-thinking future leaders.

Our Values- At St. Jude, we...

Faith

- Follow the teachings of Jesus
- Uphold high moral standards
- Respect and love one another
- Select curriculum rooted in Catholic teaching
- Develop our unique gifts and talents for the common good
- Serve our school and broader communities

Unity

- Promote human dignity of every person regardless of religious or cultural differences
- Treat others with kindness and compassion
- Embrace parents as primary educators
- Value parents as partners

Educational Excellence

- Employ highly-qualified, certified teachers
- Help students understand the part they play in their education
- Challenge students to meet their full, God-given potential
- Teach resilience and creative problem-solving
- Encourage student responsibility for and acceptance of consequences
- Celebrate achievements with awards and ceremonies

STUDENT UNIQUENESS...*We believe that each student has been gifted by God with unique talents. As teachers we help students develop these talents. As teachers we help students dream big, believe in themselves, and develop their talents for future success.*

HISTORY

Since its inception in 1956, St. Jude's Parish has been blessed with generous families devoted to their faith and dedicated to bolstering their parish community. As we have grown physically, we have grown closer in Spirit. This is a brief history of our journey together.

The family of Dr. Charles W. Allen presented \$25,500 to the Archdiocese of Washington to purchase a ten-acre tract of land in the Aspen Hill area of Rockville for a church to be dedicated to St. Jude Thaddeus, patron of desperate causes. In June of 1956, Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle announced the establishment of our parish, naming Rev. Francis J. Lauriola as Pastor, and Rev. David E. Foley, retired Bishop of the Birmingham dioceses, as Associate Pastor. Seven hundred sixty-one families formed the nucleus of the new parish. Masses were originally held in the Veirs Mill Theater, the present-day Rodman's Discount Gourmet store.

The original structure, which had a large crucifix with a corpus on each side facing the Thaddeus Room and the Chapel (now the Blue Room) was truly a beacon on Veirs Mill Road with its concave, blue terra cotta backdrop to the imposing twelve-foot statue of St. Jude, subsequently moved to its present location in 2003.

The St. Jude Parish Pastoral Council and the Archdiocesan Building Committee approved plans in 1967 to build a 1200 seat church and to complete renovation of the rectory by 1970. Construction began in the spring of 1970, and on April 3, 1971, the church was dedicated by Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle. In 1976, the name of the parish was changed to "The Shrine of St. Jude." The church building was further refined in 1978 with the installation of a shrine dedicated to our patron saint.

The school began in September of 1956, when the first school bells were rung by Sister Gerald, the first principal. More than two hundred students in three grades (5 classes) were greeted by five pioneering Bernadine sisters.

Our Religious Education Program, better known for many years as the CCD Program, has been an important part of parish education since the beginning. The program has prepared many thousands of students for First Communion, First Penance, and Confirmation.

In 1990, the parish convent was transformed into a retirement home for the Bernadine sisters. In 2016, after 60 years of dedicated service the Bernardine sisters returned to the Mother House in Reading, PA.

PASTORS & PRINCIPALS

Pastors 1956 to Present

1956-1974	Reverend Monsignor Francis J. Laurila
1974-1990	Reverend Monsignor John J. Madigan
1990	Reverend Leroy J. Fangmeyer
1990-1995	Reverend Edward T. Hartel
1995-2006	Reverend Monsignor Oliver McGready
2006-2012	Reverend William J. Hines
2012-Present	Reverend Paul D. Lee

School Principals 1956 to Present

1956-1960	Sister Gerald
1960-1963	Sister Dulcia
1963-1964	Sister Ardeen
1964-1967	Sister Nicolette
1967-1973	Sister Clarissima
1973-1974	Sister Paul Marie
1974-1990	Brother William Marinan
1990-1993	Charles Dusterhoff
1993-1996	Suzette Chagnon
1996-2011	Mary Ellen Jordan
2011-2021	Glenn J Benjamin
2021-Present	Jeanne Donatelli

ACCREDITATION

All archdiocese elementary and secondary schools within the Archdiocese of Washington are accredited by Cognia.

The Cognia accreditation process is recognized for its ability to effectively drive student performance, ensure mission effectiveness, and promote continuous improvement. Annually, our Archdiocesan schools collect and analyze data, set goals, plan, implement, and evaluate their school improvement efforts. This ongoing continuous review and evaluation of activities leads to authentic school improvement.

The Cognia accreditation process surpasses state standards in that a group of school administrators and superintendents from around the nation spend three days evaluating the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic schools and our school improvement efforts. The review includes interviews with stakeholders, classroom observations and surveys of faculty, parents and students. As part of the accreditation process, the Archdiocese must report to Cognia its progress in addressing our team's Improvement Priorities within two years as well as provide evidence of compliance with yearly assurances completed by schools. The comprehensive review visit takes place every five years.

The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic schools Cognia accreditation is valid through June 30, 2026.

Accredited schools such as St. Jude meet the following standards:

- Define appropriate educational goals and provide educational standards to achieve them
- Maintain a qualified faculty and an effective school organization
- Assess outcomes of school experience and control the quality of educational programs
- Respond to concerns of parents and needs of the school community
- Provide for the continuity of its programs and plan for their future

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Academic Program: The curriculum followed at St. Jude Regional Catholic School is prescribed by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington, and in accordance with the State of Maryland courses of instruction recommended for elementary schools and middle schools. We integrate multicultural education and integration-fostering multicultural instruction throughout interdisciplinary instruction. The goal of the entire curriculum is to guide the student toward a better understanding of himself/herself in relation to God and to the world in which he/she lives.

Religion: St. Jude Regional Catholic School incorporates Catholic Doctrine and Tradition, Bible Study, Social Justice, Prayer, and Preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Every day school begins and ends in prayer and the Angelus is prayed at 12:00. In addition, every class begins with a prayer. School mass is celebrated every Friday morning for the entire school community. Parents are encouraged to attend. 4th-8th attend Adoration every Thursday and 2nd-8th attend confession once a month.

Reading: A basic phonetic, as well as whole language approach, is used in our program with concept and vocabulary building. Skills and strategies are taught to promote fluency and comprehension. The study of literature is introduced in the primary grades and reinforced at each subsequent grade level. Outside reading is also strongly encouraged.

Science: A systematic development of concepts with a hands-on method is used to promote clear understanding of the major areas of science. Creative and critical thinking skills are utilized to formulate hypotheses and draw conclusions based on scientific principles. STEM is incorporated in the curriculum. Students in grades K-4 participate in STEM class once a week.

Math: Our program helps students keep pace with a changing technological society with emphasis on exploration, estimation, critical thinking, and alternate methods of solutions. There is increased attention placed on building computational skills and problem-solving techniques. We emphasize building knowledge of basic math facts so students can be prepared for complex problem solving.

Language Arts: Writing is an integral part of our curriculum with a continuing emphasis on grammar, usage, and mechanics. Other strategies and concepts which are stressed throughout the program include literary appreciation, the art of making oral presentations, listening skills, vocabulary development, and research and study skills.

Social Studies: A structural interdisciplinary approach provides for an interrelated study of history, geography, economics, anthropology, and sociology. The 4th grade curriculum focuses on the State of Maryland, while the 5th and 6th grades study World Cultures. The 7th and 8th grades study American History. Given the cross-curricular approach to the study of the sciences, students should mature into informed and responsible citizens.

Computer Literacy: Lessons incorporating skills in word processing/ spreadsheets/PowerPoint/Google Classroom/Noodle Tools/keyboarding, graphics and online research are integrated with curricular subjects for students in K-8. Students in grades K-8 work on coding, programing robotics, and problem solving with technology. We have iPads and Chromebooks available for student use in various subjects

Fine Arts: Students participate in weekly classes that incorporate concepts that directly relate to their curriculum. Students learn about a variety of musical concepts, music history, instruments, and songs that relate to seasonal themes in weekly classes. Students also participate in visual art classes that incorporate artistic techniques, as well as art history and art criticism. Students use elements and principles of design to create visual projects using multiple means of media and materials. (Also see “Special Programs”)

Physical Education: Students learn the basics of motor skills, sports, games, and physical fitness, in an atmosphere which develops and encourages good sportsmanship and good healthy life skills. (Also see “Special Programs”)

Library: Students in elementary school learn how to use a library and are introduced on how to use the library for research projects. Middle school students are taught how to use the library as a resource to aid in projects. (Also see “Special Programs”)

Spanish: Students, grades 6-8, are instructed in the core components of foreign language instruction: vocabulary, idioms, grammar, culture, and conversation. Students in K-8th grade are all given Spanish instruction. K-4 participate in Spanish as a special, once a week. Vocabulary building and conversational skills are emphasized. In 6th -8th grade, middle school Spanish is taken as a core subject- focusing on vocabulary, grammar, conjugation, idioms, conversational skills, and Spanish culture.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

St. Jude Regional Catholic School offers a variety of related arts programs to enhance your child's educational experience, developing well-rounded interests and curiosity. Specials are interdisciplinary and work with classroom teachers to enhance their classroom curriculum.

Library: Our library is well equipped with books and reference materials. Students in Grades K-8 will have a designated time each week to be in the library. During this time, they will have classes in library skills and will be guided in selecting library books.

Art, Music, and Technology: St. Jude offers art, music, and technology classes as part of the curriculum. In addition, students in grades 4 through 8 may participate in the school band under the direction of a teacher provided by the ADW.

Physical Education: Students in grades Pre-K through 8 participate in a weekly physical education program. PE uniforms are worn all day on PE days.

In addition to the regular athletic curriculum, St. Jude Parish Athletic Association offers soccer, basketball, cross country, and track and field.

SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTION

Our program uses scripture, prayer, and decision-making skills to teach students about their faith. The history of the Church, its seasons and saints, as well as current issues are discussed to give students a true living concept of their religion, with special awareness that service is, and should be, an integral part of a living faith.

In order to foster the spiritual development of the students, all students from Pre-K through Grade 8 receive training in the Catholic faith on a daily basis. Students attend Mass every Friday at 9:00am. Instructions for First Penance and First Communion are given to students in Grade 2. Confirmation instructions are given to students in Grade 7. Students in Grades 2-8 go to Confession once a week. Adoration is offered every Thursday.

Altar Servers All students in grade 3-8 who are Catholic and have received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist are required to become daily altar servers. Instruction is given to Altar Servers by the Priests or Deacon.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Textbooks: The textbooks used in the school are selected from an approved list published by the Catholic Office of Education. The teachers also expand and enrich the subject matter contained in the basic tests through the use of supplementary material.

Students are required to take good care of the books and to keep them neatly covered at all times. **Any abuse of books above and beyond normal wear and tear will result in the student being held responsible for the replacement cost of a new textbook.** If you wish to purchase a second set of textbooks for your child, the ISBN numbers will be provided to you.

Student Evaluation: Student evaluations and Report Cards are given quarterly. St. Jude Regional Catholic School uses the Archdiocesan grading scale. **Students in 4th-8th grade are on a 7-point percentage scale.** Progress reports are given for those students who have a grade lower than a C halfway through each marking period. Kindergarten does not receive a report card until January.

Grading: We believe that grades are the result of learning, not the end product. They are based on the following factors: achievement in the classroom, involvement in the subject matter, test performance and general attitude toward class work. Excessive unexcused absence of a student is also taken into consideration for the determination of a grade.

Grades 4-8 use the following ADW grading scale:

93-100	A
85-92	B
77-84	C
70-76	D

Honors: Honors are awarded quarterly to 4th through 8th grade students as follows:

Honors of Excellence All A's

Honors of Achievement B's and above

Christian Character Award is awarded to one student each quarter in each grade Pre-K-8th grade.

Interims: Interims will be given at the midpoint of each quarter to students in grades 4-8 that have a D or below in a subject area or who have dropped two letter grades. **Progress reports will be sent home by email with a read receipt. Parents have 48 hours to acknowledge receipt of report. After this notice, it is the responsibility of the parents to check with the teacher on their child's progress.** Parents have access to their child's grades on FACTS, teachers update their gradebooks every two weeks.

Exam Policy: To better prepare our middle school students for high school, we administer semester and final exams to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. These exams are held in December and May/ June. Copies of exams are never sent home. Students will be prepared with study guides and study skills to adequately prepare.

6th graders – semester exams in English and mathematics

7th graders – semester exams in all academic's subjects

8th graders – semester and final exams in all academic subjects

8th graders with an average of an A for the year will be exempt from Final exams

Promotion: For promotion, students in grade 4 to 8 must attain a general average of C. Any student who has a D or less for the year in one or more major subjects must repeat the grade or attend, and successfully complete eight (8) sessions of tutoring or a four (4) week summer session in the subject(s) failed.

Parents must pay for mandatory summer tutoring, and the tutor must document, on letterhead, that the student successfully completed eight (8) sessions in the subject.

The same grade requirements apply to students seeking an 8th grade diploma. Any student who has a D or less for the year in one or more major subjects must attend, and successfully complete, summer school or mandatory tutoring in order to receive their diploma and have their records sent to a high school.

Standardized Testing: The Archdiocesan Testing Program takes place three times throughout the school year. **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)** will be administered to students in grades 2-8 in September, January, and May. 8th grade students will also take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) in December. After the tests are scored and returned to the school, parents will receive a comprehensive report. **Assessing Religion Knowledge (ARK)** is administered in 3rd-8th grade.

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS (CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON)

Each September, the administration, and the members of the eighth-grade team present a thorough overview of the Catholic high school acceptance process to parents and guardians of eighth grade children. The application process is examined so that all parents, guardians, and eighth grade students have the information required to successfully apply to a Catholic high school within the Archdiocese of Washington.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School will provide the following information to the schools of the student's choice:

1. Final averages from the seventh grade
2. First quarter averages from the eighth grade
3. Seventh grade MAP Test results
4. Principal's Recommendation
5. Teacher Evaluations
6. Attendance Records

Parents and guardians will be charged an administrative fee of \$25.00 per school (for record transfers) if they choose to apply to more than the allotted number of schools.

PRESCHOOL
3 & 4 year of age

PHILOSOPHY

St. Jude preschool promotes an environment where children become independent, confident, lifelong learners with a strong sense of self. We proudly offer a positive, child-centered preschool experience that fosters a love of learning in a nurturing community.

St. Jude offers an exciting age-appropriate curriculum that enriches and prepares the children for a successful transition into the next school year. St. Jude recognizes the significant relationship among teachers, students, parents, and families and encourages continuous collaboration in a climate of mutual respect, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

All students must be potty trained and able to use the bathroom independently.

PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Pre-K 3 Teacher:

Alexandra Lopez (301) 946-7888 ext.219; alexandra.lopez@stjuderockville.org

Pre-K 3 Assistant:

Maria Arocho (301) 948-7888 ext.219 maria.archo@stjuderockville.org

Pre K 4 Teacher:

Caroline Hanlon (301) 946-7888 ext. 216; Caroline.Hanlon@stjuderockville.org

Pre K 4 Assistant:

JoAnn Cordero (301) 946-7888 ext. 216; Joann.Cordero@stjuderockville.org

School Clinic:

Catherine Cruz (301) 946-7888 ext. 103; catherine.cruz@stjuderockville.org

ADMISSIONS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Archdiocese's Admissions & Non-Discrimination Policy can be found on the website of the Catholic Schools Office of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington at <https://adwcatholicschools.org/non-discriminationpolicy/> :

Archdiocesan schools follow local, state, and federal non-discrimination regulations, as applicable. As religiously-affiliated schools, Archdiocesan schools are not required to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the religious or moral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.¹

Catholic students shall be given preference over non-Catholic students for initial admission into Archdiocesan schools. All applicants shall follow all applicable policies and procedures regarding school-based entrance requirements, health examinations and immunizations before finalizing any admissions.

¹Maryland law requires non-public schools that receive state funds to publish the following additional statement: "It is the policy of the State of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in compliance with:

(1) Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

(2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not:

(i) discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;

(ii) refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or

(iii) discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint."

Maryland law further provides that Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code "does not require a nonpublic prekindergarten program or nonpublic school that is religiously affiliated to enroll, retain, or extend privileges to a student or prospective student who does not meet the usual and regular qualifications, requirements, and standards of the program or school or to adopt any rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the program or school's religious or moral teachings, provided that the denial, rule, regulation, or policy is not based on discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability."

UNIFORM

School uniforms are provided by Flynn and O'Hara. Uniforms can be purchased online or at Nebel Street location in Rockville, Maryland 20852, (301-838-8958) Flynn O'Hara has a list of uniform needs for girls and boys. Lands End also provides our uniforms and those may be purchased at:

<https://www.landsend.com/co/account/school-uniforms>

NO HOODIES ARE ALLOWED AND ALL UNIFORMS MUST HAVE THE CORRECT SCHOOL LOGO AND COLOR.

PE uniforms may be worn on PE days. Mandatory closed toe shoes with a rubber sole for safe playground access and participation in active gross motor play are required. Boots, sandals, ballet flats, etc., are not allowed

SCHOOL HOURS

The preschool follows the St. Jude Regional Catholic School Calendar. St. Jude also follows Montgomery County Public Schools when dealing with snow delays and closings.

Preschool begins at 8:30 a.m. Parents and/or guardians are required to sign in their child. Students are expected to enter their classroom independently, in the order in which they arrive. If students arrive at school after 8:45 a.m. they are required to report to the School Clinic. A member of the front office will escort your child to their classroom from the School Clinic. This policy is enforced to avoid disruptions to classes already in progress. Please respect this policy. Please make any appointments as early in the morning as possible, or after school.

Preschool dismissal is promptly at 2:45 p.m. If your child is not signed out within the first wave of students, your child will immediately be signed over to Extended Day Program. This policy is out of respect to the classroom teachers. After-care will take place in the Extended Day Classroom at an additional charge.

A transportation list is provided online and in the office for families to fill out with people who are allowed to sign in and sign out the students. **Children will only be released to persons listed on the transportation list.** We must see an approved adult before any child is released. Adults other than parents that are picking up and that are on the approved list will be asked to show their ID. Any change to your child being picked up must be communicated to the office and teacher. This is a safety concern St. Jude takes very seriously.

CURRICULUM

The main objective of the preschool program is to enhance the children's social skills, self-image, and self-worth. We feel it is vital that children build positive images of themselves as well as strong relationships with God, peers, and adults.

The teachers use their own experiences, as well as the children's interests, to adapt the curriculum to be unique in each preschool class. Children learn and receive knowledge at their own pace. Therefore, class plans are flexible and differentiated to allow for individual differences among children. Educational outcomes are reached while children select and carry out activities that are fun and motivating to them.

St. Jude reflects a play-based curriculum. Our play-based curriculum offers children many opportunities for positive interaction with other children and adults. Play allows children to learn about the world and themselves. As children play, they use imagination, learn new skills, develop coping mechanisms, test new ideas, and learn trial and error skills.

St. Jude also fosters a theme-based curriculum. The children are exposed to a wide range of experiences such as circle time, small group instruction, free play, dramatic play, music, art, library, and physical education. Lessons are planned around student's interests, holy days, seasons, real-life experiences, and community awareness. The goal of all lessons is to develop a greater understanding of God, create new skills, develop new ideas and promote learning that can be used beyond the classroom.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students will learn about the Catholic religion every day. Prayer is a very important part of the classroom experience. Students celebrate different holy days and learn about the church and different biblical stories. Conversations about saints and angels are taught during different lessons. Each classroom has a prayer table where students can explore different religious items.

The preschool provides a wonderful opportunity for preschoolers to attend church with the elementary and middle school students. Preschool students begin attending mass in October or November. Students attend mass on all holy days of obligation. PreK attends mass on a bi-weekly schedule. All preschool students attend mass with a middle school buddy (5th & 6th grade).

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

Routines play a very important role inside the classroom. Part of the preschool program includes a trip outside. Outside activity is an essential part of child development and learning experiences. Physical activities that include running, climbing, skipping, and balancing enhance a child's large motor development. Expressing newly acquired physical ability and control heightens self-esteem. Jackets and hats should be sent to school according to the weather. All items should be labeled with your child's name.

Students will enjoy a daily snack, and parents must provide their own child a snack for the day. Students are expected to bring their lunch to school every day unless they purchase from the school. Please pack a nutritious lunch including age-appropriate containers. Please pack a placemat and ice pack if needed. Placemats are used but not necessary to keep their area clean.

Candy is not allowed in the classroom. Please do not pack candy in your child's lunch. Candy distracts children from focusing on the "healthy" portions of their lunch. Please pack utensils as needed. A valuable part of preschool is promoting independence. Students should be able to easily maneuver around their lunch boxes with minimal help. Snack and lunchtime are an opportunity for children to build language skills through communication of thoughts and feelings, practice social skills and reinforce table manners.

POTTY POLICY

All students must be potty trained. **No pullups are permitted.** Parents are to provide extra clothing in case of accidents or if the child gets dirty. If a child has an accident, he/she must be able to change themselves. The faculty and staff are not permitted to change the student. If a child has a bowel movement accident the parent will be notified and a parent will have to come to school and change their child. **If a child has three accidents the child must stay home for a week and work on going to the bathroom independently. If a child continues to have accidents after returning to school, a parent/teacher conference will be required.**

DISCIPLINE POLICY

The goal of discipline is to assist and guide the children in the development of self-control. Teachers will discipline in a consistent way, based on an understanding of varying development levels. Simple and understandable rules will be established so the expectations and limitations will be clearly defined. Children are encouraged to work out their problems with teacher help. Any problem that occurs will be addressed immediately in an age-appropriate manner. If there is a reoccurring problem, parents and guardians will be notified.

COMMUNICATION

There are many forms of communication used in the classroom. A two-pocket folder will be used daily to send home any classwork, homework, notes, or information from the classroom and/or school office. Please use this folder to send in any correspondence you may have for the teacher.

The best way to talk to your teacher is to schedule an appointment via e-mail.. **Drop off and pick up time is not a time to hold a conference.** The teacher's main responsibility is to tend to the children. Please talk to your child's teacher regarding this policy. Teachers communicate classroom activities and events through newsletters, email, and the class bulletin board.

Parent conferences are offered in November. Pre-K4's will receive a report card from the Archdiocese of Washington in January and June. Pre-K3 will be given a progress report at the end of the school year.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each student is required to pay a \$25.00 materials fee. This fee will go toward materials for the classroom. The Pre-K supply fee is part of your TADS Tuition Agreement.

Items required for each student:

- Backpack
- Lunchbox
- Two (2) full changes of clothes including underwear, socks, t-shirts, pants or shorts. Extra clothing should reflect the season. Please place each change of clothes in a gallon Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. Pre-K3 students are required to send in an extra pair of closed toed shoes. Extra clothes and shoes will be kept in the classroom in case of accidents or spills.

- Nap materials should consist of a small blanket, flat or crib sheet, and one stuffed animal. Action figures are not allowed. Stuffed animals are to help comfort the children and not distract them from rest time. Please label all nap belongings with your child's name. Nap bags will be distributed in the beginning of the school year. If you need to replace your child's nap bag, you will be required to purchase your own. Please talk to your child's teacher regarding this matter.

BIRTHDAY & SPECIAL EVENTS

Birthdays are a very special moment for our children. We love to recognize each one of our students on their special day. If you choose to send in a birthday snack, please notify the teacher at least **2-5 days** in advance to avoid conflicts in the schedule. Please ask your child's teacher if there are any children with special food restrictions and allergies. We ask that sheet cakes be avoided. NO party bags or favors allowed.

Preschool will enjoy a field trip to the pumpkin patch during the fall. This trip is typically shared with kindergarten students. All chaperones must be Virtus certified.

Other information regarding classroom or school wide events will be distributed in your child's classroom.

HEALTH CONCERNS & SICK POLICY

The goal of our school health program is to protect and promote the health of children within the preschool environment. School health records provide a confidential record of each child's health status. Here are some guidelines that might be helpful in keeping your child as healthy as possible:

- **A Fresh Cold:** A continuous nasal discharge, cough, and watery eyes which has developed within the past 24-28 hours is considered contagious. Your child should remain home until the symptoms have improved.
- **Fever:** Must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. This means at least one full school day. If your child is sent home with a temperature, he/she may not return to school the next day. They must stay home one full day.
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea:** Keep at home for 24 hours. After symptoms have resolved and your child can keep food and fluids down, they may return to school.
- **Strep Throat:** Must wait 24 hours after antibiotics have begun before returning to school.

- **Conjunctivitis:** If conjunctivitis is diagnosed, your child will be prescribed eye ointment and should not return to school for 24 hours.
- **Head Lice:** Until treated and checked by the School Clinic, your child may not return to school. We have a “nit free” policy, which was established by Montgomery County Public Schools. This policy states, “no child will be allowed back in school until the child is nit-free”. If your child is found with head lice, you will be notified immediately and will be required to pick up your child. Before returning to the classroom, your child must be checked by the School Clinic.

We are not permitted to give students medication unless it has been prescribed by a doctor and is accompanied by a signed note with instructions. We cannot administer any over the counter medication (Cough drops, Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, etc.) without a doctor’s note and without the original packaging.

In addition, if your child is only mildly ill but is irritable and cannot fully participate in the day’s program, they should remain at home. If your child appears ill during school, the School Clinic or staff will call you to pick up your child as soon as possible. It is very important to keep the classroom teacher aware and up to date on any medical conditions and/or medications your child is taking.

If your child will be absent from school, please call the School Clinic (301-924-7888 ext. 103) and report the absence. It is important for the school and classroom teacher to know that your child is safe and that you are aware of the absence. It is also helpful if you email your child’s teacher. If no call or email is received by 8:45am the parents will be contacted by phone and or email. **The child MUST have a handwritten note with the reason for their absence in order to return to class.** Any student that is absent for 3 days must have a doctor’s note in order to return, if the absence was due to illness. Any student out for 3 days without notice will be administered a well check.

Any student who misses school may not participate in after-school activities until the student returns to school.

PARENT INVOLVMENT & VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

As a way to involve our families in the day-to-day operations of the school, St. Jude Regional Catholic School requires all families to complete **30 hours** of volunteer/school support hours and 15 hours for single-parent households throughout the school year. Half of the required hours must be completed by December 31, 2025, and the second half must be completed by the last day of school. Because of the critical need of support, this program is considered part of the tuition, and report cards or school transcripts will be withheld if the obligation is not met. **If a family is unable to fulfill its obligation with service, a \$15 fee will be accessed for each hour not worked.**

All parents MUST fulfill all Archdiocese requirements including fingerprints, Virtus training, and the Archdiocese questionnaire. Information regarding this requirement can be found at www.adw.org.

If there are any unusual circumstances at home, such as illness or death, parents' vacations, or changes in childcare arrangements (such as a new nanny or babysitter), please notify the teacher so that they can help your child adjust more easily to the situation.

GRADES K-8

ADMISSIONS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Archdiocese's Admissions & Non-Discrimination Policy can be found on the website of the Catholic Schools Office of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington at <https://adwcatholicschools.org/non-discriminationpolicy/>. It also appears on page 13 of the Parent/Student Handbook.

As openings become available, the following priorities will be used to accept students to SJRCS:

1. Members of St. Jude/St. Francis of Assisi Parish/Our Lady Queen of Americas/St. Catherine Laboure
2. Siblings
3. Members of other parishes
4. Non-Catholic students

Children entering Pre K 3 must be three (3) years of age by September 1st

Children entering Pre-K 4 must be four (4) years of age by September 1st.

Children entering Kindergarten must be five (5) years of age by September 1st. Kindergarten ready evaluations may take place at the beginning of the year.

At the time of registration, all new students seeking admission to St. Jude Regional Catholic School are evaluated based on current standardized test scores and report cards.

Requirements include:

- Verification of active parish affiliation/ stewardship
- Health Records
- Immunization Records
- Birth Certificate (original)
- Baptismal Certificate (Catholic applicants only)
- Report Cards
- Standardized Test Results
- Record of CAP which is an IEP in the public school

Students applying for admission in Grades 1-8 must present a copy of the current report card, previous year report card, and standardized test results. These will be reviewed to determine whether the program at St. Jude Regional Catholic School will meet the educational needs of the students. An interview with the student is part of the admission process.

Testing in math and language arts may be held for new incoming students in Grades 3-8.

All new students will be given a trial period of 30 days in which to prove himself/herself both socially and academically. If during this trial period there are any problems, a student may be asked to withdraw his/her attendance at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

Non-Catholic students whose parents accept the philosophy of St. Jude Regional Catholic School will be accepted on a space available basis.

Tuition and Fees:

Tuition rates are set by the Pastor in consultation with the School Advisory Board.

In keeping with Archdiocesan policy, all families that are registered, active, and supportive of their parish will be afforded the Catholic rate. A Pastor's Recommendation Form must be completed by the parish office and returned to the school front office in order to receive the discount. Families must be active members of a Catholic Church to receive the discount. This presumes that families are formally registered with our St. Jude/St. Francis/Our Lady Queen of Americas/Our Lady of Grace/ St. Catherine Laboure parishes, and that they worship each weekend at their parish church. The differential in tuition recognizes that our affiliated parishes financially invest in the education and well-being of our students.

Student report cards, results of standardized testing, or transfer information will not be sent or completed until all accounts and fees are paid in full. This also includes using form 19 as a release.

If tuition is late the parents will be contacted by phone or email and the student will not be allowed to attend school until the tuition is up to date in full. If there is a financial hardship the front office must be contacted before the next due date and an agreement must be set up so that the student can stay in school and that the tuition is paid in full.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School reserves the right to cancel the (re)registration of any student whose family fails to satisfactorily meet its tuition or fee obligation. A late fee per month will be charged to any account not paid by the statement due date.

Tuition for 2025-2026

- One Child- \$ 9,700
- Two children- \$18,840
- Three children- \$28,000
- Four children- \$37,165
- Pre-K (3- & 4-year-old) \$ 10,000

Financial Assistance: Requests should be processed through the Archdiocese of Washington of the current school year. Forms are available on-line at www.adw.org and linked to our Website. Admission for each semester is conditional on satisfactory compliance with tuition and parish contribution commitment.

Need Base Aid: A limited amount of aid may be available on a year-to-year basis. Requests for aid must be submitted to the main office. Forms can be made available upon request.

Tuition Incentive Program (TIP): For every new family that enrolls in St. Jude, due to your encouragement, your family will receive \$750 off your family's tuition. The maximum allowable amount of tuition credit will be equal to the value of a "one child" in-parish rate or the remaining balance of the current family's tuition, whichever is less. The family receiving the tuition credit must be officially enrolled at St. Jude Regional Catholic School to receive it. The tuition credit is based upon the new family enrolling, attending, and paying tuition for the full school year. The tuition credit will be prorated for any new or current family who enroll and/or attend for less than the full school year and/or pay less than the required amount of tuition.

School Academic Records: St. Jude Regional Catholic School abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment, also known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This act gives custodial and non-custodial parents the right to access the academic records of their children. All requests to access your child's records should be directed to the principal in writing twenty-four hours in advance. **In the case of divorce or separation, the custodial parent is responsible for providing the school with an official copy of the court order prohibiting such access.**

Birthday Observances: Birthday treats may be brought to school for students in all grade levels. Birthday treats will be distributed during lunch. No party favors or party bags are permitted. **Invitations to private parties are not allowed to be distributed during school.**

A Christian Reminder: Students who are excluded from parties at a classmate's home are often those students who are excluded by their classmates at school. Here at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, we teach the children to include all and not to ostracize and are told to treat each other as God wants us to treat each other. Students/Families are reminded that we are a community that remains a Christ-centered environment both in and out of the classroom.

Bullying: St. Jude Regional Catholic School is committed to providing a physically safe and emotionally secure learning environment that is free from harassment (verbal, physical, or sexual) and cyber bullying. St. Jude Regional Catholic School strives to educate each student to accept that all students are created in God's image and are unique expressions of the Divine. **Harassment or bullying of any student or parent by any other student, parent, lay employee, volunteer, religious, or priest is prohibited. All reports of harassment or bullying will be treated seriously.** Students should report such acts to the teacher, principal, assistant principal, or counselor. The parent or guardian of the alleged victim will be notified within 3 business days after the date the act is reported. The parent or guardian of the alleged perpetrator will be notified within 5 business days after the date the act is reported. The principal's review and investigation of a credible allegation will be done in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

Reprisal or retaliation against anyone who reports acts of bullying, harassment, and intimidation is strictly prohibited. All reports of reprisal or retaliation will be treated seriously. The principal's review and investigation of a credible allegation will be done in a prompt, confidential, and thorough manner.

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation mean any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, including electronic communication (telephone, cellular phone, computer, etc.), that:

1. Physically harms an individual; damages an individual's property; substantially interferes with an individual's education or learning environment; or places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual's person or property; and
2. Occurs on school property; or off property, at a school activity or event; on a school transportation vehicle or bus; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Support for victims or bystanders of bullying, harassment, or intimidation may include counseling, resource support, and other support services as appropriate.

Students involved in repeated harassing/bullying behavior will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. Students who commit acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation will be required to participate in anti-bullying programming or counseling. Students making false accusations or harassment/bullying will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

THREATS

In the event of any actual or perceived threat of violence or other inappropriate/illegal behavior, St. Jude Regional Catholic School reserves its right to take all actions it deems necessary for the health and safety of its school community, including the individual(s) making the threat. These actions may include contacting law enforcement offices, mental health professionals and/or any other outside experts as the school official(s) deems necessary. A student who makes a threat of violence may be required to remain off school property until a mental health professional certifies that the student is not a danger to him/herself or others, or may be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.

CHILD ABUSE LAWS

St. Jude Regional Catholic School abides by the Child Abuse laws of the State of Maryland and Montgomery County. These laws mandate that all cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect must be reported to Child Protective Services. All faculty and staff are mandatory reporters.

Archdiocesan Catholic School Counseling Services

In the event of an emergency or crisis, the Archdiocese of Washington may send a team of school counseling professionals to St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is the responsibility of all who are involved in the formation of children. We follow the Archdiocesan policies as stated in the Archdiocesan Policy Handbook. Our intent is that Christian attitudes towards others, as well as respect for property be fostered in our children. Certain regulations and expectations are necessary for the safety of our students and to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. For this reason, we have developed and defined the ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY PLAN.

ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL **RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY PLAN**

The St. Jude Regional Catholic School Respect and Responsibility Plan is designed to provide a safe, loving, and respectful Catholic educational environment for all members of the St. Jude community. This code of conduct supports and reinforces our Christian Values Program, enabling students to respect themselves, parents, teachers, administrators, classmates and the material property of the St. Jude Regional Catholic School and Church. Learning spiritual, academic, social and personal growth must be a collaborative effort by all members of the educational community – teacher, students and parents alike. This plan develops the community as disciples of Jesus Christ and reinforces God’s greatest commandments. “Love God with your whole heart, soul and mind and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Mark 12:30

As children of God, we know that God loves us and knows that we are essentially good. When we make mistakes we must take responsibility for our actions, seek forgiveness, and accept the consequences for our choices. Making amends for our errors develops self-control and self-discipline, as well as understanding the effects one’s actions have on the community.

The following Respect and Responsibility Plan outlines the responsibilities of the students, parents, and faculty of St. Jude Regional Catholic School. The plan also contains consequences for students who do not choose to respect the learning community of St. Jude Regional Catholic School. The plan is based on the student prayer: See *page 54*

EXPECTATIONS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

The primary goal of a St. Jude student, even before academics, is to be an example of Christian character, and to spread God’s love.

As a servant of God, students are expected to promote a spirit of service in the school community. Students are expected to lend their time and talents to help the school, their peers, and the community to grow in faith and in love.

Respect

God respects all people. God, in turn, expects the same from us, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, or other differences that make each of us unique.

Respect for Authority

God has entrusted the children to the care of their parents who now entrust those children to the care of the faculty and staff of St. Jude. Respect will always be given.

Teachers have the special job of ensuring that all students learn to the best of their abilities. Students will respect their classmates by always ensuring that their behavior promotes a healthy learning environment.

When a priest, principal, teacher, or any adult enters the room, students will acknowledge them by standing and greeting them with their proper name.

Students will greet adults in the hallways by saying Good Morning or Good Afternoon and respond to them when they offer a greeting.

Instances of disrespect toward the faculty and staff of St. Jude Regional Catholic School will result in a detention and if the behavior continues, could lead to suspension or dismissal.

In cases of disrespect, the teacher will contact the student's parents to discuss what has occurred. If there are repeated incidents, the student's parents will meet with the teacher(s) to discuss the behavior in question, and how it needs to change in a positive manner.

Respect for Classmates

Students are expected to treat all classmates with respect and dignity. "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do to Me." (Matthew 25)

Respect for each other is also about manners and students will be taught manners with the boys holding the doors for the girls and all students saying thank you and shaking hands.

Bullying, exploitation, exclusion, harassment, taunting, teasing, and use of unkind language will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Instances of disrespect for classmates will constitute detention, lead to a suspension, and possibly dismissal from school.

Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behavior, verbal and/or physical, of a sexual nature. Sexual comments, obscene gestures, vulgar writing, and any touching are not permitted. Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely.

Respect for the entire school body is demonstrated by behavior in the hallways. Students will walk in a quiet straight line, one behind the other, staying on the right side of the hallway from class to class. Students will arrive to class on time with the proper books and other necessary items to create a successful learning environment.

Respect for Self

Students will remember their vocation as a child of God and a student. Students will avoid whatever moves them away from God's will, and their academic responsibility. **Students will advocate for themselves by asking for help with spiritual, academic, and social struggles.**

Students are not allowed to write or draw on themselves or others. Students are not allowed to have tattoos permanent or not permanent.

Responsibility

Responsibility means addressing all duties including work and relationships, here and at home. It also includes owning your decisions, whether they are good or bad. Students are expected to take responsibility for their actions; apologize for, and amend, their harmful actions; and accept the consequences of their actions. Those consequences could include detention during lunch or after school, suspension, or possible dismissal.

Parents are **NOT** allowed to drop off homework and students will **NOT** be allowed to call home for homework to be dropped off. Students must be responsible for having their homework arriving at school.

Students who need to use the school printer must arrive at school at 8:00am and have all work printed no later than 8:15am. No printing of schoolwork will take place after 8:15.

Additionally, students are expected to take personal responsibility in abiding by school rules; being prepared for class; being on time for school and class; completing all homework assignments; studying for tests; and treating students, teachers, and property with respect.

Respect for Education

Catholic Education is a privilege, not a right. Students will respect that privilege and the sacrifice that parents have made to provide that privilege.

Students should strive to always do their best as a student, respect teachers, keep the school building neat and clean, pick-up trash, and keep their personal study spaces clean.

Students will refrain from defacing all material property: books, walls, desks, boards.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School will be compensated at the end of the year for all lost and/or damaged books.

Students must refrain from bringing anything to school that looks like or could be used as a weapon - such as pocketknives, lasers, and box cutters. The consequences for bringing such items will be dealt with by the Principal, accordingly.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Tardiness affects everyone. A late student disrupts the teachers, classes, and other students. A late student is not prepared for his/her day, which will adversely affect the student's behavior and grades. Please refer to the section dealing with tardiness and lateness. *See page 27-30*

School begins at 8:15am

For the children's safety, please do not drop off your child until 8:00 am. Any student dropped off before 8:00am must go to before care and parents will be charged.

Children **may not** enter the building until 8:15am. Books cannot be dropped off early. The students will carry them in after Morning Prayer.

Children are not entering any classroom without an adult present; this is for safety reasons. If there is rain, snow, or extremely cold the students will be advised to go to their homeroom door and wait until the teacher invites them to enter. They may not wander the hallways.

There are two bells before school starts:

- The first bell rings at 8:15 a.m. All students are expected to be in line and ready for the Star-Spangled Banner, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Prayer.
- The second bell rings at 8:23 a.m. and starts the academic day. **Any student arriving at 8:20am will be marked tardy. Parents must escort their child into school and sign them in at the School Clinic.**

Attendance and early dismissal

A record of attendance is carefully and accurately kept. In every case of an absence, it is **mandatory** for parents to call the school the morning of the absence before 8:30am. **301-946-7888 ext.103**

A written excuse from the parent or guardian must also be presented to the teacher on the day the student returns to school.

Tardy entrances into the school

When a student is tardy, he/she is required to obtain a late slip from the Front office, School Clinic, before going to his/her classrooms.

Students who arrive at 8:20am must be accompanied to the School Clinic by parents or guardians.

If a parent or guardian chooses not to escort their child into school, the child will remain outside the Main Office until the parent or guardian returns to school to follow the proper procedures. The Administration realizes that traffic can often be a problem in the morning. Families need to take this into account when planning their departure time from home. Student tardiness is disruptive and unfair to the student entering the classroom late as well as to the class in session.

Consistently late arrivals will result in a parent/guardian-Principal conference scheduled at the Principal's convenience.

A tardy student will be marked as an unexcused absence for the class if he/she misses more than half of any class.

Dismissal

Students will be dismissed from school at 3:05 p.m.

When students leave their homeroom, they will exit immediately to the parking lot.

Students are not allowed to run, play, drink, eat, or be on their phone during the dismissal period.

If students are not picked up by 3:25 p.m., they will be taken to the Main Office to call their parent/guardian. For safety, parents/guardians will pick-up students from the Main Office or the Extended Day Program. There is a fee of \$10.00 for any child not picked up by 3:25pm and \$1.00 each additional minute after 3:30pm.

Early dismissal

Students may not leave the school premises during school hours without a written note from the parent or guardian. If a student needs to be excused for medical or other appointments, please notify the office in advance in advance in writing. **Please do not email the teacher during the day about early dismissal or a change in pick-up. Parents must contact the School Clinic and then Ms. Cruz will contact the teacher. We strongly recommend that appointments be scheduled after school.** Students must be signed out at the school clinic by parents/guardians or designated individuals with proper identification.

When a student is absent due to illness, shadow, or family vacation it is the student's responsibility to check google classroom/Rediker for work. The principal must be informed in writing of all extended absences in advance.

Absence

When a student is absent from school, a parent must call the attendance line (ext. 103) by 8:45 am each day of absence. If the office does not receive a call, a parent will be contacted. This policy is for the protection of St. Jude students. After 2 days a Well Check Visit will be called in if the school is not notified.

Archdiocesan School Attendance

The following are valid reasons for excused absences from school (if properly documented by the student's parent or guardian upon the student's return to school):

1. Illness of the student (after three days of illness, student must provide medical documentation that indicates that the student is able to return to school);
2. Death in the student's immediate family.
3. 8th grade students shadow a high school.
4. Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding.
5. Lawful suspension or exclusion from school by Principal.
6. Temporary closing of facilities or suspension of classes due to severe weather, official activities, holidays, malfunctioning equipment, unsafe or unsanitary conditions, or other conditions requiring closing or suspension of classes; and
7. Other absence(s) approved in advance by the Principal upon the written request of a parent or guardian. Sufficient notice should be given to the school to provide expected student work to be completed while absent. Failure to provide sufficient time may result in an unexcused absence. ****Any absence that does not fall into one of the above categories or is not properly documented by the student's parent/guardian, is an unexcused absence.**

Students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. 24 hours is a full school day. Students who are sent home during the school day with a fever will not be allowed to return to school the next day as this would not allow for the 24-hour protection of the entire school community.

Students MAY NOT participate in after school activities if the student is absent due to illness the day of the activity and may not participate until the student returns to school. Any student absent on a Friday due to illness MAY NOT participate in weekend events.

A written statement giving reasons for the absence or tardiness must be brought to the student's teacher upon the student's return. These notes/letters will be retained in the office for one year. Students who are absent due to illness **have one day for each day of absence** to make up the missed assignments, quizzes or tests. For example, a student who was absent three days would be given three school days to complete the missed work.

- When a student is absent **due to illness**, a parent may call the school office before 8:45am to arrange for homework assignments. Homework assignments may be picked up at the school office between 3:05 pm – 3:30 pm. Students are also encouraged to check the teachers' website for updates.
- For short absences, students should make arrangements with classmates regarding assignments. Students may also receive missed assignments from their teacher when they return to school.

The school calendar provides for extended weekends throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times so as to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. **Missed assignments are the student's responsibility. Should absence for any reason other than illness seem imperative, parents are requested to consult with the Principal and present a written reason for the absence.**

Excessive absence (40) days or 40 days of tardies, may result in retention. *In addition, 5 unexcused tardy days will result in morning detention.**

Absence during the school day

Students needing medical appointments during school hours require a written note by the parent. Parents are required to sign out their child in the School Clinic. If the child returns to school, they must sign in at the School Clinic.

MAKE-UP TESTS (Grades 5-8) For Vacations

Teachers are not required to give make-up tests or assignments for absences due to vacations. It is up to the teacher if he/she can provide assignments for vacations. This is not mandatory, and the student should bring all necessary school supplies and check google classroom for classwork that he/she has missed. All classwork must be turned in the day of the return to school from vacation or that work is a zero (0). Any tests or quizzes that were missed due to absences must be made up the day of the return to school and any test or quiz scheduled on the day of return must be taken at regular time.

Please check Google Classroom for any missed assignments.

Arrangements for regular classroom tests/quizzes missed because of an illness or doctor's appointment are to be made with the individual teachers. These tests must be taken within one week of the original test date. Any 8th grader who misses a test or quiz because of a high school visit must make up the test or quiz the next day. **All tests and quizzes must be made up in the Testing Center before school.** The student must arrive no later than 7:45am and must go directly to the proper room.

Failure to take the test/quiz results in a zero (0) for the missed test or quiz.

Students who are absent for a vacation or high school visit are required to make up the test the day they return to school.

Homework:

Homework is assigned to help students become self-reliant and self-directed. Assignments are designed to reinforce daily lessons, to supplement and enrich class work, and to prepare for certain lessons through various experiences.

Because each student has different capabilities and interests, denoting a specific amount of time to be spent on an assignment is difficult. If a problem arises, the teacher should be contacted.

HOMEWORK DURING VACATION/PLANNED ABSENCE

The school calendar provides for extended weekends throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to schedule trips or family outings during these times to eliminate the need to interrupt a child's learning process. Missed assignments are the student's responsibility. The student must check the website for any missed work or tests and be prepared to turn them in when he/she returns and be prepared for any tests or quizzes when he/she returns.

Teachers are not required to give make-up tests or assignments for absences due to vacations. It is up to the individual teacher. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Tests and quizzes must be made up in the Testing Center the day the student returns to school.

For **short absences**, students should make arrangements with classmates regarding assignments.

Honesty

Aside from being a central component to the Catholic Faith and one of the 10 commandments, honesty is the #1 reflection of an individual's character.

Personal Dishonesty

Lying to a teacher/Principal will be met with a detention or suspension. Lying is an affront to the teacher's intelligence and will be dealt with severely.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating will result in an automatic zero on the assignment or test and constitutes a school detention.

- Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:
- Bringing, handling, possessing or otherwise utilizing or attempting to utilize study aids or other material pertaining to quiz/test.
- Aiding another student in any manner during testing in an inappropriate manner as deemed by the teacher.
- Attempting to obtain information during tests from others.
- Copying or using work from other students. **Plagiarism** – defined as the theft and use of another's ideas or writings as one's own, with or without the knowledge of the other person. **This includes not properly citing sources in written work and using AI on assignments in any subject area.**
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The Honor Code

Academic honesty is very important at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. To demonstrate how highly we value this virtue, the students in **Grades 5-8, are required to write the following sentence at the end of all tests, quizzes, and research papers; THIS IS MY WORK AND ONLY MY WORK.**

Problem Resolution

For purpose of clarity, we have developed a problem solution procedure that outlines the steps a parent/guardian should use to resolve any questions or concerns they may have. This approach to problem resolution gives every parent/guardian a clear process to have their question or concern addressed.

If the question or concern relates to the classroom, begin the resolution with that teacher. Always give the teacher an opportunity to answer your questions or resolve your concern.

If the question or concern is about a school procedure, program or regulation, or if the question or concern was not resolved to your satisfaction by the teacher, the parent should speak with the Principal.

There are times that questions or concerns transcend a particular classroom, thus the Principal must become involved. These two steps will resolve most, if not all the questions or concerns that you may have during the academic year. Please be open and honest with the teachers and Principal.

In the event that the Principal is not able to resolve the issue, the next step is for either the Principal or the parent/guardian to take the issue to the Pastor. As the one directly responsible for the total Parish, he is the one with the authority to make a final determination or resolution.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Whenever a student has a discipline problem, the teacher who observes the situation will give a detention to the student. **Any student that receives three (3) after school detentions per marking period will be required to perform community service with the St. Stephen's Food Pantry on Saturday mornings. A letter must be signed by Mr. Mike Goss stating the student and parent participated.** This notice will be kept in the office and one copy will be sent home to be signed. Major discipline occurrences are treated as follows:

1st Infraction: The incident is recorded; a discipline notice is sent home, and the student serves detention.

2nd Infraction: The incident is recorded; a discipline notice is sent home, and the student serves detention. In addition, the teacher will call the parent at his/her earliest convenience to discuss the situation.

3rd Infraction: In addition to the student serving detention, the parents are notified by the School office and a meeting with the School Discipline Committee is scheduled. Parent attendance at this meeting is mandatory.

Continuing infractions of school policy will result in further disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion.

Detention

Upon a disciplinary infraction, a *Detention* will be given, and notice sent to parents/guardians. *Detention* is kept in the child's record file. A third *Detention* will result in a *Disciplinary Action Report* (not necessarily for the same infraction). Children who repeatedly violate the *Student Code of Conduct* will be required to leave St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

Disciplinary Probation

Students who are having behavioral difficulties will be placed on disciplinary probation and remain in the office for a day. Students assigned disciplinary probation will not be permitted to eat in their classroom, may go outside during recess under direct supervision, may not participate in school activities such as field trips.

Fighting

The following disciplinary action is followed for fighting in grades 3 through 8:

The student is suspended for 2 days, and the parent/guardian is called immediately to pick up the student. A conference with the student, parent and Principal is required before the student may return to class.

Fighting in grades K through 2 will be handled at the discretion of the Principal.

CELL PHONES/APPLE WATCHES OR SMART WATCHES-NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL

Use during the school day (8:00am–3:15pm) is strictly prohibited. All cell phones/Apple watches or smart watches must always be turned off and in the class basket. Any devices that on the student or turned on or used during the school day will be confiscated. The first time a student's device is confiscated; the student must be escorted by a parent to the Principal's office in order for the device to be returned. If the device is confiscated a second time, the Principal will keep the device for three (3) school days. A parent must then come to the school to retrieve the device. If a student's device is confiscated more than twice, a meeting with the parent, student, and Principal will take place before the phone is returned.

Cell phones or Apple watches or smart watches are not allowed to be used during an after-school function which includes but not limited to clubs, athletic events, science fair, drama club, field trips, before or after school parking lot.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School is a non-cell phone and Smart watch school***Toys and or electronic devices***

Students are not allowed to bring toys or electronic devices (iPad, cameras, etc.) to school. Electronic device use during the school day (8:00am–3:15pm) is strictly prohibited. All electronic devices must be always kept turned off and in the students' backpack. Electronic devices seen, turned on or used during the school day will be confiscated. A student whose electronic device has been confiscated the first time must be escorted by a parent to the Principal's office in order for the electronic device to be returned. If the electronic device is confiscated a second time the Principal will hold onto the electronic device for three school days and after that a parent must come in to receive the electronic device. If a student's electronic device is confiscated more than twice a meeting with the parent, student, and Principal will take place.

The school will not be responsible for any lost or stolen toys or electronic devices or cell phones.

Gum

Gum is never allowed on the school or church grounds.

DRESS CODE *A visual guide is available at the end of this handbook*

We take pride in the appearance of our students. Wearing a school uniform fosters an environment which creates an appropriate academic climate within the school. Students are required to always adhere to all items of the dress code. Parents will be notified if violations of this code occur.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School students are to be always dressed in the prescribed school uniform during school hours. School uniform items can be purchased through Flynn O'Hara, or Lands' End.

For the 2025-2026 school year all students must wear the school uniform with the new school logo. NO hoodies are allowed for uniform use for dress or PE.

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

A child dressed in the proper school uniform shows a sense of pride in his or her school and oneself. Flynn O'Hara Uniforms or Lands End, provides the students at St. Jude Regional Catholic School with the ONLY acceptable uniform. Departures from standards in trousers and shirt/blouse/jumper/skirt color or style will not be permitted. To ensure fairness for every child, adherence to the uniform will be strictly enforced. Violations from the school's set uniform requirements will result in a *Uniform detention*. A third detention for the same offense will result in a *Disciplinary Action Report* citing defiance as the infraction.

Physical Education Uniform

All students in Grades Kindergarten through Eighth Grade wear their PE uniform to school on PE days. The children stay in the PE uniform all day. PE uniforms should be clean and neat. **NO HOODIES**

Uniform Excuse

A parent or guardian of a student must send a note to the school when the student does not meet uniform requirements. If no note is received, the student will be given detention for the infraction by the homeroom teacher. The student will not receive a detention by any other teacher during the rest of the day for the uniform violation. Uniform inconsistencies also should be corrected immediately, if possible. Full compliance with the Uniform Code is expected of each child and his or her family. A child continually presenting a note of excuse for an improper uniform demonstrates the parents' and guardians' lack of regard and respect for the policies set forth by St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Students coming repeatedly to school without wearing the appropriate uniform will not be tolerated. Students can be sent home by the Principal for being out of the traditional school uniform.

GIRLS' UNIFORM (K-4)**Fall/Spring**

- Plaid maroon drop waist jumper (**knee length**)
- Gray walking shorts with belt
- White blouse with Peter Pan (round) collar or white/maroon golf shirt with school logo
- White crew socks (**must completely cover ankles**)

Winter

- Plaid maroon drop waist jumper (**knee length**)
- White blouse with Peter Pan collar or white/maroon golf shirt with school logo-
gray slacks with belt
- Maroon quarter zip fleece, button up sweater, or full zipper sweater
- Maroon knee socks, tights (*Maroon, White, Black, or Grey*)

GIRLS' UNIFORM (5-8)**Fall/Spring**

- Skirt-Gray kilt (no shorter than **one inch** above the knee *when standing*)
- Gray walking shorts with belt
- White or maroon golf shirt with school logo
- White crew socks (**must completely cover ankles**)

Winter

- Skirt-Gray kilt (no shorter than **one inch** above the knee *when standing*)
- White or maroon golf shirt with school logo
- Maroon quarter zip, full zip, or button up sweater
- Maroon knee socks, tights (*Maroon, White, Black, or Grey*) ****Leggings may not be worn**
- Gray slacks with belt

JEWELRY, MAKE-UP, AND NAIL POLISH ARE NOT PERMITTED ***

Girls may wear posts or hoop earrings with no larger than a dime in the ear lobe. No more than one in each ear lobe. Piercings are not permitted anywhere else on the body.

Attention Parents and Guardians: Girls' skirt lengths must be no shorter than 1 inch above the knee while standing. If a child comes to school in a short skirt or during the day rolls the waist to shorten the skirt a *detention* will be issued.

BOYS UNIFORM (K-8)**Fall/Spring**

-Gray, perma-press pants - **no cargo pants or cotton pants allowed.**

Shirts must be tucked in and belts must be worn.

-Gray walking shorts -**no cargo pants or cotton pants allowed.**

Shirts must be tucked in and belts must be worn.

-White or maroon golf shirt with school logo

-Gray or white socks (**must completely cover ankles**)

Winter (K-4)

-Gray perma-press pants-**no cargo pants or cotton pants allowed.**

Shirts must be tucked in and belts must be worn.

-White/maroon golf shirt with school logo

- Maroon quarter zip, full zip up, or button up

-Gray or white socks (**must completely cover ankles**)

Winter (5-8)

-Gray perma-press pants-**no cargo pants or cotton pants allowed.**

Shirts must be tucked in, and belts must be worn.

-White button-down oxford shirt (*long or short sleeve*) with school logo

-School tie must be worn

-Maroon quarter zip, full zip, or button up

-Gray or white socks (**must completely cover ankles**)

SCHOOL SHOES St. Jude has a uniform school shoe for all boys and girls in grades K – 8. The student may wear the Sperry shoe (*or similar top sider*) or the *Buck* shoe. The Sperry is Sahara color, 2 eyelet lace up

**School uniforms and accessories may be purchased from:

Flynn O'Hara

12221 Nebel St, Rockville, MD

301-838-8958

www.flynnohara.com

Lands' End K-8th grade

www.landsend.com/co/account/school-uniforms

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FALL/SPRING PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

Maroon micromesh shorts w/monogram

Maroon T-shirt with monograms

White socks

Sneakers

WINTER PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

Maroon sweatpants with monogram

Maroon sweatshirts with monogram

White socks

Sneakers

****Parents may purchase the Physical Education uniform from:**

Flynn O'Hara

12221 Nebel St, Rockville, MD

(301) 838-8958

Haircut/styles:

- St. Jude Regional Catholic School recognizes that particular hairstyles are often part of racial, ethnic, spiritual, and cultural identity and practice. Accordingly, it is the policy of the School to permit individual families to decide the appropriate hairstyle for their children.
- Hair should be of natural coloring (black, brown, blonde, auburn, and/or red), simple, neat, clean, and out of the eyes. **No designs cut into hair.** Hair grooming should not take place during school hours.
- Hair must be out of the eyes for both boys and girls and the hair length for boys may not touch the collar of their shirt or the top of their ears.
- Hair accessories should be functional and should not interfere with learning. Simple headbands, such as uniform plaid or plain dark colors, are preferred

Out of Uniform

Headbands/bows are permitted that have bobbles. Several times throughout the year, the school will sponsor Out of Uniform days. The cost per student is determined by the cause. Out of uniform is not mandatory but the donation per student is mandatory.

Teachers will keep track of students who have paid for the out-of- uniform day. Two days after the out of uniform day, any student who has not paid will have their name sent to the office. This amount will be added to the family's tuition bill and must be paid before any records sent are home or transferred information is forwarded to another school.

Students must dress appropriately and modestly on Out of Uniform days. Students wearing shirts bearing inappropriate, vulgar, or tawdry logos or images; mini-skirts, tank tops, mid-drifts, spaghetti strap tops; heels; and/or tight or over-sized clothing will be asked by the Principal to phone a parent or guardian so that other, more appropriate clothing can be brought to school for the child to wear for the day. **Other reminders: no running shorts may be worn.** Girls and boys must wear *Bermuda (golf)* length shorts; pants must be waist-high (undergarments must not be visible); **leggings may not be worn (grades 3-8);** and no backless sandals or heels as they are not suitable for school wear. **No Crocs**

Please ensure that your child dresses appropriately for school. All students are expected to dress modestly demonstrating through their words, deeds, and appearance a commitment to fostering our Christ-centered environment.

OUT OF UNIFORM GUIDLINES

Students may wear:

- | | |
|---|---|
| *jeans that are not torn | *jewelry |
| *tennis shoes | *hoop earrings |
| *skirts no shorter than one inches above the knee | *dresses |
| *skorts | *slacks |
| *sweatshirts | *golf shorts may be worn in the fall and spring |
| *Sweatpants | |

Any questions, students and or parents may contact the teacher or administrator

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

As partners in the educational process at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, we ask parents to set rules, times, and limits so that your child:

- Gets to bed early on school nights
- Arrives at school on time and is picked up on time at the end of the day
- Is dressed according to the school dress code
- Completes assignments on time
- Has a nutritional breakfast and lunch every day.

We ask parents to:

Actively participate in school activities such as Parent-Teacher Conferences.

See that the student pays for any damage to schoolbooks or property due to carelessness or neglect on the part of the student.

Notify the school with a written note when the student has been absent or tardy.

Notify the school office of any changes of address or important phone numbers.

Meet all financial obligations to the school. Any bill not paid on time and the parents do NOT contact the front office, the student or students will not be permitted to return to school until the financial obligation has been met, or the front office is notified. Tuition is mandatory if a parent decides to pull a student once the school year begins.

Inform the school of any special situation regarding the student's well-being, safety, and health.

Complete and return to school any requested information promptly.

Read school notes and newsletters and show interest in the student's total education.

Support the religious and educational goals of the school.

Attend Mass and teach the Catholic faith by word and example on and off school property.

Support and cooperate with the discipline policy of the school.

Treat administrators and teachers with respect and courtesy

Parents' Role in Education

We, at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of children because we believe parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, being the primary role model for the development of your child's life—physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically—is your right and duty. Your choice of St. Jude Catholic School involves a commitment and exhibits a concern for helping your child to recognize God as the greatest good in his/her life.

- Your personal relationship with God, with each other, and with the Church community will affect the way your child relates to God and others. Ideals taught in school are not well rooted in the child unless they are nurtured by the example of good Catholic/Christian morality and by an honest personal relationship with God in your family life.
- Once you have chosen to enter a partnership with us at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, we trust you will be loyal to this commitment. During these formative years (Pre-K to 8), your child needs constant support from both parents and faculty to develop his/her moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical endowment. Neither parents nor teachers can afford to doubt the sincerity of the efforts of their educational partner in the quest for challenging, yet nourishing, the student to reach his/her potential. It is vital that both parents and teachers remember that allowing oneself to be caught between the student and the other partner will never have positive results. To divide authority between school and home or within the home will only teach disrespect of all authority. If there is an incident at school, you as parents must make an investigation of the complete story as your first step. Evidence of mutual respect between parents and teachers will model good mature behavior and relationships.
- Parents also agree with the social media policy of not posting negative comments on social media with words or pictures. It is imperative that parents and teachers and administration work together as a team and demonstrate to their child/children the proper way to communicate with school.
- Students are naturally eager to grow and learn. However, sometimes in the process of maturation new interests may cause them to lose focus. As this natural process occurs, the student needs both understanding and discipline. At times, your child may perceive discipline as restrictive. However, it is boundaries and limits which provide a young person with both guidance and security.
- **Taking responsibility for grades a child has earned and being accountable for homework, long-term assignments, major tests, service projects, and all other assignments is essential. This responsibility also extends to absence times.**
- Together, let us begin this year with a commitment to partnership as we support one another in helping your child become the best person he/she can become.

Parent and Faculty Communication

Communicating concerns about your children is imperative for parents and teachers. With advance notice, teachers will gladly conference with parents before or after school. Teachers can also be left voice messages or e-mails during the school day. If there is a concern/issue, the school's policy asks that parents discuss the problem(s), first, with the staff/teacher before going to that person's superior.

Please allow 48 hours for a response by phone or email.

The Principal is also available to hear your concerns. Please leave a message in the office, a voice mail, or email Jeanne.Donatelli@StJudeRockville.org

Parent/Guardian Cooperation

Parents/Guardians and students understand and acknowledge the Roman Catholic religious nature of St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Parents/Guardians and students agree not to publicly repudiate the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and will respect and support the unique identity that St. Jude Regional Catholic School derives from its Catholic faith. As the primary educators of their children, parents/guardians will not act in ways that contradict the Catholic nature of St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Parents/Guardians shall cooperate fully with the school and the students shall participate in all required school programming, including instruction in the Catholic faith and attendance at Mass. As the primary educators of the students, parents/guardians agree to act in ways that promote the best interests of the church and school and will comply with the policies of the Archdiocese of Washington and St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

School Support Program Overview and Information

To involve our families in the day-to-day operations of the school as well as to save the school money where we can, St. Jude Regional Catholic School requires that all families complete 30 hours of volunteer/school support hours (15 hours for single-parent households) throughout the school year. Half of the required hours must be completed by December 31. Because of the critical need for support, this program is considered part of tuition, and report cards or school transcripts will be withheld if the obligation is not met. The program runs from July 1 through June 30, although the activities run at different times. The activity starting and ending dates are noted in the job descriptions below. All required hours are to be earned within this time frame. **If you are a parent with a child in 8th grade, your required hours must be met prior to the last day of 8th grade classes.** All parents are required to enter their own hours into the database prior to the end of the school year.

If a family is unable to fulfill its obligation with service, a \$15 fee will be assessed for each hour not worked.

Parents are urged to volunteer their own time in obtaining their required school support hours; however, relatives may assist by volunteering for school activities. Please note that St. Jude Regional Catholic School students will not be allowed to work in the school support program to earn hours. Hours earned are based on the time spent in the activity only. *Travel time to and from the school for the activity does not count.* There are a few exceptions: field trips, shopping for supplies for the activity, or baking time for the activity. Additionally, hours may not be automatically donated from one family to another. If you would like to donate some of your earned hours to another family in need, please contact the School Principal for prior approval. No one may sell, trade, or — in any fashion — give their school support hours to another family for money. No children are allowed to accompany a parent working at a school activity or function, unless otherwise noted in the job description.

All parents/volunteers must be Virtus certified by the Archdiocese of Washington. Please visit www.virtus.org and/or contact the Main Office to register for classes and to complete a background check.

If you have any problems, questions or are unsure of School Support Program activities you may contact the School Support Program Coordinator (listed in the school directory), or contact the Main Office.

APPROVED SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Administration

Jobs include typing, computer work, errands, weekly copying, or any job as indicated by the school office for the school office only.

Contact: Ana Perez Ana.Perez@stjuderockville.org

Book Fair

The focus of our annual Book Fair is to promote reading by offering new, high-quality and award-winning paperback and hardback books to readers of all ages. The Book Fair is organized by the librarian and staffed by parent volunteers. All profits from the Book Fair benefit our school library.

Contact: Mrs. Potocko, Librarian

International Day

Parent volunteers are needed for International Day. Volunteers are needed to set up a booth and bring in food that represents the cuisine of the country their child studied or from their native country.

Contact: Mrs. Balog, Assistant Principal

Volunteers and Chaperones

Volunteers are needed based on teachers' needs. If you are accompanying and assisting on a class field trip (scheduled and approved by the school), trip time is acceptable and will be counted toward required school support program hours. Aides are needed from September through June on school days only.

Contact: Your child's teacher

Computer Lab/Technology

Helping hands are needed to assist the K – 4 classes in the Computer Lab. No experience necessary. Other positions: IT, planning for future technology implementation, grant writing and infrastructure updates.

Contact: Mr. Tapia, Technology Teacher

Drama Club

Volunteers are needed to help support our Drama Club Director. Volunteers will help get costumes collected and made, gather props, get the scenery and set created, and manage the children during and after each performance.

Contact: Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, School Principal

Hall Monitors

To ensure the safety of our students and maintain security for the school, volunteers are needed as Hall Monitors to patrol the hallways and classrooms of the school daily between the hours of 8:15 A.M. and 3:05 P.M. This is an extremely important job and should be taken very seriously.

Contact: Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, School Principal

Field Day

Volunteers are needed to assist with the various sports activities during Field Day. Siblings are welcome per teachers' approval only. Duties include arriving on time to scheduled event; having a basic understanding of the station as per packet instruction; assisting students in performing activity required at each station, making sure group stays intact and on task, assisting coordinator with set up and break down of all stations; assisting coordinator as needed; and keeping children safe at all times.

Contact: Mr. Frank Miller, PE Teacher

Annual Fund Campaign

The campaign runs all year to encourage donations to our school, affiliated parishes, and community organizations. It raises money for such things as the St. Jude Thaddeus Foundation, technology improvements, teacher funds and books. The campaign chairman manages a master mailing list; coordinates the Fall mailing; promotes the campaign via the school newsletter, website and periodic school-wide emails; tracks donations on an Excel spreadsheet; organizes thank you letters; and manages an honor roll of donors. Additionally, the chairman is the HSA campaign liaison, attending HSA meetings to provide updates and encourage program participation. The chair works closely with the School Principal on all donor activities.

Contact: Main Office

Physical Education Assistant

Volunteers are needed to assist the PE teacher. Aides are needed at all grade levels. No siblings.

Contact: Mr. Frank Miller, PE teacher

Hot Lunch Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work each Monday through Friday serving lunch to the students, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Mr. Sawyer

Library Assistants

Volunteers are needed to assist the librarian in daily activities. Includes shelving books, checking out books, storytelling. No siblings.

Contact: Mrs. Potocko, Librarian

Playground monitors

Volunteers are needed from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday to monitor classrooms during lunch period, and to monitor all playground/parking lot areas and adjoining fields during recess. The monitors' job includes overseeing and disciplining children and diverting vehicles and strangers from areas where children are playing. A sign-up sheet will be provided for all volunteers.

Contact: Mr. Sawyer/Main Office

Outdoor education chaperone (open to 6th grade parents only; 25 hours if staying overnight)

6th grade students go overnight to Accokeek, Maryland, to learn about nature and the importance of working on a farm. Students stay at a lodge that has two separate bunkrooms. Parents are needed to drive students both ways and to chaperone the trip.

Contact: Noelia Gonzalez, 6th grade Homeroom Teacher

Morning monitors

Volunteers needed as morning monitors from 7:50 am to 8:15 am, Monday through Friday, on the blacktop overseeing student activities, ensuring safety, and diverting traffic. In case of bad weather, parents will monitor the school hallways. Siblings are welcome.

Contact: Mr. Sawyer/Main Office

Repair Work

Volunteers may be needed to do repair work in the school as requested or deemed necessary by the Principal.

Contact: Main Office

School Advisory Board

The purpose of the School Advisory Board (referred to as the Board or Advisory Board) is to provide advice and assistance to the school's administrative team (Pastor and Principal) in the governance of the school.

Contact: Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, School Principal

Tutoring

Contact: Main Office

8th Grade functions

There are many 8th grade traditions that require an abundance of volunteers. Look for more details as each event draws nearer. Activities include, but are not limited to, the annual 8th grade student's vs teachers/parents' basketball game; 8th grade dance competition, and many fundraisers to help keep the cost of 8th grade events to a minimum. *Contact: Homeroom parent/8th grade teacher*

Home and School Association (HSA)

The Home School Association is the organization that serves the parents of the school and is the fundraising arm of the school. There are many opportunities to earn school support hours through the many HSA sponsored events each school year. Watch the **Bulldog Briefs** newsletter for more details or contact any member of the HSA board. Additionally, hours can be obtained by attending HSA meetings as scheduled or serving on the HSA board (elections are held each spring for the two vacant positions). All parents are considered members of the HSA and are encouraged to attend the meetings. This is where your voice can be heard about OUR school.

Contact: Main Office

Catholic Schools Week

This event is usually held at the end of January/beginning of February each year. At this time we celebrate Catholic education. Volunteers are needed to assist with the many activities held during the week, such as community service projects, lunch for the teachers, open house for the community, and much more.

Contact: President of HSA

Fundraising

Volunteers are needed to help with the many fundraising efforts led by the HSA each school year.

Contact: Main Office

Hospitality Committee

Volunteers are needed for assistance with the preparations of various school functions (i.e., food/drinks, decorations, etc).

Contact: HSA Hospitality

New Parent Sponsors

Sponsors for new families entering the school are essential. Volunteers will be responsible for assisting new families to acclimate themselves to the policies, procedures, activities and events of the school. Sponsors must attend New Parents Night in August.

Contact: HSA Hospitality

Room Parents

Room Parents assist teachers with projects, parties, or any teacher-approved activity. Room Parents are assigned at the beginning of the school year and will need the assistance of other parents for baking, telephoning, setup, cleanup, etc. Room Parents also help with Catholic Schools Week activities.

Contact: Main Office

Used Uniform Room

Volunteers are needed to sort, tag, fold and/or hang donated uniform items. In addition, we need volunteers to "man" the store during busy times (start of school, change of uniform in Spring) and during the regular monthly open hours.

Contact: Main Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Extended Day Program: An Extended Day Program is offered at St. Jude Regional Catholic School from 7:00 A.M. to 8:05 A.M. and from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. A handbook regarding the policies and fees of this program is available from the school office.

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$50.00 per family (NON-REFUNDABLE)

Make all checks payable to St. Jude Extended Day Program

Full Time Tuition

Morning Day Care (7:00 A.M – 8:10 A.M)	1 Student	\$50.00
2 or more student	\$ 45.00/student	
(per week)		

After School Care (3:00 P.M – 6:00 P.M)	1 Student	\$ 90.00
2 or more student	\$ 80.00/student	
(per week)		

A.M/P.M Drop Off	Per Student	\$10.00/hour
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Inclement weather: St. Jude Regional Catholic School follows the Montgomery County Public Schools policy regarding school closings due to inclement weather. Parents are to listen to the radio or television for information concerning school closings, delayed openings or early closings. An email and text will be sent to families about inclement weather decisions. If Montgomery County schools are closed - we are closed. If Montgomery County schools are opening 2 hours late - we begin at 10:10 A.M. PreK begins at 10:30am.

Lost and Found: Parents should label coats, jackets, school and Physical education uniforms, etc. Any unlabeled items found will be placed in Lost and Found. In addition to classroom Lost and Found collections, the school will store Lost and Found items in the main breezeway until the end of the school year. If these items are not claimed by the end of the year, they will be donated to charity.

Lunch Program: Students are to bring their lunches to school each day. Parents will set up an account with the program and purchase on line and lunch will be sent to the school, and volunteers will distribute the lunch. No lunches from restaurants including fast food will be allowed and NO lunches may be dropped off once school begins. Students will not call home for lunch. Students will share from their lunch to provide for a classmate.

Social Media

Nationwide websites, blogs, and social media platforms are known targets for predators on the internet and have been a hotbed for cyber-bullying. We strongly urge parents to inspect your children's computers or electronic devices for any inappropriate activity. If inappropriate activities create disruptions to the school community, appropriate action (i.e., detentions, suspension, legal proceedings) will be taken. We urge our students to clean up their social media accounts and we urge our parents to monitor their children's computer/electronic device activity.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE PROGRAM

The resource department supports students in grade Pre-K-8th grade. Students in grades Pre-K-4th grade are eligible to receive academic support and interventions based upon the teacher referral, resource teacher, parent interest, classroom observation, and performance review. Students who receive resource support and do not make significant academic gains will be encouraged to pursue formal testing through Montgomery County Public School System or private practice. Ms. Dunston will support all parents through the referral process should it be deemed appropriate for a student.

Students in grades 5- 8 are eligible for resource support including a resource period and **MUST** have updated documentation. This documentation includes educational and neurological evaluations and assessments completed within the last 3 years either conducted privately or through the county. The documentation must state the reason for resource supports along with a diagnosis that falls within the 14 categories for special education established by the IDEA (2004). The documentation must list pertinent educational information and recommendations. Students will receive individualized supports and instructions based upon these recommendations, teacher input, and student performance. These supports include academic interventions, executive functioning support, study skills and organizational strategies, and extended time.

If students in grades 5- 8 without documentation are struggling to meet grade-level expectations, teachers will recommend the student to the resource director. The resource director will seek input from all teachers who work with the student as well as observe the student in the classroom. The resource director will meet with the teachers to discuss the student and provide recommendations.

Recommendations are reported to the parents, and a timeline is established to review student progress and see if further recommendations including testing may be needed.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

An emergency information card for each family must be on file in the school Health Room. No student may attend classes until this card has been returned to the school. A new card is required at the beginning of each school year. When there are any changes in the information provided on this card during the year, parents should inform the school immediately. Parents and others designated as emergency contacts must be available during school hours to pick up sick students. Parents are also required to sign an Emergency Release Form for each student.

Each student enrolled in the school has a health information file. **All new students, and those entering Kindergarten, third and sixth grade must provide evidence of a recent Physical Examination, Dental Examination, and an up-to-date Immunization Record.** All parents are asked to cooperate in keeping these files updated. As a reminder to parents, the following is the State of Maryland regulation regarding Immunization:

"A school principal or other person in charge of a school, public or private, may not knowingly admit a student to, or retain a student in 1) Preschool program unless the student has furnished evidence of age-appropriate immunity against Haemophiles Influenza Type B; 2) Preschool program or Kindergarten through the second grade or school unless the student has furnished proof of age-appropriate immunity against Pertussis; and 3) Preschool program through twelfth grade unless the student has furnished evidence of age-appropriate immunity against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Measles (Rubella), Mumps and Rubella."

The last dose of vaccine must be received in accordance with the recommended schedule of immunizations and the student must continue to receive the appropriate immunizations on schedule in order to remain in compliance and in school. Parents of students with special health concerns (allergies, asthma, diabetes, etc.) should alert the health room

COVID vaccine is not mandatory.

MEDICATION

ALL MEDICATION that a student requires daily, or for periodic acute illnesses, is administered from the School Clinic. **No student is allowed to carry or take his or her own medication. Medication that can be administered at home will not be given during school hours.**

An *Authorization to Administer Medication Form* must be filled out for any student who requires medication to be given during the school day. Forms are available in the School Clinic for both short-term (1 - 7 days) and long-term administration. Parent signatures are required on both forms and the prescribing physician's signature is required on the long-term authorization. No medication will be given to any student unless the proper authorizations are on file in the School Clinic. **Parents must also send a signed note to the teacher stating that the student takes medication.**

An adult must bring all medication to school. Medication should be turned in, along with the proper Authorization to Administer, to the School Clinic staff. **No medication brought in by a student will be administered.**

Medication brought to the School Clinic must be in the original prescription container with the pharmacist label attached. Non-prescription, over-the-counter medication must be in the original container with the manufacturer's label and the safety seal intact. No other medications will be administered.

When having prescriptions filled, be sure to ask the pharmacist to separate the prescription into a bottle for home use and a "school bottle". (A "school bottle" is prepared by the pharmacy just for the school, which contains the proper dosage of the medication to be given at school with the proper label for school administration only). Medication cannot be transferred back and forth between home and school on a daily basis. Remember that the first day's dose (the full dosage prescribed in a twenty-four-hour period) of any new medication must be administered at home.

Medication prescribed for one student will never be administered to another student including siblings.

WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE ASPIRIN TO STUDENTS AT ANY TIME.

ILLNESS/ACCIDENTS

Parents will be contacted by the School Clinic personnel when a student becomes ill or has an accident requiring their attention during the school day. If we are unable to reach either parent, Emergency Contacts will be notified. Students being sent home for illnesses should be picked up as soon as possible. Students who are ill cannot be left for hours in the School Clinic. Emergencies do happen. Please keep us informed when there are any changes in the availability of Emergency Contacts.

Students sent home from the Health Room with an elevated temperature (over 99 degrees) or who have been vomiting, should not return to school until they have been fever-free/vomiting-free, without medication, for a twenty-four-hour period. Students may not return to school the next day if a child goes home sick. A full school day off is required.

When a student is sent home from the School Clinic with an illness or injury that requires an examination or testing (such as x-rays, throat cultures, ear exams, etc.), the parent is responsible for notifying the school of the results so that we remain informed of the student's health status and any emergency contacts.

Any student that goes to the emergency room/hospital must present a release note from the hospital and must have a follow up with pediatrician and a note from the doctor is mandatory.

If a student contracts a communicable disease, please notify the School Office so that we can notify parents of students in the same class. All students must be cleared by the School Clinic personnel or present a physician's note upon return to school after a communicable illness. (This includes normal childhood illness such as chicken pox, as well as conjunctivitis and lice infestations.)

“Potty Policy” (Grades Pre-K – Grade 8)

St. Jude Regional Catholic School is staffed as a Preschool through Grade 8 facility under the Archdiocese of Washington and the State of Maryland. Toward this end, the following “Potty Policy” has been created.

Children entering St. Jude Regional Catholic School must be able to use the restrooms independently. **Children should not be in pull-ups.** They should be wearing traditional underwear.

Soiled* clothing will not be changed by a member of the staff, including the nurses’ staff at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. This is for 1 and 2.

If a child soils him/herself, the school nurse will notify the child’s parents to come to the school to change the child unless the child is able to clean him/herself and change clothes. If the child is able to change him/herself, the nurse will still call the parent to notify him/her of the incident.

Should there be a second soil, the Principal will ask the parent(s) if the child has a medical condition that St. Jude Regional Catholic School is currently unaware of. If the parent responds “yes,” a form will be sent home from the Principal for the child’s physician to complete. This completed form will be kept on file in the Health Room and in the child’s school record housed in the Main Office.

Three soils will result in a child’s removal from school for a period of one week.

If upon the child’s return to St. Jude Regional Catholic School, he/she should have an additional soil, he/she will not be permitted to return to St. Jude Regional Catholic School effective immediately and cannot return until he/she is seen by their pediatrician and a note is sent to the school for the student to return.

*Soil is defined as urine and/or feces

SAFETY

Parents are required to respect the safety regulations regarding student transportation and bicycles.

St. Jude Catholic School’s policy mandates that drivers are not allowed to park or pick up students on Mercury Drive or Walbridge Street. All drivers must be in the main lot for K-8 at dismissal time.

NO student will be allowed to walk to his/her car on Mercury or Walbridge St.

This is for the safety of our students and respect of the neighborhood. Mercury Drive is an exit only in the morning and afternoon on school days. Veirs Mill Road is an entrance and not an exit. In the afternoon, drivers are not to leave the parking lot until a signal is given.

Visitors

Visitors need to come to the main entrance, ring the bell and identify themselves to enter the building during office hours. Visitors also need to sign in with the Hall Monitor or Main Office and wear a Visitor’s Pass.

CONDUCT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL Our students are **always St Jude Regional Catholic School Students**. A student who engages in conduct, whether on school property or not on school property, that is detrimental to the reputation of the school may be disciplined by school officials. Students are St. Jude students 24/7. Any social media post while in or out of school uniform must represent the school and the student with the dignity of God. The Principal and Pastor will determine if a post is within or not within compliance of school regulation. Discipline depends on the situation. Discipline can range from lunch detention, after school detention, in school suspension, out of school suspension, or expulsion

Parents are our students' first teachers and models. Parents are also asked to model Catholic/Christian behavior on and off campus. As stated in Luke 10:25-37 "You shall, love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Any parent who does not model this behavior, and this includes social media posts will be asked to come in for a conference. Parents must remember we are partners in their child's education.

THE ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENT PRAYER

I, a St. Jude student, am a child and servant of God.

I strive to respect others as Jesus did and love all around me as myself.

I value my precious right of free will and show respect for that right by taking responsibility for my choices, both good and bad.

I value my Catholic education. I show appreciation for my parents' sacrifice by being prepared for class and by respecting teachers, administrators, fellow students, and materials, all of which contribute to my education.

I strive to be on time for school and classes, for in being on time, I present myself ready to do God's work.

I strive to complete all work correctly and on time, for in doing so, I praise God in thanksgiving for the gift of a capable mind.

I thank God for the gift of my holy body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. I show Him thanks by keeping my appearance neat, clean, and modest.

I will do my best to be honest in all my endeavors, both academic and personal.

However, I know that for today, God calls me to be a model student. I will answer that call by giving Him my best at all times each and every day.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

St. Jude Regional Catholic School Song

With our hearts so loyal,
 Ever true, to St. Jude School.
We will try our best in every
 way, Obey each rule.
And as the years go by,
 Many things
we'll learn. But
forming Christ-like
souls, Is our main
concern.

Through the years we'll study, work, and
 play. And soon we'll find,
That the years spent here were fruitful
 ones, With God in mind.
We'll kneel and say a prayer,
 Asking him to bless,
Each and every day at Dear St.
 Jude's, With happiness!

**THE PASTOR AND PRINCIPAL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO
MAKE CHANGES TO THE HANDBOOK AT ANY TIME.**