



Saint Jerome School

Frequently Asked Questions

General questions:

- Are all students Catholic?
 - No. Although our school is rooted in the teachings of our faith, not all students are Catholic, nor are they required to be. We welcome students of all faiths.
 - All students benefit from a focus on traditional values and teaching methods.
- How can parents engage with the school community?
 - Parents are encouraged to make an active connection with their children's teachers, volunteer for lunch or recess duty, help out with an activity or suggest a new opportunity for the students or school community.
 - Parents are invited to share their time and talent by creating a club, coaching a team, enhancing the learning experience in a classroom, or making a presentation to the whole school. If you have something unique to share, we want to hear about it!
 - There is an active Parent Council that runs many social functions and fundraising events. You are encouraged to come to a meeting, become a class representative, or chair a committee. We are always looking for new members and new ideas.
 - There are frequent coffee hours in the parking lot during morning drop off where parents gather for conversation and caffeine.

First Day of School:

- When is the first day of school?
 - Students start school on the Wednesday after Labor Day. Students attend for three half days on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and return for a full day on the following Monday.
- How will my child be dismissed on the first day?
 - On the first day, students are dismissed at the door where they entered; K0, K1, K2 and all first floor students are dismissed ONLY to waiting parents or a person designated by the parent and positively identified to the school. Teachers in grades 1-6 escort their students to the appropriate door to ensure the child is being greeted by a parent or designated person.
- What should my child wear on the first day of school?
 - Your child should wear his or her school uniform. The optional warm weather uniform may be worn until October 1.
- What shall I send to school with my child on the first day?
 - Your child should bring a snack and any supplies that the classroom teacher requested. Teachers will distribute supply lists and summer reading lists on "Step Up Day" or at the play date for K0 through K2 students in August.
- What is "Step Up Day"?
 - "Step Up Day" is scheduled on Monday, during the last week of school. From 9:00 am to 10:00 am, students presently at Saint Jerome School and those newly enrolled for September, visit the classrooms that they will be in the following September. This day offers students an opportunity to meet their teacher, meet their new classmates, and see the classroom.

Arrivals/Dismissals:

- What is the morning arrival procedure?
 - Students in grades K2-8 generally arrive at school 10-15 minutes before the school bell rings at 8:15 am. Each morning, a teacher is on duty starting at 8:05 pm.
 - K0 and K1 students should be brought to the greeting door between 8:00 am and 8:05 am.
 - Extended day students may arrive at 7:20. Students will be met at the front door.
 - K2-8 students arrive by bus or get dropped off no earlier than 10-15 minutes before the start of day when there is a faculty member outside to supervise. During inclement weather, students are dropped at the back door for immediate entry.
 - K0 and K1 students arrive at 8:00- 8:05. Parents/guardians should park their cars in the front parking lot near the grassy hill near Bridge Street and walk their child to either the center door or gym doors where they will be met by their teacher and escorted to the K0 or K1 classroom.
 - When the bell is rung at 8:15, K2-8 students line up by grade with K2 starting at the farthest right, looking at the school, and going up by grade level to the left.
 - The teachers take their students in by grades to gather for prayer in the gym.
- Who supervises?
 - K2-8: There is a teacher on duty 10 minutes before the bell rings at 8:15 am.
 - K0 and K1: There will be at least one staff member per class on duty to greet students as they arrive.
- How shall I drop off my child at school?
 - You may drop off your child either by parking your car in the parking lot in the front or side of the building near the church and having your child accompany you to the enclosed play area or you may drop off your child at the back of the school in the drop off line and continue through the drop off area, exiting through the back lot entrance.
 - In the mornings, there is NO parking in the rear parking lot.
- How do I know my child's bus schedule?
 - The bus schedule is published in the newspapers. Over the summer, Mrs. Madden will send the bus schedule to each family for the students in that family.
- How do I know if my child can take the bus?
 - Students need to live in Weymouth.
 - Students need to live more than 2 miles away from the school and be within the parish boundaries.
 - Students need to be in K2-Grade 8 to be eligible for transportation.
- How will my child be dismissed?
 - Students are dismissed from the rear, except for K1 and K0. K0 through grade 5 will ONLY be released to waiting parents.

Uniforms:

- For gym, do students wear the shorts for part of the year and sweatpants for part, or is it up to the parent?
 - Students may wear shorts from the beginning of the year until October 1 and from the Monday after April vacation until the end of the year.
- What is the regular uniform?
 - Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for information on the correct uniform for your student. The handbook available on Edline.
 - Donnelly's Uniform company is our official supplier. You can find them at http://www.donnelysclothing.net/store/index.php/jeromweymma_uniform/

Common Practices/School Events:

- What is a "Dress Down Day" and what is acceptable attire?
 - Dress Down Day takes place typically on the last Friday of the month. Students contribute \$1.00 or more to dress in casual clothes. There is also an option to contribute one amount at the beginning of the year to cover all dress down days. The money collected goes to a charity selected ahead of time by students and staff or recommended by families.
- What is Catholic Schools Week? What should I prepare for?
 - Catholic Schools Week starts on the last Sunday in January. During this week there are special activities such as an opening Mass, the school's Open House, a Spelling Bee, a Talent Show, a book fair, and a pep rally, to name a few. You will be given a schedule of events ahead of time.
- What is First Friday?
 - The first Friday of each month is an early dismissal (12:00 pm) for faculty meetings and professional development. The students attend 9:00 am Mass on each first Friday. K1 students do not attend first Friday Mass until January. Attendance times for K0 students are to be determined.
 - Students are required to wear uniforms on first Fridays.
 - Students should still bring a snack, but not a lunch.

Parties:

- Can I send in birthday treats for my child? Do I need to let the teacher know?
 - Yes. However, only treats from the Safe Snack list, found on Edline, are allowed. Please let the teacher know if you are going to send in snacks. We need to be very aware of special allergies in some classrooms. Your child's teacher and the school nurse will inform you.
- May I distribute party invitations at school?
 - Yes. So that we respect the feelings of all our students and do not unnecessarily hurt any child's feelings, party invitations may be given out only to all the girls for a girls' party, to all the boys for a boys' party, or to the whole class.
- How do the parties work for holidays?
 - Parent representatives may help the teacher plan holiday parties or your child's teacher will inform you of a classroom holiday celebration.

Typical Day:

- What days are for the specialists?
 - Monday is computer and band day. Latin for middle school students.
 - Tuesday is gym. Students wear their gym uniforms.
 - Wednesday is art. Computer programming and Latin for middle school.
 - Thursday is music or Spanish.
 - Friday is music or Spanish.
- What is allowed at recess (jump ropes, balls, hacky sacks, four square)?
 - Jump ropes and hacky sacks are allowed. Hopscotch and four square are encouraged.
 - The students in the class of the teacher on recess duty can play with the class ball.
 - Middle school students can play football with the supervision of the teacher on duty.
 - We encourage parents to volunteer at recess times. Sign up to volunteer with Mrs. Madden. A list of what volunteers do at lunch and recess will be available at the start of the new year.

- How do I know if the classroom needs anything?
 - The classroom teacher will inform parents of any extra needs that they may assist with. These may include tissues, hand wipes, or other supplies. Providing extra supplies is strictly optional, but much appreciated.
 - What happens if my child forgets his/her lunch?
A lunch will ALWAYS be provided for a student who forgets his/her lunch. We will either have an extra hot lunch, vegetables, fruit or an energy bar available.

Communication:

- Edline is our primary communication tool with you.
 - There will be a parent orientation to Edline before the start of the school year at which time you will be shown how to use your unique activation code to access all your child's personal school information.
 - You may access Edline anytime by using the Edline link on stjeromeschoolweymouth.org or by going to http://www.edline.net/pages/St_Jerome_Elementary_School. All school information will be posted there.
 - **It is important to activate your account immediately to receive emailed messages from the school and your child's teacher.**
- In addition to my child's teacher, can I get a list of the other teachers including specialists?
 - Yes, the classroom teachers and specialists will all be listed in the Parent/Student Handbook and through Edline.
- What is the school's policy on cell phones? What if I need to get a message to my child during school hours?
 - Younger students may have cell phones only if they are turned off and kept in their backpack.
 - Middle school students will place their phones in a basket in their classrooms.
 - If you need to contact your child during the day, please call the main office and we will get a message to your child.
- Whom can I call with questions?
 - Depending on your question, you may call or email your child's teacher, Mrs. Madden in the main office, the nurse, or Mrs. Puleo, the principal. You may also contact the parent class representative for your child's grade. The representatives' names will be given to you at the start of next year.
- How do I contact the teacher? If they do have emails, is there a way to link to them on the website?
 - The teachers all have e-mails found on Edline. Their e-mail address is the teacher's last name followed by a hyphen, the grade he/she teaches, and "@stjeromeschoolweymouth.org"
- What is the family folder and when does it come home?
 - The family folder is one of our communication tools and is used when we have written hard copy material to send home. Lunch menus are sent home monthly and are also posted to Edline. The folder is typically sent home with the oldest child on Wednesdays.
- What news will I receive electronically by email or through Edline?
 - Our weekly newsletter will be sent through weekly e-mails and will also be posted on Edline.
 - How We Lived the Mission is sent out by email each week.

We are looking forward to a great year with your family!