

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
PARISH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2019
8TH GRADE
PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

*“Seek in reading
and you will find in meditation;
Knock in prayer
and it will be opened to you in contemplation.”*

St. John of the Cross

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of this Handbook is to improve the quality of communication between parents, students, faculty, administration and high schools. It contains information about 8th Grade Events and Activities and High Schools. The Handbook will provide some answers to your questions and a few dates for your calendar.

SJCPS endorses no high school mentioned in this Handbook. All data is printed with their permission. The material presented is for your convenience and is as accurate and current as possible. Please be aware that this information is subject to change. **High school web sites should be consulted throughout the school year.**

This information is a supplement to the SJC Parish School Parent/Student Handbook. Please review the Behavior Expectations and Consequences sections. The same school policies apply to this Handbook.

Please Note:

- **Please print and return the signed Signature Sheet** (the last page of this Handbook) to the attention of **Mrs. Pam DeCesare by Friday, August 31st**. Be sure that both the 8th grader and one parent sign the form.
- 8th Grade Coordinators will send an email regarding signing up to volunteer for 8th Grade Activities.
- Volunteers must complete all **Safe School Requirements** before chaperoning any school event. Safe School Requirements are outlined on the school website under the Parents tab. Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Wingert in the school office at 708-246-4454 or wingert@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us.

The information in this Handbook is not to be reproduced without expressed written permission of the SJC Parish School Administration. This Handbook is revised annually.

8TH GRADE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Monday, Aug. 20 9:00-10:00AM	<i>Meet the Teacher</i>
Friday, Sept. 21 7:00-9:00PM	<i>Student Council Dance - MPR</i> Students follow out of uniform dress code
Wednesday, Sept. 26	<i>Confirmation Small Faith Groups 7:45am Mass and Meeting</i>
Tuesday, Oct. 9 7:00-8:00PM	<i>High School Information Night – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS</i>
Thursday, Oct. 18 1:00–4:00 & 5:00- 8:00PM	<i>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</i> Eighth graders must attend with their parents. Dismissal @ 12:00
Friday, Oct. 19 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00PM	<i>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL</i> Eighth graders must attend with their parents.
Thursday, Oct. 25	<i>Confirmation Small Faith Groups 7:45am Mass and Meeting</i>
Saturday, Oct. 27 12:00PM	<i>Day of the Spirit - MPR</i> The day ends after 5:00pm Mass; a snack is provided
Wednesday, Oct. 31 1:30PM	<i>Halloween Parade and Party - School</i> After lunch, the eighth graders and their first grade buddies dress in costumes and parade throughout the school. The Room Parents organize the homeroom parties following the parade.
Thursday, Nov. 8 6:30-7:30PM	<i>Confirmation Sponsor Meeting – Parish Center</i> Candidates and Sponsors attend
Friday, Nov. 9 6:30-7:30PM	<i>Confirmation Sponsor Meeting – Parish Center</i> Candidates and Sponsors attend
Wednesday, Nov. 28	<i>Eighth Grade Pictures - School</i> Pictures are taken in both dress clothes and caps & gowns. Boys are to wear a collared dress shirt, tie, and dress pants under their gowns. A picture in cap and gown must be selected for the class composite.
Thursday, Nov. 29	<i>Confirmation Small Faith Groups 7:45 Mass and Meeting</i>
Saturday, Dec. 1	<i>Catholic High School Exams</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 4	LION Tours (Information will be sent home with students)
Tuesday, Dec. 11	<i>Confirmation Small Faith Groups - Prayer Service - School</i>

- Friday, Jan. 18** *Yearbook Photos /Graduation Retakes (There is a \$10 charge of grad picture retakes.)*
- Friday, Feb. 1** *Confirmation Rehearsal–Church (6:30PM or 7:30PM)*
- Sat., Feb. 2 – 10AM or 2PM** *Confirmation*
- Thursday, Feb. 14**
1:00–4:00PM, 5:00-8:00PM *Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences - Optional*
Eighth graders **must** attend with parents- Dismissal at noon.
No school on 2/15
- Friday– Feb. – May**
3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 4/12
4/26, 5/3, 5/10 *Eighth Grade Fortnightly Dance Program (7:00 – 8:30PM)*
- There are 7 instructional sessions, each with a different theme. More information will be sent home at a later date. Additional chaperoning assistance will be requested for each dance class. May 10rd final review and showcase for parents.
- Friday, March 8** *8th Grade Retreat – Parish Center*
- May - TBA** *Lyons Township Fitness Day Testing - LTHS*
Mrs. Maley will send information home to the parents of **those students who qualify**. Parental permission slips are required.
- Wednesday, May 8** *Spotlight On STREAM Night*
- Monday, May 13** *May Crowning and Ribbons Ceremony – Church 11:00AM*
The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin will be followed by the presentation of the traditional ribbons. A class photo will be taken. The Parent Association Hospitality Committee hosts a luncheon in the Parish Center for eighth grade students and teachers.
- Friday, May 17** *Memorial Games - Gym*
The students of the eighth grade homerooms play basketball games against each other until a winning team is determined. Proceeds of the evening, which come from admission, food sales and a raffle, are donated as a gift from the class. 8th graders make posters and banners, decorate T-shirts, learn dance routines, create skits, and practice basketball skills. 7th and 8th grade parents work together on Memorial Games; 8th grade parents organize the event and 7th grade parents work the evening of the games. More information will be sent home during second semester. T-shirt cost is included in the Graduation Fee.
- Thursday, May 23** *End of Year Class Trip – Report to Homeroom by 8:30AM*
The fee for this event is included in the Graduation Fee.
Details and permission slips will be provided

Tuesday, May 28
9:15AM

1st – 8th Grade Awards for Student Body – School Gym

7:00-8:30PM

8th Grade Awards Night - Gym

This is the presentation of awards to the Class of 2019. 8th grade students and parents are invited to attend. The 8th grade Room Parents decorate the gym;

Wednesday, May 29
11:00AM

First Grade Buddy Lunch

The first and eighth graders share lunch on school grounds with their first grade buddy. This is organized by the first grade Room Parents.

Thursday, May 30
5:00PM

Mass and Graduation - Church

This is a solemn traditional ceremony. Caps, gowns and ribbons are worn. The Parish Hospitality committee provides refreshments in the Parish Center following graduation. **Students should arrive at Church at 4:30PM.**

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS:

Academic competitions are offered throughout the year. Such opportunities are selected and planned by teachers in their subject areas.

DRESS CODE:

MAY CROWNING, AWARDS NIGHT, AND GRADUATION

These are very special events, two of which take place in Church. Clothes appropriate for church are required.

Girls: Dresses or skirts of appropriate length; blouses and tops with sleeves preferred, (spaghetti straps are not allowed); dress shoes that are comfortable and of reasonable height so the student will not trip or slip

Boys: Collared dress shirt, tie, suit or jacket & dress pants, dress shoes
(Please note: jacket is optional under graduation gown.)

Students **inappropriately dressed** will **not be allowed** to **participate in the ceremonies.**

Students are **not allowed** to have a **cell phone** during the ceremony.

GRADUATION CRITERIA:

Students graduating from St. John of the Cross Parish School must have successfully completed the elementary program by maintaining a grade of no lower than “D” in all major subject areas (Religion, Language Arts, Spanish, Math, Science, Social Studies) and must receive a passing grade on the U.S. Constitution and State of Illinois examinations. All academic work must be completed in conjunction with all subject areas including Fine Arts classes (i.e. Music, Art, PE, etc.). Students who received an “F” in any major area will be required to successfully complete a summer school program or be privately tutored throughout the summer to enhance learning before a diploma will be issued. Students are also required to complete 20 service experiences during their 8th Grade Year as part of the Confirmation Program. In addition, all school owned materials, iPads, LRC books/DVDs, sports uniforms, etc. must be returned or paid for prior to receiving a diploma.

GRADUATION FEE:

This fee is currently \$270 and will offset most expenses during the eighth grade year. Such expenses include a class photo, cap and gown, diploma, awards, printing costs, ribbons, Memorial Games shirt, Great America trip and retreat costs.

TRANSCRIPT FEE:

There will be a \$5 fee for each report card and/or test score requested. Please allow 24 hours for the documents to be ready for pick-up.

NON-SCHOOL RELATED SOCIAL EVENTS:

In the past, there have been outside student graduation parties, a videotape, a Washington DC Trip, an eighth grade parent Fall Coffee and a get-together following the May Crowning and Ribbons Ceremony. These events are organized by eighth grade parents, **INDEPENDENT of SCHOOL or the PARENT ASSOCIATION.**

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Each individual Catholic high school designs and implements a pre-admission marketing program that enables potential students and their parents/guardians to make an informed decision regarding the choice of high school. The diversity of educational programs available throughout our schools can provide the best match and fit between potential students and our school programs. Elementary parents assume the responsibility to research various high school options, attend open houses, and have their child participate in shadow days.

Catholic High Schools

BENET ACADEMY

2200 Maple
Lisle, IL 60532

www.benet.org

(630) 969-6550

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL

10001 S. Pulaski Avnue
Chicago, IL 60655

www.brrice.org

(773) 429-4300

FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL

www.fenwickfriars.com

IC CATHOLIC PREP 217 Cottage Hill Avenue Elmhurst, IL 60216	www.iccatholicprep.org (630) 530-3460
LA LUMIERE SCHOOL (A coeducational lay Catholic Boarding and Day College-preparatory school.) 6801 North Wilhelm Road La Porte, Indiana, 46350	www.lalumiere.org (219) 326-7450
MARIST HIGH SCHOOL 4200 W. 115 TH Street Chicago, IL 60655	www.marist.net (773) 881-5300
MONTINI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 19 W 070 16th Street Lombard, IL 60148	www.montini.org (630) 627-6930
MOTHER MCAULEY 3737 W. 99 th Street Chicago, IL 60655	www.mothersmcauley.org (773) 881-6500
MT. CARMEL 6410 S. Dante Avenue Chicago, IL 60637	www.mchs.org (773) 324-1020
NAZARETH ACADEMY 1209 W Ogden Ave. LaGrange Park, IL 60526	www.nazarethacademy.com (708) 354-0061
ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP 1076 W Roosevelt Rd. Chicago, IL 60608	www.ignatius.org (312) 421-5900
ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL 10900 W. Cermack Road. Westchester, IL 60154	www.stjoeshs.org (708) 562-4433
ST. LAURENCE HIGH SCHOOL 5556 W. 77 th Street Burbank, IL 60459	www.stlaurence.com (708) 458-6900
ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL 7740 S. Western Avenue Chicago, IL 60620 (773) 925-6600	www.stritahs.com (773) 925-6600
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL 7574 Division St. River Forest, IL 60305	www.trinityhs.org (708) 771-8383

**(PLEASE CHECK HIGH SCHOOL WEB SITES FOR OPEN HOUSE DATES
AND UPDATED INFORMATION.)**

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM - December 1, 2018

The Catholic High School entrance exam will be administered at Archdiocesan Catholic High Schools on Saturday morning, December 1, 2018. In general, this test serves as an entrance as well as an initial placement test for the high schools. All schools listed on the previous pages require the student to test at their facility. PLEASE CHECK HIGH SCHOOL WEB SITES PRIOR TO THE EXAM FOR UPDATED TEST TIMES AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

Prospective students may pre-register for the entrance exam at their first choice high school in mid November. Pre-registration will remain open up until the date of the exam. It is important for students to take the entrance exam at their first choice school as merit-based scholarships are often tied with testing at a particular school. Each high school will establish its own make-up dates for students unable to attend the December 2nd exam. The entrance exam fee is \$25 per tester.

The Catholic High Schools will send out their acceptance/non-acceptance/wait list letters and test results in mid-February. (The date for this mailing is set by the Archdiocese and is the same for all testing schools.) Please allow time for delivery as postal service varies in different areas. Many of the schools will send a packet of materials with the acceptance letters; the packet may include information regarding registration/placement, other proficiency tests, summer school, parent orientation, freshman get-togethers, etc.

Entrance Exam Preparation:

Arco's Master the Catholic High School Entrance Exam and Barron's How to Prepare for the COOP/HSPT contain sample Catholic High School entrance exams and test questions.

Test preparation assistance may also be available at:

- Sylvan Learning Center (Woodridge) (331)481-8951
- The Huntington Learning Center (Downers Grove) (630)963-3359
(LaGrange Park) (708)980-0308

Financial Aid/Assistance:

Most Catholic High Schools offer financial aid/academic scholarships. The contact person listed on the Catholic High School Open House pages can provide you with more information and direct you to the appropriate financial person at that specific school.

The Reverend Joseph F. McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship Fund is available to SJC high school parishioners (including incoming freshmen) through the SJC Women's Club. Watch the church bulletin for details. Applications are available through the Pastor, School Principal, Director of Youth Catechesis or Crossroads Coordinator and are submitted between Jan. 15th and Feb. 15th. Notification is in March. All information and recipients remain confidential. Any questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Mrs. Ginny Grecco (708-246-7371).

STATEMENT OF FAIRNESS (OCS High School Manual – 2018) :

Catholic High Schools abide by all applicable policies of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the IHSA. In doing so, Catholic High Schools do not promise or offer athletic scholarships of any kind. Violations of IHSA policies may result in loss of eligibility for the student, coach and/or school. In recognition of our shared ministry, Catholic High Schools also do not promise, predict or otherwise allude to specific dollar amounts regarding tuition assistance or financial aid before a student takes the entrance exam. Catholic High Schools promote the best attributes of their own school while respecting the legacy and traditions of Catholic High Schools.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION:

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

4900 S. Willow Springs Road
LaGrange, IL 60525

www.lths.net

(708)579-6500

HINSDALE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

5500 S. Grant Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521

hc.hinsdale86.org

(630)570-8000

HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

7401 S. Clarendon Hills Road
Darien, IL 60561

hc.hinsdale86.org

(630)468-4000

If you have authorized release of your student's name, it will be forwarded to your district high school by SJCPS. District high schools will then contact parents by mail, email, or both. These mailings will contain important information regarding enrollment and residency requirements.

If your 8th grader tests at a district school but decides NOT to attend, please contact the admissions office of your child's decision so the school can provide spaces in courses for those planning to attend.

LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

The traditional 8th grade Shadowing Experience has changed. 8th grade LION tours will now be given for Catholic school students. All private/parochial schools are invited to attend fall LION tours on December 4th from 1:00 – 2:30pm at the South Campus Performing Arts Center. Every private/parochial school is invited for the same day and time since they will be provided small group tours and not individual tours as in the past. Transportation will be the responsibility of the student to and from LTHS. SJC students will need to be signed out of school by a parent in order to attend. More information will be sent home at a later date.

SHADOWING INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES :

Shadowing is a wonderful opportunity for the 8th Grade student to spend a school day with a freshman student at a high school of choice. Every school has a different way to handle this opportunity, but following are a few items to consider:

- **Register as soon as possible for a shadow appointment.** Each high school can accommodate a limited number of 8th Grade students per day.
- If possible, schedule a shadow date on October 8th, or November 2nd, the two days SJGPS is not in session this fall when high schools may be open. (Some high schools may be in session on October 8 – Columbus Day, and some sponsor a special “shadow day”.)
- If you must shadow on a date on which SJGPS is in session, please choose a day when you will not miss a major test or project. **Written parental permission must be sent to your homeroom teacher at least three days prior to the scheduled shadow date. Please also notify the office of the absence.**
- The 8th Grade Student should bring something to read on the shadow date in case the assigned freshman student has a study hall or test that day.
- The following are some questions you may want to ask the high school admissions/recruiting counselor when you make your appointment to shadow:
 - 1) What is the dress code for the day? For example, most Catholic High Schools require the boys to wear a shirt, tie, dress pants and school shoes and the girls to wear a skirt or dress pants, blouse (with sleeves) and comfortable school shoes (no heels).
 - 2) Can you purchase lunch in the cafeteria or should you bring your own? (Some schools provide lunch for the students - check with each school.)
 - 3) Are you assigned a freshman student or can you make a request?
 - 4) Does your parent need to sign you in and out that day?
 - 5) Are you allowed to use the school’s transportation that day?
- Enjoy your shadowing experience. Please remember, you are a representative of St. John of the Cross School. We want to be proud of our students at all times.

St. John of the Cross Parish School operates under the umbrella of the Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago and follows those principles set forth in the Catholic High School Recruitment Manual.

**8TH GRADE PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK
CLASS OF 2019**

SIGNATURE SHEET

I have read the SJC Parish School Class of 2019 8th Grade Parent/Student Handbook and will support the guidelines stated within the Handbook.

Student Name (PRINT)

Student Signature

Second Student Name (PRINT)

Second Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please return this form to the **School Office,**
Attention: Mrs. Pam DeCesare by FRIDAY, AUGUST 31st.