2025-2026 Student Handbook

SAINT JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL

Somers Point, New Jersey

INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools serve a vital role in the Church's mission of providing young people with a strong formation in the Faith: they have a particular goal in helping Catholic children and young people grow in faithfulness and apostolic zeal. Saint Joseph Regional School (SJRS) is open to all who wish to learn in a Catholic environment. By our works and example, we evangelize our students, their families, and the broader school community. Since humankind is created in the image and likeness of God, all human activity is to image His likeness, and is to be undertaken in an honest and human way, always expressing the will of the Creator. Such activity includes work, sports, hobbies, social interactions and interpersonal relations. Catholic schools must reflect the faith which the Church has received from her divine founder.

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Joseph Regional School, founded in 1958, strives to foster the development of the whole child within a gospel-centered environment. We encourage students to question, seek understanding, and practice acceptance. We recognize the dignity of the human person and help students to develop mature relationships with God, themselves, and the world around them.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of Saint Joseph Regional School is the total integration of Christian living and academic pursuits to develop the whole child. To carry out this process of education, the school endeavors to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the gospel spirit of freedom, charity, and respect towards all.

Bound by charity to one another and to their students, and infused with apostolic spirit, the teachers at Saint Joseph Regional School give witness to Christ by their lives, as well as by their teachings. They are committed to the highest level of educational professionalism and creativity.

Saint Joseph Regional School strives to foster in the students positive images and a spirit of inquiry and discovery that will inspire them to attain a mastery of curriculum commensurate with their potential. The students are provided with fundamental knowledge and usable skills sufficient to prepare them for life's work. A sensitivity to cultural and aesthetic experience is also encouraged. The students are urged to extend their interests and concerns beyond themselves into the total

community, in order to foster in them a sense of responsible freedom and desire to acquire those qualities of heart and mind necessary for effective service to others.

We recognize and work toward helping the students develop their unique personalities. We encourage the students to nurture a relationship with God and each other in our school community which will be evident in the manner in which they respectfully relate to teachers and peers.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that:

- **Religious education focuses on developing moral values within the Roman Catholic tradition - life choices should reflect faith education.**
- **Participation in the Liturgy, the Sacraments, common prayer, and Christian service contributes to the development of the students' faith.**
- **A collaborative relationship between faculty and administration creates a positive learning environment.**
- **Knowledge constantly expands students' growth.**
- **Students' talents and successes should be celebrated in the school community. Students should take responsibility for their choices and actions.**
- **Promoting a positive self-image is integral to our school community.**
- **All members of our school community accept and appreciate cultural diversity**

VISION STATEMENT

Students who successfully complete the program at Saint Joseph Regional School will:

1. **Demonstrate a proficiency in all subject areas**
2. **Know basic beliefs, practices, and traditions of the Roman Catholic faith**
3. **Reach out in service to others in faith, make a commitment to community, and develop a passion for peace and justice**
4. **Love and respect self and others with dignity as children of God and members of "One Family in Christ Jesus"**
5. **Set standards and serve as leaders and examples to others, contributing to society by their personal gifts and talents**
6. **Find joy in life through an appreciation of the simple things**
7. **Read and think comprehensively, critically, and creatively about contemporary global issues**
8. **Work cooperatively, appreciating the unique gifts, talents, and skills of each other**

9. **Communicate effectively**
10. **Make good, moral decisions regarding life issues and demonstrate responsible stewardship for all God's creations**
11. **Have an active relationship with God and the Catholic Church demonstrated through prayer, worship, and Sacramental life**

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

As a community whose primary mission is the teaching of the Faith, SJRS maintains an environment that is true to the teachings of the Church, and it is important that parents/guardians understand this and accept this. By choosing a Catholic school, parents/guardians recognize that they are enrolling their children in a school environment that is shaped by the teachings of the Catholic Church and governed according to those religious beliefs.

Parents/guardians must accept that certain standards of behavior and comportment are expected, and agree to support these standards and the mission of the school.

If parents/guardians or students oppose Church teaching publicly, or in a way that disrupts or interferes with the teaching mission of the Church, they will be engaged pastorally in an attempt to resolve the differences by explaining the teaching and the reasons for the teaching, and kindly encouraging the parent/guardian or student to respect such teaching. Parents/guardians are advised that continued opposition may result in disenrollment of the student from the school.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Catholic Church teaches, "By creating the human being man and woman, God gives personal dignity equally to the one and the other. Each of them, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept (his or her) sexual identity." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2392). SJRS strives to be welcoming, respectful, and sensitive to each student's unique needs, while always being clear about Church teachings. Because the mission of a Catholic school is to form students in the Faith, we must always be true to the teachings of that Faith, even -indeed especially- when those teachings do not suit society's currently-popular views. Some accommodations to address particular needs may be advisable and possible, but a Catholic school cannot provide accommodations when doing so would in any way compromise the teachings of the Church, or introduce confusion about its teachings.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Before Care starts at 7:00 AM
All students expected in the building by 7:50 AM
School Dismissal 2:45 PM
Early school dismissal 12:00 PM

- **The morning bell is at 8:00 AM, students are expected to be in their homeroom at that time.**
- **Students who arrive in their homeroom after the bell are late. Documentation of days tardy will be found on the FACTS SIS, the parent portal.**
- **For every three (3) tardies an automatic detention will be scheduled for students in grades 3 to 8. Detentions will be served after school from 2:45 to 3:45 on Tuesdays or Thursdays, as assigned.**

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students arriving by car for Before Care between 7:00 am and 7:29 am may be dropped off in the front lot.

Students arriving by car from 7:30 am on, must use the back parking lot for drop-off. The front lot from 7:30 am to 8:00 am is reserved for buses that transport our students and for cyclists ONLY.

No student may enter the classroom section of the building unless supervised by a staff member. This rule also applies to students in the Before Care and ABC Club (After Care).

On full school days the parking lot gates open at 2:25 pm. On early dismissal days the parking lot gates open at 11:40 am.

The police will monitor cars on Harbor Lane blocking traffic per City Ordinance. Please do not stop on Harbor Lane. Remember, most schools have traffic issues at dismissal. It is a ten minute issue. Please be patient.

Students being picked up by car at the end of the day will be dismissed to parents in the back parking lot. PARENTS PICKING UP PRE-K STUDENTS ONLY ARE TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD FROM THE PRE-K OUTSIDE CLASSROOM DOORS. ALL OTHER PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE ON THE BACK LOT TO WAIT FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

- **Pre-Kindergarten Dismissal – 2:35 PM to 2:55 PM (Doors 16 and 17)**
- **Kindergarten Dismissal – 2:40 PM (Doors 14 and 15)**
- **Grades One through Eight Dismissal – 2:45 PM (Grade 1 - doors 14 and 15, Grades 2 & 3 - doors 12 and 13, Grades 4 through 8 - doors 14 and 15)**
- **ALL bus riding students will exit through doors 1 and 2**

STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO WALK DOWN HAWK LANE TO HARBOR LANE OR SUNSET AVENUE TO PLEASANT AVENUE USING THE NEW SIDEWALKS, PREFERABLY WITH A PARENT, AS THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE. The front parking lot is for bus dismissal and cyclists ONLY. Students should leave for home promptly at 2:45 PM unless they have a school sponsored activity after school. IF THE PARENT'S ARRIVAL IS NOT IMMINENT, THE STUDENT WILL BE TAKEN TO THE AFTERCARE PROGRAM AND WILL BE RELEASED TO PARENTS UPON ARRIVAL. PARENTS WILL BE CHARGED THE DAILY FEE FOR AFTERCARE.

Students may not vary departure plans without a written note from parent or guardian. Only persons that are designated by parents in writing have permission to take children home.

Although we realize that another parent may, out of kindness, offer to take the child home, this will not be permitted without the office staff first phoning the child's parent for written permission/verification via email.

In regard to buses, students may not ride any bus except the one to which they have been assigned. If there is an occasion that a student must take another bus, the student must be a bus rider and can only take a bus within the district they live. A note must be written by a parent and approved by the office. This is an insurance regulation issue.

NO PARENT MAY TAKE A CHILD out of any dismissal line WITHOUT office authorization. This is for the protection of your child.

If you know there will be a change in the 'end of the day' routine for your child (bus, Aftercare), please send a note to the teacher that morning or phone the office staff no later than 1:00 pm. Do not communicate changes via email as teachers and office staff may not have the opportunity to check emails until after dismissal.
Street crossing guards are positioned at the corner of Harbor Lane and Shore Road. Guards are on duty for arrival and dismissal.

ATTENDANCE

New Jersey School Law and the Diocese of Camden stipulate that Catholic Schools meet or exceed the New Jersey 180-day attendance policy for public school districts in New Jersey (Policy Book 406).

ABSENCES

1. **When a student is unable to attend school, parents are required to email: absent@sjrs.org or phone the callout line 609 927-2228 x 8, by 8:30 AM to report a student absent, stating whether he/she is sick or is out for another reason.**
2. **If a parent does not notify the school by 8:30 AM, SJRS may contact a parent to confirm the reason for the student's absence. Please contact us for safety reasons.**
3. **An absence may be deemed excused with proper documentation. For example: Illness – Doctor's note; Funeral – Parent note; High School visit – Note from the high school visited. Three consecutive absences require a doctor's note upon returning to school.**
4. **The following will apply:**
    - **10 days unexcused absences - a warning letter will be sent home**
    - **12 days unexcused absences - a meeting/phone call will be scheduled to discuss consequences**
    - **18 days unexcused absences - Student will forfeit the privilege of participation in all school-sponsored activities**

TARDINESS & EARLY RELEASE

In addition to recording days absent or late, the report card contains a space for recording early release and the impact this has on performance.

1. **For every three (3) tardies an automatic detention will be scheduled. Detentions will be served after school from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm on Tuesday or Thursday as assigned for students grades 3 to 8.**
2. **Early release at the parent's request should be used rarely. For every three (3) unexcused early releases an automatic detention will be scheduled. Detentions will be served after school from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm on Tuesday or Thursdays as assigned for grades 3 to 8.**

VACATIONS

Vacation days are not an excused absence. We discourage vacations during the school year. Students may have difficulty in keeping up with their classes. Students are responsible for subject matter missed during vacation time. The school office and teachers must be made aware of scheduled vacation. DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS FOR GRADE 1 THROUGH GRADE 8 TAKE PLACE THREE TIMES A YEAR. WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO AVOID VACATIONS DURING TESTING.

MAKE-UP TESTING DUE TO ABSENCE OR VACATION

If a student misses any tests or assignments due to 3 or more absences, he/she will have to make up any missed tests and assignments three days after his/her return to school. The purpose of this policy is to foster responsibility within the student.

FACULTY MEETINGS

The School Calendar provides for one afternoon per month to be allocated to Faculty Meetings. Notification of these meetings is noted on the monthly calendar (sjrs.org). Ordinarily, faculty meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month. Dismissal on those days is noted below.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

On the days when students are dismissed at 12:00 PM please be aware that cars will NOT have access to the back parking lot until 11:40 AM to ensure the safety of our students and to prevent traffic tie-ups on Shore Road and Harbor Lane.

Please do not arrive at the school prior to the 11:40 AM opening of the back parking lot. Again, please do not block Harbor Lane per the City Ordinance If a back-up occurs, we may have to ask parents to circle the block until we are able to accommodate entrance into the back lot. We appreciate your patience and cooperation if/when this occurs.

- **Pre-Kindergarten Early Dismissal Days – 11:55 AM**
- **Kindergarten Early Dismissal Days – 11:55 AM**
- **Grades One through Eight Early Dismissal Days – 12:00 PM**

SCHOOL CLOSING EMERGENCIES

- **If we must close school due to inclement weather or another type of emergency, we will contact each family by way of the automated telephone, email, or text notification system.**
- **It is important that you update any changes in your telephone number or emergency contact information in FACTS SIS (formerly RenWeb), so you are sure to receive the emergency information.**
- **Consider adding grandparents, neighbors, or friends phone numbers and email addresses within your FACTS account for emergency messages.**
- **Please check that you have a minimum of two email addresses and two phone numbers within your FACTS account.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

The goals of our code of conduct are to:

- **Form a true Christian citizen**
- **Establish a viable learning environment**
- **Teach respect for the rights of others**
- **Cultivate good character traits**
- **Give ample opportunity for the development of leadership**

Teachers have authority and responsibility to maintain good discipline in the classroom. School discipline policies are established and will be consistently enforced.

When a student is disruptive, the teacher will redirect the student. If the student's behavior does not change, the teacher may administer discipline, confer with the parent, or refer the situation to the principal depending on the infraction. Repeated infractions will result in additional disciplinary actions and parent notification.

We believe that when our students and families understand the reasons for our rules and routines, they accept them. For example, one routine within our school requires students on both the first floor and second floor to walk in single file without talking in our hallways. The halls are narrow and other classes are in session while additional students are transitioning from room to room. An additional routine requires students descending/ascending the stairs at any time during the school day, to walk in single file along the rail. This is especially important at dismissal as first floor students are merging with second floor students. Again, these routines are implemented for the safety and respect of all students.

The expectations of behavior are grounded in respect. Students and faculty should understand that one of the first obligations in a Catholic school is to respect the dignity of all members of the school community. We expect all SJRS students and faculty to uphold these standards of conduct on and off campus. Therefore, members of the school community are expected to:

- **Respect one another in word and action**
- **Respect each other by keeping hands and objects to oneself**
- **Respect school and each other's property**
- **Follow directions when given**
- **Always use appropriate language**
- **Maintain conduct becoming a student in a Catholic school**

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Students who disregard school rules, routines or policy, or exhibit a behavior which is counter-productive to the Catholic learning environment we endeavor to establish, may receive ANY of the following consequences:

- **Phone call home**
- **Detention**
- **In-School Suspension**
- **Out of School Suspension**
- **Expulsion**

The principal is the final authority in determining the level of consequence, based on the severity of the infraction and the effect the infraction has on the overall learning environment of the school and other students.

DETENTIONS

Detentions are issued for various reasons throughout the school year. Parents will be notified of the date and location of the detention by way of a Detention Notice, by hard copy.

This slip is to be signed and returned the following day. All after school detentions will be served on Tuesday or Thursday from 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm as assigned for students in grades three through eight.

Individual decisions will be made regarding detentions for students in grades 1 and 2.

Parents are asked to be PROMPT for 3:45 pm pick-up for detentions in the front parking lot.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME AREAS (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WHICH WOULD REQUIRE DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

BULLYING/INTIMIDATION/HARASSMENT/TEASING

At Saint Joseph Regional School we encourage the students to follow the teachings of Christ who in His life and words stressed the equality of all human beings. Every student at SJRS has the right to be comfortable and safe. All incidents of bullying/intimidation/harassment/teasing must be reported to a staff member immediately.

- **Students must show mutual respect for each other at all times in word and action.**
- **Students must refrain from using negative body language and negative facial expressions towards others.**
- **Students must not touch other students.**
- **Students must not bully, tease, or put down others.**

Infractions will be investigated and dealt with on an individual basis after the circumstances have been clarified. Parents are encouraged to assist us in our endeavor to eliminate words and actions that cause hurt and humiliation to children. At no time will such words or actions be deemed acceptable. Again, this includes negative body language and facial expressions toward others.

Parents and teachers must be vigilant and active in correcting bullying, harassment, teasing, and put-downs of any kind.

Parents and students are to report any incident or knowledge of someone having been teased, bullied, put down, or harassed IMMEDIATELY to the teacher, counselor or principal. Withholding this information for any reason including "not wanting to get someone in trouble" or fear of retaliation, does not help the situation and will make it worse.

INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA/TEXTING

- **Harassment of another by way of the Internet will not be tolerated and will be investigated.**
- **Any posting or text message conveying a threat of any kind will be investigated and will be referred to local law enforcement.**
- **Anyone who knows of any bullying or teasing within the school or on the Internet is to report the incident to a school official immediately.**

- **Any posting of inappropriate poses or behavior by a SJRS student is UNACCEPTABLE as is posting a picture/video of anyone in a SJRS uniform.**
- **Do not keep these incidents a secret. Take a screenshot of any unacceptable social media posts toward SJRS students and share it with a school official immediate**

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- **No student is permitted to have a turned-on cell phone or a smart watch in school.**
- **In grades 5 through 8, any cell phone/smart watch must be kept in the locked phone box, turned off, in their homeroom throughout the school day.**
- **Students must not call/text parents and parents must not call/text students during the school day.**
- **During the school day, parents and students may only communicate through the main office (609 927-2228, x 0 or x 103).**
- **Emergencies should be directed through the main office only.**
- **No student is permitted to use a cell phone/smart watch or other electronic device for recording on school premises. If a recording is created or posted on the internet, disciplinary action will occur.**
- **Cell phones/smart watches or other electronic devices not placed in the homeroom box, turned on, or used will be confiscated and returned only to parents.**

WEAPONS & THREATS

- **Guns, knives, or any other instrument construed or used as a weapon is a serious matter. The appropriate law enforcement officers will be notified, and the student will be expelled.**
- **Verbal, visual, or texted Internet posted threats of any kind are serious matters. The appropriate law enforcement officers will be notified, and the student will be expelled.**

The Superintendent of the Diocese of Camden has signed an official agreement, known as the Memorandum of Agreement, with local law enforcement agencies assuring them of our cooperation in these matters.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

The possession, sale, or use of alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the school grounds or buses is strictly forbidden. Violation of this rule will result in immediate expulsion and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

SMOKING

Smoking/vaping of any kind is strictly forbidden on school premises. Both the State of New Jersey and the Diocese of Camden mandate this policy.

GUM AND CANDY

The use of gum is forbidden on school premises, at school sponsored activities, and on the school buses. Candy/sweets are limited to special occasions during the school year (Valentine's Day, monthly birthday celebrations, etc. at the teacher's discretion.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

HOMEWORK

Homework plays an important role in the child's preparation for learning. It provides the practice and drill that reinforces classroom learning, and can provide opportunities for independent study, research, and creative thinking.

- **Incomplete or neglected homework on a regular basis has its effect on the student's academic progress as well as his/her study and conduct grade.**
- **Grade Kindergarten - Grade Five will have grade level homework appropriately assigned throughout the week.**
- **Grades Six through Eight: Any missed homework assignment must be completed by the next day. Once a student misses three homework assignments in a single subject, a detention will be administered and it will also impact the report card grade.**
- **Participation in outside activities is not an acceptable excuse for neglecting homework.**
- **It is important for parents to help the child prioritize his/her obligations and responsibilities.**
- **Students should carefully check their homework assignments before leaving school. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom after the teacher has exited. Likewise, they should be sure to take necessary books and papers with them.**
- **Students should not return to school because they forgot books. Students must be responsible to take the required books home with them.**
- **Homework assignments may be found on GOOGLE CLASSROOM.**

HONOR ROLL

The honor roll is a special recognition for academic and behavioral achievement. The honor roll is for students in grades four through eight. To qualify for the honor roll, one must achieve Principal's Honors, First Honors, or Second Honors according to these standards:

- **Principal's Honors: One must achieve "A+" in all major subjects and an "S" in all minor subjects and conduct.**
- **First Honors: One must achieve "A" or above in all major subjects and an "S" in all minor subjects and conduct.**
- **Second Honors: One must achieve a "B" or above in all major subjects and an "S" in all minor subjects and conduct.**

****No student will be awarded honors whose conduct grade is not an "S" or above.**

ACADEMIC CAUTION

A student in danger of failing, not working to potential, or receiving unsatisfactory marks in conduct will receive a mid-term notice.

Student's academic progress is available on FACTS SIS (RenWeb) and parents are urged to check their progress regularly, at a minimum, weekly.

In Grades 1-5, students will be graded on GENERAL CONDUCT by their homeroom teacher. This grade will be a reflection of their behavior throughout the day, with input from the various teachers with whom they interact.

In Grades 6-8, students' GENERAL CONDUCT grades will be based on their daily behavior in classrooms, lunchroom and recess, and it will also reflect detentions earned. (See below)

G = 0 detentions for conduct or academics during the marking period
S = 1 detention for conduct or academics during the marking period
NI = 2 detentions for conduct or academics during the marking period
U = 3 detentions or a suspension for conduct or academics during the marking period

Teachers may choose to administer detention for inappropriate behavior.

Two detentions in a marking period result in an immediate one week ineligibility period for extracurricular activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS/SPORTS

- **Any student/athlete who is injured must have a dated doctor's note stating he/she is excused from physical education/sports activities. He/she will then need a second doctor's note clearing him/her to return to physical education/sports activities.**
- **Any student who is injured and medically excused from participating in physical education/sports activities will not be allowed on the playing field or court. He/she may sit on the team's bench, but should not be participating in any pre-game warm up activities.**
- **Any athlete playing a school sport must have a sports physical on file in the nurse's office BEFORE tryouts. Physicals are good for one year. All paperwork can be found on the website.**

- **Athletes must attend a half day of school (minimum of 4 hours) to be eligible to attend a practice or play in a game.**
- **Any student with a doctor's note may not participate in recess until cleared.**
- **Any student repeating grade 8, may not participate on SJRS sports teams.**

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO GRADES AND CONDUCT

1. We provide a variety of extracurricular activities. Permission slips are required for participation, material or usage fees may be charged.

2. To participate in extracurricular activities students must maintain a grade of 74 or above in ALL subject areas, and must exhibit satisfactory conduct.

3. In addition to extracurricular exclusions for behavior, students who obtain a 73 or below in any subject or an NI or U in any subject may not participate in extracurricular activities for a period of one week, pending reevaluation. (See number 4 for the start of the one week exclusion from extracurricular activities.)

4. Students who receive two detentions within a marking period, may not participate for one week in extracurricular activities from the date of the last infraction. Each additional detention results in an additional one week of exclusion from extracurricular activities. Students who receive 73 or below as a grade in any subject, begin the one week exclusion from extracurricular activities on the date the report card is issued.

5. Any student who is suspended may not participate in extracurricular activities for two weeks from the date of the suspension, pending reevaluation.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Students playing on a team for Saint Joseph Regional School are expected to show good sportsmanship at all times. Team members are goodwill ambassadors for the school. Displays of temper will not be tolerated. If this occurs, a warning will be given. If not corrected, the student may be released from the team.

Respect for the coaches, referees, umpires, and opposing teams must be maintained at all times.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

UNIFORMS

ALL UNIFORMS ARE TO COME FROM FLYNN O'HARA UNIFORM COMPANY OR LAND'S END

- **Students are expected to dress according to school guidelines regarding clothing, hairstyle, jewelry, and makeup.**
- **Students are to maintain an appearance of neatness, which means shirts being tucked in at all times (exception: the banded shirts for girls) and slacks and kilts worn correctly at waist-level and kilts no shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee.**
- **Students who do not follow dress code will receive a dress code violation notice to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned the next day.**
- **A second dress code violation notice within a marking period, will result in a detention.**

Students may choose to wear the Regular Uniform throughout the school year. If this is their choice, they must wear shoes, not sneakers.

Boys Grade 1-5

Regular Year-Long Uniform

Navy Uniform Pants
Long or Short Sleeve White Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
School Sweater with Logo (Cardigan, Crew Neck or Vest) (Vest is encouraged)
Black or Brown Belt (4th & 5th Graders)
Navy, Black or Brown Solid Socks (to match pants or shoes)
Black or Dark Brown Shoes (Dirty Bucks recommended)
(NO casual shoes, such as: boat shoes, desert boots, Vans, Timbs, sneaker shoes, or any other casual shoe)

Boys Grade 1-8

Fall/Summer Uniform (optional)

Navy blue walking short
Short Sleeve White Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
Black or Brown Belt (4th – 8th Graders) (Solid only)
All White Sneakers and All White Socks (No 'no-shows', ankle, or tube socks)

Boys Grade 6-8

Regular Year-Long Uniform

Khaki Uniform Pants
White Dress Shirt (Long or Short Sleeve) **(Must button at the neck)**
School Tie (Purchased from Flynn O'Hara) (New this year - School colors)
School Vest with Logo (New this year - Vest only option)
Black or Brown Belt (Solid only)
Black or Brown Socks (Solid only) (to match pants or shoes)
Black or Dark Brown Dress Shoes (Dirty Bucks recommended)
(NO casual shoes, such as: boat shoes, desert boots, Vans, Timbs, sneaker shoes, or any other casual shoe)

Girls Grade 1-4

Regular Year-Long Uniform

SJRS Plaid Jumper (no shorter than 3 inches above the knee)
Long or Short Sleeve White Peter-Pan Collared Blouse
School Sweater with Logo (Cardigan)
Navy Blue Knee Highs (Fall & Spring)
Navy Blue Tights (Winter)
Navy Blue, Black or Dark Brown Shoes (Dirty Bucks recommended)

Girls Option for Regular Year-Long Uniform:
Navy Uniform Pants
Long or Short Sleeve White Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
School Sweater with Logo (Cardigan or Crew Neck)

Girls Grade 1-4

Fall/Summer Uniform (optional)

Navy Blue Skort or Walking Short (no shorter than 3 inches above the knee)
Short Sleeve White Banded Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
All White Sneakers and All White Crew Socks (Only)

Girls Grade 5-8

Fall/Summer Uniform (optional)

Navy Blue Skort or Walking Short (no shorter than 3 inches above the knee)
Short Sleeve White Banded Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
All White Sneakers and All White Socks (No 'no-shows', ankle, or tube socks)

Girls Grade 5-8

Regular Year Long Uniform

SJRS Plaid Kilt (no shorter than 3 inches above the knee)
Long or Short Sleeve Banded Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
School Sweater with Logo (Cardigan or Crew Neck)
Undergarments must be white/nude (Under the shirt)
Shorts or Bloomers under the kilt (Black or Navy Blue)
Navy Blue Knee Highs (Fall & Spring)
Navy Blue Tights (Winter)
GRADE 8 GIRLS ONLY MAY WEAR WHITE SOCKS FROM FLYNN O'HARA
Navy Blue, Black or Dark Brown Shoes (Dirty Bucks recommended)
(NO casual/fabric shoes, such as: Vans, Toms, Bobs, Skechers, sneaker shoes, or any other casual shoe)

Girls Option for Regular Year-Long Uniform:
Navy Uniform Pants
Long or Short Sleeve White Polo Shirt (School Name Embroidered on it)
School Sweater with Logo (Cardigan or Crew Neck)

GYM UNIFORM Grades 1-8 NEW Gym Uniform Logo - Both new & old logos will be permitted to be worn this school year

Students in grades 1–8 wear the standard gym uniform to school on gym day, once a week.

SUMMER: When summer uniforms are permitted, students are to wear the gym short (no shorter than 3 inches above the knee) and shirt, available at Flynn O'Hara and Land's End, with all white sneakers and All White Socks (No 'no-shows', ankle, or tube socks)
WINTER: When the winter uniforms are worn, students are to wear the gym shirt, sweatpants and sweatshirt, available at Flynn O'Hara and Land's End, with all white sneakers and All White Socks (No 'no-shows', ankle, or tube socks)

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AGE 3 & 4 AND KINDERGARTEN Boys and Girls

NEW Gym Uniform Logo - Both new & old logos will be permitted to be worn this school year

Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten (boys & girls) will follow the uniform schedule listed above as the Gym Uniform. Velcro sneakers are encouraged.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN students are to have an extra full set of uniforms in their classrooms.

JEWELRY AND MAKE-UP

- **Students are ONLY permitted to wear a regular watch (no SMART Watch), a ring, and a cross/religious medal underneath the student's blouse or shirt. No other type of necklace is permitted.**
- **Students are NOT permitted to wear bracelets of any kind.**
- **Girls may wear a single pair of post earrings, but no hoops or dangles of any size. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings.**
- **Students are not permitted to wear make-up of any kind. This includes fingernail polish, lipstick, eye liner, mascara, and/or face make-up. Acrylic nails are also prohibited. Students wearing make-up and/or nail polish will be sent to the nurse's office to remove it.**

HAIR

- **Girls' hair should be neatly groomed and a natural color.**
- **Girls' hair accessories should not be oversized.**
- **Bows & Headbands:**
    - **Navy, white, gray or our school plaid are the only acceptable colors. Wide, thick (sport like) are not acceptable.**
- **Boys' hair must be natural hair color, neatly groomed, and may not touch the collar, or fall below the ears or eyebrows. No extreme hair styles such as spikes, mohawks, shaved designs or logos are permitted. Boys' hair may not contain rubber bands or ties.**
- **Older boys are to be clean-shaven at all times.**

DRESS DOWN DRESS CODE

- **Appropriate clothing must be worn on dress down days.**
- **When we are in Fall/Summer Uniform, shorts are permitted, as long as they are no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.**
- **In winter uniform, shorts are not permitted. Pants can not be ripped, or have holes.**
- **Anyone wearing leggings/yoga pants must also wear a long top that covers.**
- **No strapless or tank tops permitted. All shoes must have a closed toe and have a back.**
- **Any student we feel is not appropriately dressed will either call home for a change of clothes or receive a dress code violation slip.**
- **Students in Grades 4 to 8 may not wear leggings/jeggings or yoga pants on dress down days.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Every effort will be made to keep the lines of communication between home and school open. Monthly calendars, news, flyers, and notices are either emailed, sent home with the students or are viewable on Google classroom.

- **Particular information to your child's class is available on their teacher's Google classroom.**
- **In case of an emergency, we will use our automated telephone, email and text contact system for immediate notification. Please be sure to update your contact information as it becomes necessary.**
- **General information of interest to all families can be found by going to the Parent Tab on the school website. Here you will find valuable resources and information.**
- ***Our diocese uses the FACTS SIS Parent Communication System (parent portal). Parents have access to their child's grades at any time during the school year. Incomplete homework assignments will be recorded for parents to view, along with test, quiz, and project scores. Attendance, behavioral issues, and other information is also available on the parent portal.***

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE/EMAIL/EMPLOYMENT

It is very important that the school has up-to-date address and phone number information. Please make the necessary updates on your Family Information Tab on FACTS SIS or notify the school immediately if you have any changes during the school year.

We must have a minimum of three contacts with phone numbers, in case of an emergency.

CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled when first quarter report cards are posted.

At any time if you have concerns, do not hesitate to phone or email the teacher to request a conference

BUS TRANSPORTATION

BUS CONDUCT

The following rules have been established in order to ensure the safety of all students who ride buses:

- **Only use your bus and assigned bus stop**
- **Behave in an orderly manner at the bus stop**
- **Do not play ball or run around at the bus stop**
- **All school rules of conduct apply to the bus as well**
- **Be respectful to the bus driver, follow all directions given by bus driver**
- **Remain seated, facing front, when the bus is in motion**
- **Talk quietly and make no unnecessary noise**
- **Do not talk to the bus driver unless it is necessary**
- **Keep head and arms inside the bus**
- **Use the seat belt as intended**
- **Do not litter the inside of the bus or throw anything out of the window**
- **Do not eat or drink on the bus**

Students given assigned seats by the bus driver may not change them for any reason without the permission of the driver. If a student does not conform to the bus regulations, the driver will issue a notice of misbehavior. This notice is given to the parent and the principal. If the student receives three such notices, he/she may be required to come to school by car. The bus driver must have conditions conducive to the safety of all students. If the behavior is serious enough, the principal has the right to suspend bus privileges immediately.

BUS OPERATING POLICIES

Bus routes and stops are planned and established by the local school district's transportation office. Safety, economy, efficiency, and allocation of resources are some of the considerations which must be evaluated in determining bus operations policies.

Parents who wish to make requests for changes in routes or stops should contact the local district. The phone number for this is usually located on your child's bus pass which is issued prior to the start of the school year. Students and parents are encouraged to notify the school immediately of any safety hazards which they have observed during bus operation.

BUS ROUTE CONTACT INFORMATION

If, during the school year, there is an occasion when it is necessary to check on the progress of the bus (late pick-up or drop off), the numbers below will connect you with the bus dispatch office:

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP STUDENTS:

INTEGRITY TRANSPORTATION (609) 965-8100

OCEAN CITY STUDENTS:

SHEPPARD BUS CO. (856) 765-3812

NORTHFIELD AND LINWOOD STUDENTS:

MAINLAND TRANSPORTATION (609) 365-5051

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Student Council provides first-hand experience for students in leadership and service. Those serving on the student council are expected to be representatives at all school sponsored service functions. Attendance at SJRS open houses is mandatory. Officers and representatives must maintain an "S'' in conduct and a good attendance record or they will be removed from student council.

All those who teach students in grades 6 through 8 are asked to nominate students from the seventh grade student list in late spring. Students who receive the most nominations will be considered for a position on student council.

PTO

Participation in the Parent Teacher Organization is an excellent way of keeping informed about the school's goals, objectives, activities, and programs and connecting with other SJRS families. The PTO not only provides many educational programs for the students, but also helps the school to improve curricula by means of their financial support.

ADMISSIONS

- **All admissions are considered on an individual basis. The process includes an interview and a review of all documents.**
- **Students entering the Pre-Kindergarten Age Three Program must be three years old at the time of admission and bathroom independent.**
- **Students entering the Pre-Kindergarten Age Four Program must be four years old by September 30th of the enrollment year and bathroom independent.**
- **Students entering the Kindergarten Program must be five years old by September 30th of the enrollment year.**
- **Age must be verified by Birth Certificate.**
- **Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate (if applicable) and Immunizations Records must be submitted with Enrollment Paperwork**

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- **The principal has the absolute discretion to interpret and apply any and all of the rules and provisions in this handbook in the manner the principal believes to be correct. Nothing this handbook STATES limits the principal's authority to interpret and apply the rules.**
- **Even though this handbook explains penalties that can be imposed for certain types of misconduct or prohibited behavior, you should be aware that the principal has the right and the authority to impose penalties for offenses that are not specifically listed in this handbook.**
- **Please understand, the principal has the right and authority to impose disciplinary action for conduct that occurs on the school premises or at other locations. The penalties may include suspension and/or expulsion.**

Dear Parents and Students of Saint Joseph Regional School,

Please read this revised edition of the handbook together. It is important that each student and parent knows the regulations of the school in order to have a clear understanding of the SJRS expectations for us to achieve our goals.

Cooperation and conformity to the rules enable us to use our time and energy in a manner that will enhance the education of the child. All effective schools have rules and regulations.

After reading the handbook, please sign the form below (one for each child) and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

Respectfully,

Janice Fipp

Janice DeCicco Fipp, Ed. D.

We have read, discussed and agree to abide by the contents of this handbook.

Parent_____

Student_____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Date_____