

# JUNIOR HIGH

We at St. James are very proud of the fine program being offered to our seventh and eighth graders, and would like to share it with you.

The adolescent years of 12 to 14 marks the period of the greatest physical, emotional and social changes your child and you, as his or her parents, will experience. Change sometimes comes so quickly and affects a child so profoundly that neither the Child nor his family can keep up with it. The school, in cooperation with the family, helps the child to make his or her way through this exciting and sometimes frightening period. He or she will then emerge with increased self-understanding and ability to make intelligent choices which will affect his or her life. St. James is committed to these goals. We also strive to develop the academic potential of each child. Our curriculum stresses those subject areas, study skills, and work habits which will result in young people who are prepared for any high school curriculum they may choose.

Most importantly, St. James is committed to deepening the faith life of our children as they grow in the knowledge and love of God. Our goal is to ensure that the children who graduate from St. James will carry the sure conviction that God walks with them in every phase of their lives and is there even in their darkest moments. Such faith will sustain them no matter what life brings.

## FAITH FORMATION MESSAGE

The integration of God and academics is what St. James does best. Religion is not just another subject—'religion' means "relationship to God." All relationships need time in order to grow. Time to grow in the knowledge of God's love is the gift of a Catholic grammar school education. Technically, 150 minutes are allotted each full week of school to faith formation through prayer and education. During this time, on the Junior High level, the focus is on our Catholic faith and on the richness of our traditions. The Family Life course builds on what was begun in grades 1-5 and encourages each young adolescent to develop an awareness and appreciation of our gift of sexuality in the context of Christian values and principles. The Junior High students actively carry forward the Word as faith mentors to younger students through our Faith Sharing program.

St. James provides a comfortable and non-threatening atmosphere for the Junior High student. In essence, the value of a Catholic Junior High education is tremendous. The lessons learned here transcend the intellectual plane. The lessons learned here enrich the life of the soul.

## CURRICULUM

St. James offers an excellent curriculum designed to challenge each student and prepare him or her for high school level work. The faculty and staff strive to develop competence in critical thinking skills, effective study habits, reading comprehension, mathematics and writing skills.

A key component of our junior high curriculum is the religion program. Students continue to develop their faith lives through prayer, study of Scripture, church history and service to others. Special emphasis is placed on personal prayer, community worship, giving of self for other people, and accepting the challenge of living out the Christian message in the modern world.

Catholic education strives  
to enable each child to grow,  
develop, and ultimately embrace  
his or her mission in life  
with a true Christian spirit

## COURSE OFFERINGS

The following courses are offered to seventh and eighth graders:

Religion (Family Life/Church History)  
Algebra  
English  
Mathematics 7  
Mathematics 8  
Art  
Reading/Literature  
Science  
Vocabulary  
Computer Science/Library  
Geography (Grade 7)  
American History (Grade 8)  
Spanish  
Vocal Music  
Self-esteem/Values  
Physical Education

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Intramural Sports  
Varsity Basketball for Boys and Girls  
Varsity Softball for girls  
Yearbook Staff  
Concert Band  
Cheerleading  
Theater  
Youth Group  
Service Club

**CLASS TRIPS** Seventh graders spend a week at Lakeside, Connecticut, as part of the "Nature's Classroom" environmental awareness program. Eighth graders take part in a one- or two-day trip to New York or some other destination of cultural or historical significance. This trip is the highlight and culmination of the junior high experience.

**STUDENT COUNCIL** Composed of representatives from grades seven and eight. The council plans junior high activities and school projects. They assist the junior high teachers and serve as positive role models for their classmates. Each year candidates organize and conduct a campaign, and elections are

held by home room. It is a positive learning experience for both candidates and voters.

**DANCES** Open to grades 7 & 8.

**SOCIAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES** Many seventh and eighth graders regularly donate many hours of service to the community. St. James students have also taken part in the Walk Against Hunger and the efforts to help Merton House. Upper classmen assist teachers in supervising children in the lower grades.

**EIGHTH GRADE CLASS NIGHT** This wonderful evening provides a memorable conclusion to the students' years at St. James. Students recall their experiences from Kindergarten to eighth grade, give messages of thanks to teachers and parents, and view a slide show of their years at St. James. This event clearly demonstrates the strength of the bonds formed among the students during their years at St. James. It also truly represents the level of commitment and caring of the junior high teachers. This is a night that really speaks of the true spirit of St. James as a school community.

**SPECIAL LITURGICAL EVENTS** We have a number of special liturgical events geared to Junior High students in cooperation with our clergy and/or our Junior High Staff. These may take the form of Eucharistic services, penitential services or values-based discussion sessions. Each event takes into account the special concerns, fears and needs of the 12- to 14—year old. A perennial favorite event is our Junior High students' production of the Living Stations of the Cross, which they perform for the school and the St. James parish as well.

