



Middle School Athletics & After School Activities **PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT FORM**

PHILOSOPHY & GOALS

The middle school athletics philosophy of St. James Academy is consistent with the Mission of the school and expects adherence by our athletes, participants, coaches, and parents to the school's Honor Code.

The goals of the program are:

1. to promote lifetime fitness behaviors by developing self-esteem and healthy competition;
2. to encourage social skills while learning basic rules and strategies;
3. to foster commitment, accountability to other members of the team, self-discipline, and sportsmanship;
4. to exercise leadership among the athletes.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETES

Participation in after school athletics and activities is optional. It is a choice that students make that comes with associated responsibilities and privileges. **It is understood that academic excellence is the primary goal for all of our students.** Therefore, it is the responsibility of every student to prioritize completion of all academic assignments. Students will be accountable for completing all missed work, which occurs when leaving early for a scheduled game. We ask that families carefully consider this policy when choosing to play on several teams in any one season to nurture SJA spirit and not overwhelm your students' schedules.

Students should maintain a grade of "C" or better in all subjects to be eligible to participate in athletics or after school activities. If a "D" or "F" grade is recorded on interims or report cards, the student may be removed from the team, club, or activity. The Middle School Head will manage these decisions and communicate with parents and students.

TEAM STRUCTURE

The goal of the school and coaches is to give each athlete as much game time as possible with consideration given to safety and competition. To this end, some sports will have a B Team and an A Team. Whenever possible separate B Team contests will be scheduled, either immediately before, or after the A Team game. Coaches might ask a B Team player to play in the A games and vice versa, if needed.

Team coaches will assume the responsibility of balancing the needs of individual players and the needs of the school team. Our ideal is to offer equal playing time to all athletes in a game situation. However, the realities of student safety on the playing field and maintaining a fair and competitive atmosphere with our peer schools may necessitate variable playing time for students. Parents are encouraged to discuss this possibility with their student and be mindful of this policy.

CHOOSING 'A' AND 'B' TEAM ROSTERS (when applicable):

No sport that we offer will be exactly the same in determining who will play on A and B teams. Roster sizes differ, safety concerns are greater in certain sports, and field/court space are all elements that need to be considered in this process. In addition to these factors, coaches will consider the following when determining 'A' and 'B' team rosters - skill level, experience level, knowledge of the sport, safety, grade level, maturity, and social implications. At St. James Academy, we are mindful that we are teaching/coaching the whole child and we need to consider what is best for each individual student in regards to placement on a A or B team.

TEAM UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE

Student athletes are issued a team uniform for each sport. Each team member is responsible for bringing the complete uniform on every game day. Students will be assigned an athletic locker in the St. James Center. Students will not be allowed to participate in a game if they do not have their team uniform.

Each athlete will be responsible for returning his/her uniform after the last game of the season. Report cards will not be issued until a team uniform is returned to the coach or a replacement fee (a considerable expense) is paid. Athletic equipment must be stored in locker rooms before school begins or teacher-designated areas.

PRACTICE AND GAME ATTENDANCE

When a student commits to playing on an athletic team at St. James Academy, s/he is taking on the responsibility of arriving on time for all practices and games. Coaches should be notified in advance by a parent/guardian if a player must miss a practice or game. If a student needs to stay after class to meet with a teacher, the student is responsible for obtaining a note, which will be required by the coach if a player arrives late for practice.

GAME SCHEDULES AND DIRECTIONS

Please check the school calendar or the Athletics page of the SJA website for team schedules. Changes can occur to the game schedule so please check that calendar often for the most updated information.

Home games take place on the SJA fields or in the St. James Center. Off site games take place at a variety of schools or field locations. Travel distances vary and this determines the start time for the games and the time that the team bus will arrive back at St. James. Traffic can also affect the return time. Please consult 410-771-4816 extension 7569 or the website for directions, alterations in schedule, and/or game cancellations.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents are responsible for picking up their students promptly at 4:15 PM on practice days. Basketball 'A' teams will have a pick-up time at 5:15 PM on practice days.

Students are transported to games by a contracted school bus. The bus usually leaves SJA around 2:30 PM. This requires that students leave their last period class early. With this early dismissal comes the responsibility of making up any class work and obtaining any missed homework assignments. Parents are asked to be at SJA at the appointed time that a home game ends or the bus arrives from an away game. Parents may also take their athlete home directly from an away game. They must sign out the player with the coach prior to leaving with the athlete.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Please keep the school informed of any change to your emergency contact numbers. It is important that coaches and the school are able to reach you in case of an injury to your child or if a change in the game schedule occurs.

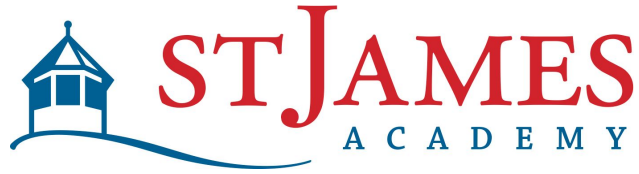
PARENT/STUDENT COMMUNICATION

During game time, coaches need to devote their full attention to players and the game. It is not appropriate for parents to discuss concerns at this time. However, coaches will set aside a mutually agreeable time to engage in discussion.

We ask that every parent, student, and coach sign the agreement form and return it to the school office. Students will not eligible to participate if the school does not receive the signed agreement form.

We look forward to another exciting year of athletic competition at St. James Academy.

Tim Deyesu, Athletic Director



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PARENT & STUDENT AGREEMENT FORM

Sign and complete this form for each student and return it to the Athletic Director in the school office.

I understand that it is my responsibility to provide insurance, if desired.

I agree not to hold the team, league, coach, or St. James Academy/St. James Episcopal Church responsible for any injuries to my child while participating in the program, including transportation to and from away games.

I agree to take care of any equipment and/or school athletics uniform loaned to my child and agree to return it at the conclusion of the season. I will be financially responsible for any equipment and/or school athletic uniform lost, stolen, or damaged through misuse.

I have read and understand all of the above information and agree to support all school policies and procedures as outlined in the **Parent and Student Information for St. James Academy Middle School Athletics and After-School Activities**.

Parent's Signature and Date

Student's Signature and Date

Print Student's Name

Parent Email Address(es)

Parent Mobile Phone Number(s)