



Middle School Parents Back to School Information

Block Scheduling

1. The middle school students have a block schedule!
2. Please take a look at your student's specific grade level and note that the blocks do not meet daily, but rather three times a week, in larger amounts of time and on different days.

Middle School Website for Assignments and Important Announcements

1. Please visit: sj678.weebly.com
 - a. There are tabs for each grade level, electives and important documents for the school year.
2. Each teacher will update assignments and in-class work for that grade level on a daily basis.
 - a. These assignments will be left published for four weeks, before the latest week will be deleted.

Upcoming Events to Look Forward to

1. 6th Grade will connect at LVR: September 8-11, 2026
2. 7th Grade Service Trip: Various days through the year + May 2027
3. 8th grade to examine how our country was built in Washington DC: May 3-6, 2027
4. LuHi Preview Day for 7th grade students and parents: Monday, September 21, 2026 from 9-11:30am
5. Middle School Service Day: Wednesday, October 21, 2026
6. Skate City STEM field trip for 6th-8th: February 2027
7. Middle School Student Showcases: April 23, 2027, 8:30-9:30am

Health Education and Whole Hearted Learning

1. 6th grade: *Safer, Smarter Teens* in March 2027
2. 7th grade: Comprehensive Health Education in April 2027
3. 8th grade: Mental Health and Relationship Education in April 2027



Middle School Grades: Weighting Policy

1. Summative Assessments (projects, tests, finals, etc.) ~60%
2. Quizzes ~30%
3. Homework ~10%

*Please note that all of the above percentages are at the discretion of individual teachers.

Homework Minutes

1. In Middle School, students should expect to have about 60 minutes of homework per night.
2. To support student well-being and balance, students will have one designated night each week with no homework: **Wednesdays**. On typical weeks, no homework will be assigned that is expected to be completed on Wednesday night.
 - a. However, because we follow a block schedule, assignments given in class on Tuesday may still be due on Thursday. Likewise, assignments assigned on Wednesday will not be due until Friday at the earliest.
 - b. Major school events or musical performances could shift that no homework night depending on the event.

Late Work Policy

1. We will adhere to the **St. John's Grading and Assessment** policy, maintaining teacher discretion.

Academic Lab Requirements

1. Students will have an Academic Lab time every Friday, split into mixed grade levels.
2. Students should be working on current homework or projects and remain on task throughout the duration of Academic Lab, prioritizing any work items that are past due.
1. Students will have the opportunity to seek help from individual subject teachers during this block.
2. Students are not allowed to play games during this time, or listen to music with headphones.
3. We reserve the right to use this time for SEL curriculum.

Grace Passes

1. Every trimester, students will receive a laminated grace pass. This allows them to two free Chromebook charges, along with one free tardy.



The Honor Roll and High Honor Roll

1. We value excellence at St. John's and want to celebrate academic success and rigor. At the end of every trimester, grades for core subjects will be calculated to determine if a student has achieved honor roll or high honor roll.
 - a. What are core classes?
 - i. English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Bible.
 - ii. On the report card, ELA will be broken down into standards, but this will still translate into a traditional letter grade and be calculated as a percentage.
 - b. **To achieve honors** a student must earn an average of 89% - 93% in their core classes of Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA and Bible.
 - c. **To achieve high honors** a student must earn an average of 94% or higher in their core classes of Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA and Bible.

Attendance

1. If your student has a planned or unplanned absence, please email ms-staff@sjdenver.org to check in.
 - a. Visit our middle school website to see what assignments were missed: sj678.weebly.com
2. While we understand that absences and illnesses come up, we would like to remind you that being present at school, and learning from teachers and students as a community, is the best way to learn.
 - a. According to the **St. John's School K-8 Family Handbook: 2026-2027**, if you accrue 20 absences over a school year, retention of the student will be reviewed.

Chromebooks and Technology

1. Cell phones and smart watches must be completely turned off and stored in the homeroom teacher's closet upon arrival at school. Students will be allowed to collect these back from the closet at 3:15.
2. Every student will receive a Chromebook issued by the school for their use that must be returned in the same condition by the end of the school year.
3. Please carefully go over the **SJ Technology Use Agreement: 2026-2027**.
 - a. Updated this year: our policy on "Honest Learning and AI Use" and how students can responsibly use AI as a coach, but never to do the learning or work for them.
4. Students are expected to come to school each day with a fully charged Chromebook. Those who arrive with an uncharged device will not be permitted to charge it during the school day or borrow a loaner Chromebook from a teacher.
 - a. If a student arrives without a charged Chromebook and does not have a grace pass, any classwork assigned through an online platform must be completed using paper and pencil during class. It is the student's responsibility to enter their work into the appropriate online platform on their own time and submit it by the designated due date.



Rewarding Excellence, Maintaining High Standards and the PAWS Values Rubric

1. PAWS - we will focus on celebrating the positive behaviors that students demonstrate. These behaviors will be rewarded with tickets.
2. Our SJ Citizenship Skills have been updated to be the **St. John's PAWS Values Observation Rubric**.
 - a. Using this rubric, teachers will identify the most consistent pattern of observable behaviors related to each character trait. These observations will be updated in OTUS on a weekly basis.
3. We use the Love and Logic approach, which emphasizes empathy, clear boundaries, and logical consequences to help students grow in responsibility and self-control. Consequences are designed to be respectful, appropriate to the situation, and may look different from one student to another based on individual needs and circumstances. Please see the section on Discipline and Behavior in the **St. John's School K-8 Family Handbook: 2026-2027**.

Tardy Policy

1. We address tardiness using the Love and Logic approach, therefore, responses may vary depending on the student and the situation. Our goal is to help each child understand the impact of arriving late or unprepared, and to develop habits that support both their own success and the success of the class.
2. If a student arrives past 8:15 am, he or she must go through the main school entrance to receive an admission ticket from the office staff. The student then will take that ticket to check in with the teacher *before* unpacking. First thing in the morning late arrivals will not result in a marked tardy.
3. Once the school day begins, each tardy to class will be marked. After a student accumulates **three class tardies**, students will spend morning recess organizing their locker, completing a classroom task, or reflecting on strategies for arriving to class on time and prepared. Morning tardies to school do not count toward this policy.
4. If a student receives **four class tardies**, a parent-teacher-student conference will be scheduled to identify the cause of the tardiness and develop a collaborative plan to improve punctuality and classroom readiness.

Dress and Appearance Commitment

1. Please review the updated **St. John's Dress and Appearance Commitment**.