

ST. JAMES SCHOOL ACCEPTANCE POLICY

ACCEPTANCE TO KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE

Readiness to attend kindergarten and grade one at St. James School is determined by the following criteria:

The child must be developmentally ready for kindergarten or grade one, as determined by the Brigance and the Gessell screenings and the screening team. Placement in kindergarten is made with the child's level of development in mind. Children who are found to need more time to mature will not be accepted to the program for the upcoming school year. We may, however, have an opportunity to place these youngsters in our Preschool program in order to allow him/her the time to grow gain the necessary skills for Kindergarten success and invite these youngsters to return the following year with preferential acceptance if re-testing shows they are ready.

Priority of acceptance of students *who are ready* is:

FIRST PRIORITY: Children who have siblings currently in St. James School.

SECOND PRIORITY: Children of new families who are verified and registered parishioners of one of the Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

THIRD PRIORITY: Children of Catholic families who are members of parishes outside the Diocese or non-registered Catholic families.

FOURTH PRIORITY: Non-Catholic children.

ACCEPTANCE TO GRADES TWO THROUGH EIGHT

STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED FOR GRADES ONE THROUGH EIGHT AFTER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. An initial interview takes place between parent, student and principal.
2. The parent agrees to allow the applicant to visit his or her prospective class for a day which is convenient to the school.
3. The parent agrees to share all school records and reports with the school system for review prior to admission.
4. Applicants for grades two through eight will be given current school tests to determine readiness for that grade.
5. Applicants for grades six, seven and eight will be accepted for a probationary period of ninety (90) days in regards to academics and discipline. This means that the applicant must maintain satisfactory grades and personal discipline which does not impede his or her progress or the progress of his or her classmates. The probationary period may be extended or removed at the discretion of the principal.

APPLICANTS WHO ARE APPROVED WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THIS PRIORITY:

1. A position must be available for the applicant at grade level.
2. The applicant's family is a member of one of five Stratford Catholic parishes with or without siblings currently enrolled in St. James School.
3. The applicant's family is a member of a Catholic parish outside the Stratford region.
4. The applicant's family is non-Catholic.
5. Final acceptance and approval are at the discretion of the principal.

PRESCHOOL ACCEPTANCE

Preschool students must be the appropriate program age by the beginning of the school year. Children must be potty-trained and not diaper dependant prior to the start of school in the fall. We do not screen for Preschool admissions, however, we are obligated to adhere to our established priority of acceptance as outlined in the Kindergarten section above.

