

St. James Early Learning Center

NEWSLETTER

August
2026



IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug 7 | Pre-K Graduation at 5:45PM 🎓
- Aug 10-14 | Spirit Week 🎈
- Aug 13 | Open House Carnival 5:30-6:30PM 🍿
- Aug 14 | Last Day of Summer Camp
- Aug 17 | Classroom Transitions Begin
- Aug 19 | First Day of School for GASD 🚌
- Sep 7 | **CENTER CLOSED** for Labor Day!

Staff Birthday's

- None of our staff are getting older this month! 😊

Staff Anniversary's:

- Miss Megan: 3 years on the 23rd

Looking Ahead.. Fall Festivities! 🍁



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

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CENTER INFO



Center Hours:

St. James ELC is open from 6:30AM to 5:30PM. Tuition rates are based on a 10-hour daily enrollment. Please keep your drop off and pick up times as consistent as possible with what is stated on your Fee Agreements. We use this information to schedule staff accordingly, and to ensure accurate state regulations of staff-child ratios.

Doors/Gates, Adult Pick Up's

Enrolled children may only be released to parents/legal guardians that are pre-listed on their Emergency Contact Forms. Siblings are not permitted to be left alone anywhere on the premises and/or to collect children even when an adult is in the building - an adult must be present before staff can allow children to leave the room. Along with this, please make sure gates and/or doors are closed behind you or other adults/children that are with you. Doors/Gates are in place to help ensure safety to all children in the room.



Breakfast:

Breakfast is served every morning from 7:00-8:00AM. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please have them here before 8:00AM.

Naptime Items:

All naptime items need to be taken home on Fridays or on the last day your child is enrolled for the week to be washed and returned on Monday morning. This will help minimize the spread of germs from week to week!

PHONE USE

Please refrain from using cell phones or having other distractions during drop off and pick up times. Your full attention is needed during these moments to discuss your child's evenings at home, days at school, to share happy moments, and to guarantee full safety measures of children coming in and out of the classroom and building. Thank you for understanding.

SUMMER VACATIONS

If your family is vacationing, please let us know which dates your children will not be in attendance. This helps staff plan their weeks according to the number of children they are expecting each day/week, and helps ensure that each child gets the most out of our summer fun activities!

PRE-K GRADUATION



Pre-K Graduation will take place on Friday August 7, 2026 @ 5:45PM. Pre-K families may arrive as early as 5:15PM to find seating. Children will need to stay with parents until a staff member comes to collect them prior to Graduation. Each child will receive a matching shirt to wear for the ceremony that they

may keep afterwards. St. James will also provide a cap for the ceremony that will be collected from each child afterwards. Light refreshments will be available after the ceremony, across from the sanctuary. We look forward to a celebratory evening and wish all of our soon to be Kindergarteners the best in their new adventures!



BACK TO SCHOOL

PRE-K GOING TO KIDS CLUB

- *Is your child currently enrolled in our Pre-K classroom?
- *Is your child planning to attend Kindergarten in the Fall?
- *Will your child be attending either Lincoln or James Gettys?
- *Will your child need before and/or after school care?

2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

If you answered "Yes!" to ALL of these questions, then you should have already let us know your school year needs, as we are in the homestretch of finalizing all enrollment changes for the 26-27 school year.

Infants - School Age: Please make sure you have already submitted your 2026-2027 school year needs for enrollment. Whether this be switching from part time back to full time, full time down to part time, or needing to withdrawal all together. Schedule changes MUST be in writing two weeks before any changes can be made. We are currently finalizing all classroom rosters for the new school year. Thank you for understanding!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Starting school can be an exciting but anxious time for families. We already think to look at their academic and motor skills as part of their kindergarten readiness. However, other key factors to your child's success that you may not think about is their self help abilities and social skills. Here are a few ways you can help your child be ready for their new start to a new school year!

Self Help Skills

- Proper handwashing
- Using the restroom independently
- Dressing/undressing, and putting on/off their shoes
- Putting on/off winter attire
- Zipping, buttoning, tying
- Opening/closing lunchboxes/backpacks/folders
- Opening food packaging/drinks on their own

Social Skills

- Knowing their first/last name (not just a nickname) and their age
- Following simple rules/routines and safety expectations
- Separating from parent/guardian easily
- Interacting positively with others
- Asking for help when needed
- Emotional regulation
- Completing short tasks independently
- Ability to sit and listen to stories/directions for 5-10 minutes

Books

A few books to read with your child to prepare them for school (there are also MANY others out there as well!!)



LABELING ITEMS



With transitions soon beginning and kiddos moving back and forth between rooms and teachers getting used to new kiddos belongings in the coming weeks; we ask that all families please take a few extra minutes to label ALL of their child's belongings that enter our program.

We have 100+ children mixed within six different classrooms. Things get lost and misplaced VERY easily, ESPECIALLY when things are not labeled. This includes: extra clothing and shoes, hats and gloves, coats or jackets, naptime items (sheets, pillows/pillowcases, blankets, stuffed animals, infant sleep sacks), cups/water bottles, diapering items (packs of unopened diapers, wipes, creams), feeding supplies (breastmilk bags, bottles - the bottle and the caps), binky's/nuk's, show and tell items, bags/backpacks, medication... literally anything your child brings in must be labeled.

We understand that labeling is time-consuming and that it may not eliminate the "lost item" concept, but it definitely decreases it when things can be found and returned to the owner by simply having their name on it. Thank you for your help in ensuring items get back to their rightful owners!



PRIMARY CARE GROUPS

Every child enrolled in our program is assigned to a Primary Care Group (PCG) within their classroom. Every classroom has two or more teachers that are assigned a PCG of their own. A Primary Care Group is a small group of children that is assigned to one specific teacher. This specific teacher is responsible for most of the behind-the-scenes observations, documentation, planning, and the main point of contact for families in regards to the children in their PCG's. This is the teacher that families will have regular conferences with to build the best experience for their child here at St. James. PCG teachers foster individualized care, routines, education, and bonding to the children assigned to their group. PCG's are also used in day-to-day routines, transitions, and classroom play or activities. When children move in small groups verses a whole class, it helps to ensure attendance accuracy, fewer wait times, and less conflicts among children.

However, this does NOT mean that any other teacher in the classroom, is any less valuable when it comes to children not assigned to them. All of our teachers work collaboratively with ALL children in their care, in any classroom, to build long-lasting relationships and to ensure overall safety. Teachers share information with other PCG teachers to help them in their own planning and record keeping. Teachers sharing a classroom exchange observations, documentation, communication, and so much more with one another to balance the various needs of every child collectively. They work together to create lesson plans, activities, and other fun learning experiences that work for all children within the classroom, regardless of which PCG they are in.

If you are unsure who your child's Primary Care Group teacher is, please ask the teachers in their classroom. If families have education questions regarding their child's development, this would typically be the teacher you would reach out to. If your child's PCG teacher is unavailable, please ask the other teachers in the room, as they could answer your questions as well, or pass the information to their PCG teacher for them to get back to you when they can. If your child's PCG teacher is out of the room at any point, that teacher's group will be temporarily reassigned to another teacher subbing in the classroom until their original teacher returns, just for the day-to-day routines, not so much for behind-the-scene things. If families have any questions regarding PCG's, please let us know! Thank you! 😊



FACEBOOK / ELC WEBSITE



Whether you are new to our St. James family or have been with us for awhile, we want to put out the reminder that we have a private Facebook group for all of our enrolled families to join if they would like! On our Facebook page, you will see center events, photos, community activities and resources, holiday/weather closings/delays, and so much more! A place to share all the fun moments with other SJELC families!

Also, on the St. James website, under Early Learning, families can find center newsletters, menus, events, and information regarding each classroom. Classroom newsletters, calendars, show and tell's, photos, and other classroom news throughout the year!