

About Saint James Elementary School

Saint James Elementary School's history dates back to 1867 when a spirited priest, Rev. John F. Salaun, established a school in the church basement. In 1879, three years after the arrival of Rev. Michael E. Kane, the new Saint James parochial school was opened at the Pearl and Wall Street site with the services of lay people as teachers. Then in 1888, three Sisters of Mercy Nuns came to take charge of the school. The Sisters continued to head our school until 1983.

Saint James Elementary School continued to grow and on July 3, 1927, the cornerstone was laid for the new elementary and high school building—the present Red Bank Catholic School building. With increasing enrollment in both the elementary and high school, Bishop Wm. Griffin of Trenton decided to erect a new building strictly for the elementary school. In 1961 the doors opened to the present SJES building on Peters Place. The school was home to students from kindergarten to 8th grade.

Since the opening of its doors, SJES has been steadfast on providing a rigorous, student-centered, collaborative, and innovative academic learning environment that cultivates faith and is rooted in the gospel, evangelism, and prayer. Each day our students both Catholic and non-Catholic experience the richness of a Catholic education through word and deed.

With parental interest abound and an administration with foresight, a preschool program was added in 1992. Today SJES has a thriving preschool. Very early on children experience academic success and build lasting friendships in a nurturing Christian environment.

The legacy of past administrators is still celebrated and honored today within the halls of the school and is evidenced by the many student, school, and parent activities that continue to thrive and cultivate a learning environment that empowers students to reach their full potential. By way of curriculum or extra-curricular activities, we offer a different way of seeing the world. A world of prayer, unity, tolerance and civic engagement.

Our community of faith is built through the joint efforts of parents, teachers, students, and administrators. SJES is not merely an alternative to public school. We are home to staff, students, and parents who believe that faith not only guides our principles, but helps us navigate our moral compass.

SJES was proudly named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the US Department of Education, and also accredited by Cognia. We are proud of our past and present accomplishments and look forward to many more accolades and continuing the mission of educating the whole child within the framework of our Catholic faith.