



ST. JOHN'S DAY SCHOOL

A LAUREL TRADITION SINCE 1950

Mission Statement

St. John's Day School combines Christian beliefs, rich traditions, and enhanced educational opportunities to create a family atmosphere in which students acquire the skills, habits, and traits of lifelong learners and productive citizens.

History

Located at 520 North Fifth Avenue, St. John's Day School was once the home of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Gardiner. It was built by the Gardiners at the turn of the century to ensure comfort and a gracious way of life for their family, as well as to share its ambiance and amenities with their fellow citizens. Laurel, MS was a small lumber town at the time the home was built. Dirt roads and tiny wooden houses were prevalent in the small town; however, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner had grander ideas for Laurel. The building was originally called Laurel Manor, and the land surrounding the home was a beautiful garden filled with fragrant gardenias and winding brick paths. The true beauty of Laurel Manor was the three-story mansion with wide porches and ornate columns. Laurel Manor would be home to the Gardiner family until 1949. This beautiful family home now bears the name of St. John's Day School.

In 1949, Mrs. Jane Rogers Hynson, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Gardiner, discovered that Reverend William Mann, rector of the Episcopal Church in Laurel wanted to start a school. However, he did not want to start just any school. He envisioned a school where a child could learn and grow intellectually, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Rev. Mann's main objective was "to tie in the regular studies and activities of pre-school and grade school children with the religious teaching of the Bible and the Christian faith." St. John's Day School officially opened on September 11, 1950, with only a handful of students. The school began with four classes, Kindergarten (K4), Primer (K5), First Grade, and Second Grade. Over the years, more grades were added, and by 1955 the first sixth grade class graduated from St. John's. These students, like so many others after them, were sent forth from here to be the "Promise and Possibility" that helps to define who they are and what they will become. Traditions, both old and new, have always been part of St. John's Day School. Chapel is a weekly tradition where everyone gathers together to sing, pray, and learn more about God and what is going on in our school that week. This is part of the vision of Rev. Mann when the school began. Each week at chapel the song "I Am a Promise" is one of the highlights of the week. It helps remind us about the "Promise and Possibility". Now there are over 200 students being instructed and groomed in patterns that will ensure each child's successful preparation for future educational endeavors and adulthood.

Thanks to the foresight of William S. Mann, and the generosity and dedicated interest of Jane Rogers Hynson, St. John's Day School continues to be a unique and progressive academic institution. Guided by a philosophy of moral and spiritual values and committed to the academic, physical, and cultural pursuits necessary to a well-rounded education, St. John's enjoys a special heritage as it progressively moves into its seventh decade.

Philosophy

The Board of Trustees, the Administration and the Faculty of St. John's Day School believe that the school's function is to accept all students as individuals. By developing their potential intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and aesthetically, they will become valuable members of our democratic society. Basic to our philosophy is the development of each child's self-concept. We also believe concerned discipline is essential to the growth of the individual.

Rooted in a Christian setting, we believe that Christian principles and content materials from Holy Scriptures should be taught in regular chapel programs and activity periods. We also believe that the headmistress, teachers, and other personnel should exemplify Christian morals and ethics in their own attitudes and actions. The goals of all our activities at St. John's Day School are to develop learning habits and character traits which will enrich personal living and result in responsible citizens.

Registration Information

St. John's Day School enrolls students from K3 through 6th grade. Regulations require that a child turn the appropriate age for the class by September 1st of that school year to be eligible to enroll. Closed registration for returning students begins at the beginning of February with open registration beginning in March. To register, parents must fill out the appropriate forms and sign their agreement to the tuition contract and reservation for their child for the coming school year. Along with the registration contract, a non-refundable registration fee is required as follows:

K3 & K4	\$150
K5 – 6th	\$200

Registration is open to all applicants without regard to race, religion, or national/ethnic origin. Due to facility and resource limitations, St. John's may not be able to service all special needs. Such needs are evaluated on an individual basis to ensure the best available option is selected for each child. Early registration is encouraged due to the fact that classes fill quickly. A copy of the registration contract can be obtained from the school office. Tuition can be paid in full at the beginning of the school year, by semester, or by the month. Below, tuition is broken down into 12 monthly payments excluding the registration fee which is due at the time of registration.

Tuition Information

	Tuition Total	Semester Payment	12 Monthly Payments	Tuition Includes
K3 & K4 – 11:45 Pickup	\$3,619	\$1,809.50	\$337	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 Building & Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 1 Snack Per Day
K3 & K4 – 3:00 Pickup	\$5,310	\$2,655	\$495	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 Building & Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$300 2 Snacks Per Day
K3 & K4 – 6:00 Pickup	\$6,750	\$3,375	\$630	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 Building & Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$300 2 Snacks Per Day
K5 - 6th Grade – 3:00 Pickup	\$6,252	\$3,126	\$583.50	Workbooks \$150 Yearbook \$30 Building & Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$400
K5 - 6th Grade – 6:00 Pickup	\$7,750	\$3,875	\$723	Workbooks \$150 Yearbook \$30 Building & Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$400 3:00 – 5:30 Snack

Second Child Tuition Information

	Tuition Total	Semester Payment	12 Monthly Payments	Tuition Includes
K3 & K4 – 11:45 Pickup	\$3,139	\$1,544.50	\$274	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 1 Snack Per Day
K3 & K4 – 3:00 Pickup	\$4,780	\$2,390	\$425	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 Lunch \$300 2 Snacks Per Day
K3 & K4 – 6:00 Pickup	\$6,220	\$3,110	\$518	Workbooks \$50 Yearbook \$30 Lunch \$300 2 Snacks Per Day
K5 - 6th Grade – 3:00 Pickup	\$5,722	\$2,861	\$508	Workbooks \$150 Yearbook \$30 Lunch \$400
K5 - 6th Grade – 6:00 Pickup	\$7,220	\$3,610	\$673.50	Workbooks \$150 Yearbook \$30 Lunch \$400 3:00 – 6:00 Snack

***Building/maintenance and technology fees are only paid once per family.
The cost is included in the first child's tuition.**

Extended Session / Aftercare / Homework Helpers Information

Length of Program	Daily Charge
11:45-3:00	\$10.00
3:00-6:00	\$10.00
*Each Day Includes Hot Lunch	*Staying Until 5:30 Includes Snack

Core Curriculum & Resource Classes

St. John's is proud to have recently received our 25-year award with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. We feel that this accreditation is crucial to our school and the success of our students. We are constantly updating and revising our curriculum and programs to meet both our own and SACS rigorous standards. St. John's Day School provides students with a well-rounded educational curriculum in social studies, science, mathematics, reading, spelling, etc. Research and studies are done to keep up-to-date with latest teaching methods and educational tools. Teachers attend selected continuing education courses each year in order to assist the school and other instructors in keeping up-to-date. In addition, individualized attention in each subject area is afforded to every student because of our size and student to teacher ratios.

St. John's is pleased to offer our students more than the standard curriculum. We strive to offer a well-balanced curriculum inclusive of all areas.

Spanish K3 - 6th
Music K3 - 6th
Library K3 - 6th

Garden K3-6th
Physical Education K5 - 6th
Art K5 - 6th

Technology K5-6th
Central Creativity K5-6th
Writing 4th-6th

School Website, E-mail, Social Media, Remind 101

Parents can access the school website by visiting sjdslaurel.com. The website includes class schedules, school calendars, lunch menus, news, teacher blogs, and much more! On the teacher blogs, teachers post homework assignments and class news which can be found by visiting sjdslaurel.com/academics/teacher-pages. If you would like to contact a faculty member through e-mail, simply add the teacher's first and last name separated by a period with the extension @sjdslaurel.com. For example, Mrs. Stone's e-mail address is carolyn.stone@sjdslaurel.com. We also have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that are updated daily: [facebook.com/SJDSLauRel](https://www.facebook.com/SJDSLauRel) and [@sjdslaurel](https://www.instagram.com/sjdslaurel).

Online Grading System

Parents have full access to their child's grades, attendance, and homework assignments online through PraxiSchool. To access this information, you will be given a School ID (4350), Parent ID and password. After receiving that information, please visit app.praxischool.com/parent_login.php to login.

Field Trips

All grades from K3 through 6th at St. John's enhance their learning experience through field trips. The type of trip varies depending on the activities for that year. In addition to these field trips taken by every class, the 6th grade class takes a special "senior" trip at the end of the school year. These trips have included trips to the World's Fair, to Washington D. C. and to Kanuga.

Parents Club

St. John's would not be St. John's without its wonderful and devoted Parents' Club. This organization has two major fundraisers per year: Eaglefest and St. John's Social. Eaglefest is a fall festival held at the school to raise funds for the club's operational year. Parents' Club works closely with the faculty and staff of St. John's to purchase much needed items for the school and the teachers during the course of each year. In addition to Eaglefest, Parents' Club works with the school staff to ascertain the needs for the school year and how Parents' Club can help. Parents' Club also often implements community service projects for the school and other small endeavors. All parents of SJDS children are automatically members of the Parents' Club. Parents' Club officers are selected each year by the preceding year's officers. Office positions include President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. In addition, parents may participate by serving as homeroom mother for their child's class.

Homeroom Mothers

A homeroom mother is a parent selected by the teacher that is in charge of purchasing teacher gifts throughout the year, party planning, chapel programs, May Day costumes, teacher appreciation week, a booth at Eaglefest, and creating the class cross for Flowering of the Cross. The homeroom mother collects a fee at the beginning of the year to cover the costs of the teacher gifts throughout the year. The homeroom mother also assigns a chairperson and committee for each party and chapel program. The chairperson and committee take care of party decorating and food/drink.

Special Events

Part of what makes St. John's a special educational environment is the unique events that take place each year outside of the classroom. Please find highlighted below the major events that take place each school year at St. John's.

Eaglefest: This fall festival is hosted each year by the Parents' Club. It serves the dual purpose as our Parents' Club annual fundraiser and a celebration for our children and the community. Special t-shirts are created, and supper and raffle tickets are sold. That evening students may use armbands to participate in the various activities in the backyard from moon jumps to air slides to bungee runs to numerous games. There is also a silent auction for the enjoyment of the parents and other adults who attend.

Chapel Programs: One of our students' most joyful times throughout the school year is the weekly chapel meetings held every Wednesday. The rector of St. John's Day School or other visiting ministers visit with the children and give a brief Bible lesson, oftentimes involving the children in the teaching of the lesson. In addition, each class is assigned one Wednesday per year during which they perform a chapel program for the entire school. These programs are usually seasonally themed and provide an excellent opportunity for students to build their confidence and self-esteem and show off their acting and singing abilities.

Air Jam: This outrageously fun event is held each year in February by the current 6th grade class as a fundraiser for the annual class trip. Air Jam is a talent show open to all students in grades K3 through 6th. Students enjoy coming out to participate in the show or just to watch their friends perform.

Flowering of the Crosses: One of the most special traditions of St. John's is the flowering of the crosses. On the Thursday before the Good Friday holiday, all students are asked to bring flowers and greenery from their yards and gardens to make a flowered cross. A ceremony is held on the front steps of the school where Parent's Club decorates a large cross in the center of the front porch. Each class then presents their special cross and it is hung on the railing of the porch as part of the celebration of Easter.

Field Day: K5 – 6th students walk to nearby Gardiner Park for the annual Field Day activities. The school is divided into two teams: green and white. The teams compete against one another in games ranging from sack races to tug-of-war. Field Day is one of the children's favorite days of the year.

May Day: Ask someone in the community what they first think of when you mention St. John's Day School and they are likely to say May Day. For over 50 years, students of St. John's have celebrated the wrapping up of the school year with this traditional pageant. Each year a theme is chosen, and songs and choreography are developed around that theme. Each class wears appropriate costumes and performs songs and dances developed by the music instructor. The highlight of the evening's entertainment is the dancing of the Maypole by the 6th grade class. Following the performance, the children enjoy backyard games and activities, along with a dinner and silent auction.

Graduation: Each year graduation services are held for K5 and most importantly 6th grade. K5 graduation is held in the gymnasium during the morning. Sixth grade graduation is held in the evening in the beautiful St. John's Episcopal Church. A keynote address is made by a parent or alumni to challenge the students and diplomas and awards are presented.

Frequently Asked Questions

Many of our K3 and K4 parents have questions about their child's first experience with school. We have compiled the following list of commonly asked questions about our K3 and K4 preschool. Of course, feel free to contact the school with any further questions.

1. What do I need to do to prepare my child for K3 or K4 at St. John's?

While there are concepts that might prove helpful for your child to know, all concepts are taught to the children as if they have not been exposed to them so that they learn in sequence. However, there is one concept all children must have mastered before entering K3 or K4: Going to the bathroom on their own.

2. Are the children accompanied to the bathroom or should they be completely self-sufficient in their bathroom habits?

The teaching assistant stands in the hallway between the boys' and the girls' bathrooms. Children must be self-sufficient in their bathroom habits.

3. Are regular bathroom breaks taken or is it completely left up to the child to ask to go to the potty?

About every 20 minutes, bathroom breaks are taken; however, student may go to the bathroom at any time.

4. What if my child has an accident or needs to change clothing while at school?

We ask that you provide 2 pairs of clothing (one for summer and one for winter), including underwear and socks, that your child may be changed into in the event of an accident. Please place this clothing in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it.

5. How do I know if my child is the proper age to begin K3 or K4 classes?

In order to be accepted into the K3 program, the child must have turned 3 years old before September 1st. For K4, the child must have turned 4 years old before September 1st. For the academic and social success of your child, we recommend that your child turn the appropriate age (3 years old for K3 and 4 years old for K4) before the beginning of the school year.

6. Will I be allowed to stay with my child for any length of time during the first few days of making the transition to pre-school?

Two weeks is given to walk your child to class. It is best for the child to go through the carpool line for drop off. This helps with separation anxiety. You should allow the child to go to class alone.

7. Where should I pickup and drop-off my child for pre-school?

Pickup (11:45) and drop-off should occur in the circle in the back of the main school building. If your child is picked up at 3:00, please come to the circle in the front of the main building. We ask that you slow down when entering the property. Do not turn left into the pickup or drop-off line. A teacher will get your child out of the car in the morning (Please have your child unbuckled and ready to exit the vehicle.) and place your child into their car seat at the end of the school day. K3 and K4 teachers will stand at the door of their classroom waiting for your child's arrival every morning, and place them into the vehicle and buckle them in at the 11:45 and 3:00 pick-up times.

8. What time should my child arrive to school every morning and what time is afternoon pick-up?

The first bell rings at 7:45 and the last (tardy) bell rings at 8:05. If your child needs to arrive before 7:45, we offer breakfast in the cafeteria from 7:30 – 8:00. There are teachers on duty in the cafeteria that will help your child to their classroom. The school opens at 7:00. Pick-up times are 11:45 and 3:00. Carpool times end at 12:00 and 3:15. Any children left past these times are taken to extended session/aftercare.

9. What should I do in case of bad weather?

Please watch WDAM and/or listen to the radio to find out whether the school will be dismissing early. The school often does storm and fire drills to prepare the children for any emergencies or bad weather. We also post weather/early dismissals on our Facebook page, website, and through Remind101 text messaging.

10. Since the playground is covered in pebbles, what clothing/shoes would be appropriate for my child to wear?

Closed-toe shoes such as tennis shoes, Keds, and Mary Janes are the best shoes to wear to school every day. Boots, ballet flats, and flip-flops/sandals fill up easily with pebbles and cause children to trip. Since girls will be climbing and sliding on the playground, they **MUST** wear bloomers or shorts underneath dresses and skirts. Clothing such as overalls, button jumpers, and belts are not allowed because they are not successful for the child during bathroom breaks. Also, all children are discouraged from wearing earrings, but if they must, we ask that the earrings be studs only.

11. If my child is sick with fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea; how soon can I send him back to school?

We ask that your child be fever, vomiting, and diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child has a fever, diarrhea, or has vomited at school and leaves school early, he/she cannot return to school until 24 hours after the incident occurred. For illnesses such as mononucleosis and head lice, the student must have a doctor's note clearing he/she before returning to school.

12. How should I handle dropping my child off late in the morning, picking my child up early during the school day, and/or dropping something off for my child?

Please visit the office before walking out to your child's classroom. The office will contact the teacher to prepare the class for your child's arrival. Late students must check-in with the office before going to class. Students checking out early must be signed out by a parent in the office before leaving the school.

13. If my child needs to stay for the after-school program, how should I handle that?

Please notify the teacher by sending a note in the child's backpack every day that your child needs to stay. If your child is staying, he/she stays in the classroom during 11:45 carpool and travels to the cafeteria at 11:55 for lunch. If you forget to send a note or if there is an emergency, please call the office as soon as possible so that the teacher can be notified. These steps help make the transition from the classroom to the cafeteria easier on the child.

14. Will my child need to carry a backpack to school every day?

Yes, please send your child's backpack daily and please check your child's backpack every day. Your child's backpack is a direct line of communication with teachers. Teachers send home important notices and your child's classwork in a clear folder provided by the school. Please send back the folder immediately to school.

15. What will my child learn during the K3 and K4 school year?

St. John's K3 and K4 classes offer a complete educational program for even the youngest child. The lessons are presented in ways that allow the child to absorb the knowledge effortlessly as part of his/her natural development. Every child has one on one lessons and interaction with others throughout the day. The K3 and K4 classroom has a full range of materials, including exercises in practical life, the sensorial apparatus, language exercises, mathematics exercises, and work in cultural areas including geography, science, art, music, and Spanish.

Practical Life: Materials that provide the child an opportunity to practice everyday activities such as pouring, scooping, twisting, snapping, zipping, buttoning, etc, while developing concentration, independence, and coordination.

Sensorial: Refines the use of the senses, training the child to differentiate gradations of color, size, texture, shape, etc.

Math: Concrete materials representing all types of quantities, which the child can manipulate and demonstrate to himself the basic operations of arithmetic.

Language: Materials begin phonetic sounds of letters while allowing the child to progress at his/her own speed to word construction and eventually to writing and reading.

Spanish, Art, Geography, Music, & Science: Materials allow the child to expand his range of interests and to develop creativity and self-expression.