



# 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 and 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 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 for 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 that will enrich personal living and result in responsible citizens.

### **Registration Information**

St. John's Day School enrolls students K2 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 April. 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:

<b>Preschool Registration Fee</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Elementary Registration Fee</b>	<b>\$200</b>

Registration is open to all applicants without regard to race, religion, or national/ethnic origin. Due to facility and resource limitations, St. John's is not 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 since 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, semester, or month. Below, tuition is broken down into 12 and 10 monthly payments, excluding the registration fee, which is due at the time of registration.

### **Tuition Information**

	<b>Tuition Total</b>	<b>Semester Payment</b>	<b>10 Monthly Payments</b>	<b>12 Monthly Payments</b>	<b>Tuition Includes</b>
<b>Preschool 11:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$3,850</b>	<b>\$1,925</b>	<b>\$430</b>	<b>\$360</b>	<b>Building &amp; Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 1 Snack Per Day</b>
<b>Preschool 2:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$2,750</b>	<b>\$616</b>	<b>\$513</b>	<b>Building &amp; Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$300 1 Snack Per Day</b>
<b>Elementary K5 - 6th 2:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$3,250</b>	<b>\$728</b>	<b>\$607</b>	<b>Workbooks \$150 Building &amp; Maintenance Fee \$150 Technology Fee \$350 Lunch \$400</b>

### **Sibling(s) Tuition Information**

	<b>Tuition Total</b>	<b>Semester Payment</b>	<b>10 Monthly Payments</b>	<b>12 Monthly Payments</b>	<b>Tuition Includes</b>
<b>Preschool 11:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>	<b>\$380</b>	<b>\$317</b>	<b>1 Snack Per Day</b>
<b>Preschool 2:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$5,050</b>	<b>\$2,525</b>	<b>\$565</b>	<b>\$471</b>	<b>Lunch \$300 1 Snack Per Day</b>
<b>Elementary K5 - 6th 2:45 Pickup</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$672</b>	<b>\$560</b>	<b>Workbooks \$150 Lunch \$400</b>

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

### **Aftercare Information (K3-6<sup>th</sup>)**

**Aftercare is billed monthly regardless of the number of days your child stays. In emergency situations, the charge will be \$15.00 per day.**

<b>Length of Program</b>	<b>Charges</b>
<b>2:45 – 6:00 (Includes Snack) MONTHLY</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>2:45 – 6:00 (Includes Snack) EMERGENCY ONLY</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>

## **Core Curriculum and Resource Classes**

St. John's is proud to have recently received our 30-year award with Cognia, formally known as, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and AdvancEd. 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 Cognia's 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 the 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: MS state standards, new reading series, updated math materials, Freckle Math, project-based learning, science/garden program, music/chapel programs, physical education, library classes, Accelerated Reader program, computer courses, art program, interesting curriculum, individualized education, technology-driven instruction, family atmosphere, and small class sizes.

## **Communication**

Parents can access the school website by visiting [sjdslaurel.com](http://sjdslaurel.com). The website includes school calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, news, and much more! 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](mailto:@sjdslaurel.com). For example, Mrs. Ishee's e-mail address is [lisa.ishee@sjdslaurel.com](mailto:lisa.ishee@sjdslaurel.com). The office e-mail is [office@sjdslaurel.com](mailto:office@sjdslaurel.com). The school utilizes Facebook ([facebook.com/sjdslaurel](https://facebook.com/sjdslaurel)), Instagram ([@sjdslaurel](https://@sjdslaurel)), Remind101 (text [@sjdsoffice](https://@sjdsoffice) to 81010), and GroupMe which are updated daily.

## **Online Grading System**

Parents have full access to their child's grades, attendance, and homework assignments online through PraxiSchool. You will be given a School ID (4350), Parent ID, and password to access this information. After receiving that information, please visit [app.praxischool.com/parent\\_login.php](http://app.praxischool.com/parent_login.php) to log in.

## **Homeroom Mothers**

A homeroom mother is a parent selected by the teacher that oversees 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 decorations and food/drink.

## **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 mothers for their child's class.

## 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 below the major events that occur each school year at St. John's.

**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, often involving the children in teaching 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, self-esteem, and to show off their acting and singing abilities.

**Book Fair:** During the last week of August and the first week of September each year, the Scholastic Book Fair comes to town. During the week of Book Fair festivities, Grand People are invited and celebrated. There is also a Family Night where all family members are invited to shop at the Book Fair. Parents are allowed to shop with their child and his/her class throughout the week. This event raises funds to grow our library each year.

**Birthday Books & Celebrations:** Students choose a book from the library to purchase for their birthday. If parents decide to purchase the book, Mrs. Wendy will place a birthday label inside the front cover of the book and the student will be presented with the book at chapel nearest his/her birthday. Once the child is finished reading the book, it is donated back to the library to help our library grow. Birthday celebrations take place in your child's classroom. Please coordinate your ideas for your child's birthday with your child's homeroom teacher.

**Field Trips:** All grades 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 sixth grade class takes a special "senior" trip at the end of the school year. These trips included trips to the World's Fair, Washington D. C., and Kanuga. \*K3 and K4 take walking field trips throughout the community.

**Luncheons:** All students, family, and friends of St. John's participate in two luncheons each year: Thanksgiving and Mardi Gras. The Thanksgiving luncheon is held the Friday before Thanksgiving break with a traditional feast being served. The Mardi Gras luncheon is held on Fat Tuesday with traditional foods and live music. Students create artwork and centerpieces for both luncheons.

**Eaglefest:** The Parents' Club hosts this fall festival each October. 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.

**Air Jam:** This outrageously fun event is held each spring by the current sixth grade class as a fundraiser for the annual class trip. Air Jam is a talent show open to all faculty, staff, parents, friends, and 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 Cross:** 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 the Parent's Club decorates a large cross in the center of the front porch. Each class then presents its special cross, which is hung on the railing of the porch as part of the celebration of Easter.

**Field Day:** K5 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Preschool Field Day is held at the school in April of each 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 70 years, St. John's students have celebrated the school year's wrapping up 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 sixth grade class. After the performance, the children enjoy backyard games and activities, dinner, and silent auction.

**Graduation:** Graduation services are held for kindergarten and sixth grade. Kindergarten graduation is held in the gym during the morning. Sixth grade graduation is held in the evening at St. John's Episcopal Church where diplomas and awards are presented. Preschool students are presented with promotion certificates at their end-of-the-year party.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Many of our preschool parents have questions about their child's first experience with school. We have compiled the following list of commonly asked questions about our 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 preschool 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. A seasonal change of clothing is required in the classroom in case an accident might occur during the school year. Clothing should be placed in a Ziploc bag and labeled with your child's name.

**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, students 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 preschool classes?**

For your child to be accepted into the K2 program, your child must have turned 2 years old before the first day of the school year. For K3, the child must have turned 3 years old before September 1<sup>st</sup>. For K4, the child must have turned 4 years old before September 1<sup>st</sup>. For your child's academic and social success, 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 during the first few days of the transition to preschool?**

One week 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 your child to go to class alone.

**7. Where should I pick-up and drop-off my child for preschool?**

Pick-up (11:45 and 2:45) occurs in the front circle of the main building. Drop-off occurs in the circle at the back of the main building. We ask that you slow down when entering the property. Do not turn left into the pick-up 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 their classroom door waiting for your child's arrival every morning, place them into the vehicle, and buckle them in at the 11:45 and 2:45 pick-up times. Please stay in your vehicle during drop-off and pick-up. Car seats need to be on the right side of the vehicle.

**8. What time should my child arrive at 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 2:45. Carpool times end at 12:00 and 3:05. 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 determine whether the school will dismiss 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 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, bubble outfits, and belts are not allowed because they are not successful for the child during bathroom breaks. All children are discouraged from wearing jewelry of any kind. Earrings must 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 your child's backpack or by texting the teacher before 9:00 a.m. every day that your child needs to stay. If your child is staying, he/she stays in the classroom during the 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 child's transition from the classroom to the cafeteria easier.

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

Yes, please send and check your child's backpack daily. 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. Important information is generally sent home on Mondays; however, sometimes, information will be sent home throughout the week. If your child stays for extended session (11:45-2:45), your child will need a nap mat. Nap mats should be cloth with a blanket and pillow attached to the mat. Your child's name should be clearly labeled on backpacks and nap mats.

**15. What will my child learn during the school year?**

St. John's preschool 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 preschool 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 with phonetic sounds of letters while allowing the child to progress at his/her own speed to word construction and eventually to writing and reading.

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

**Social Graces:** Blessing/prayer; thank you; no, thank you; yes, ma'am; no, ma'am; kindness towards others; sharing/taking turns; patience; etc.

**Resources:** Preschool students attend weekly resource classes: library, physical education, and music. All students participate in an annual chapel program and May Day.