

School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Public Charter Title I Magnet Private Independent Rural

Name of Principal: Mrs. Christine Lang

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name: St. James Academy

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: 623 S. Nardo Avenue, Solana Beach, CA 92075

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: San Diego State School Code Number *: 37 68387 6975734

Telephone: 858-755-1777 Fax: 858-755-3124

Web site/URL: www.saintjamesacademy.com E-mail: clang@saintjamesacademy.com

*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: 2/11/19

(Principal's Signature)



Name of Superintendent: N/A
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)

District Name: N/A

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

(Superintendent’s Signature) Date:

Nominating Authority’s Certifications


The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority’s knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: California Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.



(Nominating Authority’s Signature) Date: 2/14/19

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



St. James Academy

California Private School Nominee to
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools



Prepared by
California Department of Education
School Facilities and Transportation Services Division
[Green Ribbon Schools Award Program](#)
February 2019

PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

St. James Academy, Solana Beach, Calif.

A holistic and spiritual approach to education and caring for community and nature

St. James Academy strives to prepare students to live and work in the world as responsible citizens. In the words of Pope Francis, “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.” At St. James, students are taught daily in the classroom, in church, and through hands-on indoor and outdoor activities that they have a spiritual and moral responsibility to care for their community and world.

St. James is fully committed to efficient and clean energy. In 2016, light emitting diode (LED) lights were installed throughout the campus, replacing all overhead fluorescent lighting. In 2017, rooftop solar was added. In their first year of use, the solar panels provided 98% of the school’s onsite electricity. In addition, St. James has opted to purchase excess electricity from the Solana Energy Alliance under a 50% renewable and 75% greenhouse gas-free plan. Heating, air conditioning, and lighting are turned off during periods of non-use and the school has a white, reflective roof. Based on St. James’ clean energy commitment, Electrify America/Greenlots recently selected St. James for the installation of five dual 240 volt electric vehicle charging stations, one of which is accessible, at no cost (\$75,000 value).

The school has dedicated approximately 61% of its grounds to ecologically beneficial uses, including student health and wellness. Landscaped green spaces are drought tolerant, and the grounds include a 1,500-square-foot edible organic garden, a 3,400-square-foot green schoolyard and outdoor classroom, and an 1,800-square-foot tree-shaded patio. The only grass maintained on campus is the athletic field used for physical education and sports. Water conservation practices include timed irrigation, mulching for landscaping, and a drip irrigation system for the school garden. Two outdoor filtered water bottle filling stations ensure that clean, cool drinking water is available to encourage hydration.

St. James students, staff, and parents follow a formal Sustainable Practices Policy. The policy encourages the community to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle disposable plastics and Styrofoam. Reusable plates, cutlery, and cups; or biodegradables, are used in the teachers’ lounge and at school events, including back to school night and open houses. The school eliminated all single-use plastic water bottles in 2016; all students and teachers use reusable water bottles and are encouraged to use reusable lunch bags and containers. St. James students live throughout San Diego County. More than half of students carpool to school and approximately 6% walk, bike, or skateboard.

The St. James campus is cleaned by an eco-friendly cleaning service, JAN-PRO, which uses microfiber cleaning cloths, bleach-free and chemical-free cleaning products, and HEPA-filtered vacuums. The campus has properly maintained ventilation and natural lighting throughout and is free of allergens and toxins such as lead, mercury, and radon. Every homeroom classroom opens to an outdoor environment with fresh ocean air and breezes.

Local family-owned Ki’s restaurant supplies quality fresh and nutritious foods to the St. James student lunch program. Their menu offers gluten-free options and all offerings are free of

pesticides, fillers, preservatives, and trans fatty acids. Additionally, St. James has a wellness policy that campus celebrations feature healthy foods instead of sugary treats or drinks. Students study health and nutrition as part of physical education and sustainability curriculum.

In 2016, St James received a grant from Feed the Future to rebuild and enhance its organic edible garden, now known as the Peace Garden. Together with school volunteers, the garden was redesigned, planters and soil were replaced, drip irrigation was installed, and the garden was made accessible. Students plant seasonal vegetables and herbs, including broccoli, radishes, kale, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, basil, and rosemary and care for two citrus trees. Students make soups, salads, smoothies, and lemonade with their organic harvest. Saint James students are becoming "Fit to Lead"—healthy in every aspect of their lives—physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally.

Part of the core ideals at St. James is that every person on the planet has a role and makes an impact. St. James' inclusion program recognizes all forms of learning and fosters growth for every student. Children with special needs are welcome to enroll at St. James and their learning skills are integrated into their grade. The school's Peer Mentoring program gives junior high students an opportunity to support the education of younger students in a warm and supportive environment. The school's culture of inclusivity was fostered by the 8th grade Class of 2016, which gifted a Buddy Bench where a child can sit if they need playmates, leading to the formation of many new friendships.

St. James' holistic and spiritual approach to environmental and sustainability education cuts across all STEAM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, fine and performing arts, and math) and as well as social studies, religion, and community service. This includes the study of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on climate and justice, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, urging all people of faith to care for the Earth and the poor.

Outdoor education at St. James is supported by a dedicated sustainability teacher and University of California Master Gardener. Junior high students have planted a Native American garden featuring plants used by the local indigenous Kumeyaay nation. Native American garden activities are integrated into 3rd and 4th grade social studies. Students learn about the native uses and conservation of endangered Torrey Pine trees located on the adjacent church campus. Non-native ornamental plants are being removed and replaced with native, drought tolerant pollinator plants to attract local bees and birds.

In 2017–18, junior high and alumni students engineered and built a butterfly house to protect and conserve threatened Monarch caterpillars so that they may grow into butterflies. Ample milkweed, the only food source for Monarch caterpillars, is maintained in the pollinator garden. The 5th grade annually works with San Diego Coastkeepers to clean debris from local beach and keep statistics on what they find.

In 2017, the entire school participated in an outdoor performing arts production of the environmental fable *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss and adopted the school sustainability theme, "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better." All costumes were made from recycled or borrowed materials. Following this production, St. James students have continued to perform excerpts of *The Lorax* outside of school, including at a community holiday parade, for the San Diego Roman Catholic Bishop and Diocese, at other churches, and at the 2018 Rise for Climate March. St. James' outreach efforts continue to inspire their community and others toward a more sustainable future.

PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF SCHOOL NOMINEE

Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Element IA: Energy

- St. James Academy (St. James) and the St. James Catholic Church have initiated a “Building for the Next Century” plan based on research that began in 2015. St. James has joined a cleaner energy provider, Solana Energy Alliance (50% renewable and 75% greenhouse gas-free sources).
- In 2016, St. James replaced all lights with energy-efficient LED lights, resulting in an immediate reduction in energy usage of more than 40%.
- In 2017, St. James replaced ten Rooftop Split HVAC units with new units having an approximate equivalent SEER of 14. All units except for one use an economizer, which allows fresh air into the school and relieves the need to use the AC unit’s compressor when the outside temperature is less than the indoor temperature. As a result, the school has realized a total reduction of approximately 31,885 kWh and will save approximately \$5,700 annually as a result of the HVAC upgrade.
- St. James engages in several practices to reduce energy, such as turning off HVAC and hot water heaters during school breaks. Teachers are informed of energy usage and are asked to reduce energy use by turning off lights. Thermostats are also set at temperatures recommended by the electric company to reduce energy use and avoid brown or blackouts during high energy use in extreme hot or cold weather.
- A rooftop solar project completed in 2018 is designed to meet at least 75% of electricity needs. Next, St. James will renovate two large student restrooms to green building standards.
- St. James is on a path to significantly and measurably reducing its greenhouse gas emissions; the school is currently in the process of documenting its reduction with the help of Rincon Consultants, an environmental consulting firm. Recent projects that contribute to the school’s reduction include an LED lighting retrofit, HVAC upgrade, and solar installation. St. James began using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager in 2018 and documents a 97.9% reduction in non-transportation energy use.
- In an effort to reduce the heat island effect, St. James installed TPO reflective roof on all of its buildings. TPO roofing systems feature heat-welded seam integrity and energy savings. In 2018–19, St. James hopes to asphalt in the preschool classroom with a cooler or permeable surface. Shade trees planted on the south and west sides of the school buildings in 1999 also provide significant cooling. Building overhangs provide sun and weather protection.
- In October 2016, the interior music room was outfitted with an ENERGY STAR rated portable air conditioner to more efficiently cool the room without having to run the entire building cooling system. The building, apart from the interior classrooms, is efficiently cooled with natural air flow and fans. St. James’s heating and cooling system is controlled by a programmable digital thermostat so that the system is not running when the school is closed. The entire school is equipped with overhead ceiling fans to circulate air to reduce the need to use the heating/cooling system.

Element IB: Water and Grounds

- Indoor and outdoor water use is metered together—for St. James, the church, and parish hall—making it difficult to track water reductions. To minimize use, St. James limits ornamental landscaping. The school's plants are drought tolerant and mulched, with the exception of the sports field and organic vegetable garden, which further reduce water use.
- The sports field is equipped with a water-efficient system, and the organic garden has a micro-irrigation system that operates on its own timer. Irrigation is turned off during rainy periods. The electric irrigation systems throughout the site are regularly maintained, and repairs are conducted immediately.
- The contiguous church grounds are also in the process of being converted to entirely drought tolerant landscaping; in 2016, all grass was removed from the church prayer garden and replaced with reflective stones and succulents. Rainwater capture is planned for the future.
- An organic garden with an expanded planter increased the permeable surface and vegetable planting area by 10 square feet. Design and construction of biofiltration swales for storm water drainage around the outdoor classroom has also begun. Approximately 61% of the St. James is devoted to ecologically beneficial uses, with abundant natural area where the students can play and learn, and for plants and wildlife to thrive.

Element IC: Waste

- St. James' 7th and 8th grade gardening classes have begun composting organic garden clippings to be used in the garden. The school also installed two vermiculture bins which are maintained by students and tied to curriculum.
- St. James' waste is commingled with the church, so tracking it is a big task. All paper, plastic, and other recyclables are recycled and picked up by EDCO waste management. St. James has three locked dumpsters, four large collectors, and three large recycling collectors. St. James is currently implementing improvements following a waste management audit by EDCO. The school operates a textile "recycling" program for school uniforms in good condition that can be passed down to younger students.
- St. James adopted a policy in 2016 to eliminate the use of single-use water bottles on campus at school functions and sports and performing arts events. Single-use water bottles were replaced with students' own reusable containers, and two Elkay water bottle filling stations were installed on campus.
- A formal Sustainable Practices Policy was implemented in 2017–18 and communicated to students, parents, and staff. The policy focuses on eight areas to move the site towards a healthier and greener environment. These areas emphasize avoiding plastic and Styrofoam, using sustainable alternatives and biodegradable products, reducing and reusing, recycling, serving local food, going paperless, and developing a list of suggested sustainable products.
- Environmentally preferable purchasing practices include the elimination of single-use water bottles, cups, and plastic utensils, moving towards purchasing more biodegradables. The teacher staff room is stocked with ceramic plates and bowls and stainless steel utensils for teacher use.

Element ID: Alternative Transportation

- Students commute from all over San Diego County to attend St. James. At this time, there is no efficient public transportation option. In January 2018, St. James conducted its first

Alternative Transportation survey where each class (apart from Pre-K) was surveyed to collect student-level data. 62% of respondents reported carpooling with two or more students in order to get to and from school. The survey also reported that 6% of respondents walked or rolled to school.

- A well-publicized no-idling policy applies to all vehicles. The school also provides secure storage for human-powered modes of transportation brought to school. A safe routes program is currently being developed for 2019, to promote active transportation.
- St. James does not have a transportation fleet or school buses and does not own any vans or other vehicles. For every off-campus school event within San Diego County, including St. James sports team games and tournaments, science fairs, dances, and field trips, parent drivers are designated and carpools from the St. James campus are formed. For off-campus events outside of San Diego County, St. James contracts with outside companies to provide buses to transport students, teachers, and chaperones.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Element IIA: Environmental Health

- St. James does not use pesticides on its campus and is working to completely eliminate the use of all pesticides on the adjacent church property, which is believed to be minimal. In the garden program, only organic non-toxic pest control is used. Ladybugs are used to control aphids, and lemon and orange trees in the garden have been taped at the trunk with non-toxic adhesive to keep ants from climbing up to the fruit. In 2017, students began building mesh cages to keep pests from eating young vegetables.
- St. James has requested that their landscaping company not utilize gas-operated equipment when students and families are present.
- There are several practices St. James employs to minimize exposure to hazardous contaminants. St. James is a smoke-free environment. Adequate testing is performed to determine if hazardous contaminants may exist at the site. A 2018 radon screening did not identify any actionable findings for the school. Additionally, the school has no fuel burning appliances, and the building materials and fixtures are free of mercury and asbestos. There are no wood playground structures; wood planters in the organic garden were removed and replaced with concrete block. St. James is in the process of upgrading all cleaning supplies to green certified products.
- St. James has several students with asthma who attend the school, so taking steps to prevent exposure to asthma triggers in and around school is important. School facilities are cleaned by St. James' dedicated cleaning service every school night and are periodically deep cleaned. Ventilation systems are maintained regularly. St. James does not permit animals that have pet dander on campus or in classrooms. When outdoor air quality is poor, students remain indoors to prevent smoke and particulate inhalation.
- School facilities are regularly monitored in order to control moisture from leaks, condensation, and excess humidity. The campus is small and the climate is generally dry, which helps keep moisture in-check. When leaks are detected, they are rectified immediately, and proper protocol is followed with professional services to eliminate ramifications.
- In ensuring St. James' buildings and site soils are lead-safe, St. James follows and implements the "10 Policies to Prevent and Respond to Childhood Lead Poisoning" from the National Center for Healthy Housing. When St. James' facilities were rebuilt in 1999, no paint or other building or finishing materials containing lead were used. In December 2016,

St. James engaged with a private company, EnviroMatrix Analytical, Inc., to test for lead in the water from taps throughout the campus; no lead was detected. St. James also employs ongoing monitoring of all food vendors to ensure that clean foods (preferably organic) are served to the students and staff. Additionally, soil in the garden was recently replaced with organic soil from a local farm.

- There are several steps St. James takes to provide access to clean drinking water. St. James' water supply comes from the municipal water source in the Santa Fe Irrigation District (SFID). This water is treated and continuously monitored and tested during and following the treatment process. This water consistently exceeds all federal and state standards for quality and safety.
- St. James has implemented a healthier and greener cleaning custodial program and follows the California Department of Public Health's "Healthy Cleaning & Asthma-Safer Schools: A How-To Guide." St. James works closely with students who have asthma or allergies; attacks are rare to non-existent.
- St. James' outdoor environmental quality is excellent. The school is within a mile of the Pacific Ocean, so coastal breezes keep the air clean. Parking is on-campus and there is very little need for idling cars. Cars do not idle anywhere on campus, and student loading areas are more than 25 feet from buildings. There are ample trees and plants to clean the air.

Element IIB: Nutrition and Fitness

- Healthy food and nutrition is promoted and practiced at St. James. St. James's school lunch program is provided by Ki's, a local health food restaurant. School menus feature food prepared using only the freshest and highest-quality ingredients, excluding fillers, preservatives, pesticides, and trans fatty acids. The school provides nutrition information and practical tools to students and parents through the "Fit to Lead" program in physical education classes, which focuses on maintaining a healthy lifestyle in every area of life. Junior High students are able to participate in a gardening elective class, getting hands-on learning experience with growing their own food in the school garden. St. James also does not allow sugary snacks to be brought in for birthday parties or for rewards. Students have all been taught the benefits of organic and non-processed food.
- Since 1999, St. James has included gardening education in its Kindergarten curriculum. Now, all students in Kindergarten through 6th grade are involved in gardening and cooking activities. Produce grown on campus has been harvested, cooked, and eaten by the students.
- All students, preschool through 8th grade, are required to participate in physical education, nearly 100% of which occurs outside. Sunscreen and hats are always advised. St. James participates in "Track Tuesdays;" students in different grades take time to run laps outside and have competitions to see which grade level can run the most number of laps over the course of each trimester. Additionally, teachers, students, and parents are invited to run/walk before school for 15 minutes on the grass field. The school participates in the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards and health measures are incorporated into assessments. St. James has a variety of facilities that promote diversity of outdoor play, including a grass field, sandbox, playground structure, walls, gaga pit and blacktop including six regulation size basketball hoops, one mini basketball hoop, and two volleyball courts. Every day, all students and teachers take two to three 5-minute breaks to incorporate movement using Go Noodle and other tools within the classroom such as Indo Boards,

which are rollers and cushions that develop coordination, balance, core strength, and mobility.

- The school's Wellness Committee ensures the Model Wellness Policy is being implemented at St. James.
- St. James is situated in a community that loves and embraces the outdoors. This way of life flows over to the children, and St. James takes full advantage to provide opportunities for exercise and recreation outside of the formal PE classes. As a part of the school Surf Team, students learn the skills to surf and bodyboard while understanding the conditions of the ocean for their safety and the wellbeing of others. Surf Team members also learn to respect, protect, and care for the ocean. Families of Surf Team students enjoy the beach and spend time in the water and walking the beach together. Other opportunities include golf, after school hoops, and cross country and track meets. Organized after school sports teams compete with other local schools in volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, beach volleyball, and surf team for both boys and girls.
- St. James staff members, along with students and parents, are encouraged to run/walk on the grass field every morning for 15 minutes before school begins. Exercise and yoga classes are available to the staff each year when they attend a spiritual wellness retreat together. A number of staff members walk or exercise together after work throughout the school year. The Beach Cruisers running/walking club on Fridays is also available to staff. St. James has a long tradition of an annual staff versus the 8th grade class volleyball game, where the entire school cheers on the participants. Staff has the opportunity to use Indo Boards to help develop balance, coordination, mobility, strength, and joy. All staff are recertified every year in CPR and first aid.
- St. James has a unique community partnership with Family and Friends Community Connection (FFCC), which has brought student and staff awareness to the issue of hunger and provided practical ways for the community to offer relief, such as through volunteering for food packaging events. In one such event, St. James students participated in packaging over 50,000 non-perishable meals that were distributed to the local community and communities around the world. Groups of junior high students visited the Dominican Republic in the summers of 2011 and 2013, bringing thousands of these food packages to poor families in remote, desolate areas of the island.
- St. James meets the requirements of all eight components of the Coordinated School Health Program. Health education at St. James includes alcohol and drug education (Red Ribbon Week), sex education (Family Life curriculum), and healthy eating (school lunch program). The school's Fit to Lead program empowers students to develop a healthy lifestyle in every area of life—physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and relationally. The psychological well-being and counseling at St. James incorporates Catholic values and principles of living faith-filled lives. When necessary, St. James partners with counseling services such as Catholic Charities and professionals at the local Catholic high school. St. James coordinates professional contact and services for students and families, in such instances as a death in the family or for mental/behavioral services.
- Multiple partnerships with organizations and community groups have supported St. James' mission to provide a challenging curriculum that prepares students to lead productive, healthy, safe, and successful lives. Work with the Solana Beach law enforcement has provided students with informational lectures about Internet safety as well as drug and alcohol information sessions. The Solana Beach Fire Station conducts regularly scheduled fire inspections and holds presentations about fire and water safety, while also showing student some of the equipment and gear used.

- In the fall of 2018, the principal and vice principal participated in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training. Steps are being taken with other Catholic schools in the area to provide this training for all faculty/staff by June of 2019. In partnership with the Parish, a security firm walks the campus at night to ensure that all doors and windows are locked and that the campus is secure and safe. A daily update is provided to the administration to maintain safety for all. St. James maintains updated documentation and lists of students.
- St. James has a school health room that is adjacent to the main office, which is staffed at all times during school hours. The health room contains a single bed and medicine closet. All staff are certified in CPR and participate in adult continuing education classes on a yearly basis. One of the two co-principals is on campus at all times to provide counseling and/or will ensure the proper care and evaluation if further psychological care is needed. A registered nurse checks all health records to ensure that each student is in compliance with the most recent California inoculation requirements.
- St. James' students are taught to model Christian values and to be respectful of self and others. In keeping with these values, St. James has implemented the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. The program is for all students, not just for those who are being bullied or bullying others. Each student is obliged to be considerate of fellow students and respectful to teachers and all adults. This fosters love of neighbor. Students also practice the Catholic sacrament of reconciliation, or the act of asking for forgiveness.
- St. James participates in the Great Kindness Challenge and has programs that recognize school Peacemakers. St. James's physical education classes teach students skills and provide opportunities to work through conflict and learn to work together effectively with others. In 2016, St. James implemented a Virtue program to study and practice desirable traits. In 2017, St. James created a Grade 7/8 Peer Mentoring Elective. Students selected for Peer Counseling are assigned an elementary school student to support and mentor educationally and socially.
- In 2016, St. James also implemented an Inclusion Program to strive to give all children access to the curriculum and support to those students who need support, with high expectations for all students and presuming competence for all students. St. James has always had students with special learning needs in our general population. With the support and partnership of PLNU, the Diocese of San Diego, Cathedral Catholic High School, and other Catholic inclusive schools in the Midwest and on the East Coast, St. James has implemented a formalized inclusion program at St. James. This program is one-of-a-kind in the Diocese of San Diego and will be a model for other schools in the area.

Pillar III: Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary Learning

- A unique practice at St. James is the teaching of California's Environmental Principles and Concepts within a moral and religious framework. In 2015, Pope Francis published the 176 page international environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, a call to urgently address how humans are shaping the future of our planet and to acknowledge and urgently act upon our environmental challenges. The heart of what the encyclical proposes is an integral ecology "which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings" and recognizes that "everything is closely interrelated."
- St. James' Schoolwide Learning Expectations include environmental outcomes and prepare students to be globally-aware citizens who demonstrate awareness of current events and

social justice issues, respect cultural differences, work to conserve and preserve Earth's natural resources, and participate in service programs.

- St. James' Green Schoolyard Vision is to use school grounds strategically to improve the well-being of children, their communities, and the urban environment at the same time. To achieve this, St. James is working toward the following outcomes:
 - Children: All children and youth have daily access to nature on their own school grounds to improve their learning, play, health, and social environments. Students and the school community act as stewards of their school grounds, actively taking part in shaping and caring for their shared public space.
 - Community: School grounds are vibrant, lively centers for their neighborhoods—used and valued during the school day for academic and recreational purposes and by their communities after hours. Public infrastructure on school grounds is well cared for and resources are equitably distributed.
 - Environment: School grounds act as green infrastructure for their cities, helping to foster healthy urban watersheds, robust wildlife habitats and corridors, improved climate change mitigation, and better air quality.
- In implementation of the Green Schoolyard Vision, St. James has made the following efforts:
 - Develop a 465-square-foot Preschool outdoor classroom: An unusable play gym was removed and replaced by three shade umbrellas providing 75% coverage of this area. Three large container citrus trees were added with drip irrigation on a solar powered irrigation time clock. An eight-foot picnic table will be added to facilitate outdoor academic learning, art, and play.
 - Develop the west side of St. James as a Green Schoolyard: project to be completed in 2018–19 school year. The school raised more than \$25,000 from the community to support the 3,500-square-foot green schoolyard. Green Schoolyard efforts are guided by a Master Plan completed with input from parents and students and support from the University of California Master Gardener program and Green Schoolyards America.
 - Build a classroom for outdoor instruction with blackboard and Monarch lifecycle mural to seat 18 students or more: a Monarch lifecycle mural and blackboard were designed by artist Scott Stiles and painted with eco-friendly materials; a permaculture-style rock and native plant swale was added to direct rooftop drainage around the outdoor classroom. Nine concrete benches donated by the Class of 2018 provide seating.
 - Implement a composting program: St. James began composting garden clippings in the edible garden in 2017. In 2018, vermicomposting was added; 6th grade students are tasked with caring for the worms.
 - Develop a Kumeyaay/Native American Garden: St. James began clearing approximately 300 square feet for a Kumeyaay/Native American garden in 2018. The school purchased native drought-tolerant plants including Ceanothus, White Sage, and Coffeeberry.
- In the Fall Trimester of 2016, St. James' Sustainability Director implemented an Organic Gardening and Sustainability Elective for Grades 7-8. Among other things, the elective curriculum included refurbishing and reclaiming St. James' organic garden, assisting with the replacement of all lighting with LED, implementing St. James' single-use plastics reduction policy, participating in field trips to study the ecology of the San Elijo lagoon and butterfly conservation, creation of the St. James Monarch butterfly program, and study of Pope Francis' environmental encyclical. By November 2016, students had raised money for 30 milkweed and butterfly plants and successfully released six monarch butterflies. Money was raised through removing succulents from the organic garden, repotting and selling them at the St. James Halloween Carnival. The course was assessed with traditional grading and research papers written by students.

- While Grades 7–8 have a specific elective class, Grades K–6 are also involved in all of the gardening, lighting retrofit, Monarch, organic cooking, and plastics reduction initiatives. All students K–8 are also involved in Earth Day activities every April, including energy reduction and recycling challenges, eco-art and other Student Council-led activities.
- Notable field trip experiences for students include:
 - 2nd grade takes an outdoor day trip to the world famous San Diego Zoo annually to study animal life cycles.
 - 4th grade attends an overnight trip and studies California Native American and gold rush history and culture in an outdoor environment at Lazy W Ranch in Orange County.
 - 5th grade attends an overnight trip on the *Star of India*, the world's oldest active sailing ship, to study ocean ecology, the night sky, mariner navigation, and all aspects of crewing a large ship.
 - 6th grade spends three days at AstroCamp, an outdoor science school focused on exploring the universe through hands-on experimental science, astronomy labs, physical science labs, and field science.
 - Grades 7–8 attend a three-day retreat that includes sunrise hikes and outdoor games, and where spirituality and healthy relationships are explored.

Element IIIB: STEM Content, Knowledge, and Skills

- In 2017–18 and 2018–19, St. James has offered an after school Robotics Hydrodynamics Challenge for Grades 4–6. The Robotics Program game and project components encourage students to think like engineers and scientists by solving real-world problems through building and programming robots. Robot Games have included "missions" relating to use, disposal, finding, or transportation of water in relation to structures such as water treatment systems, water filters, water fountains, water wells, fire trucks, rain clouds, water pipes, toilets, pumps, and faucets. Student-designed robots complete tasks such as: (1) removing broken pipe and replacing it with new pipe; (2) making the water bluer by moving the lever of the faucet; (3) making the water fountain rise; (4) making the water treatment system eject water; and (5) moving the water well to its place. Robot Projects require students to: (1) identify a current problem within the human water cycle; (2) design a solution; and (3) share it to others by presenting it using props, posters, slideshows, etc.
- In the Organic Gardening Elective, students use basic landscape design methods to plan out the garden. They draw and take measurements of all of the plots in the space. Then, based on those spaces, they determine which plants should be planted in each plot based on their individual sunlight and spacing needs. Students also use tools to measure and build fencing or protective enclosures to ward off pests and protect young plants. Students independently research, design, and take measurements prior to building these protective structures. These math and engineering activities are an added bonus on top of the diverse amount of biology curriculum included within the garden elective, from which students become proficient in soil content, plant biology, gardening procedures, and growth cycles.
- The Organic Gardening Elective class is presently designing and building a 3x20-foot biofiltration swale for storm water drainage around the outdoor classroom.
- Eighth grade students the outdoor annual Physics Day at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park. In March 2018, students built intricate roller coasters using a variety of materials and then analyzed them using physics principles including matter, energy, motion, and force.
- In the Gardening Elective, students watch various films that promote the science behind sustainability and responsible farming. Students then have an opportunity to engage in

discussion and write papers and reflections about the content in the films. Stirring the student's interests in these topics at a young age can make careers in various science fields look more appealing and accessible.

Element IIIC: Civic Knowledge and Skills

- St. James has a long history of incorporating charitable works into the curriculum, and outdoor learning often has a civic bend:
 - 1st grade collects plastic water bottles and cans, donating recycling proceeds to wildlife conservation organizations chosen by students.
 - 5th grade has incorporated annual beach clean-up into curriculum, partnering with San Diego Coastkeeper and the Surfrider Foundation.
- St. James has a unique community partnership with Family and Friends Community Connection (FFCC); it is the vision of FFCC to eliminate starvation by 2050. Other community partnerships include Missionary Childhood Association, Culture of Life Family Services, Veronica's Home, Father Joe's Village, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, San Diego Blood Bank, Mission Circle and Ronald McDonald House Charities. St. James also has a long history of excellent physical and wellness education.
- In 2017–18, Junior High and alumni students engineered and built a butterfly house to protect and conserve threatened Monarch caterpillars so that they may grow into butterflies. Ample milkweed, the only food source for Monarch caterpillars, is maintained in the pollinator garden. The 5th grade annually works with San Diego Coastkeepers to clean debris from local beach and keep statistics on what they find.
- In 2017, the entire school participated in an outdoor performing arts production of the environmental fable *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss and adopted the school sustainability theme "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better." All costumes were made from recycled or borrowed materials. Following this production, St. James students have continued to perform excerpts of *The Lorax* outside of school, including at a community holiday parade, for the San Diego Roman Catholic Bishop and Diocese, at other churches, and at the 2018 Rise for Climate March. St. James' outreach efforts continue to inspire their community and others toward a more sustainable future.