



Saint James School

Pre-K3 - 5th Grade Admissions

Greetings! The Saint James School Admissions Team is excited to share the opportunities that await your family on our beautiful 68-acre campus! Explore with us how *Educating Students for Life* begins in our elementary school and continues throughout the Saint James journey.

Each day, our outstanding academic and enrichment teachers deliver a proven curriculum through the most innovative and effective teaching methods, tailored for every age. Cross-curriculum explorations in library, technology, music, art, Spanish, and science are integrated with technology, exceptional reading programs, unique indoor and outdoor science laboratories, well-equipped playgrounds, art galleries, and a media center to create a unique educational experience that students remember for a lifetime.

As a member of the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals (AISAP), we are trained to help guide you through a smooth admissions process. We look forward to working with your family and the opportunity to watch your child grow in elementary and flourish throughout their middle and high school years with us.

To learn more or to schedule a tour:

- *Call* 334-273-3021
- *Email* admissions@stjmontgomery.org
- *Visit* STJmontgomery.org

Admissions Policies

- Saint James School's curriculum is designed to best accommodate students of above average to gifted ability. Admissions standards are planned with this in mind.
- The admissions committee is composed of the head of school, academic dean, principal, and counselor. Every effort is made to ensure that students who are accepted will experience academic success.
- The admissions team is here to guide you through the admissions and enrollment process at Saint James School. Parents are encouraged to actively engage in and monitor the application process along the way.
- All students are required to take admissions tests as a new or returning student, as required by Saint James School. In evaluating students for admission, the admissions committee reviews results of the tests, behavioral observations, teacher evaluations, and prior academic records.
- Students admitted for Pre-K3 must be potty trained and able to use the bathroom facilities independently, with adult help limited to assistance with snaps, buttons, and zippers. Priority is given to applicants turning three by July 1 of the year they enter STJ.
- Pre-K4, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade applicants must be four (Pre-K4), five (Kindergarten), or six (1st Grade) by September 1 of the year they enter STJ.
- Applicants who are accepted by the admissions committee are extended an invitation to join the Saint James School student body as space is available. To secure your child's enrollment, STJ encourages families to return contracts promptly.

Character • Commitment • Courage • Community

Saint James is an independent, nonsectarian, college preparatory school with a student body broadly representative of college-bound students. We are committed to challenging and assisting students in realizing their individual potential and preparing them for lives of responsibility, service, and achievement.

Admissions Assessments

All assessment costs are included in the application fee, with the exception of the WPPSI.

- **STJ Assessment:** The Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning is an effective and objective tool to determine developmental readiness, based on competencies that teachers indicated were necessary for success in the classroom. It is divided into three broad areas: motor, language, and concepts. This screening also evaluates developmental readiness, maturity, and social behavior. The assessment, completed at Saint James School, takes between 30 to 40 minutes. At the end of the screening, we have a hard time persuading children to leave because they are having so much fun.
- **WPPSI:** The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) assesses a child's general intellectual functioning. The Verbal subtests evaluate the child's ability to recall and process verbal information using language to express his or her ideas. The Performance subtests evaluate nonverbal reasoning, the ability to process visual material and visual-spatial perception.

This assessment is administered by a licensed child psychologist, within his or her office. The testing usually takes between 40 to 60 minutes. We suggest that you tell your child they will be participating in interesting activities such as playing with blocks and looking at pictures. The assessment is scheduled by the parent and the fee (\$150) will be paid directly to the psychologist. STJ often recommends:

Sheree Bodiford, Ph.D. 334-557-1080

JoAnne Ray, Ph.D. 334-239-7139

Pam Snider, Ph.D. 334-356-8430

- **KTEA:** The Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement is an individually administered measure of academic achievement. It provides an analysis of a student's academic strengths and weaknesses in reading, mathematics, and

Admissions Checklist

- ☐ Submit the online *Application for Admission*, including birth certificate and application fee, at STJmontgomery.org/admissions
- ☐ Ask a previous teacher to complete a *Teacher Evaluation*
- ☐ Provide official *Academic Records* for the current and previous two school years (applicants applying for 1st - 5th grades)
- ☐ Schedule and complete Admissions testing requirements; assessments vary by grade
 - ☐ STJ Assessment
 - ☐ WPPSI
 - ☐ KTEA
 - ☐ OLSAT
 - ☐ SAT10

written language. The skills battery composite includes subtests from each core academic area. This assessment is administered at Saint James School.

- **OLSAT:** The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test measures a student's ability to learn in a classroom setting. The test questions require the student to use abilities thought to be related to success in school. This test consists of problems involving sequencing, patterns, analogies, likenesses and differences, definitions, and mathematics problem solving. This assessment is administered at Saint James School or online.
- **SAT10:** The Stanford Achievement Test Series is a nationally normed multiple-choice achievement test. It may cover reading, language, spelling, mathematics, science, and social science. It provides a valid and reliable measure of academic achievement through four achievement parameters: content cluster, process cluster, cognitive level, and instructional standards. This assessment is administered at Saint James School or online.

The most important thing in preparing for these tests is to relax! Before testing, we encourage you and your child to review general testing tips so your child has a better understanding of what to expect on their upcoming admissions test. If an online practice is available, we encourage your child to participate.