

SJE Basketball Program Overview

The SJE basketball program is an instructional/development league that is open to all students of SJE in grade 3 thru 8. Currently we play in the Catholic Athletic League (CAL) of the Diocese of Rhode Island. Games are typically played on weekends at sites throughout SE Mass and RI. All coaches are volunteers and are trained and certified by CAL's ASEP program. All coaches must pass a CORI check.

Our teams occasionally play in additional, non-CAL tournaments such as the annual SJE Invitational in March, as well as CAL and New England playoff tournaments when our teams qualify. Grade 3 & 4 do not play in the CAL tournament.

The SJE basketball program is provided entirely by volunteers, both in coaching students and in managing the school gym on game days. In order for the program to run successfully, all player families are required to assist with gym duties on home games as assigned. Managing the gym consists of admissions, scorers table and concessions. Typically, each team has a volunteer coordinator who helps the head coach with parent volunteer scheduling, and we aim to minimize the volunteering burden on any single team or set of parents.

Third grade parents will participate in gym duty during the second half of the season, with each team sharing duties for two assignments with another team. This will ensure they have the experience for the St. John's tournament.

Our teams' practice once a week beginning in October with grades 3-6 practicing 1 ½ hours and grades 7 & 8 practicing 2 hours. When possible, we try to reserve the 5:30-7 practice slots for the younger teams and the 7-9 practice slots for the older teams.

Since 1979, SJE hosts our March Madness tournament beginning the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday concluding in late March. This is a double elimination tournament open to all SJE teams as well as school teams throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This is a highlight of our basketball season and a St. John's tradition.

Above all, St. John's basketball is about having fun, building long lasting friendships and developing basketball and life skills. We welcome and encourage all kids who want to play basketball, regardless of skill or ability, to join the team. In addition to basketball skills, both coaches and fans teach players the value of sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play with their actions on the court, in practices, during games and on the sidelines. We expect that all aspects of our program – from player development to coach and fan demeanor to how we welcome and treat our opponents – will be positive reflections on St. John's as a whole.

We encourage any parent who wants to volunteer to sign up. We'd love your help.