



DORMS -FAMILY HANDBOOK

2022-2023

Hello, SJASL Families!

Thank you for choosing St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake. We feel very lucky to be educating children in such a breathtaking environment full of opportunities to grow and develop. In SJASL Shawnigan Dorms, we aim to provide a warm, supportive environment where we value communication, self-discipline, work ethic, accountability, and honesty in addition to the school values of caring, courage, integrity, resilience, and respect.

The curriculum at SJASL dorms emphasises connections and confidence through Canadian cultural experiences, West Coast explorations, and experiential learning opportunities. Students will be encouraged to celebrate and share their own customs and traditions and build IB skills together as a community. The SJASL Dorms use the warm home setting, nestled snugly between a lake and a mountain, to develop and enhance these important IB skills and learning attributes.

- **IB learners:**

- have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge
- flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
- study at least two languages
- excel in traditional academic subjects
- explore ways of knowing and areas of knowledge through the programme's unique Theory of Knowledge course,
- grow holistically through CAS – Creativity, Action, Service.
- Are being trained to create a better and more peaceful world

- **Logistics:**

In addition to the regular school day, SJASL Dorm Students enjoy:

- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, and snacks
- FLEX curriculum specifically designed to build confidence and connections
- Supervised Study Hall with BC educators available to help
- Saturday trips exploring the local communities and greater West Coast
- Longer trip options to Whistler and Tofino
- Exceptional staff, all educators, weave important life-skills into the home environment

In our Dorm Family Handbook, please find information about SJASL Dorms. In the Student Handbook, you will see the guidelines our students are working towards. Please contact the Director of Boarding with any questions or concerns!

SJASL Dorms – FAMILY Handbook 2022–2023

SJASL dorm students and day students stand together as One School. All students and parents must familiarize themselves with Student Handbook. Our SJASL Dorms Family Handbook provides important additional information and support for our dorm family.

FLEX:

FLEX occurs after school from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. FLEX curriculum focuses on life skills and competencies for the 21st century. These skills are complex, cross-disciplinary, important for many different aspects in school and life. Human nature shows us that we are intuitively curious and social. Students crave understanding of how and why things happen, and they want to engage in fulfilling relationships. FLEX builds skills for life and allows students to follow their natural curiosity and engagement with others. (Saavedra & Opfer, 2012)

Mondays, students will be looking into the arts, mostly practising performing and becoming comfortable speaking in front of an audience. These activities are fun, and they also stretch our students to find confidence when they present themselves.

Tuesdays, students will engage in Teacher Tuesdays. Teachers at SJA will share expertise with students, teaching them life skills and aspects of West Coast living. The students will be actively instructed during this time.

Wednesdays, students will have access to the campus and they will engage in individual pursuits. Students are encouraged to spend time on their hobbies and passions.

Thursdays, there will be extra academic or dorm support time. For academics, we will offer IELTS training, guided homework support and writing practice, and strategies for reading. For dorm support, we will develop leadership techniques and work together to build community.

Fridays, students have free time. Many will do their homework during FLEX time to leave the evening free for movies in the Dining Hall with local friends.

Study Hall:

From 6:15–7:45 pm, Monday through Thursday, students attend Study Hall. During this time, students work on individual homework in the Library. Study Hall is supervised by teachers who are available to help when needed.



Recreation: Our Recreation Coordinator plans and executes exciting trips and daily excursions.

- **Trips included in the Boarding Program:** For the 2022–23 year, we will have two trips included in the Boarding Program: a short trip to Vancouver in November 2022, and an overnight trip to Tofino in Pacific Rim National Park in Spring 2023. These costs are included in the boarding tuition.
- **Optional Spring Break Trip:** There is an option for boarding students to participate in a trip to New York City and Toronto in March 2023. This trip takes place over the March Spring Break, when dorms are closed, and offers an option for students who do not want to or are unable to travel home for these two weeks. This cost will be in addition to tuition.
- **Optional Whistler Ski Trip:** There is an option for boarding students to attend a three-day, two-night ski trip to Whistler, BC in February, 2023. This trip is offered for students who like to ski/snowboard (or want to learn) and for students who want to explore scenic Whistler and Whistler Village. This cost will be in addition to tuition.



- **Saturday and Long Weekend Activities:** Each weekend, recreational activities are planned for our boarding program by our Boarding Recreation Coordinator. Our schedule includes both on and off campus activities and primarily occur on Saturdays. Our attempt is to showcase our location on Vancouver Island through a variety of experiences, highlighting our local tourist attractions, while also giving students time to explore individually. Please see below for the plan for the first term.

September

- 3 - Victoria, Dallas Road & Beacon Hill Park
- 10 - Victoria, China Town, Boat Ballet
- 17 - Water sports, paint rocks, camp fire, BBQ (campus)
- 24 - Bright Angel Park & Duncan, Totem Tour
- 26/27 - School-wide Camping Trips
- 30 - Truth and Reconciliation Day, Legislature & Downtown Victoria

October

- 1 - Malahat Skywalk
- 8 - Port Alberni & Parksville, Cathedral Grove & Goats on Roof
- 15 - Victoria
- 22 - Pumpkin Patch!
- 29 - Carving Pumpkins + Outdoor Movie night (campus)

November

- 5 - West Coast leadership explorations
- 12 - Day Trip to Vancouver!
- 19 - Student Plan TBD (on campus)
- 26 - Victoria, Festival of Trees, Santa Parade

December

- 3 - On Campus Holiday craft & decoration
- 10 - Nanaimo, Holiday light tour + shopping
- 17 - Travel Home for Holidays

Transportation:

Please book transportation through the Director of Boarding.

DOB@stjohnsacademy.ca

SJASL provides the following ground transportation services:

- Scheduled ground transportation within the calendar dates, to and from the Victoria International Airport, BC Ferry Terminals, Float Plane Terminals, US Ferry Terminals for all major breaks
- Medical / Dental appointments
- School sanctioned trips

Anything that falls outside of these parameters can be arranged at an additional cost. Transportation can be charged to the student incidentals account.

At SJASL dorms, the students explore the Cowichan Valley and Greater Victoria. On Saturdays, the students go on day trips, and there are regular opportunities to visit banks, pick up personal items, and explore shops.

Occasionally, a student requests additional transportation. For these convenience trips, transportation must be requested 48 hours in advance and can be charged to the incidentals account (if funds are available). All convenience trips must be approved by a Dorm Parent.

Local transportation (within the Cowichan Valley) – round trip: \$40.00

Shared transportation (two or more students) – round trip: \$25.00 per passenger

Local transportation (within the Greater Victoria area) – round trip: \$80.00

Shared transportation (two or more students) – round trip: \$50.00 per passenger

St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to the Victoria International Airport – one way: \$125.00

Shared transportation (two or more students) – one way: \$75.00 per passenger

St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Swartz Bay or Departure Bay Ferry – one way: \$125.00

Shared transportation (two or more students) – one way: \$75.00 per passenger

For all transportation requests, 48 hours' notice in writing is required to cancel a reservation; otherwise, the student account will be charged. For any last-minute requests (anything less than 48 hours' notice), we will attempt to maintain the standard transportation charges, but additional charges may apply.

Scheduled Ground Transportation within the calendar dates:

The Airport Pick-up/ Drop-off fee is included if students' departure or arrival dates fall in the designated times.

Date	Scheduled Ground Transportation	Drop off time
October 7th, 2022	St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal (Victoria)	In time for the 7:00 pm Sailing to Tsawwassen
October 10th, 2022	Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal (Victoria) to St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake	Take the 7:00 pm ferry from Tsawwassen Pick up at Swartz Bay at 8:35 pm
December 17th, 2022	St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal (Victoria)	In time for the 11:00 am Sailing to Tsawwassen
December 17th, 2022	St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Victoria Airport	Dropped off at the Departures gate at 9:30 am
December 18th, 2022	St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Departure Bay Ferry Terminal (Nanaimo)	In time for the 10:40 am Sailing to Horseshoe Bay
December 18th, 2022	St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake to Victoria Airport	Dropped off at the Departures gate at 9:30 am
January 8th, 2023	Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal (Victoria) to St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake	Take the 5:00 pm ferry from Tsawwassen Pick up at Swartz Bay at 6:35 pm
January 8th, 2023	Victoria Airport to St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake	Picked up at the Arrivals Gate at 7:15 pm

Uniform:

All boarding students receive the upgraded uniform package. Students will be fitted upon arrival; tailoring is available for a small fee. Any additional school uniform items are charged on a per-item basis.

Student Incidental Fund:

The Student Incidental Fund may be used in the case of a medical emergency, including medication or required prescriptions. The incidental fund may also be used for uniform pieces, school transportation (not including taxi service), and other school-related items. Unused incidental fees will be returned on graduation. Please contact accounts@stjohnsacademy.ca with any questions.

Official Communication Channels

At SJASL, we like to keep communication lines open!

Please be aware that official communications from SJASL will occur through official channels:

- The SJASL Spotlight Newsletter
- The School website www.stjohnsacademy.ca
- Instagram Pages
- sja.boarding.recreation
- st.johnsacademyshawniganlake
- @stjohnsacademy.ca email addresses

Any other communication from staff outside of these channels should be regarded as unofficial and not representative of SJASL as a whole. Students are not permitted to create websites or social media accounts with the SJASL name or crest, or any other identifier that may reasonably lead to a misunderstanding.

Positive Discipline

In the event that students break the rules or are hurtful to others, we work towards a resolution that is helpful and supportive to everyone. Our staff have been trained using the positive discipline model and work as a team to approach situations with a united front. More information on positive discipline can be found online at <https://www.positivediscipline.com/>, or by speaking to a member of staff.

Please see the Student Handbook for more information about SJASL Dorm Life.