

1953

Summer 2025





Hall Courtney '38 takes a break on the playground. This photo was submitted in the 2025 *Chalice* Yearbook Photography contest by **Emily Steckler '26**. Great shot, Emily!

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On the cover: New alumni from the Class of 2025 **Addy Vogt, Kaitlyn Sunderhaus, Ayva Safreed, and Calliann Holshouser**, at graduation at The Florida Theatre, Friday, May 23, 2025



Head of School Valorie Baker with St. Johns' therapy dog, Byrdie

Letter from the Head of School

Dear Spartan Families,

It's always a joy to share the story of our School with you through *1953: The Magazine of St. Johns Country Day School*. This special publication helps us celebrate who we are—our history, our values, our traditions—and this year, it also gives us a moment to pause and reflect on just how far we've come as we wrap up our 2020–2025 Strategic Plan.

Over the past five years, we've taken meaningful steps to grow as a school community and to better prepare our students for the future they'll inherit. We've expanded our academic programs with intention, always keeping your children at the heart of our work. Through our partnership with Global Online Academy, students have access to challenging, future-ready coursework that gives them valuable experience with online and asynchronous learning—skills that will serve them well in college and beyond. We've also introduced Design Thinking (see page 6) across all divisions, giving students tools to solve real-world problems, collaborate with empathy, and grow through creativity and resilience.

We've continued to nurture a community that feels like home. From increased scholarship support to programs that foster inclusion and connection, we're committed to making sure every student and family knows they belong. Just look at the excitement and spirit around events like this year's Parent Appreciation Week—proof of the strong, joyful bonds that tie us together.

And because of careful financial stewardship and planning, we're in a strong place to move confidently into the future. We can look ahead with optimism—investing in what matters most: our students, our teachers, and the vibrant campus life that defines the St. Johns experience.

As you flip through the pages of this issue, I hope you feel not only proud of what we've accomplished, but inspired by the promise of what's to come. Together, we've built something truly special—and I can't wait to see where the next chapter takes us.

Fondly,

Valorie



SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS

Lower School



Grandparents Day

In March, Lower School students were thrilled to invite Grandparents and "Grandfriends" to campus for Grandparents Day. The Performing Arts Center was packed for the students' performance of James and the Giant Peach, adapted from the book by Roald Dahl. Classroom visits and photo ops came next and the day was filled with laughter, love, and lasting memories, making it a truly special celebration for students and their cherished guests.



Student Council Develops Young Leaders



Serving on St. Johns' Lower School Student Council introduces students to leadership, responsibility, and service. Elected by their peers, they lead school projects and community outreach. Over the past year, students have organized successful fundraisers for hurricane relief, veterans, animal shelters, and local food and toy drives—collecting over 1,300 pounds of food and a carload of toys. “One of the biggest lessons is responsibility,” said sponsor Jennifer Keller. Student Council empowers young leaders to make a real impact while building lifelong skills.

Lower School Town Meeting: A Celebration of Community and Character

At St. Johns Country Day School, the Lower School Town Meeting brings students together to share, celebrate, and learn. More than just an assembly, it's a student-led event that fosters leadership, collaboration, and a strong sense of community. “It's a celebration run for the students, by the students,” says Head of Lower School Otis Wirth.

Each meeting showcases classroom learning, highlights acts of kindness, and reinforces the Character Foundations program. Students also develop confidence by presenting to their peers. Practicing before a recent Town Meeting, Grade 1's Irene Duffy admitted she was nervous but excited to share her story, while Grade 4's Luke Feria summed it up simply: “It's fun!”

A favorite feature, Look! I am Awesome, allows students to recognize their classmates for kindness and generosity. Unlike traditional recognition programs, this student-driven approach shifts the focus from competition to appreciation. Part of the School's Caring School Community initiative, Town Meeting helps students develop empathy, encouragement, and mutual respect—key values that shape the Lower School experience.





Grade 5 Crosses the Quad

In May, St. Johns was thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of our Grade 5 students as they “crossed the Quad” into Middle School. In keeping with recent tradition, each student spoke for a few minutes, offered advice to the rising Grade 5 class, and received a personal recognition. These included:

Class of 2032 Recognitions:

- **Ethan Azevedo:** David Christian Recognition for interest in history and learning about humanity
- **Ryan Barron:** Benjamin Franklin Recognition for embodying the diplomatic spirit of the World Enlightenment
- **Henry Boyce:** John Locke Recognition for knowing what information is needed and developing questioning strategies to produce results
- **Natalia Conde:** Malala Yousafzai Recognition for a being the person who has succeeded by maintaining resiliency
- **Lily Curtis:** Ann M. Martin Recognition for speaking and writing clearly so others can fully understand what is being communicated
- **Ollie Day:** Phil Jackson Recognition for being athletically talented and also having the ability to teach others
- **Samantha D’Imperio:** Mary Parker Follet Recognition for mitigating the negative aspects of conflict while enhancing the positive ones
- **Bailey Dorman:** Elizabeth Bishop Recognition for enjoying creative writing and visual arts
- **Jack Dugre:** Sir Isaac Newton Recognition for using mathematical techniques and models to analyze data to create accurate results
- **Ben Forbrich:** Albert Einstein Recognition for consistently using scientific reasoning skills to solve real-world problems
- **Tanner Greer:** Ken Jennings Recognition for consistently seeking clarification to guarantee precision and understanding
- **Lillian Hanna:** Betty White Recognition for being joyful and making those around her feel better about themselves
- **Lucas Hardy:** Warren E. Burger Recognition for being passionate about truth and justice, and possessing the ability to turn ideas into positive actions
- **Abby Harrington:** Barbara Walters Recognition for being well-rounded and committing herself to be at her best in all situations
- **Isaac Hebner:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recognition for reflecting upon all situations to better himself and others



- **Lexi Hollingsworth:** Maya Gabeira Recognition for demonstrating there are no limits to what a person can accomplish
- **Jackie Holshouser:** William Marshal Recognition for being loyal to his beliefs and his trusted friends
- **Cooper Keiter:** Frank Miller Recognition for excelling at sketching and graphic art
- **Lily Landwehr:** Amy Biehl Recognition for reflecting a calm and serene approach to relationships and always promoting harmony
- **Jack Lerche:** Kobe Bryant Recognition for demonstrating a passion and never-ending dedication to athletics
- **Ethan Loftis:** Milton Hershey Recognition for combining confidence and determination to overcome all challenges
- **Allie Mata:** Margaret Thatcher Recognition for demonstrating the art of effectively working with a wide range of people, both sensitively and efficiently

- **Ryan Mitchell:** Richard G. Drew Recognition for knowing what information is needed and developing questioning strategies to produce results
- **Graham Morris:** Kate White Recognition for being a critical thinker with an impeccable attention to detail when solving problems
- **Daniella Paquin:** Julie Andrews Recognition for valuing music in terms of harmony and development
- **Elise Polk:** Oprah Winfrey Recognition for consistently demonstrating that reading is a lifelong skill and an essential part of building a robust vocabulary
- **Davie Price:** Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin Recognition for amusing others and making them feel comfortable and lighthearted
- **Olivia Rachal:** Phyllis Diller Recognition for having impeccable timing with humor and being the first one not to take herself too seriously

- **Harper Rinks:** Princess Diana Spencer Recognition for being a kind-hearted and thoughtful person who makes a difference to those around her
- **Lucas Rosario:** Thomas Edison Recognition for showing a never-ending tenacity to get it done and done right
- **John Schmidt:** Buster Keaton Recognition for having the ability to deliver one-liners which are both clever and eye-opening
- **Mahi Shah:** Mother Teresa Recognition for consistently putting the needs and wishes of others as a priority rather than her own
- **Hadley Watkins:** Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton Recognition for being strong, empathetic, and understanding, while making sure that everyone is cared for
- **Annabelle Wiggans:** Amelia Earhart Recognition for being determined to overcome obstacles and succeed

Middle School

Design Thinking in Middle School: Building Innovators

At St. Johns Country Day School, innovation begins early. Through the Grade 6 Design Thinking & Innovation course, students learn to tackle problems creatively, collaborate effectively, and persevere through challenges—all foundational skills for success in the modern world. They apply these skills across their curriculum. For example, in history class, they explore how the outcomes of the Civil War might have been different with the application of design thinking. In science, they build and rebuild experiments, prototyping, testing, and rethinking.

More than just a class, design thinking is woven throughout the Middle School experience, giving students repeated opportunities to practice empathy, ideation, and iteration across disciplines. As a result, they become not only stronger learners but also resilient self-advocates who thrive in teams and embrace feedback.

In an age where adaptability and innovation are essential, St. Johns is equipping its students with the mindset and tools to lead with confidence—now and in the future.



Grade 8 DC trip

In September, Grade 8 students traveled to Washington DC, where they visited government buildings, memorials, Arlington Cemetery, and museums, took a trip to Shenandoah National Park, went rafting, and so much more. The trip serves as a foundation for the grade, building relationships, setting expectations, and creating bonds that will last the rest of the year and beyond. They also had the opportunity to meet up with a couple of alums—**Troy Myers '18**, who is now a DC-based journalist, and **Philip Robbins '08**, who answered their questions about his work in cybersecurity.





Grade 8 Closing Ceremony

On May 19, St. Johns was proud to celebrate the Class of 2029 moving into Upper School. Head of School Valorie Baker welcomed families and friends to the Performing Arts Center assembly, and Head of Middle School Ben Magidson offered some words of wisdom.

“As you head into high school, remember this,” Magidson said, “who you are today is just the beginning. You don’t need to have all the answers. Just stay curious, stay kind, and stay true to yourself. The world needs your light, your ideas, your energy. Don’t ever think you’re too small to make a big difference. Take this momentum and continue to become rockstars, heroes and change makers. The world needs lots and lots of them.”

Following the remarks, students were recognized with departmental and athletic awards celebrating academic excellence, artistic achievement, athletic skill, and strong character.



2025 Departmental Awards:

- English: Matilda Morris
- Mathematics: Nikalina Frustaci & Matilda Morris
- Science: Max Rivera
- History: Collin Ashford
- Spanish: Elizabeth Jackson & Kate Pappas
- French: Matilda Morris
- Concert Band: Elizabeth Jackson
- Art: Kate Pappas
- Drama: Rachel Robinson
- Chorus: Adisenne Taylor
- Technical Theater: Aiden Kraemar
- Design Thinking: Ethan Kent

Athletic Awards:

- Top Middle School Male Athlete: Tyson Jackson
- Top Middle School Female Athlete: Ava Lerche
- Rising Star Female: Matilda Morris & Kate Staten
- Rising Star Male: Colt Hill & Ethan Kent

Cayden Ingram Middle School Spartan Award:

- Matilda Morris



Middle School Starts with U: Spartan U

Adapting to Middle School can be tough—especially for new Grade 6 students. Even with all the advantages of St. Johns' Academy for Grades 4 and 5, it's a lot to take in at a time when students are already navigating the transitions of tweenhood. That's why St. Johns Country Day School created Spartan U, a dedicated program designed to help Grade 6 students hit the ground running.

"Going into this, we know they're nervous and anxious," says Grade 6 Advisor Brian Dunne. "So Spartan U is a chance to ease into Middle School life in a fun and engaging way."

Over the course of the year, students participate in a wide range of custom-built activities designed to foster connection, confidence, and familiarity with their new environment. They tour campus, meet teachers and staff, and engage in a variety of trust-building games and small-group discussions. The goal is to help students feel at home—socially, emotionally, and physically—from the very start.

One key feature of Spartan U is the House system, in which students are grouped into "houses" that serve as a kind of homeroom within Grade 6. Houses compete in friendly challenges and work together on team-building tasks that promote camaraderie and shared purpose.



House Ferveur



House Kalosyni



House Valentia

"The House activities are where the real magic happens," says Dunne. "When students are spending time together as part of their house, that's when you can tell they really feel like part of something bigger than themselves. As advisors, that's our 'that's it!' moment."

But Spartan U is more than just fun and games—it's also about helping students understand who they are and how they'll grow. "I think Spartan U does two things," Dunne says. "First, we remind them that they are a team. They'll be together moving forward, so respect and collaboration are essential. Second, we challenge them to find their individual place in Middle School—how they'll be successful and leave their mark during their time here. Whether that's through art or athletics, performing arts or academics, we want them to figure out who they are."

With that in mind, Spartan U also reinforces key values that define the Middle School experience at St. Johns Country Day School—seeking solutions, accepting responsibility, and creating collaboration. It's all part of building a strong foundation that sets students up for success—not just in Grade 6, but in the years ahead.

The House crests were designed and hand-drawn by Visual Arts Department Chair Anna Reynolds.



Winterim & Minterim

In January, Spartans returned from Winter Break to Winterim (or, in Middle School, “Minterim”), a brief period before the spring semester during which students engage in targeted activities designed to expand their horizons, explore possible career paths, and transition smoothly into the next semester.

Winterim activities are customized by grade and include on-campus mini-courses, community service opportunities, field trips, career internships, and, for seniors, an offsite experience with UNF’s Taylor Leadership Institute.

This unique program offers students a valuable break from their regular academic schedule while encouraging hands-on learning and real-world exploration. By participating in diverse experiences tailored to their grade level, Spartans gain new skills, discover passions, and build connections that inspire their growth both inside and outside the classroom.





Honor Societies Inductions

Over the past year, St. Johns was thrilled to welcome new members to its honors societies, National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). These organizations celebrate scholarship, leadership, service, and character in Upper and Middle School students, respectively.

In November, the NHS inducted 23 juniors and seniors into the St. Johns chapter and featured an inspiring address delivered by **Jessica Palombo Gustafson '04** who shared her experiences in the field of journalism and offered advice to the new inductees.

“In news the whole point is to help people stay curious and keep learning every day.... Like our readers, I hope you won’t ever stop learning... and like many [Jacksonville Today] readers, I hope you will find a way to give back to your community—not necessarily with your money but with your talents.”

New Inductees included:

Class of 2025:

- Sawyer Davidson
- Rowan Fix
- Sawyer Kenney
- Grace McNulty

Class of 2026:

- Madisyn Bauman
- Calli Berrang
- Caden Brown
- Raeghyn Cobb
- Sander Crumpton
- Isabella DeLeon

- Griffin Dubnansky
- Adrian Heinrichs
- Wyatt Hollingsworth
- Audrey Jackson
- Sergio Lopez Diaz
- Brice McClellan
- Tyler Phillipoff

- Ishta Ramroop
- Reyden Rivera
- Hunter Rodgers
- Emily Steckler
- Addison Wagstaff
- Alyssa Walker

Then, in April, the NJHS inducted 16 new members from Grades 7 and 8. These included:

Class of 2029:

- Samuel Hollingsworth
- Gaige Jackson

Class of 2030:

- Adelyn Azevedo
- Mallory Badger
- Fletcher Cummings
- Miley Desguin

- Lon Harvey
- Ivy Holmberg
- Elijah Larsen
- Nolan Niederbrach
- Lucy Mitchell

- Lauren Nightingale
- Tatum Perschau
- Hadley Price
- Olivia Price
- Kylie Welsh

*Congratulations to the newest members of
the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society
for their outstanding achievements and commitment to excellence!*

Field Trips

More Than Just a Day Out

As part of St. Johns' future-forward curriculum, students often embark on field trips outside the classroom where they can engage with content and make meaningful connections between what they've studied and how it translates to the real world.

In Lower School, trips build foundations of curiosity and exploration and might include St. Augustine's Castillo de San Marcos, tying into their study of Florida history. In Middle School, many trips focus on expanding knowledge and developing practical skills through service. The Middle School Student Council volunteers regularly with the local nonprofit Miriam's Basket, which helps children who have been suddenly removed from their homes by providing much-needed clothing, personal items, and even toys. Sometimes these out-of-classroom experiences even come to the students, such as when a mobile petting zoo visited St. Johns preschool students.

As students progress into Upper School, trips provide real-world learning, preparing students for college and careers beyond the classroom. Over the past year, Anatomy & Physiology students have practiced suturing and intubation at the Mayo Clinic, learned about chemical, physical, and biological factors in our drinking water, wastewater, waterways, and groundwater at JEA's Water Testing Lab, and visited Tallahassee for an in-depth look at how Florida government works.

Opportunities such as these enrich classroom learning by fostering curiosity, empathy, and real-world understanding—helping St. Johns students become well-rounded learners ready to engage confidently beyond the school walls.



Upper School



Mr. & Miss St. Johns

Each year, the Mr. and Miss St. Johns competitions provide a fun and light-hearted way for students to raise much-needed funds for local charities while putting on a great show.

The Mr. St. Johns competition took place in October, featuring ten contestants who entertained the audience in an Interact Club fundraiser for Feeding Northeast Florida. Congratulations to our 2024 Mr. St. Johns, Senior **Westin Cowherd**! Joining Westin in the top five were Mr. Congeniality (voted on by fellow contestants) **Bobby Burnside '25**; Junior **Sergio Lopez Diaz**; Senior **Josh Lewis**; and People's Choice winner Senior **Charlie Morgan**, determined by the total cash in his voting box.

Thanks to the efforts of the contestants, producers, and audience, the event raised more than \$3,000 for Feeding Northeast Florida.

In March, the spotlight shifted to Miss St. Johns, which raised \$4,685 for the American Cancer Society and P-Healed.



It was an amazing show, with Senior **Autumn Henry** crowned Miss St. Johns 2025! Second place went to **Calli Berang '26**, third to **Becca Stratton '25**, fourth to **Mia Johnson '25**, and **Addy Vogt '25** rounded out the top five.

Additional awards were presented to:
Miss Congeniality – **Raeghyn Cobb**

People's Choice – **Raeghyn Cobb**

Special thanks to Miss St. Johns contest chairs **Jane Garrison '25** and **Addison Wagstaff '26**, and to emcees **Bobby Burnside '25** and **Angelica Yopez '25**.

"We are very proud of all the contestants for their hard work this semester," said Interact Club sponsors Ryan Trevett and Meredith Hoffman. "The proceeds from this year's event will support two amazing charities, and we owe a great deal of thanks to everyone at home and in attendance for making the Miss St. Johns competition such a tremendous success."



Athletics

Signing Days

Athletes Committed to Play at the College Level

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Corban Berrang
Soccer – Flagler College | ■ Austin Stratmann
Baseball – University of North Florida |
| ■ Camden Brown
Baseball – Middle Georgia University | ■ Rebecca Stratton
Cross Country – Georgia Southern |
| ■ Hadley Dantzler
Volleyball – Nova Southeastern University | ■ Kaitlyn Sunderhaus
Track and Field – Berry College |
| ■ Sawyer Kenney
Soccer – Montreat College | ■ TJ Sunderhaus
Baseball – Georgia Highlands College |
| ■ Gabi Ocegüera
Softball – Emory University | ■ Addy Vogt
Golf – Rollins College |
| ■ Andrew Staten
Football – Stetson University | ■ Ciera White
Softball – Trinity Baptist College |



Baseball Proclamation

In August, the 2024 Spartan Baseball team was honored with a proclamation from Clay County acknowledging their outstanding accomplishments and the FHSAA Class 2A State Championship in May 2024 in Ft. Myers.

"WHEREAS the team had an incredible regular season," the proclamation read, "earning the top rank in Northeast Florida, 4th in the state by MaxPreps, and 18th in the Nation by Perfect Game; and WHEREAS this year, the St. Johns Country Day School baseball team had nine student-athletes sign on to play baseball in college, and we look forward to following their careers to see what else these outstanding athletes will accomplish."

Meet Blue Lightning, St. Johns' Electric Hype Icon

St. Johns' hype icon, Blue Lightning, has been with the Spartans for a couple of years now and an introduction is well overdue! We caught up with him for a quick Q & A:

Q: What's your main job as the School's electric hype icon?

A: Simple: Bring the energy, spark the excitement, and make sure the Spartans feel unstoppable. Whether it's a pep rally, an athletics sendoff, or the big Homecoming game, I'm here to make sure the vibe is electrifying.

Q: What's your favorite part of being part of the St. Johns community?

A: The Spartans, hands down. Seeing the students and fans light up during games or events gives me all the charge I need. Plus, the snacks at concession stands aren't bad either.

Q: What's your favorite workout?

A: Spartan sprints! Gotta stay quick to keep up with the athletes!

Q: And what do you like to do in your free time?

A: I work on my Spartan spirit routines. Gotta keep things fresh for the crowd.

Q: Final question: If you could sum up your role in one phrase, what would it be?

A: Bringing the thunder, sparking the spirit, and leading the charge—one Spartan cheer at a time.



ST. JOHNS ATHLETICS AWARDS SHOW

Charlie Morgan

*Male Sportsmanship
Athlete of The Year*

Hadley Dantzler

*Female Sportsmanship
Athlete of The Year*

Gabi Ocegueda

Female Scholar Athlete of The Year

Grayson Moody

Male Scholar Athlete of The Year

Gabriel "Gibby" Gilliland

Spartan Spirit Award

Josh Lewis

Male Multi Sport Athlete of The Year

Calli Berrang

*Female Multi Sport
Athlete of The Year*

**Cece Nowicki, Luke Peterson,
Hunter Rodgers, Colt Hill**

St. Johns Play of The Year

Pat Rodifer

Kamu Loustau Service Award

Mallory Badger

St. Johns Manager of the Year

Tyler Miller

St. Johns Head Coach of The Year

Tom Marsh and Russell Ivey

St. Johns Asst Coach of The Year

Sarah Voglewede

*St. Johns Middle School
Coach of The Year*

Shane Reaves

FCA Character Award

Austin Stratmann

Male Athlete of The Year

Addy Vogt

Female Athlete of The Year

Rachel Mateo, Howard Flaschen

Volunteers of the Years

ST. JOHNS ATHLETICS 2024-2025

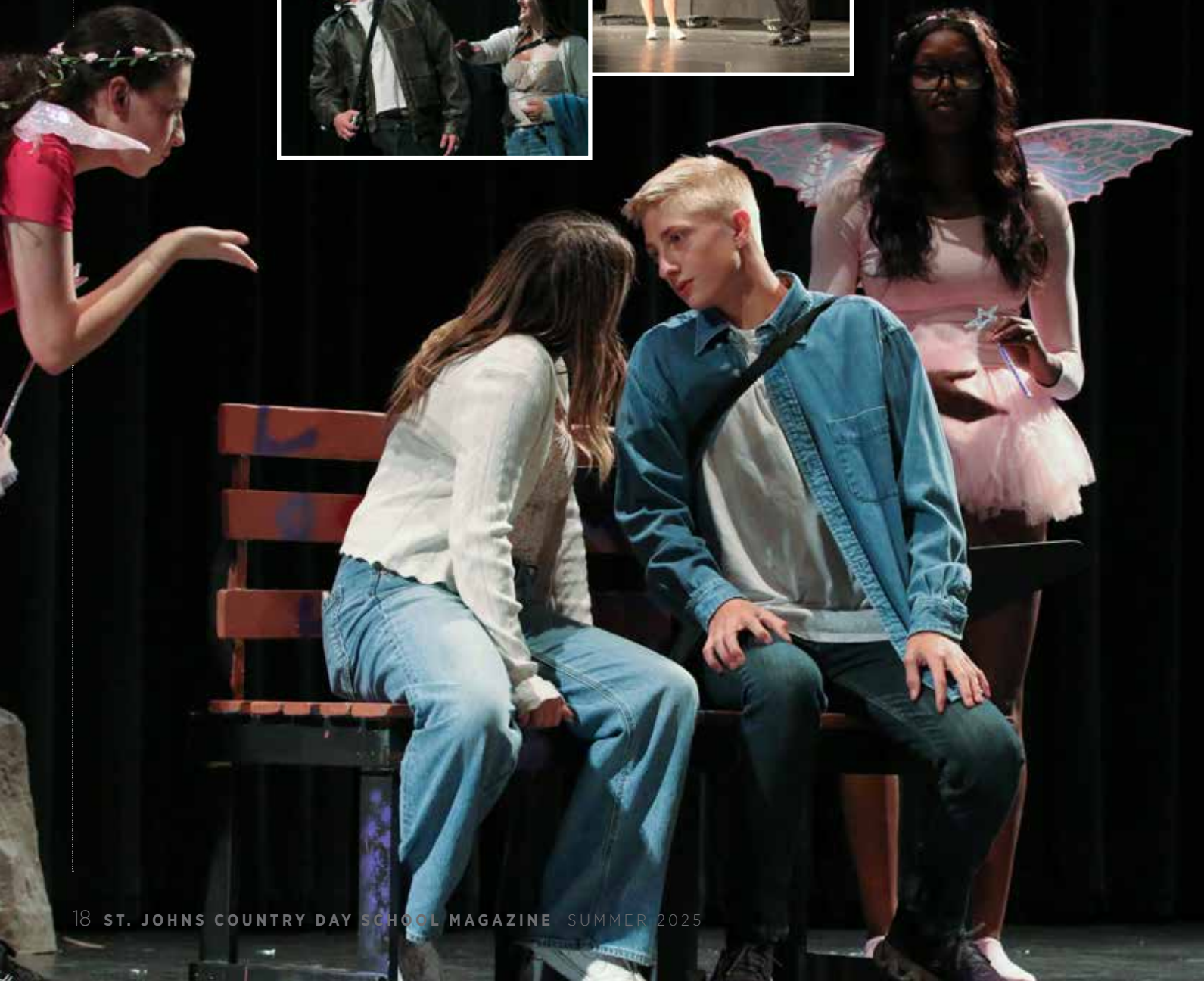
- **Girls Cross Country -**
State Qualifier
- **Boys Cross Country -**
Regional Qualifier
- **Girls Golf -**
Addy Vogt '25 -
Regional and State Qualifier
- **Boys Golf -**
Regional Qualifier (Team)
- **Boys Swimming -**
Beau Braddock '30, Gaige Jackson
'29, Josh Lewis '25, and Asher
Hendrix '28 - Regional Qualifiers
- **Girls Swimming -**
Alex Kuczkowski '28, Eleanor
Myers (hs)*, Frances Bailey '25, Isa
Johnson '28, Addison Kuczkowski
'30, Ava Lerche '29, and Penelope
Lincoln '32 - Regional Qualifiers
- **Volleyball -**
District Champion,
Regional Quarterfinalist
- **Boys Basketball -**
District Champion,
Regional Quarterfinalist
- **Girls Basketball -**
District Champion,
Regional Quarterfinalist
- **Boys Soccer -**
District Champion,
Regional Quarterfinalist
- **Girls Soccer -**
District Champion, Regional
Champion, State Champion
- **Wrestling -**
Colt Hill '29 - Regional Qualifier
- **Girls Weightlifting -**
Ciera White- Regional Qualifier
- **Baseball -**
District Champion, Regional
Champion, State Runner Up
- **Girls Track and Field -**
District Runner Up, Regional
Qualifier, State Qualifier
- **Boys Track and Field -**
Regional Qualifier, State Qualifier
- **Girls Tennis -**
Calli Berrang, District Champion,
State Qualifier
- **Boys Tennis -**
Ethan Kent '29 & Mason Vogt '30,
District Champion and
State Qualifier

* (hs) indicates a homeschooled athlete



Performing Arts

Midsummer Night's Dream: The Rock Musical





St. Johns Hosts 2nd Annual Middle School One Act Festival

In April, St. Johns was proud to host the 2nd Annual Middle School One Act Festival, in which Middle School drama students wrote, directed, and produced eleven one act plays.

ALL IN THE TIMING

In November, St. Johns' Performing Arts Department hosted *ALL IN THE TIMING*, seven one-act plays by David Ives. "I have always been drawn to [Ives'] characters and to his amazing use of the English language," said Director Paul Perez. "I thought it particularly important to our work here at St Johns. So much of Ives' work is about exposing the subtext of the words and allowing us to really see the intent behind the words."



In Memory of

Paul Perez

1960-2025

DIRECTOR'S NOTE (from Midsummer Night's Dream)

As our production of *MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM: The Rock Musical* comes to a close, I have a lot to be grateful about. This year we added Todd Twining as our Choral Director and Nick Albanese as our Band Director. Both Todd and Nick have worked very hard to build our Performing Arts Department and I have enjoyed getting to know both of them and loved watching them teach our students.

As always, I am grateful for the support of our incredible community at St Johns! The Administration, The Faculty and Staff, The Parents and most importantly the students who give 1000% to everything that they do.

—Paul Perez, Director

Winter & Spring Choral Concerts





Visual Arts

St. Johns Students Shine in 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

St. Johns is proud to celebrate 42 Middle & Upper School students who earned more than 100 regional awards in the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the nation's most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. Their works were recognized by a panel of creative professionals from across Northeast Florida as among the most outstanding from more than 2,600 entries submitted.

Middle School Honorees

Twelve Middle School students received recognition in the 2025 Northeast Florida Art Education Association Scholastic Art Awards:

- Collin Ashford '29 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Lily Day '29 – (1) Silver Key
- Taigen LeBel '29 – (1) Silver Key
- Ava Lerche '29 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Aiden Moore '29 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Matilda Morris '29 – (1) Silver Key
- Olivia Morris '29 – (1) Silver Key
- Kate Pappas '29 – (1) Gold Key, (2) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Sophia Prettyman '29 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Brynley Proffitt '29 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Max Rivera '29 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Anderson Vogt '29 – (1) Honorable Mention

American Visions Nominees & Award Recipients

- Rowan Fix '25 – (1) American Visions Nominee, (1) Gold Key, (2) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Olivia Morehouse '27 – (1) American Visions Nominee, (2) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (2) Honorable Mention

Upper School Honorees

- Haleema Ali '27 – (3) Honorable Mention
- Xavier Baez '25 – (1) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Frances Bailey '25 – (1) Gold Key
- Caden Brown '26 – (1) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Regan Butler '25 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Gracie Castleman '27 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Dominique Clark '27 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (3) Honorable Mention
- Ainsley Costarakis '25 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (3) Honorable Mention
- Westin Cowherd '25 – (1) Gold Key
- Drake Dubois '26 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Jane Garrison '25 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Kelsey Gregson '25 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (1) Honorable Mention
- Gracie Hightower '27 – (1) Silver Key, (2) Honorable Mention
- Louisa Holyer '27 – (3) Honorable Mention
- Hana Hutsell '27 – (3) Gold Key, (2) Honorable Mention
- Mia Johnson '25 – (1) Silver Key
- Sergio López-Díaz '26 – (1) Gold Key
- Brice McClellan '26 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Grayson Moody '25 – (1) Silver Key, (2) Honorable Mention
- Caris Morgan '28 – (2) Honorable Mention
- Gabriela Ocegueda '25 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key
- Luke Peterson '25 – (1) Silver Key
- Ishta Ramroop '26 – (1) Gold Key, (2) Honorable Mention
- Reyden Rivera '27 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key
- Audrey Steckler '28 – (1) Honorable Mention
- Emily Steckler '26 – (1) Gold Key, (1) Silver Key, (2) Honorable Mention
- Celine Torkzad '27 – (1) Gold Key
- Brynn White '25 – (1) Silver Key, (3) Honorable Mention

Award-winning student art, clockwise from adjacent page top left: **Caden Brown '27** *Heart of the Matter*; **Drake DuBois '26** *Analogous Color Portrait*; **Max Rivera '29** *Ribbon Eel* Mixed Media Collage; **Dominique Clark '27** *Self-Portrait*; **Olivia Morehouse '27** *Watcher*; **Rowan Fix '25** *Gentlemen Who?*; **Hana Hutsell '27** *黄金の道 (Kogane no Michi)*; **Regan Butler '25** *Girl Parts*; **Hana Hutsell '27** *Kogane no Michi*





Dominique Clark '27 2024 Scholastic National Silver Medalist

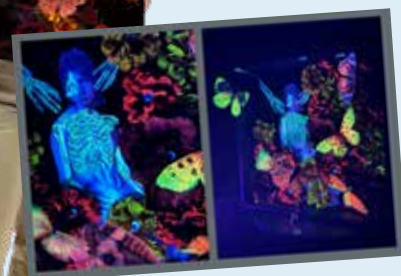
Congratulations to **Dominique Clark '27**, who was awarded a Scholastic National Silver Medal in August 2024 for her work, *Self-Portrait*.



American Visions Award Winners, Rowan Fix '25 and Olivia Morehouse '27

Among this year's Scholastic awards, two students received the prestigious distinction of being named American Visions Winners—an extraordinary achievement, as only five students in all of Northeast Florida earned this recognition.

Senior Rowan Fix and Sophomore Olivia Morehouse were nominated for their outstanding works: *Gentlemen Who?* (mixed media) and *The Watcher* (sculpture), respectively. You can read more about these awards at sjcds.net/news.





Nichols Family Art Gallery Hosts Shows

Over the past year, St. Johns has been proud to leverage the new Nichols Family Art Gallery to host several shows, including the Art Guild of Orange Park show during the fall semester, the Scholastic Art Awards Gallery Show in the spring, and the Student Exhibition in May.





Clockwise from left:

Fairy Garden "Cornell Box" by
Gracie Hightower '27

Jacksonville Coliseum Outside
by **Grayson Moody '25**

alebrije by **Brynn White '25**

The Yellow Wallpaper, by
Ishta Ramroop '26



The Yellow Wallpaper

AP



Yearbook Photo Competition

Each spring, Chalice yearbook photographers submit the best of their work from the previous year to the Chalice Photography Contest. The winner of this year's competition is on the back cover, and we're proud to celebrate these submissions by (clockwise from top left): **Tyler Phillipoff '26**, **Gracie Hightower '27**, **Nadia Al-Awady '25**, **Ayla Frisbee '27**, **Calli Berrang '26**, **Corban Berrang '25**, **Liam McNulty '27**, **Ian Johnson '28**, **Finn Kent '27**, **Emily Steckler '26**, **Raeghyn Cobb '26**, **Bodie Brafford '26**, **Griffin Dubnansky '26**, **Jenna Friedman '27**, **Madeline Finke '27**, **Beckham Cummings '28**, **Audrey Jackson '27**, **Becca Stratton '25**, **Kasey Crawford '27**, **Addison Wagstaff '26**, **Wyatt Hollingsworth '26**, **Kendall Proffitt '28**, **Reece Hoffman '28**, **Alex Kuczkowski '28**, **Finleycate Davis '27**, **Thomas Nichols '27**, and **Kinna Dobes '27**. Excellent work, *Chalice* photographers!







A Year in a Life:

Senior Presentation

In a ceremony that's nearly as old as the School itself, St. Johns Country Day School was proud to present the Class of 2025 to the School community on Friday, November 22, 2024.

Brought to St. Johns by Founding headmaster, Dr. Edwin P. Heinrich, in 1962, the ceremony acknowledges the seniors' coming of age and presents them to the community as adults in their own right, ready to face the world.

In one of St. Johns' newer traditions, the Senior Class elects their own speaker for Senior Presentation and the Class of 2025 selected Mrs. Gayle Fiser, who ushered them into Upper School as a Freshman

Advisor and has seen most of them through various courses throughout the years.

"One way I know I am making a difference is through the journey in which your children have allowed me to tag along," Fiser told the gathered families. "Making a difference, being a light in peoples' lives is about recognizing the power of small, meaningful actions, every kind word, every moment of genuine listening, and every effort to lift up and support other people adds to their lives and to yours. Making a difference means creating spaces where people feel valued, heard, and inspired to make a difference in turn. It's about leaving a lasting mark,



one person at a time, by sharing a bit of kindness and caring in a world that so needs it." She turned to tell the seniors, "and you, my friends, have made a lasting mark on me."

Finally, Mrs. Baker read the words of founding headmaster Dr. Edwin P. Heinrich, presenting the Class of 2025 to assembled family, friends, and classmates:

As a teacher I present you to the academic world that you may enter it and meet its demands honorably and successfully.

As your Headmaster I present you to your school-mates so that they may accept you and look up to you as their leaders and their shining example.

As your friend I present you to your parents so that they may accept you as adults who have come into their own and who are to be dealt with from henceforth on an equal basis.

As your fellow human being I present to you your calling in life that you may always have the wisdom to recognize it and the strength to live up to the divine calling in your life.

Baccalaureate



Graduation



Members of the Class of 2025

Nadia Elise Al-Awady

St. Johns Lifer

Jack Williams Anderson

Fritz Ayden Arendt

St. Johns Lifer

Felix Xavier Baez

Member, Cum Laude Society

Member, National Honor Society

Frances Faye Bailey

Member, Cum Laude Society

Member, National Honor Society

Corban Wolfgang Berrang

Nicolas Roman Bowden

Camden Thomas Brown

Robert Thomas Burnside

Regan Annelle Butler

Grant Edward Cassady

Member, National Honor Society

St. Johns Lifer

Ainsley Mikkel Costarakis

Member, National Honor Society

St. Johns Lifer

Westin Jacob Cowherd

Kameron Elijah Crawford

Hadley Helen Dantzler

Member, Cum Laude Society

Sawyer Chase Davidson

Member, National Honor Society

Rowan Elizabeth Fix

Member, National Honor Society

Anna Elizabeth Galnor

Member, National Honor Society

Jane Clark Garrison

Member, National Honor Society

St. Johns Lifer

Gabriel James Gilliland

St. Johns Lifer

Carter Reeves Graham

Member, National Honor Society

Kelsey Reese Gregson

Member, Cum Laude Society

Member, National Honor Society

St. Johns Lifer

Autumn Lea Henry

Member, National Honor Society

Calliann Holshouser

Member, Cum Laude Society

Member, National Honor Society

Megan Grace Jeffers

Mia Modjeska Johnson

Member, Cum Laude Society

Member, National Honor Society

Sawyer Elizabeth Kenney

Member, National Honor Society



Grace Isabelle Knight

Joshua Franklin Lewis

*Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Elizabeth Grace McNulty

*Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Jacob Bo Miller

Member, National Honor Society

Grayson Christopher Moody

*Member, Cum Laude Society
Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Charles Haley Morgan Jr

*Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Cecilia Jane Nowicki

Member, National Honor Society

Gabriela Lucia Ocegüera

*Member, Cum Laude Society
Member, National Honor Society*

Luke Andrew Peterson

St. Johns Lifer

Shane Thomas Ford Reaves

*Member, Cum Laude Society
Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Jesse Alexander Rowan

Ayva Marie Safreed

*Member, Cum Laude Society
Member, National Honor Society
St. Johns Lifer*

Corbin Michael Scott

Andrew Charles Staten

Adelaide Stella Sakura Stone

Austin Tyler Stratmann

Rebecca Lucia Stratton

Kaitlyn Marie Sunderhaus

Taylor James Sunderhaus

Addison Tyler Vogt

Member, National Honor Society

Reagan Elise Wagstaff

*Member, Cum Laude Society
Member, National Honor Society*

Brynn Andee White

St. Johns Lifer

Ciera Myree White

Angelica Liz Yépez



Graduation Awards

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION AWARDS



Valedictorian Award:
Grayson Moody



*Stephen F. Russey Best
All-Around Young Man:*
Joshua Lewis



*Stephen F. Russey Best
All-Around Young
Woman:*
Mia Johnson



*The Roddey R. Fisher
Award:*
Jane Garrison



*Dora Helen Skypek
Award:*
Grayson Moody



*Edwin Paul Heinrich
Award:*
Shane Reaves



AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE UPPER SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY IN MAY 2025:

Leadership Awards:

**Jane Garrison, Mia Johnson,
and Angelica Yepez**

Service Awards:

**Frances Bailey, Rowan Fix,
Kelsey Gregson, and Shane
Reaves**

*Kevin Waite Whitelaw Light of Life
Award (to a Junior):*

Raeghyn Cobb

*Top Female Athlete Award Upper
School:*

Addison Vogt

Top Male Athlete Award Upper School:

Austin Stratmann

Laurie Anne Richards Scholarship:

Calliann Holshouser

Ashley Lynn Cowie Award:

Westin Cowherd

The "I Dare You" Leadership Award:

Gabriel Gilliland

*Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership
Award:*

Grace Castleman

English Award:

Mia Johnson

The Carol A. Hart Math Award:

Grayson Moody

Science Award:

Gabriela Ocegueda

Cynthia C. Landry History Award:

Shane Reaves

*Drama Award For Theatrical
Performance:*

Westin Cowherd

Visual Art Award:

**Xavier Baez, Rowan Fix, and
Kelsey Gregson**

Computer Science Award:

Grayson Moody

*The Mary Virginia Fisher French
Award:*

Ayva Safreed

Spanish Award:

Calliann Holshouser

The Myrtle O'Shea Latin Award:

Shane Reaves

*Vocal Music Award: Autumn Henry
Captain Borries Cup Award:*

Grayson Moody

Linda C. Guswiler Athletic Award:

Mia Johnson





CLASS OF 2025 LIFERS

Members of the Class of 2025 who have been at St. Johns since Kindergarten:

Nadia Elise Al-Awady
Fritz Ayden Arendt
Grant Edward Cassady
Ainsley Mikkell Costarakis
Jane Clark Garrison

Gabriel James Gilliand
Joshua Franklin Lewis
Elizabeth Grace McNulty
Grayson Christopher Moody
Charles Haley Morgan Jr

Luke Andrew Peterson
Shane Thomas Ford Reaves
Ayva Marie Safreed
Brynn Andee White





The following colleges and universities accepted members of the Class of 2025:

Appalachian State University
Auburn University
Barry University
Baylor University
Belmont University
Berry College
Citadel Military College of South Carolina
Clemson University
College of Charleston
Colorado State University (Fort Collins)
Davidson College
Drexel University
Eckerd College
Emory University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Polytechnic University
Florida Southern College
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Florida State University
George Mason University
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Southern University
Jacksonville University
James Madison University

Kean University
Kent State University
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Michigan State University
Middle Georgia State University
Montreat College
Mount St Mary's University
New York University
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Penn State University (University Park)
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rollins College
Saint Johns River State College
Saint Leo University
Samford University
Santa Fe College
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Southeastern University
Southern Methodist University
Stetson University
Syracuse University
Tallahassee State College
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa

The University of Tennessee (Chattanooga)
The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
The University of West Florida
Trinity Baptist College
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Arizona
University of Central Florida
University of Central Oklahoma
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri (Columbia)
University of Nevada (Las Vegas)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Florida
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida (Main Campus)
University of Virginia (Main Campus)
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
West Virginia Wesleyan College
York College of Pennsylvania





Senior Mountain Trip

In September, the seniors kicked off their year with a long-awaited Mountain Trip—circling back to Grade 8, when they missed the experience due to COVID restrictions. It was well worth the wait, as they reveled in their time together: playing games, tackling high ropes courses, rolling down hills, rafting through rapids, and simply enjoying each other's company. It was a wonderful start to what promised to be a fantastic year ahead.



Founders Day-Grade 1 Buddy Pairing

In September, the seniors were paired with their Grade 1 Buddies on a memorable Founders Day.

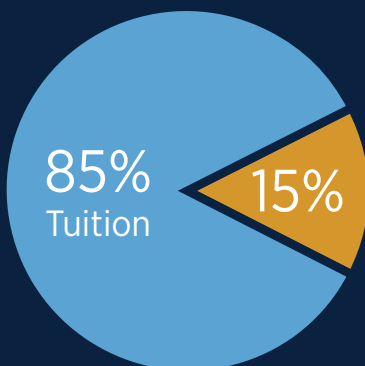
Zoo Trip

Since 1974 the Senior-Grade 1 Buddy Zoo Trip has been an essential component of the St. Johns Experience.

WITH YOUR HELP

With your help, the St. Johns Annual Fund raised nearly \$580,000 this year to improve the St. Johns Experience through new and improved facilities, programs, and equipment. St. Johns works hard to fundraise because tuition covers about 85% of the cost to educate one of our students. We raise the rest through fundraising events, grants, donations, sponsorships, community partners, and other initiatives. We do this in order to keep the cost of tuition as low as possible and put a St. Johns Education within reach of more families.

THE COST OF EDUCATING A SPARTAN



HOW WE CLOSE THE GAP:

- Donations
- Sponsorships
- Fundraising Events
- Endowment
- Grants
- Community Partners
- Other Initiatives

GIVE TODAY

Please make your gift and commit to St. Johns today.



ONLINE:
sjcds.net/give



PHONE:
(904) 264-9572 or
Text SPARTANS to
243-725



MAIL:
St. Johns Annual Fund
3100 Doctors Lake Drive
Orange Park, FL 32073

GOBBLE WOBBLE

To help us celebrate a season of thanks, in November twenty-six “turkeys” wobbled across the Roddey R. Fisher Quad with inflatable beach balls between their knees, simulating a turkey’s gait. Congratulations to Coco Cost from Pre-K4, this year’s champion, and hearty thanks to you, our generous community.



AN EVENING IN PARIS

In January, St. Johns hosted a beautiful fundraising event, An Evening in Paris, at Orange Park’s Club Continental. The evening was a beautiful testament to the strength of our community and we appreciate your support. Special thanks to The Courtney, Patrick & Tutwiler Group and our Title Sponsor, The Forbrich Family. Their incredible support underwrote the cost of the evening, meaning every single dollar from your bids, ticket purchases, and games went directly to supporting the students and programs of St. Johns Country Day School.

19TH ANNUAL ST. JOHNS SPARTANS GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, April 11, St. Johns Country Day School held its 19th Annual St. Johns Spartans Golf Tournament, presented by St. Johns Investment Management, at the beautiful Eagle Harbor Golf Club. This year’s event saw 27 foursomes on the course, with the Vogt Family team earning first place honors.

Proceeds from the tournament will go toward improvements to the parking area in front of our athletic fields and the creation of a welcoming new entrance to the athletic facilities.

A heartfelt thank you to all of this year’s players and our St. Johns student-athletes who made this tournament an amazing success in support of St. Johns Athletics!



Left to Right: Marlen Vogt, **Allison Vogt '96**, **Anderson Vogt '29** and **Addy Vogt '25**



FOUNDERS DAY

Honoring Tradition and Advancing Wellness

Each year on September 13, St. Johns is honored to celebrate the anniversary of its founding, when Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich opened the doors of St. Johns Country Day School for the very first time with 26 students on the second floor of an unused public building at the corner of Park Avenue and Kingsley in Orange Park.

The School has grown tremendously since that momentous occasion, and on Friday, September 13, 2024, the St. Johns community was thrilled to celebrate the School's birthday, the pairing of the Class of 2025 with their Grade 1 buddies (see page 39), and the opening of the Bare Family Wellness Center, housed in the former Carlyle Martin Boat-

house. The new facility will support students' physical and mental wellbeing.

After a few opening remarks by Director of Development Ryan Trevett, Ron and Angie Bare, together with **Erin Bare Willingham '98**, Brian Willingham, **Ella Willingham '33** and **Audrey Willingham '36**, cut the ribbon to officially open the center. Attendees poured inside to check out weight training equipment, cardio gear, space for group work, and more. Student-athletes were in attendance and spoke about how the facility will improve the health and wellness of Spartan athletes.





St. Johns thanks the many supporters and donors who helped make this new facility a reality:

*Angie and Ron Bare
The Sullivan and Meadows Families
Stephanie and Andrew Price '02
The Sapp Family
Laura and Robert Vogt '13
Kelsey and Jake Eagerton
The Schmidt Family
Lauren and Nick Courtney '03
Jessica and Travis Cummings*

*April Meadows '06
Caroline and Gene Nichols
The Gregson Family
Weather Engineers, Inc.
Cary '02 and Doug Benefield '03
Mary Helen and Charles Cauthen
Isabelle and Brett Forbrich
Genevieve Williams Real Estate
Jeanneth and David Graves*

*Jordan Feria,
The Feria Team Realtors
Jeffrey Jacobs '89
Drs. Steven and Beth Kailes
The Maierhoffer Family
Laura '92 and Ryan Proffitt
The Wilson Family
The Wulbern Family*



Legacy & Lifer Breakfast

On a beautiful morning in February, St. Johns was honored to celebrate more than 50 families who are members of our Legacy & Lifer communities. These are either students who are children of alumni (Legacy students) or who have been at St. Johns since Kindergarten (Lifers).

Families gathered at flag raising and then proceeded to the Chapel Oak for group photos and family photos before joining together for breakfast in the Heinrich Learning Resource Center.

St. Johns is honored to be such an integral part of so many families' lives!





2024-2025 Alumni with Legacy Students Include:

Kielly Brannan Andrews '95:
Poe Kramer '39

Kade Bender '01:
Vaughan Bender '30

**Doug Benefield '03 and
Cary Cauthen Benefield '02:**
Douglas Benefield '35 and
Edwin Benefield '39

**Garrett Bishop '13 and
Meagan Bishop '08:**
Gavin Bishop '39

Christine Lane Boozer '95:
William Boozer '31

**Tina "Blake" Chancey
Boyer '05:**
Everett Boyer '33 and
Dalton Boyer '36

Amy Cowie Buckley '09:
Grayson Buckley '34,
Graham Buckley '38, and
Ginny Buckley '39

Catherine Mills Butler '95:
Regan Butler '25 and
Brooklyn Butler '29

Jamie Smith Carpentier '97:
Gemma Carpentier '30

Matt Costarakis '87:
Ainsley Costarakis '25

Nicholas Courtney '03:
Charlie Courtney '33 and
Gwen Courtney '36

William Courtney '01:
William Courtney '34, Lane
Courtney '36, and Hall
Courtney '38

**Valerie "Hope" Ragsdale
Cowherd '98:**
Westin Cowherd '25

Gayle Simpson Garrison '94:
Jane Garrison '25 (and
Mary Beth Garrison '22)

Virginia Hall '85:
Grant Cassady '25 (and Paul
Matthew Steinmetz '11 &
John Preston Steinmetz '12)

**David Heinrichs '98 and
Tyler Johnson '01:**
Winnie Paige Heinrichs '38

Robert Heinrichs '97:
Adrian Heinrichs '26 (and
Torrin Heinrichs '24)

Hunter Hendrix '97:
Asher Hendrix '28 and
Alexa Hendrix '28

**Jodie Spencer
Hollingsworth '86:**
Wyatt Hollingsworth '26,
Samuel Hollingsworth '29,
and Lexi Hollingsworth '32

Austin Hudson '03:
Mitchell Hudson '39 and
Gray Powers '33

Louis Irwin '00:
Riley Irwin '34 and Charlie
Irwin '36 (And grandfather
Jim Perryman '69)

**Brad Jackson '98 and
Kristin Hodge Jackson '00:**
Clara Jackson '37

Jeff Lewis '89:
Josh Lewis '25 (and
JD Lewis '22)

Matthew Loftis '02:
Ethan Loftis '32 and
Mason Loftis '31

April Sullivan Meadows '06:
Jack Meadows '37 and
Max Meadows '34

Emily Wood Meagher '10:
Caylin Meagher '30

Lauren Martin '02:
Aedan Bonneval '34 and
Paige Bonneval '37

John Moore '99:
Campbell Moore '37 and
Lennox Moore '39

**Haley Morgan '97 and
McCall Cauthen Thoenke '97:**
Charlie Morgan '25 and
Caris Morgan '28

Robert Nichols '85:
Thomas Nichols '27
(and Julia Nichols '21)

Rashara Dubose Perkins '10:
Jayden Perkins '36 and
Jordan Perkins '37

Aime Culton Peterson '89:
Luke Peterson '25 (and Lilly
Peterson '20)

Gene Polk '01:
Elise Polk '32 and
Carlisle Polk '34

Andrew Price '02:
Davie Price '32

Whitney Hawes Price '98:
Olivia Price '30, Hadley Price
'30, and Marleigh Price '35

Laura Fisher Proffitt '92:
Kendall Proffitt '28, Brynley
Proffitt '29, Mila Proffitt '31,
and Fisher Proffitt '31

Katie Gibbs Schmidt '93:
John Schmidt '32

Jennifer Anders Southall '98:
Reid Southall '33

Sandy Tisdelle '01:
Tillman Toth '38

Sarah Voigt Voglewede '11:
Lizzie Voglewede '37

Allison McClow Vogt '96:
Addy Vogt '25 and
Anderson Vogt '29
(and Tripp Vogt '23)

Robert Vogt '13:
Kinsley Roberts '33

Stephanie Cioffi Wilder '00:
Madison Wilder '34 and
Max Wilder '36

Erin Bare Willingham '98:
Ella Willingham '33 and
Audrey Willingham '35

Alumni Notes

1970's



▲ In May, the Class of 1975 got together for their 50th reunion, together with some former students from their year. Attendees included **Cherie Christoffers Barber**, **Mary Anna Bennet Gerrard**, **Cathleen Lee**, **Patty Webster Markham**, **David McQuaid**, **Ronnie Mitchell**, **Roxanne Cheek Morris**, **Lee Norville**, **Jim Townsend**, **Paula Sapp Wald**, and **Joel Williams**.



▲ In October, we hosted the Class of 1974 for a campus tour. Pictured are **Sally Broxton Boesel '74**, **Peggy Sue Lamb Williams '74**, **Bob Wooden '74**, **Barry Kaufman '74**, and **Keith Hill '74**, along with former faculty and administrator **Rod Fisher**.

1980's



▲ In September, the Classes of 1983, 1984, and 1985 celebrated their 40 year reunions, which included a campus visit on Founders Day. Pictured: **Sarah Voigt Voglewede '11**, Head of School **Valorie Baker**, **Mike Brown '85**, **Lesley Davidson '84**, **Mike Pickett '83**, **Allison Crutchfield '84**, **Ray Gulam '84**, **Sandy Dinkins '84**, and **Nancy Wooden Moodie '83**.

1990's



▲ The class of 1995 celebrated their 30th year reunion in April. Their reunion included a campus visit, attended by (L to R top to



▲ In February, **Jim Townsend '75** (center) visited Mrs. Garrison's (**Gayle Simpson Garrison '94**) ethics classes to talk about his experiences with foreign policy and answer student questions.

bottom): **Robert Shore '95**, **Mason Morgan '95**, **Chrissy Lane Boozer '95**, **Cam Mills Butler '95**, **Colleen Hart McDaid '95**, **Yvonne Martel Ali '95**, **Randa Antar Blethyn '95**, as well as former faculty members Carolyn Sellars, Mary Virginia Fisher, Rod Fisher, and Carol Hart.

2000's



▲ **Caitlin Bookwalter '06** and her husband Joe are thrilled to announce the arrival of their second daughter, Adeline "Addie" Ruth Bookwalter, born on August 3, 2024. Addie is lovingly welcomed by her mom, dad, and big sister, Ellie, as well as her uncle, **Sam Booth '09** and her grandmother, former St. Johns preschool teacher Robin Booth.



▲ **Ashley Fagan Perez '07** married Allan Perez in March 2025. Alongside her as her maid of honor was her younger sister, **Abbey Fagan '16**.

Alex Nichols '05 started a new job with University of Central Florida this spring. Working as a Client Support Specialist, Alex says he'll mostly support UCF's College of Medicine.

Ramzi Shaykh '08 and his wife, Anahi, had a baby in May. They currently live in Alexandria, Virginia.

2010s



▲ **Lydia Logsdaile Armitt '10** and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Amelia Rose, on May 20th 2024.



▲ In January, **Carson Pickett '12** was honored by Clay County with a Proclamation for her work and success on the national level in January.



▲ **Lisette M. Coll-Roman '17** earned her DMV from the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine in May 23, 2025.

Payton Crews '18 married fellow TCU alumnus Gray Rodgers on January 21, 2025.



▲ **Emily Merritt Adler '14** and her husband, Brian, welcomed baby Heidi Elizabeth Adler on July 2, 2024. She weighed 8 lbs 13 oz. Emily is an appellate attorney for Houston's AZA Law.

2020s



▲ **Kendall Sage '20** married college sweetheart Ryan Vaughn on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at Epping Forest Yacht Club. The wedding party included **Courtney Sage '20**, and former St. Johns student Lily Croft. St. Johns alumni who attended the wedding included **Will Albright '19**, **Jack Hodges '20**, **Jessica Linge '20**, **Juliet Moody '23**, **Delaney Payton '20**, **Jackson Powers '20**, **Parker Robbins '20**, **Christie Jones Slaughter '05**, **Jacob Thomas '23**, **Erin Bare Willingham '98**, **Amanda Powers '01**, and many other members of the St. Johns community. The couple graduated from George Southern University last year and moved to Jacksonville in April to be closer to family.



▲ **Jack Hodges '20** and **Courtney Sage '20** got engaged in December at Sawgrass. They are planning a wedding later in 2025.

Alumni Notes



▲ **Fred Cone** and **Mia Sadler**, both Class of 2021, were engaged in February. No wedding date has been set yet.



▲ **Jack Minners** and **Angie Arellano**, both Class of 2022, studied in Spain this summer and met up for paella with former St. Johns teachers Jen & Steve Knapp, who now live in Valencia.



▲ **Jack Ensell '24** got together with his Grade 1 Buddy, Lincoln Farkas, at a Barry University Baseball Game this spring and buddies **George Gilson '24** and Liam Coin also stay in touch. Liam went to watch a Flagler game recently, and George frequently drops in on Liam's games on Fleming Island.

In Memoriam

Former teacher and Director of College Counseling **Rodney Kay Cox** passed away on Friday, October 11, 2024, in Austell, Georgia.

Paul M. Crum Sr., father of **Katy Crum '85** and former student Paul Crum Jr., died on December 7, 2024, in Saint Johns, Florida.

Former Head of Lower School **Jim Edwards** passed away on August 19, 2024, in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

Thomas Gibbs, father and grandfather to many in the School community, passed away on May 21, 2025. Among his family members are his wife, member of the Board of Trustees Margaret Gibbs, and **Katie Gibbs Schmidt '93** (and husband Brad), **Anne Clay McNulty, Mark Wilhelm '94** (and wife Jane), **Phillip Gibbs '97** (and wife **Lauren Gibbs '96**), **William Gibbs '05** (and wife Caroline), **Walker Gibbs Mason '08** (and wife Emelia), **Jack McNulty '23**, **Thomas Gibbs '23**, **Grace McNulty '25**, and **Liam McNulty '26**, and former students Sydney Schmidt and John Schmidt.

Grace Jansson, mother to **Peter Jansson '86**, **Eric Jansson '87**, and **Mary Jansson Carmon '95**, passed away on December 10, 2024.

Margaret Reishus '70 passed away on November 3, 2024, in Fleming Island, Florida.

Kenneth Soud, father of **Mark Soud '96** and former student Julia Soud Hicks, passed away on November 10, 2024.

Dr. James Dautel, husband of former faculty member Kathy Dautel and father to **Spring Dautel McManus '96**, **Dylan Dautel '13**, and **Jacob Dautel '13**, passed away in March.

Jean Bastine Harrell, mother of **Mike Harrell '70**, Lynn Harrell McCloy, **Betsy Harrell DuBose '84**, mother-in-law of **John McCloy '69**, grandmother to Jonathan McCloy, **Allison McCloy Vogt '96**, **Katie Harrell Hoffman '99**, **Kelly Harrell '05** and Bennett Harrell; great grandmother to **Tripp Vogt '23**, **Addy Vogt '25** and **Anderson Vogt '29**.



Alumni Soccer Game

On Saturday, January 4, St. Johns was thrilled to host a soccer game featuring a cricket home run derby during halftime! Nearly 30 alumni, along with parents of alumni and relatives, joined us for an incredible day of Spartan fellowship and fun.

Back row (L-R): **Rhett Sessions '19**, homeschooled athlete Luke Graston, **Jake Kailes '21**, **Max Monroe '21**, **Max Arnold '21**, **Mia Sadler '21**, **Kennedy Brown '23**, **JohnB Linge '21**, **Landon Brafford '21**, **Ben Payton '24**, homeschooled athlete Jacob Graston, **Jackson Powers '20**, **Jonathan Moore '22**, and **Levi Avila '28**

Front row (L-R): **Sarah Voigt Voglewede '11**, **Bodie Brafford '26**, homeschooled athlete Lauren Weiss, **Avery Raimondo '23**, **Sofia Avila '24**, **Kiera Moisan '22**, **Hannah Lemieux '22**, **Savannah Berrang '24**, **Ava Johnson '23**, **Roxy Mathews '24**, and **Gigi Sessions '24**.

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St. Johns Country Day School

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Director of Communications

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Tell Us Your News!



Have some news to share? Get married, switch jobs, move, or add to your family? Tell us about it!



St. Johns thanks those who served on the 2024-2025 Board of Trustees:

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Margaret Rood Gibbs

Richard C. M. Wilson

Headmaster Emeritus:

Stephen F. Russey

Ex Officio:

Valorie Baker, *Head of School*

Save the Date!

- **All-School Founders Day Celebration:** Friday, September 12, 2025
- **Homecoming:** Friday, November 14, 2025
- **Alumni Soccer Game:** Saturday, January 3, 2026
- **Legacy & Lifer Breakfast:** Thursday, February 19, 2026



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Congratulations to the winner of the 2024-2025 *Chalice* yearbook photography contest, **Becca Jacobs '27**, who took this photo after the Senior-Grade 1 Buddy Pairing in September. Congrats, Becca! Great photo of a fabulous St. Johns tradition!

sjcds.net

College Prep, Redefined.