

190TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Thursday May 25, 2023

Saint John's Catholic Preparatory School Buckeystown, Maryland

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



On behalf of our Board of Trustees and Faculty, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 190th Commencement Exercises for Saint John's Catholic Preparatory School. Today we gather to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2023 and to bid them farewell as they officially become Saint John's alumni!

Throughout their time here, the Class of 2023 has provided us with many living examples of our school's five pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership, honor, and service. They will forever hold a special place in the long history of our school, and Saint John's is a better place because they have been a part of it. I have the utmost confidence that our graduates will now move on to be great leaders for our Church and our world.

To the parents and guardians of the Class of 2023 – it is because of your love, sacrifices, and unwavering support that your children find themselves where they are today. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. I have enjoyed our partnership, and I hope you can always look back at your family's time at Saint John's with positive thoughts and memories.

To the Class of 2023 - Congratulations! It has been a privilege for me and the faculty to be a part of your high school years. As you begin the next chapter in your lives, be sure to carry with you the lessons you have learned, the friendships you have made, and the values that have been instilled in you. You will remain in our prayers, and I hope that you return to Saint John's often. As we say, once a Viking, ALWAYS a Viking!

God bless the Class of 2023.

Will As

Will Knotek Head of School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Saint John's Catholic Preparatory School COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLASS OF 2023

Presentation of the Colors
Benjamin Elspas '24 Gabriella Lowry '24
Academic Procession
Call to Order
Opening Prayer
National Anthem (Please join us in singing) Ellen Virginia Haley '23
Welcome
Most Inspirational Faculty Member of 2023
Service Recognition
McElroy Awards
-
Introduction of Valedictorian
Valedictorian Address
Presentation of the Candidates Mrs. Jill Seaman
Awarding of Diplomas
Mr. Patrick Crowley
Valediction.
Benediction
Closing of Ceremony
Recessional

SENIOR CLASS AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT OFFICERS



Alexander Joseph Grutzkuhn – Senior Class President



David Douglas Chandler – Senior Class Treasurer



Elliott Thorin Demiray – SGA Executive President



Reagan Lea Frazier – SGA Executive Secretary



Kalia Marie Espenlaub – Senior Class Vice President



Ellen Virginia Haley – Senior Class Historian



Yen Quoc-Vinh Truong – SGA Executive Vice President



Tyler Joseph Grove – SGA Executive Treasurer

THE CLASS OF 2023

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Jordan David Giandrea, President Jack Robert Green, Vice President Kalia Marie Espenlaub, Secretary Matthew Joseph Riordan, Treasurer Jasmine Radhika Milbourne, Publicist Victoria Marie Bishop Annabelle Hope Browning David Douglas Chandler Jillian Renee Fedor Reagan Lea Frazier Nicholas Alexander Gamarra Timothy Patrick Gorman Tyler Joseph Grove Brendan Joseph Guinan Changgyu Kim John Frederick Manning Lily Elizabeth O'Connell Jacquelyn Renee Pancoast Griffin James Puvel Anna Kathryn Rosencrance Sophia Rose Schwaab Alexa Marie Sofia Madeleine Claire Stassen Bronson Alan Taylor Yen Quoc-Vinh Truong Olivia Jane Wilkison Julia Ann Workman

HIGH HONORS

(Weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher)

Sofia Cristina Arnaiz David Douglas Chandler Brady Myers Clifford Adrianna Roxanne Cortes Jillian Renee Fedor Reagan Lea Frazier Nicholas Alexander Gamarra Jordan David Giandrea Timothy Patrick Gorman Jack Robert Green Christopher Haritun Gregorian Brendan Joseph Guinan Kelly Nicole Karanovich Changgyu Kim Kylie Jane Kirk Edward John Lowry, III John Frederick Manning Jasmine Radhika Milbourne Robert Keller Neuman Jacquelyn Renee Pancoast Griffin James Puvel Matthew Joseph Riordan Anna Kathryn Rosencrance Sophia Rose Schwaab Madeleine Claire Stassen Yen Quoc-Vinh Truong Olivia Jane Wilkison Julia Ann Workman

HONORS

(Weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher)

Roman Joseph Arensmeyer Bryant Bobak Askari Victoria Marie Bishop Annabelle Hope Browning Roberto Manuel Cortes Kalia Marie Espenlaub Tyler Joseph Grove Justin Daniel Knight Katherine Daisy Mackin Charles Andrew Malone Lucy Bernadette Meng Lily Elizabeth O'Connell Ashton Walker Patil Maria Louise Paul Kristy Elizabeth Pfaff Adam Harry Reinsch Alexa Marie Sofia Bronson Alan Taylor

THE CLASS OF 2023

Roman Joseph Arensmeyer

Clarksburg, MD Parents: John and Carolyn Arensmeyer "SJCP introduced me to so many new friends and allowed me to create so many great memories that I will cherish forever." McDaniel College - Westminster, MD

Sofia Cristina Arnaiz

Clarksburg, MD Parents: Javier Arnaiz and Patricia Proaño Arnaiz "Saint John's has helped me become a better student by learning how to stay organized and stand up for myself. I am going to miss SJCP but I will carry all the memories I made here with me to college."

Salisbury University - Salisbury, MD

Bryant Bobak Askari

Potomac, MD Parents: Marty and Heidi Askari "Thank you to my friends, teachers, and God for a wonderful four years at SJCP." University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

Victoria Marie Bishop

New Market, MD Parents: Robert and Meredith Bishop "SJCP has helped me grow in so many ways by providing me friends, memories, and education. I will never forget my years here."

Widener University - Chester, PA

Zain Gul Bokhari

ljamsville, MD Parents: Jamshed and Najma Bokhari "Saint John's has given me the opportunties of a lifetime. I couldn't be more thanksful." Saint Francis University - Loretto, PA

Annabelle Hope Browning

Frederick, MD Parents: Doug and Judy Browning "I am so thankful that I got to spend my high school years at SJCP. All the laughter, friends, and encouragement I received will be something I'll remember forever." McDaniel College - Westminster, MD

Daniel Joseph Taft Carroll

Hamilton,VA Parents: Tom and Liz Carroll "Saint John's is a friendly and understanding environment. I am truly thankful for my time here." Curtis Institute of Music - Philadelphia, PA

Christian Arthur Casteel

Mount Airy, MD Parents: Brenda Mills and Elizabeth Smith "Even though I was only here one year, I'm glad I chose this school. I've had a lot of fun here between being the basketball manager and traveling to all the great places with them as well as all the friends I made along the way."

The United States Marine Corps

David Douglas Chandler

Leesburg,VA Parents: Timothy and Jennifer Chandler

"It has been a fun four years at St. John's. I have seen myself grow along with my peers in many aspects and am now ready to take that next step into college, prepared to take on all of its new challenges."

Grove City College - Grove City, Pennsylvania

Brady Myers Clifford

Monrovia, MD Parents: Noland Clifford and Joe and Lori Myers Ochs "Saint John's has helped me excel in all areas of being a student. I'm very grateful for my friends and those who've helped along the way."

Hood College - Frederick, MD

Jaden Dwayne Codlin

Frederick, MD Parents: Rohan Codlin and Patricia Lindsay "Thank you." College – Undecided

Adrianna Roxanne Cortes

Gaithersburg, MD Parents: Roberto Cortes and Sylvia Zariquiey "Saint John's has helped me grow into the person I am today and put me on the right path for my academic career." Quinnipiac University - Hamden, CT

Roberto Manuel Cortes

Gaithersburg, MD Parents: Roberto Cortes and Sylvia Zariquiey "SJCP has formed me into what I am and no one, especially me, will forget it." University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

Joshua Haze Daniel

Mt. Airy, MD Parents: Albert and Serina Daniel "Lots of good memories and friends for a lifetime." Gap Year

Elliott Thorin Demiray

Brunswick, MD Parents: David and Sonia Demiray "Thank you to my family and friends." University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

Andrew Lynn Elspas

Frederick, MD Parents: Michael Elspas and Ally Elspas "During my years at SJCP, I have met people who will continue to be my friends for the rest of my life." Shepherd University – Shepherdstown, VVV

Kalia Marie Espenlaub

New Market, MD

Parents: Travis and Suzanne Espenlaub

"I would like to say thank you to all the teachers and faculty members that have helped me the last few years. To the group of friends that welcomed me with open arms when I transferred, thank you. Thank you to my family for always being there! And of course to my mom and dad for being so supportive and giving me new opportunities to grow. Thank you all!" **Millersville University - Millersville, PA**

Jillian Renee Fedor

Thurmont, MD Parents: Thomas and Melissa Fedor "SJCP gave me lifelong friendships, and a good education that will help me succeed in my future." Frederick Community College – Frederick, MD

Reagan Lea Frazier

New Market, MD Parents: TJ and Laura Frazier "St. John's has been a transformational time for me. I have grown as a student, athlete, friend, and all-around person. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have been here." West Virginia University – Morgantown, WV

Nicholas Alexander Gamarra

Frederick, MD Parents: Ricardo Gamarra and Joanna Shaw "Saint John's has helped shape who I am by providing me with a strong education as well as lifelong friendships and memories." University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Jordan David Giandrea

Gaithersburg, MD Parents: Michael and Mary Frances Giandrea "I am thankful for the adventure that high school was. Saint John's has prepared me for the many adventures yet to come." Catholic University of America - Washington, DC

Timothy Patrick Gorman

North Potomac, MD Parents: Patrick and Megan Gorman "The Saint John's community has helped make me into the best version of myself and has well prepared me for my time at college and my life after college."

Saint Vincent College - Latrobe, PA

Jack Robert Green

Middletown, MD Parents: Robert and Jacqueline Green "I would like to thank everyone for the last four years at SJCP. I made a lot of good friends, and I've had a lot of fun and learned a lot of cool things. I am very thankful for SJCP." University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Christopher Haritun Gregorian

Frederick, MD Parents: Sevan and Juliyet Gregorian "There was absolutely nothing normal about my high school experience, but I still wouldn't trade it in for a different one." Mount St. Mary's University – Emmitsburg, MD

Tyler Joseph Grove

New Market, MD Parents: Bryan and Becky Grove "Thank you to my parents and friends for everything." St. Mary's College of Maryland – St. Mary's City, MD

Alexander Joseph Grutzkuhn

Frederick, MD Parents: William and Renee Grutzkuhn *"I prize my time and my life at SJCP. Thanks for all who walked with me."* Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY

Brendan Joseph Guinan

Rocky Ridge, MD Parents: Kevin and Karen Guinan "The valuable academic knowledge, life lessons and friendships I have gained over the past four years here have made my time at Saint John's unforgettable." Lafayette College - Easton, PA

Ellen Virginia Haley

Frederick, MD Parents: Patrick and Mary Haley "I want to thank my family, especially my parents, for the endless support and opportunities they've provided me with. SJCP was four years of support and growth for me. Thank you to everyone who helped along the way."

Loyola University Maryland - Baltimore, MD

Emma Marie Hutchens

Frederick, MD Parent: Diana Reynolds

"These past four years have taught me so much. People who taught me lessons and who were the lessons, thank you. Thank you to my friends and the counseling office. The biggest thank you to my family and my special people here today. I wouldn't be here without you. I love you." Hood College - Frederick, MD

Drew Alexander Hutchins

Hagerstown, MD Parents: Barri and Monica Hutchins "Thank you Saint John's Catholic Prep for exposing me to new things."

Susquehanna University – Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania

Kelly Nicole Karanovich

Sykesville, MD Parents: Robert and Debora Karanovich "I have teachers, friends, and family who have helped me grow into who I am. I am thankful for everyone and will carry your blessings with me. Remember that everyday above ground is a great day and make the most of it by making yourself and

others smile."

University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Joel Aganze Kayeye

Hagerstown, MD Parents: Bagalwa Kayeye and Julie Bahizire "Thank you to all the guys for making this journey in Buckeystown better." Marymount University - Arlington,VA

Changgyu Kim

Yongin, Gyenonggi, Republic of Korea Parents: Taesoo Kim and Jooyoung Park *"I am grateful for my family, friends, and teachers who helped me through this journey."* Indiana University Bloomington – Bloomington, IN

Kylie Jane Kirk

Gaithersburg, MD Parents: Paul and Dawn Kirk "Thank you to my parents, brother, and grandparents for all their love and support. Thank you to all the SJCP teachers for being there for me." Montgomery College – Rockville, MD

Justin Daniel Knight

Charles Town, VVV Parents: Tim and Allison Knight "The SJCP community has helped me learn and compete in sports in a great environment through my four years." West Virginia University - Morgantown, WV

Samantha Saraí Lomelí-Andrade

Hagerstown, MD

Parents: Juan and Maria Lomeli "With the help of our wonderful faculty, who has always been there for me, SJCP helped me grow and succed."

The Temple - A Paul Mitchell Partner School - Frederick, MD

Edward John Lowry, III

Emmitsburg, MD Parents: Edward and Lisa Lowry, Jr. "Saint John's has helped shape me into the person I am today by providing me with a strong education, and friendships that will last a lifetime."

Stevenson University - Owings Mills, MD

Katherine Daisy Mackin

Monrovia, MD Parents: Patrick and Sandra Mackin "Saint John's allowed me to have a school experience that I never had before. I'd like to thank all my teachers for shaping me into who I am now and who I will become in the years ahead of me."

Dickinson College - Carlisle, PA

Charles Andrew Malone

Mount Airy, MD Parents: Thomas and Kimberly Malone "This was truly a high school experience." York College of Pennsylvania - York, PA

John Frederick Manning

Frederick, MD Parents: Fred and Janet Manning "Saint John's has been very helpful throughout my four years, and I'm glad I picked it." Catholic University of America – Washington, DC

Lucy Bernadette Meng

Damascus, MD Parents: Daniel and Elizabeth Meng "Saint John's gave me experiences that helped me grow so much. Thank you to my family for supporting me through those experiences." Saint Francis University - Loretto, PA

Jasmine Radhika Milbourne

Harpers Ferry, WV Parents: Bret and Jyotsna Milbourne "I will forever treasure the memories I made here and the lessons I learned." University of Georgia – Athens, GA

Darnell Eugene Morris, Jr.

Frederick, MD Parents: LaTosha Anderson "Whatever school I pick it will be for me to be the best version of myself to be successful in life and to accomplish all my dreams and goals." Goucher College - Baltimore, MD

Kaitlin Elizabeth Marie Murphy

Monrovia, MD Parents: Timothy and Michelle Murphy "Saint John's, in the 2 1/2 years I have been here, has helped me tremendously, not only as a student but as a person. Thank you for everything."

Frederick Community College – Frederick, MD

Robert Keller Neuman

Glenelg, MD

Parents: Jeffrey and Felicia Neuman

"SJCP has given me an amazing opportunity to succeed not only academically but athletically as well. I could not be more grateful for the people I have met throughout my time here."

University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Lily Elizabeth O'Connell

Frederick, MD Parents: Roderick and Elizabeth O'Connell "Thank you to my family, friends, and school community for making these last four years so amazing!!" College of Charleston – Charleston, SC

Aidan James O'Neill

Frederick, MD Parents: James and Heather O'Neill "Thank you to my mom and family for supporting me. Thank you to all my teachers for helping along the way." Bridgewater College – Bridgewater,VA

Jacquelyn Renee Pancoast

Gaithersburg, MD

Parents: B. Ross and Leigh Ann Pancoast

"I have loved my time here at SJCP. Whether it was on a sports field or in the classroom I have always enjoyed the good times and embraced the hard times. I will treasure these memories forever and I am grateful for all the support from the SJCP community."

Regent University - Virginia Beach, VA

Ashton Walker Patil

Middletown, MD Parents: Ajay R. Patil and Mary Beck-Patil "SJCP helped me branch out to to new hobbies and skills." Belmont University - Nashville,TN

Maria Louise Paul

Clarksburg, MD Parents: Michael and Sue Paul "SJCP is a great community and I'm glad I was part of it. SJCP helped me have a strong education and prepared me for college in the best way. SJCP has put me on the right path and helped me so much these past 3 1/2 years." Towson University - Towson, MD

Antonio Perez, Jr.

Frederick, MD

Parents: Antonio Perez and Shandalin Shivers

"I would like to take time out to give a humongous thanks to my biggest supporters, fans, and personal Uber drivers, my parents! I know I have a lot to learn, and I know that sometimes I can be hard headed, but thank you for your endless passion and perseverance for the last 18 years. You guys are the best parents I could've asked for!"

Quinnipiac University - Hamden, CT

Kristy Elizabeth Pfaff

Mount Airy, MD

Parents: Kirk and Karen Pfaff

"The SJCP community has helped me grow. We may be a small school but we have big hearts, and I will never forget my years here."

University of Kentucky - Lexington, KY

Griffin James Puvel

Thurmont, MD

Parents: George Puvel and Laura Day-Puvel "Saint John's has allowed me to open doors of camaraderie that have shaped my life. I was fortunate enough to find my true friends that bring the best out of each other as a group." **Rider University - Lawrenceville, New Jersey**

Adam Harry Reinsch

Germantown, MD Parents: Jeffrey and Nobuyo Reinsch and Maria Hubenette Reinsch "Adapt yourself to the life you have been given, and truly love the people with whom destiny has surrounded you." The Apprentice School at Newport News -

Newport News, VA

Matthew Joseph Riordan

Harpers Ferry, WV Parents: John and Elizabeth Riordan "There are four years that I will never forget. Thanks to my classmates."

West Virgina University - Morgantown, WV

Owen Lee Roberts

Frederick, MD Parents: Rich and Andrea Roberts "Thank you to all SJCP faculty for assisting me in the journey through high school." Coastal Carolina University - Conoway, SC

Anna Kathryn Rosencrance

New Market, MD Parents: Alan and Susan Rosencrance "Saint John's has provided me with the opportunity to meet some of the most wonderful friends and teachers. I will always be grateful for my four years here." Lafayette College - Easton, PA

Sophia Rose Schwaab

Westminster, MD Parents: Marc and Tammy Schwaab "I will never forget my time at SJCP. It has helped to shape who I am today." McDaniel College - Westminster, MD

Joshua C. Skowronski

Frederick, MD Parents: Chris Skowronski and Julie Skowronski Snow "Making the decision to come to Saint John's has been a life changer for me. I can't imagine my life without some of the people I have met here. I am thankful for this community." University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

Alexa Marie Sofia

Germantown, MD Parents: Domenico and Jane Sofia

"Saint John's was better than I could have ever imagined. In the the end, I found my friend group and community. I'll never forget the memories I made here."

Mount St. Mary's University - Emmitsburg, MD

Madeleine Claire Stassen

Frederick, MD Parents: Peter and Christine Stassen

"These four years have been filled with growth, change, laughter, dedication, and perseverance. I would not be who I am without the people I have met here at SJCP. Thank you for being a part of my journey."

Towson University - Towson, MD

Zixuan Tao

Changzhou, Jiangsu, China Parents: Lingyun Tao and Xioaxia Shi *"I want to thank all my teachers for helping get through my four years at Saint John's."* University of Connecticut – Storrs, CT

Bronson Alan Taylor

Hagerstown, MD Parents: AJ Taylor and Lori Ashby "I wasn't at Saint Johns all four years, but the time I have spent here was the best of my life. I couldn't ask for a better group of faculty, administration, and friends to be around. I will love and cherish every moment I made here."

University of Maryland Eastern Shore -Princess Anne, MD

Dorian Wobiwo Tema

Frederick, MD Parents: Pierre Tema Wobiwo and Josyane Kengi "I want to thank everyone who's supported me.Without everyone, I wouldn't be where I am today or who I am today. Thank you." Towson University – Towson, MD

Sydney Renee-Nicole Terrell

Frederick, MD Parents: Rick and Dytra Eubank and Grandmother: Gwyndolyn Ensley *"I will treasure the memories I made in high school along with all the friends I made with them."* Pennsylvania State University, Brandywine – Media, PA

Yen Quoc-Vinh Truong

Damascus, MD Parents: Liem Truong and Quynh Giao "Despite being such a small school, the friends I made here helped me realize the amount of heart this community has." University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Olivia Jane Wilkison

Frederick, MD Parents: Mark Wilkison and Malissa Hiers-Wilkison "I am excited to be attending my dream college in the fall and I would like to thank my parents for believing in me, Ms. Hoehn for always supporting me, Dr. Smith for inspiring me, and SJCP. I am truly excited for my future."

University of Maryland - College Park, MD

Julia Ann Workman

Walkersville, MD Parents: Nate and Jennifer Workman "Attending Saint John's has molded me into an intelligent individual who not only understands the importance of academics but also the value of service, faith, and community. Without the SJCP community in my life, I would not have been able to explore my faith, navigate my future, or cultivate my creativity with the same confidence and skill that I have today." University of Notre Dame - South Bend, IN Special Thank You!



For providing the live streaming of today's Commencement ceremonies.



Faith - Leadership - Scholarship - Honor - Service