



FROM THE DESK OF DR. ROSE DAVIDSON, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

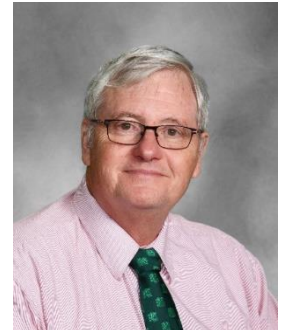
ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

February's Teacher of the Month

Mr. John Gundy has been selected as February's teacher of the month! Teachers are nominated by students for the lessons and projects that helped their students to gain a deeper understanding of concepts, become a better student overall or become a better member of their community. Awardees are selected from the nominees each month by an SJA faculty and staff review board.

Mr. Gundy was nominated by a student in his engineering methods course for the 3-D printing lesson.

"Mr. Gundy taught our class how to use the 3D printers! I used to feel skeptical about 3D printing. I thought it would be too difficult and boring. However, through Mr. Gundy's lessons, I love it! Lately, he helped our class design a Lego block that actually connects with the standard Lego blocks sold in toy stores. I came into this class knowing little to nothing and have already learned so much from just the 4 short weeks we've had this semester. I now can feel confident 3D printing, and I can help my other classmates, too. Overall, I can see the value in learning the different programs and how they work!"



Previous Teachers of the Month during this school year include:

From left to right:

Mrs. Carrie Hill, Mr. David Kowalczyk, and Mrs. Chelsea Layton



Student of the Month Recognitions for February

St. Joseph's Academy Outstanding Angel Student of the Month

Each month, faculty nominate one student from each grade level who exemplifies the Academic Qualities of an Outstanding Angel. The students selected are role models for cultivating intellectual distinction. Below are February's Outstanding Angels along with a quote from one of the teachers who nominated them.

Present • Participates • Collaborates • Leads • Goes above and beyond • Manages her time and responsibilities • Masters the content • Honest

Sophia B. '26

"Every single day, Sophia strives for her best, whether it is something small or large. She consistently asks thoughtful questions and really listens – whether it is to the teacher or her peers. Her intellectual curiosity is a joy!"



genuinely interested in the people around her. She often asks people personal questions to get to know them and always thoughtfully listens to their responses."

Lauren M. '24

Lauren works well with all members of the class and contributes to the success of the team. She is able to handle multiple assignments in multiple courses, both short and long terms. [She is] always prepared for class discussions and activities. She truly loves learning and is all in!"



Margee B. '25

"Margee has truly emerged as a leader in her Latin cohort over the past few semesters. I am thrilled to see her living up to her true potential, and I am grateful that her natural leadership skills bring such balance and humor to our little Latin family.

She really brings her A+ game to group projects and class discussions. She provided some of the best feedback I've ever received in a course eval. She is so genuine, hardworking, and respectful while balancing all that with a fun and outgoing personality. I'm very thankful to have had her as a student and I think she is a great leader/role model for our students. She is quite possibly one of the most consistently engaged students I have had in years. She participates in every class discussion, fills any silences when no one is ready to respond, has an incredible sense of humor that engages her classmates in an appropriate way, and is



Jessica T. '23

"Jessica is a student who works hard to master the content and enable others to learn from her insights and connections. Jessica seems excited to enter Calc BC despite being first period every day. She answers questions and enjoys the subject. She took on the role of captain at our last scholar bowl meet. She has volunteered her time to meet and tutor students in Calc AB, a subject she has mastered and completes all of her work in Calc BC, the hardest math class we offer, despite taking 5 college level courses and still scores one of the top scores on every Calc BC test."



St. Joseph's Academy Student of the Month for Mission

Each month, faculty also nominate one student who exemplifies the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Ideally, this person challenges herself to grow in faith, knowledge, and respect for self and others. She is joyful, unifies people, moves toward the more, and goes out of her way to serve the dear neighbor without distinction.

She exudes our motto "Not I, but We".



Jane M. '23

"Jane is a tireless servant leader. She is always one of the first to offer help. She is always involved in leading or organizing something and does it out of love for her classmates and for our school. Her friends recognize her for her inclusivity and warmth. Jane has been working so hard in wheel throwing. She is definitely present during class, participates constantly, helps others in the class, leads by example, and definitely goes above and beyond by working outside of class time. She is consistently showing effort to try to master the content. Jane has been a joy to have in Ceramics II Wheel Throwing."

Billiken Beams

Two SJA bridge building teams successfully competed in Billiken Beams Bridge Competition on Saturday, February 25. A third team's bridge was broken during transport to the competition.

Both bridges represented the Academy well. Our bridges weighed in at a little over 60 grams which is about **0.14 pounds**. The bridge constructed by Team One held a bucket with sand that **weighed 14 pounds** briefly before exploding spectacularly. This is about **100 times** its own weight. The bridge constructed by Team 2 was at **20 pounds** when it creaked, groaned, and collapsed. It held **144 times** its own weight before failing.

The winner of the competition was a team from CBC. It was a beautiful bridge that sneaked in just under the maximum weight limit at **0.29 pounds** but held a remarkable **58 pounds** from an efficiency of **198 times** its own weight. Our bridge builders were proud of their bridges, as they should have been. They took notes on what other teams did and are already planning for next year.

Team One: *Bridge held 100 times its weight* -- Ann W. '23, Kayla J. '24, Lucy B. '24, Mary Ellen G. '24

Team Two: *Bridge held 144 times its weight* – Paige E. '25, Kate H. '25, Lily H. '25, Kate W. '23

Team Three: *Winners of the Trivia Contest* – Emily R. '25, Maddy S. '25, Annie D. '24, Carlye B. '25

Team Coach: Mr. John Gundy

the competition participants enjoy hands-on activities, learn more about neuroscience, meet other area high school and college students and connect with faculty members at Washington University. There are prizes for the school with the largest team and the top 10 finishers.

Congratulations to **Abby M. '25** for finishing among the top ten in this competition among the over 100 competitors. She finished 8th overall after the oral round.

2023 Academy of Science Honors Division Science Fair

High School students from around St. Louis completed collegiate-level research and science projects in order to compete. The first round took place the weekend of February 25th. The top 10 students will now move on to compete in the Finalists Round to take place on March 4th, 2023, held at Webster University's Campus. The top two students in the Finalist Round will be invited to compete at [Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair](#) in Dallas, TX. All Honors Fair participants will also be considered for special awards announced on May 4th, 2023.

Two of our students placed in the top ten and are moving on to the finalist round!



Bailey B. '24 will be taking her project, *The effects of cellulose acetate filters on Phaseolus vulgaris and Palaemonetes paludosus* to the finalist round.



Grace L. '23 will be presenting her project, *The Impact of lowering pH on Artemia franciscana viability*, to the judges in the finalist round.



Anna W. '23 was named a semifinalist after virtually presenting her project, *The effect of land use on soil composition and the growth of Pascopyrum smithii in remnant soils versus altered soils*.

Congratulations to our Brain Bee Champion!

The St. Louis Area Brain Bee (SLABB) is an annual competition for high school students held at Washington University. Questions, designed to test knowledge in neuroscience, come from [Brain Facts](#), a book produced by the [Society for Neuroscience](#) which students are responsible for studying on their own. While at



CONGRATULATIONS!

Student Opportunities

Two summer programs and a scholarship for current seniors with upcoming deadlines are featured below. Notices about these and other academic opportunities for students outside of school are available on the running list which is available [here](#).



Shaw Institute for Field Training
Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO
[Shaw Institute for Field Training](#) is a hands-on environmental field skills training program for students

entering grades 10-12. SIFT's virtual and in-person training activities emphasize collaboration, field skills acquisition, and scientific knowledge gain.
SIFT participants are exposed to a variety of field projects and career field scientists over all four seasons. Participation includes learning and paid fieldwork during the summer and the following school year.

Application deadline: March 13, 2023.



Society of Women Engineers Incoming Frosh Scholarships

Current Seniors: Apply for [Society of Women Engineers' Freshmen scholarships](#) for the 2023-24 academic year. High school seniors who will be college or university freshmen can apply online March 1 through March 20, 2023.

The SWE Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to women studying in associate or baccalaureate programs in preparation for careers in engineering, engineering technology and computer science. In 2022, SWE disbursed 330 new and renewed scholarships valued at over \$1,700,000.

Application deadline: March 20, 2023



National Park Service Youth & Young Adult Programs

Are you between the ages of 15 and 18? Apply now to be a paid member of the summer [Youth Conservation Corps](#) (#YCC)! Each park has a different deadline and session dates. Check with the park of interest for details on their specific program. **Many have April 15 deadlines.** The programs are generally 8 to 10 weeks and members are paid minimum wages for a 40 hour work week.

As a YCC member, take an active role in protecting the natural, cultural, and historical resources of our national parks. You could work on a variety of projects depending on the park's needs, including building trails, maintaining fences, cleaning up campgrounds, improving wildlife habitat, environmental education planning and teaching, stream restoration, historic building preservation, interpretation, cultural resources, and more! Your work may not be just outside, though we know getting outside in our parks has many health benefits. There are nearly 50 national park sites to choose from.

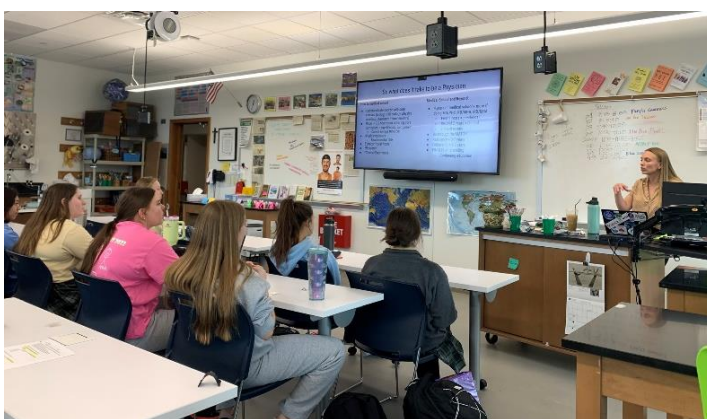
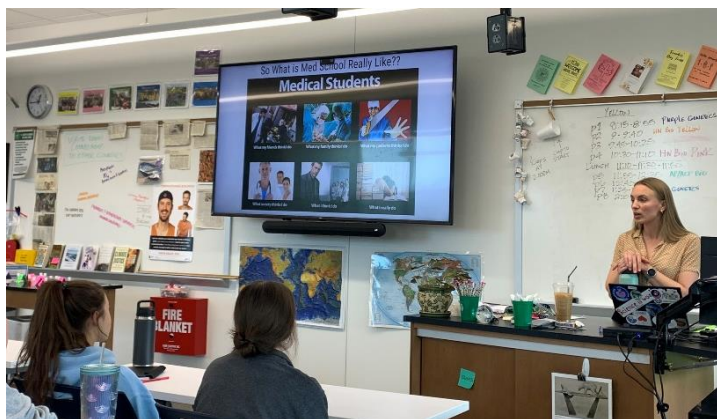
So, are you ready to learn and have fun while getting paid to work in our parks this summer? Learn more about the program and the participating parks by [clicking here!](#)



Alumna Kourtney Kostecki presenting on Protein Kinesis to the **AP/ACP Biology** students via Zoom from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Alumna Casey Fogarty presenting on her experiences at Mizzou Medical School to the **AP/ACP Biology** students.



SJA Codes meeting where members are working on creating an animation.



A picture of an **Honors Biology** class taken with an infrared camera.

