



FROM THE DESK OF DR. ROSE DAVIDSON, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

SJA Travels to Brazil

This February, **Mia Allen '26**, **Lily Shaw '26**, and faculty chaperone **Ms. Mary Nasser '89** embarked on an unforgettable journey as part of the first Global Education Program of the year, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture of Brazil from February 14-23, 2025. This immersive experience broadened their global perspectives, deepened their understanding of Brazilian culture, and created memories to last a lifetime.



Their adventure began in Bauru, where they attended classes at Colégio Chaminade, experienced daily life with their host families, and enjoyed traditional Brazilian cuisine. They explored the rich cultural heritage of Brazil, learning about capoeira (a unique blend of martial arts, dance, music, and acrobatics) and even took part in a capoeira and samba wheel. During their Brazilian cooking workshop, they learned to make brigadeiro and pão de queijo, two beloved Brazilian treats. They visited a samba school, immersing themselves in the energy and rhythm of this traditional dance.

Beyond the classroom, Lily and Mia explored Brazil's natural landscapes. They visited the Botanical Gardens and Zoo, and in Brotas, they took on outdoor adventures, including whitewater rafting on the Jacaré Pepira River, ziplining, and hiking to a breathtaking waterfall. They also had the incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich culture of the Indigenous community in the villages of Tereguá and Ekeruá.

Their journey concluded in São Paulo, the largest city in both the Western and Southern Hemispheres. There, they explored the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), strolled down Paulista Avenue, and delved into Brazil's rich football (soccer) history at the Football Museum and a tour of Allianz Parque stadium.



Student Researchers Selected for Symposium



Congratulations to **Josie Duke** and **Ella Jackson** on being chosen to present at the 2025 St. Louis University [American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#) High School Research Symposium.

The March 29 event merges research and presentation experience to help provide high school students in the St. Louis area with exposure to the scientific experimentation process.

Students from high schools in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area were selected after constructing literature reviews or a compilation of lab work with which they are currently involved. For the symposium, each student will create an abstract, a scientific poster, and a slide presentation. Josie's research studied the effect of sound on butterflies. Ella researched the preference of pollinators for either native plants or cultivated plants.



Mrs. Lodes receives a Seed Grant from National Geographic

Mrs. Katie Lodes has been chosen to receive a National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Seed Grant for the 2025-26 School year. The money will be used to set up seaweed tanks for students in the Marine Science and Independent Science Research courses. Director Pauline Dion from the [Boothbay Sea and Science Center](#) in Maine is partnering with SJA to share her expertise and seaweed samples. Junior **Izzy Mancini** has already begun using the new equipment.



caught in the act

Zoology students are learning about birds in preparation for the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#).



Student Opportunities

Notices about academic opportunities for students outside of school will be provided as they become known. This [student opportunities listing](#) will be provided in each issue of the Academic Accolades. Opportunities are listed by their application deadline. This year, an additional list with college admission-specific opportunities appears at the top of the above listing. Click [here](#) to access that list.

