
THE LION LINE

Learn the True, Do the Good, Love the Beautiful

From the Headmaster's Desk

What a joy it is to finally be onboard and working in Lion Country! I am blessed to be surrounded by competent staff, motivated teachers, and supportive parents. We are working toward a full school reopening in August; let me assure you that it will be a SAFE reopening. We want our scholars and families to know that we not only value a top-notch classical education but your safety and security as well.

I have been very busy working to clarify various school policies. I have also met with the Student Council and will strive to listen to student concerns and address issues to the best of my ability. Additionally, I plan to meet with parents this fall and listen to your concerns. I know that together we can provide the best formative education possible for your scholars.

As you and your families enjoy this summer break, I hope you will be renewed in your commitment to classical education as we are at the school. Have you ever wondered if what you are doing for your children is the right thing? Well, of course we have! As parents, we are always evaluating our decisions and making some adjustments along the way. So, let me encourage you with some data.

In 2016, when I joined the Board of Directors to start SJCA, there were only about 15 BCSI (Barney Charter School Initiative) schools across the country. Now, there are 24 schools in the BCSI network. In fact, three more schools will open for the 2020 school year, and four more are slated to open in 2021. Many people are taking notice of the value of what we are doing. Governor DeSantis himself has even incorporated curricula from Hillsdale College into the Florida Department of Education's K-12 curriculum.

Additionally, testing data proves that what we do within the network of BCSI classical school is working. Currently, 71% of BCSI scholars are scoring the highest mark or beating the district average on state tests. When it comes to college entrance exams, BCSI scholars average five points higher than the national average on the ACT and average 150 points higher than the national average on the SAT. Even in the classical education community, three of the BCSI schools are in the top 25 when it comes to CLT (Classical Learning Test) scores.

So, let me encourage you today as the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Galatia 2,000 years ago, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Let's press on toward the mark together!

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnson

New Teacher Introductions

Administration has hired an outstanding group of new faculty members. They are committed to the mission and vision—to provide an American classical education to the scholars attending St. Johns Classical Academy. Please join us in welcoming them to the Academy. 2020-2021 is going to be the best year yet!

Mrs. Megan O'Neill, First Grade



Megan O'Neill is excited to be joining our wonderful team of first grade teachers. Although she will be a new addition to our staff, she is not new to the St. Johns Classical Academy family. Mrs. O'Neill has been a SJCA parent for the last two school years, and she spent time in many of our classrooms as a substitute teacher during the 2019-2020 school year. She is looking forward to using her experience as a Classical educator to enrich the lives of her scholars with the instruction of our content-rich curriculum.

Mrs. O'Neill has always had a passion for education. After completing a teacher's assistant program in a first grade classroom during her senior year of high school in Martin County, Florida, she finished training to become a teacher at Florida State University. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of

Science degree in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Science degree in Special Education. She then worked at Hartsfield Elementary in Tallahassee, Florida as a PreK Special Education teacher until she moved to Clay County. She taught for three more years at Paterson Elementary as a Special Education teacher of students with learning disabilities before choosing to stay home to spend time with her first child.

As a mother of four children, Mrs. O'Neill jumped back into education eight years ago when she decided to teach her children at home. While homeschooling, she assisted her children as they worked through the grammar, logic, and rhetoric stages of Classical learning to ensure the best educational opportunities for each one of them. She also used the Classical model of education as she taught Foundations and Essentials classes each week when they met with their homeschool group. She helped her Foundations students learn and memorize their lessons, and she taught her Essentials students strategies for improving their diagramming and writing. She is celebrating the end of her homeschooling role since her oldest recently graduated from the Classical Conversations Challenge Program and will attend Florida State University in the Fall. Her other three children have successfully transitioned to public school, performing well in all of their classes for the past two years. Next year, she will have an 11th grader at Fleming Island High School, and an 8th grader and a sixth grader here at SJCA.

Mrs. O'Neill enjoys spending time with her children and husband of twenty years. Their family spends most of their summer boating, swimming, and paddle boarding in Lake Asbury. They also like to travel to Tallahassee often to cheer for their favorite team, the Seminoles. In her spare time, she likes to lay in the hammock and read a good book or get crafty with her Cricut. After a relaxing summer vacation with her family, Mrs. O'Neill will be eager to join the scholars in her first grade class as they embark on a new school year of learning.

Ms. Melissa Rabino, Second Grade

Melissa Rabino was born and raised in France by a French mother and an Italian father and has always loved learning and traveling. She first arrived in the U.S. eleven years ago, settling in South Florida where she graduated summa cum Laude from Florida Atlantic University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. While earning her degree, Melissa worked in a private gifted school, where she fostered her love of learning and education. As a teacher assistant and student teacher, she has positively influenced many students and looks forward to continuing to do so at St. Johns Classical Academy as a second grade teacher. Ms. Rabino is enthusiastic about the outdoors, cooking, reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with her family. She will always strive to express her dedication to teaching and convey her passion for learning.

She loves teaching because at the end of every lesson, not only has she imparted knowledge to others, but she has learned something from her students in return. Ms. Rabino is excited to be part of the Fleming Island community and looks forward to meeting all her students, parents, and staff.



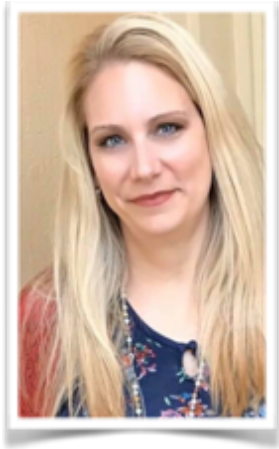
Mrs. Elizabeth Loeser, Second Grade



Elizabeth Loeser, a lifelong resident of Jacksonville, earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from Auburn University with a major in Elementary Education. She returned home to work on a master's degree from University of North Florida in School Counseling. Mrs. Loeser has been an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years. She has taught children of all ages and learning levels in both public and private schools in Duval and St. Johns Counties. She began her career at the DePaul School in Jacksonville, where she taught children ages 4-13 with a variety of learning disabilities, focused mainly on dyslexia. While at DePaul, Mrs. Loeser became familiar with Orton-based reading instruction and the fundamentals of language education.

Later, she taught third and fourth grade at another private school in Jacksonville, where she also had the opportunity to be the student government sponsor and serve as an evaluator for private school accreditation. She brings to St. Johns Classical Academy a strong literacy background. She has worked as one of the pilot teachers with Nemours BrightStart! Dyslexia Initiative, where she taught early literacy skills to 4-year-olds. The emphasis of this program was to identify children at risk for reading difficulties and provide intervention at the earliest stage to prevent illiteracy. From Nemours, she moved to St. Johns County School District, where she worked with the Exceptional Student population in grades K-5 to improve reading and math skills as well as improve test scores, thereby preventing retention. In addition, Mrs. Loeser owned and operated a tutoring center for 7 years, where she gained business experience in management and leadership. She most recently taught preschool and VPK in Nocatee and looks forward to returning to the elementary school setting. She is dedicated to the mission of classical education. Mrs. Loeser is a life-long learner and scholar. Her passion is working with children and igniting the same love of learning and reading in them.

Mrs. Liberty Hancock, Fourth Grade



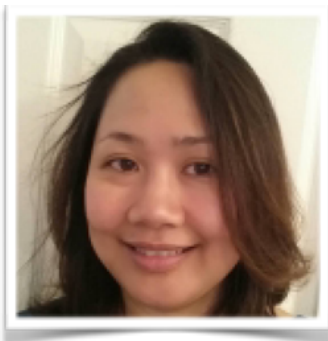
We are thrilled to have Mrs. Hancock join our fourth grade team this school year. She comes to us from Freedom Crossing Academy in St. Johns County where she was in the ESE department and also taught second grade. She graduated from UNF with a bachelors in Social Behavioral Education with a minor in Sociology. Her husband is a sergeant with St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, and they have three children: Mia, age 13; Haze, age 12; and Ceiley, age 7. Though having three children keeps her busy, in Mrs. Hancock's free time, she enjoys traveling, decorating, and spending time with friends and family. She was born and raised in Jacksonville, FL and currently resides in Rivertown in St. Johns County. She teaches with passion for all subjects so that all students develop a desire to become lifelong learners.

Mr. David Horne, Fifth Grade

David Horne is a Clay County native and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He spent 15 years teaching for the Department of Defense in Korea and Germany and five years teaching at international schools in Southeast Asia. While overseas, he participated in humanitarian visits to local/indigenous schools in more than 30 countries.



Mrs. Ruth DePeralta, 6th Grade



Mrs. Ruth DePeralta is what you might call an accidental teacher. She earned a degree in Journalism from the University of the Philippines then worked at the Manila bureau of the German Press Agency (Deutsche Presse Agentur) right out of college. After over a year in the foreign press, she held various positions in advertising, sales, and marketing. Education beckoned after volunteering countless hours in her three children's schools. She started as a reading interventionist at the Orange Park Performing Arts Academy in 2016, then moved to Seven Bridges School as a Spanish and History Teacher for middle and high school students in 2018. For the 2019-2020 school year, she was given the Teacher of the Year award for being "an outstanding teacher, who, through her excellence in teaching, will impact and influence the educational journey of her students for many years to come." She is certified in Social Sciences and is excited to join the SJCA faculty this year as a 6th Grade ELA and History Teacher. She has three SJCA scholars; two of whom have been at SJCA since the school opened. She lives in Jacksonville with her husband, their children (Joshua, Matthew, & Abigail), and adorable cats (Ally & Comet).

Mr. Coleman, High School Science

Mr. John Coleman is a 2012 University of North Florida graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a major in Secondary Sciences (Chemistry 6-12), after having attended St. John's River State College for his Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree. His Teaching Certifications are in Chemistry and Biology. He comes to us from Clay High School, where he taught 10th grade Standard Biology after spending the previous six years teaching Middle and High School Sciences at R.C. Bannerman Learning Center in Green Cove Springs. He also co-taught Honors and AP Chemistry at Clay High for the 2012-13 school year. In 2005, Mr. Coleman retired from the United States Navy after 23 years of service.



Mr. Tippins, Jr. and Sr. High Music



Florida native Mr. Jeff Tippins attended Florida State University and studied Music Education and Psychology. After graduation, Mr. Tippins joined the Jacksonville Symphony as Principal Timpanist and section percussion. While a faculty member at Florida Community College of Jacksonville, he discovered his passion for teaching. After being invited by Episcopal School of Jacksonville, he joined the faculty full time and remained for twenty years. While at ESJ, Mr. Tippins created the Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, Theatre Orchestra as well as new courses in Music Production, Contemporary Music, and a History of Modern Music. ESJ Ensembles consistently earned "Outstanding" ratings (the highest possible) in the Independent Schools Music Festival—a consortium of ten area Independent School Music programs in Northeast Florida.

Mrs. Freeman, Front Desk Secretary

Rachel Freeman has been married to Nathan Freeman for 20 years, and they have three children: Kamryn, a senior; Rylan, a freshman; and River, a 2nd grader. As a family, they very much enjoy outdoor water-related activities and serving in the church, River Christian Church, that Nathan pastors. Rachel calls Florida home but was born in Kentucky and has lived in Arkansas and Arizona for several years as well. Her degree in Elementary Education lead to her first jobs teaching 5th grade and then 2nd grade in Tucson, AZ. After having children, she enjoyed staying home for many years, homeschooling her children, and working part-time jobs at preschools, or substituting for Clay County. Most recently, Rachel worked at Montclair Elementary as a Title I Teacher Assistant and was honored to be chosen as the School Related Employee of the Year for 2019-2020. She is very excited about the opportunity to work with the staff and families at St. Johns Classical.



St. Johns Classical Academy School Calendar 2020-2021

School Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

(Grammar School (K-6th) 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM) (Junior High (7th & 8th) / High School (9th-11th): 7:30 AM – 2:30 PM)

Early Release every Wednesday

(Grammar School (K-6th) 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM) (Junior High (7th & 8th) / High School (9th-11th): 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM)

Monday, August 3, 2020	First Day, Teacher
Thursday, August 6, 2020	Inservice Day
Tuesday, August 11, 2020	First Day, Students
Monday, September 7, 2020	Labor Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
Friday, October 9, 2020	End First Grading Period (43 days)
Monday, October 12, 2020	Planning Day/Student Holiday
Wednesday, November 11, 2020	Veterans' Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
Monday, Nov. 23 thru Friday, Nov. 27, 2020	Thanksgiving, Student/Teacher Holidays
Tuesday, December 15, 2020	High School Midterms begin
Wednesday, December 16, 2020	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Thursday, December 17, 2020	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Friday, December 18, 2020	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Friday, December 18, 2020	End Second Grading Period (43 days)
Monday, Dec. 21, 2020 thru Friday, Jan. 1, 2021	Christmas/New Year's Break, Student/Teacher Holidays
Monday, January 4, 2021	Planning Day/Student Holiday
Tuesday, January 5, 2021	Students Return to School
Monday, January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
Monday, February 15, 2021	Presidents' Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
Friday, March 12, 2021	End Third Grading Period (47 days)
Monday, March 15 thru Friday, March 19, 2021	Spring Break, Student/Teacher Holidays
Monday, March 22, 2021	Planning Day, Student Holiday
Tuesday, March 23, 2021	Students Return to School
Friday, April 2, 2021	Good Friday, Student/Teacher Holiday
Monday, April 5, 2021	Fair Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	High School Finals begin
Wednesday, May 26, 2021	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Thursday, May 27, 2021	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Friday, May 28, 2021	Last Day, Students (4th Grading Period - 47 days)
Friday, May 28, 2021	Early Dismissal (Grammar School 11:15) (Junior High / High School 10:45)
Monday, May 31, 2021	Memorial Day (Observed), Teacher Holiday
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	Last Day, Teachers – Planning Day
Friday, June 4, 2021	Report cards to parents

Created June 30, 2020



St. Johns Classical Academy Upper School

2019–2020 Awards

Learn the true. Do the good. Love the beautiful.

Headmaster's Award for Excellence in Virtue

The Headmaster's Award for Excellence in Virtue is awarded to one student per grade level who truly embodies the nine Standards of Virtue at St. Johns Classical Academy. Recipients demonstrate the virtues of citizenship, courage, honesty, humility, integrity, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and wisdom in their interactions with both other students and staff.

Rylan Phillips, *7th grade*

Taylor Hood, *8th grade*

Adyson White, *9th grade*

Gianna Glynn, *10th grade*

Academics

At the heart of our mission at SJCA is academia--to learn the true and love the beautiful. We honor outstanding performances in all areas of study with the following awards:

Special Awards:

National Latin Exam

Latin 1 Maxima Cum Laude

Brandon Lopez Wu

Cecilia Croft

Matthew DePeralta

Latin 1 Cum Laude

Ory'An Saint-Fort

Latin 2 Cum Laude

Daniel Banks

Latin 3 Maxima Cum Laude

Grace Holton

Latin 3 Magna Cum Laude

Wendell Feliciano-Berrocales

The Inaugural Award for Achievement in Socratic Discussion

The Inaugural Award for Achievement in Socratic Discussion honors those scholars whose insightful questions promote continued Socratic Dialogue. These students engage in scholarly discourse with the material, teachers, and other scholars. Their contributions to Socratic Discussion further not only their own education, but the education of their peers, who benefit from the thought provoking nature of recipients' responses.

Adysen McKay, *7th grade*
 Wedangelis Feliciano-Berrocales, *8th grade*
 Caleb Evans, *9th grade*
 Wendell Feliciano-Berrocales, *10th grade*

Course Superlatives

"Superlative" means "of the highest degree" and derives from the Latin word "superlatus," meaning "carried beyond." These students not only excelled in their subject areas; they demonstrated mastery above and beyond what the teachers expected of them.

English

7th Grade Literature- Hannah Tyler
 8th Grade Literature- Claudia Cochrane
 Classical Literature- Grace Holton
 British Literature- Abigail Galenko
 Composition- Mya Bartholome

History

Civics- Adysen McKay and Layla Croft
 8th Grade US History- Orlando Gari
 9th Grade Western Heritage- Grace Holton
 10th Grade World History- Isabelle Findell

Math

7th Grade Math- Kayla Barron
 Pre-Algebra- Danica Nguyen
 Algebra 1 Honors- Nora Burke and Rylan Freeman
 Algebra 2 Honors- Isabelle Findell
 Geometry Honors- Jessica Antoine

Science

7th Grade Advanced Science- Amelia O'Neill
 8th Grade Advanced Science- Ragan Dixon
 Biology Honors- Grace Holton
 Chemistry Honors- Isabelle Findell

World Languages

Latin I- Brandon Lopez
 Latin II-Isabelle Findell and Daniel Banks
 Latin III-Wendell Feliciano-Berrocales
 French I- Logan Ferreira

Physical Education

Amelia O'Neill, *7th grade*
 Ethan Lee, *7th grade*
 Ragan Dixon, *8th grade*
 Isaiah Awkward, *8th grade*

Honor Roll

Honor roll reflects final grades from the first three academic quarters.

'A' Honor Roll

Antoine, Jessica, 10
Banks, Daniel, 9
Bartholome, Mya, 9
Cochrane, Claudia, 8
Deaton, Alaynah, 8
Dixon, Ragan, 8
Ellgren, Lillyanne, 9
Findell, Isabelle, 10
Freeman, Rylan, 8
Gari, Orlando, 8
Giacoman, Jackson, 8
Glynn, Gianna, 10
Holton, Grace, 9
Hood, Taylor, 8
Moody, John, 8
Piechota, Addison, 7
Tyler, Hannah, 7

'A/B' Honor Roll

Adams, Abigail, 8
Adams, Colby, 7
Avery, Tyler, 8
Barry, Brynna, 10
Batten, Alyssa, 8
Bull, Clayton, 8
Coggins, Lauren, 8
Cramer, Brandon, 8
DeCristofaro, Layla, 7
Deleon, Isabella, 8
De Peralta, Matthew, 7
English, D'Javan, 7
Evans, Caleb, 9
Feliciano-Berrocales, Wedangelis, 8
Findell, Ethan, 10
Goodson, Aaron Chase, 9
Griffiths, Cassandra, 7
Hammond, Callie, 7
Holton, True, 7
Jackson, Caden, 10
Jennette-Carter, Jessica Chaya, 7
Krause, Caden, 8
Lee, Isabella, 7
Levin, Carly, 10
Lewis-Lopez, Deven, 8
Livesay, Blake, 10
Livesay, Lucas, 7
McGinn, Jack, 8
McKay, Adysen, 7
Mendes, Abigail, 7
Nguyen, Danica, 8

'A/B' Honor Roll (continued)

O'Neill, Amelia, 7
 Parris, Zachary, 9
 Phillips, Rylan, 7
 Piner, Charlotte, 8
 Revels, Joshua Murray, 9
 Rogish, Raelyn, 10
 Sawyer, Gabriella, 8
 Sawyer, Kennedy, 7
 Sawyer, Lauren, 10
 Scherer, Ethan, 7
 Stull, Casey, 7
 VanKeuren, Katherine Leah, 7
 Vizcarrondo, Daniel, 7
 Weaver, Devlin, 9
 White, Adyson, 9
 Young, Ashleigh, 7

Fine Arts Awards

The Hungarian composer Béla Bartók once said, "Competitions are for horses, not artists". Though I find what the dear maestro said to be true, it should be noted additionally that he never refused to accept his several recognitions and awards. However, we must then look into this statement of criticism of awarding artists for their work. It is difficult to award an artist or art in general because we don't know the purpose of art until it is either explained to us, or we give it an inherent value based on our reaction to it. Does one make art for it to be recognized by others? We don't know. Does one make art for the purpose of enticing criticism? We don't know. Does the artist create in order to invoke a communal catharsis of their emotions? We don't know. All purposes of the reasoning of the creation of art lie with the artist, and will stay with them until they choose for it not to. Humans are the only beings in the universe that create for the sole purpose of creating. We do not need to weave webs for shelter, fashion tools out of the earth for survival, or cover ourselves in camouflage to ward off predators. We only need to create, and are encouraged to. We are completely free in our ability to create anything we please. That needs to be valued, nurtured, and taught. If we do not value the fine arts in our lives, then we lose more than our sanity; we lose the ability to communicate emotion, logic, and ideas. The following students are receiving awards from the fine arts department of Saint Johns Classical Academy not only for their artistic ability, but for their complete dedication to their craft. Though every student is deserving of an award, there are those that have shined in a way that is deserving of the recognition of the school. These students are hand selected by the fine arts faculty and will encourage the fine arts student body to continue to hone their craft and carry the torch for the future of fine arts at Saint Johns Classical Academy.

- Brooks Clarke

The Dean's Interdisciplinary Fine Arts Award

The Dean's Interdisciplinary Fine Arts Award is awarded to a single student who truly dedicates themselves to the exploration of the arts as a whole. This student not only loves the beautiful but excels in bringing more beauty into the world. This award recognizes the discipline and commitment necessary to develop their craft across the arts.

Abigail Galenko, *10th grade*

Creative Writing Awards

Intro to Creative Writing- Cecilia Croft, *8th Grade*
Creative Writing 3 Honors- Raelyn Rogish, *10th Grade*

Band Awards

Patrick S. Gilmore Award- Gabriel Alicea, *10th grade*
(Wind Ensemble) Conductors Award - Mya Bartholome
(Beginning) Conductors Award - Callie Hammond
Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award - John Moody
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award - Orlando Gari
Quincy Jones Musicianship Award - Daniel Banks
John Phillip Sousa Band Award - Grace Holton
***Felix Mendelssohn Award for Excellence in Music History** - Joshua Revels
***The Lyceum Award for Philosophy** - Cecilia Croft

Beginning Band

Most Improved - Landon San Pedro
Most Improved - Cassandra Griffiths
Outstanding Woodwind - Brynn Hawkinson
Outstanding Woodwind - Tyler Butts
Outstanding Brass - Charlotte Piner
Outstanding Brass - Colby Adams
Outstanding Percussion - Caleb Saunders
Outstanding Percussion - Kennedy Sawyer

Wind Ensemble

Most Improved - Evan Burkes
Most Improved - Taylor Hood
Outstanding Woodwind - Alana Ayers
Outstanding Woodwind - Wendell Feliciano-Berrocales
Outstanding Brass - Grant Dixon
Outstanding Percussion - Hannah Muenzmay
Outstanding Percussion - Brandon Cramer

2020 Clay County All County Participant - Grace Holton

2020 Frost Honor Band Participants - Mya Bartholome, Grace Holton, Parker Rowley

2020 Solo And Ensemble Participants - Callie Hammond, Gabi Sawyer, Kennedy Sawyer, Caleb Saunders,

Orlando Gari, Nathan Klingbeil

2020 Solo and Ensemble "Superior" Rating Awards - Caleb Saunders, Orlando Gari

Chorus Awards

7th Grade- Addison Piechota
8th Grade- Wedangelis Feliciano-Berrocales
9th Grade- Lillyanne Ellgren
10th Grade- Isabelle Findell

Visual Arts Awards

For perseverance and dedication leading to excellence in the visual arts

7th Grade

Ryland Phillips
Amelia O'Neal
Hannah Tyler

9th Grade

Lilliana Johnson
Devlin Weaver
Andrew Mendes

8th Grade

Regan Dixon
Emma Teahan
Danica Nguyen

10th Grade

Jessica Antoine
Elijah Poli
John Gari

Extracurricular Activities

The following awards go to scholars whose dedication, contribution, and commitment set them apart in a school club, organization, or sport. These scholars improve upon the organizations they are a part of by giving of themselves above and beyond the requirements of membership.

The Oracle, Newsletter- Carly Levin
Thespian Club- Blake Livesay
Latin Club- Cassandra Griffiths
Flag Football- Ryan Sutton
Soccer- Danica Nguyen and Daniel Vizcarrondo

From the faculty and staff of St. Johns Classical Academy-

Congratulations, scholars!