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# THE LION LINE

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Learn the True, Do the Good, Love the Beautiful

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## A Message from the Headmaster Johnson

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Dear Lion Parents,

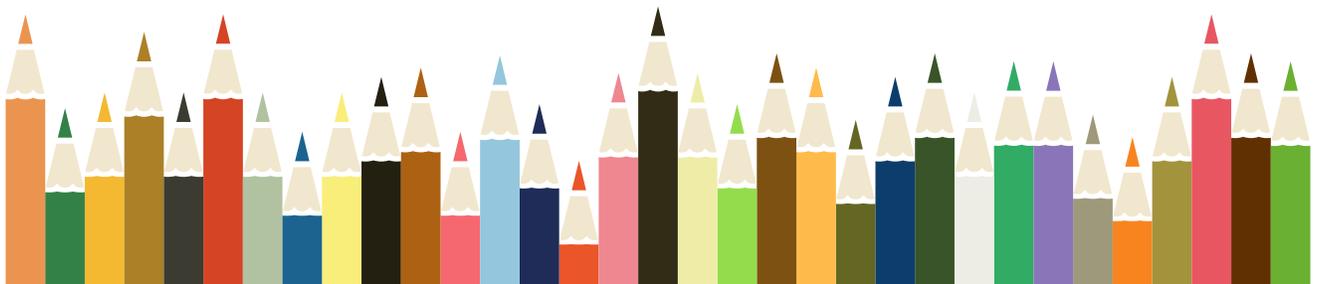
I am ecstatic about what we are doing at St Johns Classical Academy! Not only are we holding classes on a brick-and-mortar campus every day, but our scholars are thriving in their learning as well. Our faculty has also been growing professionally through their professional development with one goal in mind: to improve both individually and collectively. This internal growth is renewing our commitment to be a superior Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI) school.

As we expand our Academic Building, new teaching positions are being added for the 2021-2022 school year to fully implement the BCSI curriculum. We are also expanding our offerings in co-curricular subjects to include foreign languages and other enriching courses. Additionally, we are collecting input from our parents to help grow our athletic program and its offerings. You will see a growing, thriving athletics program over the next few years.

Finally, Hillsdale College has invited SJCA to assist with lessons that support *The 1776 Report*, which is the product of the President's Advisory 1776 Commission. The purpose of this commission is to "enable a rising generation to understand the history and principles of the founding of the United States in 1776 and to strive to form a more perfect Union." We know that this requires a restoration of American education, which is the cornerstone of SJCA. We feel privileged to be a part of American Classical Education. You will see a more robust emphasis on this aspect of our curriculum next school year.

Let's Stay Lion and American Strong!

Headmaster Johnson



## Study is Hard Work Part Three: Using the Tools

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By Mrs. Maegen Satcher, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

Welcome back to third part of the series, *Study is Hard Work*, written by William H. Armstrong. This chapter outlines the tools students need to utilize to become good students: time, books, and teachers. Armstrong advocates that scholars, not their parents, are responsible for becoming good students through continual practice in the use of effective habits and for possessing an intentional, internal desire to become good students.

While in school, a structured routine is important for success. To begin, let's discuss the best use of time as a tool for success. Time management consists of writing assignments in a planner and creating an effective study schedule. Firstly, spend a week or two analyzing how you use time. Write down your waking hours and record exactly what you do with that time. Then, create a study schedule that systematically accounts for each of the subject areas that you need to study. Some subjects will require more time than others. Also, schedule in your free time. It will give you something to look forward to and time to rest and have fun. This way, when you sit down to study, you already have a plan, because you know what you are studying in that specified period of time. Put your phone away and turn off notifications. Remain steadfastly concentrated. Avoid allowing your focus to drift towards other time-sucking activities such as browsing through Instagram or other social media apps. Lastly, record your assignments, quizzes, and tests in your student planner. You should actively use your planner both at school and at home. Write down what you need to study and what assignments you need to complete. Your planner is a tool that will determine the topic you will study during its designated time period.

Books are the second tool a scholar must use to become a good scholar. When faced with a reading assignment, scholars should first survey what will be read. Make sure you know the name of the author and title of the book. Then, quickly skim the chapter title, headings throughout the chapter, bolded words, and captions under an illustration, diagram, or photo. By surveying your reading assignment prior to reading the text in its entirety, you are gaining familiarity with the work. Once you have gained some understanding of the text, you may begin to read. Taking a few minutes to survey your reading will vastly improve your comprehension of the entire reading assignment. For more information on how to read specific types of books, consider reading *How to Read a Book: The Classical Guide to Intelligent Reading* by Mortimer J. Adler and Charles Van Doren (1940).

Thirdly, recognize that your teachers are also an essential tool to success. According to Armstrong, they have been hired to foster your academic and moral growth, but you are responsible for looking, listening, and learning from them (p. 33). Show up to class ready to learn and give your best effort. Follow the classroom rules and procedures that have been established by the teacher. Demonstrate virtue by being respectful and courteous. Armstrong asks readers to consider the following statement

Make an estimate of what your role in the classroom is. Would there be a general air of indifference and inattention, or would there prevail a sense of responsibility and willingness to learn? Would the class be taken up with stupid questions and excuses for not being able to reply, or would intelligent discussion and well organized response contribute much to all (p. 34).

The teacher is a tool, but ultimately, you are learning for you—not for your teacher or your parents. Approach each of your classes with a willing, eager, and attentive attitude (pp. 33-35). Do not be the student who impedes teachers from teaching and other scholars from learning. Instead, be the student



who wants to learn by being serious and dedicated to your academic studies. Use the tools—time, books, and teachers. But remember, you are responsible for your learning and growth; no one else can force this on you. Make the choices that good scholars make, and take responsibility for your learning and studying. Your teachers and parents will be there to support you.

### Reference

Armstrong, W. H. (1995). *Study is hard work* (2nd ed.). David R. Godine.

## Why Latin?

By Ms. Allison Kane, Upper School Latin Teacher

One defining characteristic of a classical school is the requirement that all scholars take Latin. Here at St. Johns Classical Academy, our scholars study four years of Latin, beginning in middle school. As a Latin teacher, I am used to questions regarding my subject, namely, “Why do we study Latin?”

Before I answer the question, I would like to address a misconception concerning the term “dead language.” A dead language is a language of which there are no native speakers. In other words, no one speaks Latin as their first language. This does not mean that *no one* learns Latin. In Florida alone there are thousands of students pursuing Latin at dozens of schools, both private and public. The term “dead” means the language does not grow as new words are added, nor does it evolve as a result of common speech. This is in contrast to a living language (also called a modern language), such as English, which adds words and phrases as speakers create them. The connotations of the term “dead” lead people to believe that there is no use to studying Latin. Many people speak of the usefulness of learning a second language and incorrectly assume that a dead language has no such value in modern society.

Thankfully, as classical scholars, we understand that utility is not the end-all of education. We do not learn simply because something can help us fulfill a task. We learn because we love to do so, because the search for knowledge is in itself a rewarding experience.

That said, Latin does have practical uses. It is the origin of many words in our own language. Learning Latin vocabulary can improve students’ knowledge of English through our study of derivatives. Science courses use Latin as well, such as on the Periodic Table and in taxonomy. Scholars encounter Latin abbreviations when writing research papers. In fact, we use Latin every day. For example, the abbreviations “a.m.” and “p.m.” are Latin. I could give innumerable other similar examples. Latin roots are such an influential part of English that studying Latin serves to better our understanding of English.

In addition, learning Latin improves critical thinking skills. Latin is a combination of recognizable and predictable patterns. Our scholars not only identify these patterns, but use them in order to successfully read Latin. Translating sentences teaches scholars how to use logical thinking and deductive reasoning. They engage in discussion and defend their translations. Those who study Latin can more

easily learn other Romance languages as well, should they choose to pursue a different language.

Further, the impact of Latin is ubiquitous in our country. I call the moments where we recognize the influence of Latin in our daily life “Latin Moments,” a term I picked up from my own high school Latin teacher. These moments vary, from the 26 US states with Latin mottos to scientific terms to the use of Roman numerals on clocks or in books. The founding fathers of our country were well-versed in Latin and the history of Rome, a fact that is evident in the structure of our government. It is no coincidence that our forefathers chose the term “Senate” for one of the houses of Congress—the Romans used elected representatives in a Senate to make political decisions. It is impossible to understand the foundations of our country without studying the society of Ancient Rome, for it greatly influenced those most involved in our country’s formation.

Rather than only reading about Rome from the perspective of others, we study Latin to learn from the Romans themselves. Just as our students master cursive so that they can read the founding documents of our country on their own, so too do we pursue Latin with the intent of reading classical literature in its original language. Ninth

grade students read Vergil’s *Aeneid*, the Roman epic poem, in Ancient Literature. However, any translation is biased by the decisions of the translator. There is quite often more than one way to render a Latin text in English. No matter what, some of the original meaning is lost. Translating is a balancing act between stating exactly what the Latin says and maintaining natural English idiom. Why would we rely on someone else’s interpretation of the text when we can read it ourselves? Latin is a beautiful language that is best read in its original.

It is easy to focus on the usefulness of Latin, but we do not study Latin only for its practicality. Of course Latin offers many benefits in both daily life and academic studies, but beyond that it contains inherent beauty. We read Latin because we want to learn about Rome, but also because we want to experience the language. It is my duty as a Latin teacher to respond to the question “Why do we learn Latin?” However, once you realize that Latin is so prevalent in our lives - from Latin phrases in daily use, to our governmental system, to our language, and beyond - the question is no longer “Why should we study Latin?” but rather, “Why doesn’t everyone?”

### **New Teacher Introduction: Mr. Ryman Shoaf, Upper School History**



Captain Ryman Shoaf retired from an extensive 27-year career in the United States Navy in 2012. His career included eight deployments, 3,500 flight hour 1,007 traps (landings) on 11 different aircraft carriers. He served as commander of two squadrons, Sea Control Weapons School and the VS-30 Diamondcutters. His last tour was as a senior officer in charge of the Navy Department for the National War College in Washington D.C., where he taught National Security Strategy and Policy. During his career, Mr. Shoaf received the Navy Marine Corps Leadership award and the Admiral James L. Holloway III Leadership for Senior Officers. Captain Shoaf is a 1985 graduate of The Citadel with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He went on to earn double master’s degrees in Aeronautical Science & Strategic Studies and National Security Affairs. Mr. Shoaf and his wife Susan have been married for over 25 years, and they have two children, Erin and Nathan. Mr. Shoaf has served on the SJCA Board of Directors. He will resign his board position to become a teacher at the Academy. Please join SJCA in welcoming Mr. Shoaf on March 8th.

## Silent Dismissal

All K-6 parents MUST have a silent dismissal parent account. This account can be accessed for FREE on the SJCA Silent Dismissal Website. Email your child's teacher for access codes.

<https://stjca.sdcs56.com/>

The Silent Dismissal parent account is used to update your child's dismissal method. Please do not contact the front office unless it is an emergency. Please use the website to update all changes.

### Example for using override: If your child is going home with another scholar

Once in the website you will click the OVR (override) button by your scholar's name. It looks like a checkmark.

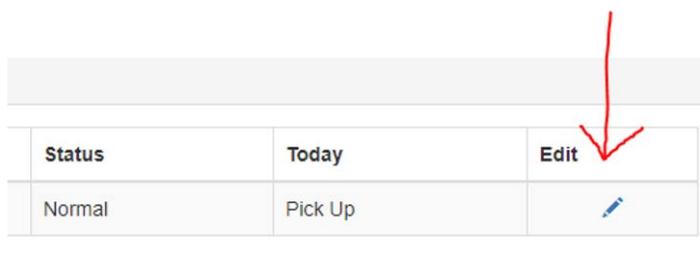


Students +			
OVR	Note	First Name	Last Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Devlin	Weaver

### Examples for using the edit button:

- If your child will start walking home instead of being picked up in the car line
- If your child goes to an after-school club

Once in the website you will click the EDIT button by your scholar's name. It looks like a pencil.



Status	Today	Edit
Normal	Pick Up	

*\*There is also a smartphone app that can be purchased for convenience.*

*Onsite System Administrator: Mrs. Jackie Weaver*

*jackie.weaver@stjca.org*

## Yearbook Sales

Yearbooks are selling for \$25 through March 19, 2021.

Click this link: [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) to pay online. Use Yearbook ID Code 13311621.

## Help send our Safety Patrollers to Washington, DC!

By purchasing a SJCA logo water bottle or car magnet, you are helping our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade safety patrollers achieve their goal of going to Washington, DC this July! Please fill out the form below and send it in with either cash or check made payable to SJCA. Please turn it into your teacher/homeroom teacher.

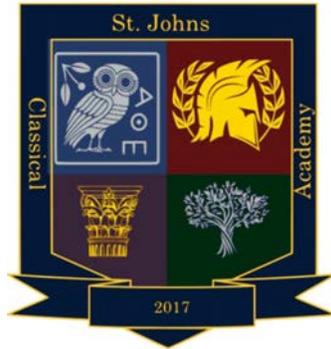
Scholar: First/Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Bottle: \_\_\_\_\_ QTY \$20 each      Car Magnet: \_\_\_\_\_ QTY \$5 each



## Upper School House Intramurals



February 23, 2021	March 30, 2021	April 27, 2021	May 18, 2021
Soccer	Kickball	Cornhole	Ultimate Frisbee
2:30-4:00 PM	2:30-4:00 PM	2:30-4:00 PM	2:30-4:00 PM Winning House vs. Staff

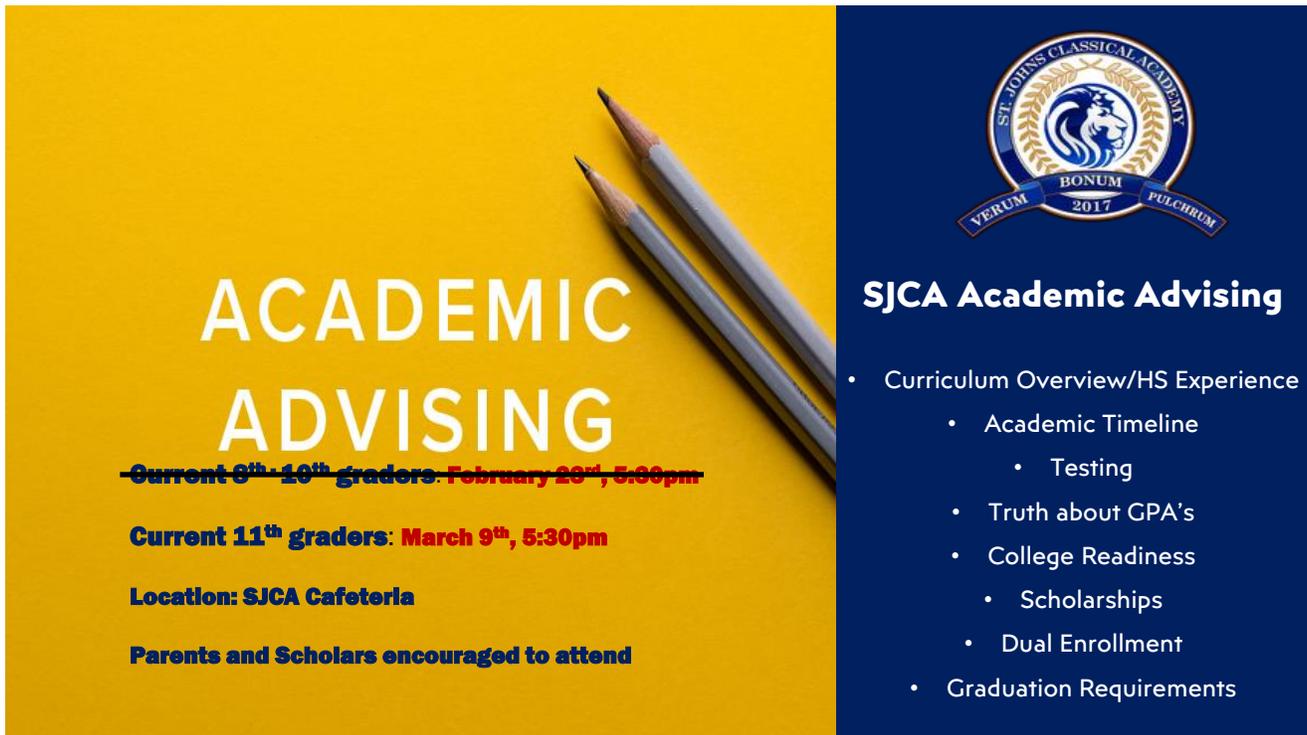
### Fifth Grade Art

Fifth grade learned about the Hudson River School of Landscape Paintings. Mrs. Smith and the scholars viewed various works by 19th century American artists, Thomas Cole, Albert Bierstadt, Asher B. Durand, and Frederic Edwin Church. Similarly, they examined several techniques that these artists used to create the illusion of distance in landscape paintings. For example, one technique is the use of color. Specifically, dark colors are used for close objects, and light colors are used for far objects. After practicing this technique making value scales with water colors, scholars created these beautiful mountain landscapes showing four mountain ranges.



## Upcoming Event: 11th Grade Academy Advising

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The flyer is split into two main sections. The left section has a yellow background with two pencils resting on it. The right section has a dark blue background with the school's logo and a list of topics.

# ACADEMIC ADVISING

~~Current 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm~~

**Current 11<sup>th</sup> graders: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm**

**Location: SJCA Cafeteria**

**Parents and Scholars encouraged to attend**



**SJCA Academic Advising**

- Curriculum Overview/HS Experience
  - Academic Timeline
    - Testing
  - Truth about GPA's
  - College Readiness
    - Scholarships
    - Dual Enrollment
- Graduation Requirements

*“Learning itself should be inspiring to young people as they seek to explore and conquer the challenges they encounter in literature and letters, the sciences, history, philosophy, and...”*

Ronald H. Nash in *The Closing of the American Heart: What's Really Wrong with America's Schools* (1990)



**NEED A TUTOR??**

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Bolles is here to help you do amazing in school!

**FREE ONLINE TUTORING TO ACE THOSE CLASSES**

RANGING FROM 7-11 IN ANY SUBJECT  
Sign Up [Here](#)  
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