

# THE COVERING THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR BEACON: EXPRESS





PODZIEMSKI'S RISE To the NBA



NEW IN 2023: ENGINEERING, ROBOTICS & AVIATION



#### Dear Parents, Alumni, and Friends of SINA,

Welcome to the online-only version of THE BEACON, which we have creatively named **THE BEACON**: *EXPRESS*. THE BEACON: *EXPRESS* is serving as a shortened version of our standard BEACON Magazine and is only being offered in an online format. It covers all events for the full calendar year of 2023. We humbly appreciate your patience and understanding through these critical months as we redevelop our strategies and tactics to improve the educational experience at St. John's Northwestern Academies. As a result, certain standard practices, like THE BEACON Magazine, were side-lined to refocus our attention on more pressing matters of the Academy to allow us to preserve resources to better serve our community. Again, THE BEACON: *EXPRESS* is expected to be a annual recurrence to complement our full Beacon which is produced each fall.

Since January 2023, our beloved Academies have seen a renaissance in enrollment and energy and an expansion of our academic offerings. Although much remains to be accomplished, our optimism about success in achieving our goals grows every day. There is no doubt in my mind that St. John's Northwestern Academies has a bright future!

To the families enjoying this online version, we are deeply grateful you have chosen to entrust your son or daughter to our care. Your sacrifice is great, but we are confident that your child's life will be forever changed and enriched by the education, leadership, and character development provided to them by our hard-working, passionate, and dedicated faculty and staff.

To our alumni and friends, we appreciate your continued and utmost support and hope you will remain committed to our mission as we move on to the next chapter at St John's Northwestern Academies.

Sincerely,

President, St. John's Northwestern Academies





THE BEACON: EXPRESS is serving as a shortened version of our standard BEACON Magazine and is only being offered in an online format and will cover all events for the full calendar year of 2023.

THE BEACON Magazine will return to the regular scheduled Fall print version and be released in October of 2024. It will include the Honor Roll of Donors from fiscal year 2024 (07/01/23 – 06/30/24) and cover material from January 2024 through June 2024.

The Spring BEACON will be released in the Spring of 2025 and will include material from July of 2024 through December 2024.

Again, THE BEACON: EXPRESS is expected to be a annual recurrence to complement our full Beacon which is produced each fall.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we re-establish our communication vehicles and timelines

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THE BEACON: EXPRESS is published by the Advancement Office of St. John's Northwestern Academies. The editorial staff welcomes your ideas and comments. Please submit your correspondence to aruszczyk@sjnacademies.org.

St. John's Northwestern is a non-profit educational institution exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Tax ID is 39-0817523.

St. John's Northwestern Academies educates and develops young men and women to be responsible citizens, as well as moral and ethical leaders who are inspired to take advantage of today and tomorrow's opportunities. We achieve this through our foundational pillars of academic excellence, enriching spiritual and character development, outstanding athletic programs, and premier leader development training in a secure, nurturing, and inclusive environment.

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10

#### SINA Mourns the Passing of Lilah Stangeland

**Lilah M. Stangeland,** board member of the Board of Trustees at St. John's Northwestern Academy, died peacefully surrounded by family at her home in San Marino, California, on January 3, 2024. She was 93 years old.

14

## Brandin Podziemski '21 Drafted No.19 Overall in the First Round by Golden State

Brandin Podziemski, a 2021 graduate of St. John's Northwestern Academies, was selected by the Golden State Warriors in the 2023 NBA Draft held in Brooklyn, New York.Golden State selected the former Lancer star with the 19th pick in the First Round of the 2023 NBA Draft.

16

### Unveiling the ERA Lab: A Beacon of Innovation at SINA

In the lower level of the academic building, a new beacon of innovation shines bright on campus—the Engineering, Robotics, and Aviation (ERA) Lab.

- 2 | A Letter from the President
- 4 Niche Best Schools
- 5 New Drone Program
- 6 U.S. Army Certificate of Appreciation
- 8 | Sean Harres Valedictorian
- 9 | Cadet Spotlight
- 10 | Celebrating the Life of Lilah Stangeland
- 12 | SINA & DME Partnership
- 14 | Podziemski Drafted to Golden State
- 16 | ERA Lab
- 18 | SINA Soccer Kits in Zimbabwe
- 20 | Varsity Soccer Team's Historic Season
- **22** | Starfish Foundation Visits Africa
- 24 | Lancers Looking Forward
- 28 TAPS
- **30** | 2022-2023 Honor Roll of Donors

St. John's Northwestern Academies recognizes donors who gave generous support during the 2023 fiscal year.



# SJNA Introduces an Innovative Drone Program



# SJNA Named Niche School's Best Christian High School in Wisconsin

The results are in, and St. John's Northwestern Academies received a stellar A+ grade from Niche schools and was named the top Christian high school in Wisconsin.

Niche is the market leader in connecting colleges and schools with students and families. With in-depth profiles on every school and college in America, over 140 million reviews and ratings, and powerful search and data tools, Niche helps millions of students and families find and enroll in the right school for them (Niche).

On top of the A+ rating, SJNA also received a 4.5 star rating based on community reviews.

"St. John's is a great school for students that like to be more independent or want to be a student leader. I have been here for 3 years and this school has become my family."

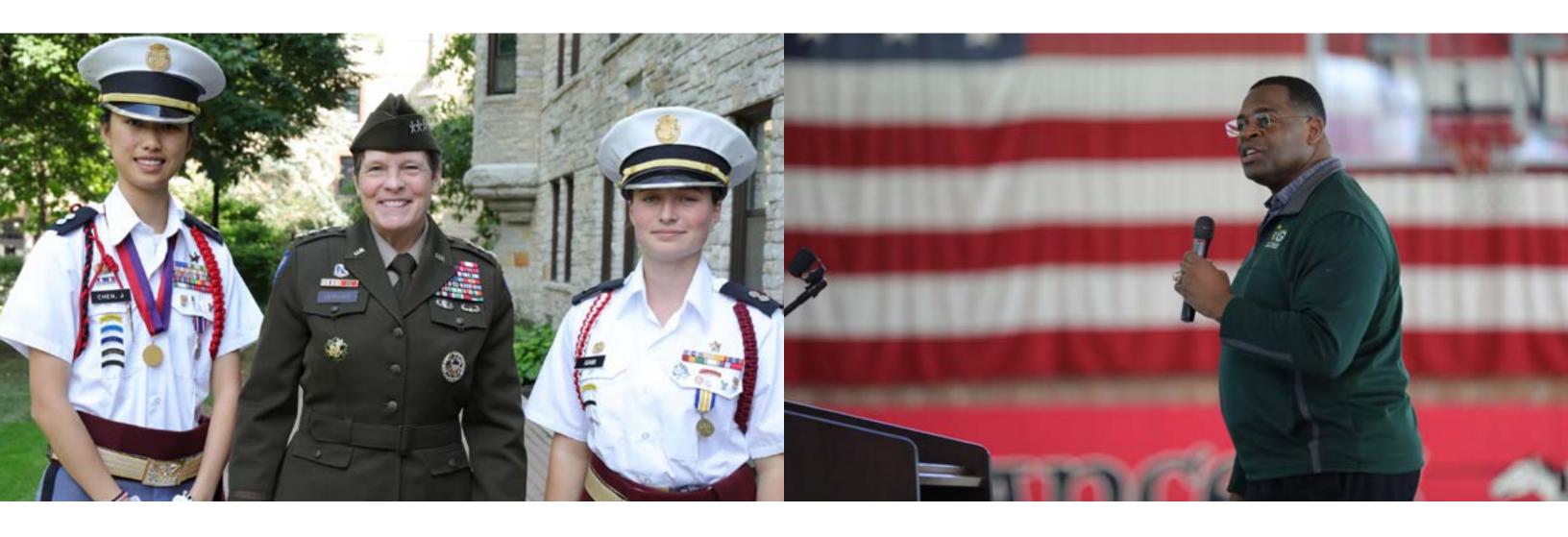
"Ever since I've been in St. John's Northwestern Academies, I felt challenged and focused on my goals. I noticed the difference right when I stepped on campus, everybody seemed to care about me, and made me feel special. They have one of the best educational programs in the area, as well as an amazing infrastructure and basketball program."

"I have been here for 3 years and this school has become my family."

In 2023-24, St. John's Northwestern Academies introduced its innovative drone program. The program stands as the first of its kind in Wisconsin and is a new and modernized addition to the already strong aviation program.

The program allows students to pilot, record, and earn a certified commercial drone pilot license. SJNA's personal drone instructor Melissa Steffens guides students through photography, video and career skills in the field, and she recently passed her FAA Part 107 Exam and is a Certified Commercial Drone Pilot.

With this certification, SJNA students now have the access to take the exam as well, opening future career options and many doors for our drone students. The program stands as the first of its kind in Wisconsin and is a new and modernized addition to the already strong aviation program.



# SJNA Awarded U.S. Army Certificate of Appreciation & Introduces Leadership Speaker Series

On September 13, St. John's Northwestern Academies received a visit and a certificate of appreciation from United States Army Lieutenant General Maria R. Gervais.

The award thanked SJNA for "unwavering dedication and commitment to the development of our nation's most precious assets – our youth... and for investing in our young men and women to create an everlasting impact in the community, state, and nation."

Gervais, a three-star general, also met with and took the time to impart some wisdom to members of the St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, including a few of our female cadets as SJNA continues to break the glass ceiling with help from exceptional leaders such as General Gervais.



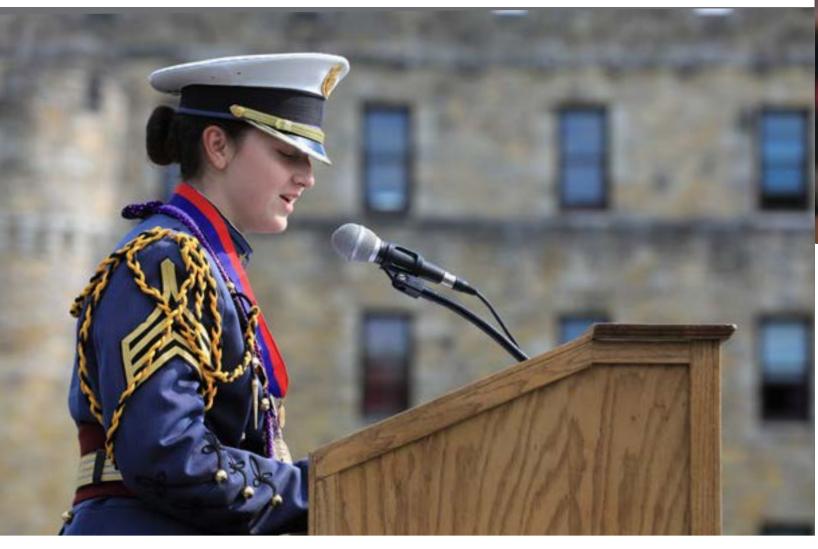
SJNA also recently introduced the "Leadership Speaker Series" which gives our students the chance to sit and learn from some of the current champions and leaders in today's workforce.

This incredible initiative has allowed our students to gain insight from Super Bowl champions, CEOs, and industry giants like Nicholas Chaillan, William Troy and Goerge Koonce Jr. and ensures that moving forward our students will always be receiving inspiration and advice from former SJNA alumni and friends who wish them nothing but the best.

"unwavering dedication and commitment to the development of our nation's most precious assets – our youth... and for investing in our young men and women to create an everlasting impact in the community, state and nation."



# Sean Harres Earns Historic First for Female Students at SJNA Commencement



The 139th iteration of the St. John's Northwestern Academies Commencement (May 25-27, 2023) featured a historic first for the female student body as Sean Harres was named the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023.

First introduced in 2018, the female student body has excelled rapidly and has begun to create its own history as it celebrated the first female valedictorian in SJNA history at the 2022-23 Commencement and Reunion Weekend.

Sean Harres achieved the honor of valedictorian after spending two years at St. John's Northwestern and notching the class-high GPA. With her time at SJNA behind her, Harres is continuing her career and education at Marion Military Institute.

"She learned how to lead herself and lead others. She made the most of every opportunity at SJNA, and her accomplishment as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023 comes as no surprise to her teachers and the staff who know her. She possesses such a natural motivation to challenge herself in everything she does and to learn for the sake of learning. We are very proud of Sean, and we know she will continue to excel in her future endeavors beyond SJNA!"

"Sean exemplifies what SJNA is all about," said Stephanie Ihler, Chief Academic Officer at SJNA.

**2024 Update:** Harres continues to make her own history and recently accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. This stands as the first SINA female cadet to attend a service academy.



# Cadet Spotlight: Allison Belt Becomes SJNA's First Female Ultimate Raider

This past September, the St. John's Northwestern Academies Raider team competed at the Ozark Raider Challenge Meet, and Cadet Allison Belt provided a historic first for the Academies by making a storybook debut.

Allison made her mark by becoming the first female cadet from St. John's Northwestern Military Academy to compete in a Raider Challenge Meet. SJNA added female students in 2018.

Unsatisfied with simply competing, Belt made her debut even more special by emerging triumphant against the fierce competition and seizing first place in the Female Ultimate Raider Event!

"It is amazing to see the results from all of Allison's hard work," said SFC Michael Trione, one of her Raider coaches. "You are either unprepared or prepared, and she is prepared. Her efforts equal her results. Raider Up!"

With her dedication, passion, and resilience, Allison set a new standard by becoming SJNA's first-ever Female Ultimate Raider, and the first female event winner in the school's history.

Her accomplishments showcase the boundless potential within every cadet at SJNA. Allison, you've blazed a trail and inspired us all. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements, and we can't wait to see what you'll do next.

"You are either unprepared or prepared, and she is prepared. Her efforts equal her results. Raider Up!"



# SJNA Mourns the Passing of Lilah Stangeland H'99

Lilah M. Stangeland, board member of the Board of Trustees at St. John's Northwestern Academy, died peacefully surrounded by family at her home in San Marino, California, on January 3, 2024. She was 93 years old.

Lilah was born on July 12, 1930, in the farm town of Volo, Illinois, the daughter of Lloyd and Goldie Fisher. Self-defined as "just a farm girl" she spent many weekends with her beloved Roger Stangeland, whom she first met at Sunday school in Wauconda, Illinois. The childhood sweethearts were married at the Wauconda Federated Church in 1950.

Lilah attended the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Lilah and Roger had three children and lived in Minnesota, Illinois, and California.

Lilah was socially active in all the communities in which she lived. In Minneapolis, she and her husband were members of the renowned Interlachen Country Club and the Lafayette Country Club, one of the oldest in the Midwest.

In California, the Stangeland's were members of the Annandale Golf Club, The Valley Hunt Club, California Club, The Town Club and The Alisal Club. Lilah was also a board member of the Pasadena Playhouse and sat on the Development Committee.

St John's Northwestern Academies played a large role in Lilah and Roger's lives. After Roger's passing in 2004, Lilah was present at nearly every celebration on campus, traveling from her home in California to attend. When visiting Delafield, she was greeted with great enthusiasm by alumni, students, faculty, and staff. She was recognized by the Academy's Old Boy Alumni Association in 1999 when they bestowed the recognition of Honorary Old Boy. Lilah continued to faithfully serve on the board, boasting of one of the longest tenures of any Trustee. Her quick wit and keen memory warmed the hearts of all those with whom she interacted. Lilah was full of zeal and her lively spirit was palpable.



Lilah was full of zeal and her lively spirit was palpable. She was dearly loved by the community she served.

Outside of SJNA, Lilah has long been active in civic and community affairs, having served on local boards in both Wisconsin and California. She has served as a Founding member of WIIN (Women Investing in Nurses) at USC Arcadia Hospital and was an Associate member of the Pasadena Guild of Children's Hospital.

Mrs. Stangeland has been an honored recipient of awards from many organizations over the years. She importantly assisted in fundraising events and activities on their behalf, as well as provided donations to many organizations, both personally and through the Roger and Lilah Stangeland Foundation. In recent years, Lilah was very active in supporting the fundraising efforts of Methodist Hospital (now USC Arcadia), California, St. John's Northwestern Academies, the Pasadena Playhouse, the Oregon Bach Festival and Federated Church of Wauconda. Lilah was loved and cherished by all the organizations and purposes she faithfully supported.

Lilah is survived by her sisters Annie Petersen and Mary Lou Lyons, daughter Cyndi (Dave) Olsen and son Brad (Colleen) Stangeland; grandson Josh Meili and great granddaughter Paisley; granddaughter



Brooke (Rich Portale) Stangeland and great grandsons Hudson Shaw and Sebastian; and Tara (Odeck) Ariwan. She was preceded in death by her husband Roger Stangeland, brother Richard Fisher, her son Brett Stangeland, her grandson Jason Meili and granddaughter Brittany Stangeland. She was a loving wife and mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and a deeply caring friend to many who were fortunate to know her well. Her life was filled with accomplishments that benefited all who were associated with her as a civic leader, philanthropist, and benefactor.

The Stangelands believed in the education which Roger received and they remained steadfast in their support and leadership for the Academy. "The education and leadership training I received at the Academy enabled my success in life," Roger would proudly state. He wanted other students to gain as much as he did from the Academy, through substantial donations providing opportunities for entire generations of youth. Lilah's involvement with the Academy was recognized by the OBAA in 1999, when they bestowed the recognition of Honorary Old Boy. When Roger passed away in 2004, Lilah remained committed to Roger's passion in St. John's Northwestern by joining the Board of Trustees, which she continued to faithfully serve, boasting one of the longest tenures of any Trustee. In 2021, St. John's Northwestern honored Lilah and the Stangeland Family by dedicating the parade field in the family's name.

Lilah was full of zeal and her lively spirit was palpable. She was dearly loved by the community she served. Mrs. Stangeland was present at nearly every main celebration on campus though her primary residence was in California. And when she visited Delafield, she was greeted with great enthusiasm from alumni, students, faculty, and staff. Her quick wit and keen memory warmed the hearts of all those with whom she interacted. Yet, it was her sense of responsibility for the school along with a profound dedication to Roger's passion that inspired all who knew her.



## SJNA & DME Academy Launch Athletic Partnership

On May 25, 2023, St. John's Northwestern Academies (SJNA) and DME Academy announced an exciting new partnership between the two academic institutions.

In the 2023-24 academic year, SJNA and DME began work together to amplify the sports program at St. John's Northwestern. The joint venture kicked off with DME Academy in Daytona, Florida, bringing their successful basketball academy to SJNA. This move is the beginning of what both academies expect to be a deeper relationship whereby DME Academy will lead and grow more sports programs at the SJNA campus in Delafield, Wisconsin.

"We are so excited to partner with DME Academy," said Bob Fine, President of SJNA. "They bring an instantly recognizable sports name to boost our already strong academic and athletic programs here at St. John's Northwestern. Together with DME, the program has never been in safer hands, and the power of the two brands will provide our student-athletes with a pathway for success both on and off the court."

The basketball brand of St. John's Northwestern will be on show this summer at the 2023 NBA Draft by Brandin Podziemski '21. The Lancer great is projected to be drafted in the first round, and was named the West Coast Conference (WCC) Co-Player of the Year during his time at Santa Clara University. At SJNA, Podziemski racked up over 2,000 career points, was a three-time All-State honoree, and in 2021 he earned the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association's Mr. Basketball, along with the Wisconsin Gatorade Player of the Year.

DME Academy has quickly grown its Daytona campus from 75 to 225 full-time student-athletes over the past three years, built on a reputation of delivering a world-class experience. DME will be bringing in their elite admissions and recruiting team, which features an international arm, experienced coaches, support staff, relationships, and pathway opportunities for all student-athletes.

On the court, DME also brings with them a proven history of preparing players to excel in the top levels of the game. In 2022, DME Academy alumni Keegan Murray was drafted No. 4 overall in the NBA Draft and has broken into the scene in a huge way, smashing the all-time record for made three-pointers by a rookie with 206.

"As DME continues to grow, it's essential to find the right partners that share our vision for providing a better experience for student-athletes. SJNA has a beautiful campus, academic success, great facilities, committed staff, and the shared belief that together we can accomplish more. We are ready to collaborate and bring the best of both institutions to the table," stated Dan Panaggio, Founder of DME Academy.

With the new partnership, student athletes who choose to join the "DME at SJNA" program will also have the opportunity to tap into SJNA's 140 years of academic excellence, including dual enrollment college and AP courses, STEM curriculum, leadership development, and a top-level aviation program.







## 2023 NBA Draft Sees DME at SJNA Take Center Stage

Shining Stars: DME & SJNA partnership yields two 2023 first-round NBA draftees.

The DME Academy at St. John's Northwestern Academies partnership took center stage at the 2023 NBA Draft as two former standout products of each academy were selected in the first round of the draft.

On Thursday, June 22, 2023, Brandin Podziemski, a 2021 graduate of SJNA, was selected by the Golden State Warriors with the 19th pick. Soon after, the Portland Trail Blazers utilized the 23rd pick to add DME Academy post-graduate basketball alumnus, Kris Murray, to their roster.

The 2023 NBA Draft was a banner night for the DME at SJNA program. With two draft picks in quick succession, the partnership announced itself under the bright lights of the Barclays Center as a hub for top talent and laid a clear pathway to the highest levels of the game for the next generation of DME at SJNA student-athletes.

Before they heard NBA commissioner Adam Silver call their names out on Thursday (June 22) night, both Brandin and Kris put in the work and shined on their respective campuses.

At St. John's Northwestern, Podziemski accumulated more than 2,000 career points, was recognized as a three-time All-State honoree, and in 2021, he was awarded the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association's Mr. Basketball and the Wisconsin Gatorade Player of the Year. After graduating from SJNA, he continued his basketball career at Santa Clara University.

Murray, too, was very successful at the academy level. At DME, he averaged 17.1 points per game, 10.1 rebounds per game, and shot 48 percent from the field. Wesam Al-Sous, former DME Academy head basketball coach, said, "Kris was our glue guy. He was the guy that could do it all." Murray went on to have a stellar career at the University of Iowa, where both his twin brother and father also played basketball.

## Partners Meet in First Head-to-Head Matchup

The partnership between St. John's Northwestern Academies and DME Academy marked a historic first on November 4 at the 2023 Chicago Grind Session.

At the tournament, the DME at SJNA basketball team faced off against the DME Academy (Daytona) team in an important launching point for the partnership.

The Daytona team came out on top by a final score 85-72, but the Wisconsin program showed plenty of potential in its inaugural season led by head coach Welsey Person.

The matchup showcased the talent of both programs, and without a doubt, the two sides will be counting down the days until their next showdown.

**2024 Update:** In May, the program appointed Ben Wisniewski as the new head coach and director. A Wisconsin native, Wisniewski brings a wealth of local and international experience which will be a tremendous asset to the academy.

# BRANDIN PODZIEMSKI '21 DRAFTED NO. 19 OVERALL IN THE FIRST ROUND BY GOLDEN STATE

DRAFT STORY: JUNE 22, 2023



BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Brandin Podziemski, a 2021 graduate of St. John's Northwestern Academies, was selected by the Golden State Warriors in the 2023 NBA Draft held in Brooklyn, New York.

Golden State selected the former Lancer star with the 19th pick in the First Round of the 2023 NBA Draft.

The Warriors' selection made Brandin the lone first-round pick in the history of the SJNA program, and the second in the past two seasons from Santa Clara University after Jalen Williams was selected as the 12th pick in last year's edition of the draft.

Obtaining a crowning achievement for any athlete's career, Podziemski fulfilled a lifelong dream and capped years of hard work when NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called out his name, but also simultaneously began his greatest challenge yet. In the 2022-23 NBA season, the Warriors finished the season with a 44-38 overall record, and placed sixth in the Western Conference, before bowing out in the Second Round of the NBA Playoffs to the Los Angeles Lakers. With his strong outside shooting, Podziemski seamlessly fits the Warriors scheme, and Golden State fans can expect an immediate impact in the upcoming year.

During his time at St. John's Northwestern, Podziemski dominated the field in three seasons racking up 2,154 career points. Brandin was a three-time All-State honoree, and in 2021 he was named both the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association's Mr. Basketball and the Gatorade Wisconsin Player of the Year. In his terrific senior season, he averaged 35.1 points per game and totaled 974 points, the seventh-highest single-season total in state history. On January 30, 2021, Brandin set the SJNA single-game record pouring in 50 points versus Pewaukee.

# NBA DEBUT: OCTOBER 30, 2023



Brandin Podziemski '21 Makes NBA Debut Appearance

NEW ORLEANS, La. – From the campus of St. John's Northwestern Academies to the National Basketball Association (NBA), Brandin Podziemski made his professional debut for the Golden State Warriors on October 30. The former Lancer made his historic debut in a 130–102 win over the New Orleans Pelicans.

His first bucket in the NBA will remind Lancer fans of his time at the academy, as the silky guard drops a defender before charging in and finishing off the lay-in.

The rookie "Podz" garnered 23 minutes in his debut and scored five total points. True to character, "Podz" attacked the glass and hustled to haul in eight rebounds while adding two assists.

# **ROOKIE MILESTONE: DECEMBER 12, 2023**



Brandin Podziemski '21 Sets Rookie Milestone for Warriors

On December 12, Brandin Podziemski made history for his new team achieving a milestone last hit in 2009 by Stephen Curry.

The Warriors fell just short of Phoenix by a 119-116 scoreline, but it wasn't for a lack of effort from the rookie sensation. Podziemski

racked up 20 points, 11 rebounds and five assists in just 29 minutes of action.

"Podz" became the first Warriors rookie to notch 20 plus points, 10 plus rebounds, and 5 or more assists in a single game since the two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry hit the mark in the 2009-10 season.



**2024 Update:** Podziemski recently completed his strong rookie year and was named to the All-Rookie First Team in the NBA. He was also named a 2024 Rising Star by the NBA.

# Unveiling the ERA Lab: A Beacon of Innovation at St. John's Northwestern Academies

In the lower level of the academic building, a new beacon of innovation shines bright on campus—the Engineering, Robotics, and Aviation (ERA) Lab. This new collaborative learning space marks a transformative milestone in the school's commitment to fostering 21st-century learning skills and equipping students with an avenue to soar to new heights in middle school and high school STEM courses, paving the way for future STEM-related studies and careers.

In the 22-23 academic year, discussions and collaboration began as to the best use of the untapped lower level of Stangeland-Cord Hall. Ideas such as a dedicated middle school space and a performing arts space were strong potentials, but in the end, the opportunity for all students to have access to a dynamic learning environment where they can unleash their creativity, cultivate problem solving skills and collaborate together on a

variety of engaging projects was the clear winner. The idea of the ERA Lab was born, and with it, a commitment by SJNA leaders and educators to offer students a holistic STEM education that will prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow.

The proposed ERA Lab was the recipient of the 2023 Fund-a-Need campaign at the annual fundraiser, the Excalibur, and it was generously supported by so many people throughout the entire SJNA community. This began the process to retrofit the learning spaces with the updated technology infrastructure, the student learning and working space and the equipment to get the project started. Much of the work was done over the summer of 2023 so that it opened with excitement to our engineering and aviation students at the start of the 2023-24 academic year.



Students can take to the skies and hone their piloting skills in cutting-edge flight simulators. From mastering takeoffs and landings to navigating complex flight paths, students have access to realistic and immersive training experiences which allow them to log actual flight hours!



The ERA Lab now represents a variety of disciplines – a fusion of engineering, robotics, aviation, and technology, where the learning possibilities are endless. It is already renowned for its state-of-the-art flight simulators in the aviation classroom, a dedicated eSports practicing space and immersive engineering and design spaces, but growth is already in the plans for the upcoming year. The addition of new robotics classes and competitive robotics teams in the upcoming year promises to elevate the program to even greater heights. SJNA students will have the chance to design, build, and program robots to compete in class and in regional and national competitions, putting their skills to the test in new thrilling and exhilarating challenges.

The ERA Lab at St. John's Northwestern Academies is more than just a physical space—it is a symbol of innovation, collaboration, and limitless potential. Beyond the technical skills acquired, students also gain invaluable soft skills such as teamwork, communication, and adaptability—essential qualities for success in the modern world. Whether collaborating on a group project or troubleshooting a technical issue, students learn to work together effectively, drawing upon each other's strengths to achieve shared goals. It embodies SJNA's commitment to empowering students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and global citizens prepared to tackle the challenges of this ever-changing world. Visitors to campus are welcome to stop in and see the progress, the development, and the evolution of this new learning space in the academic year to come!!



The ERA lab represents a fusion of engineering, robotics, aviation, and technology, where the learning possibilities are endless



This past year, St. John's Northwestern Academies and Keeper Goals found an amazing use for a set of old Lancer soccer uniforms by teaming up with MTC Educate A Girl Inc.

The Lancer uniforms, which were previously sitting in storage, were donated to MTC Educate A Girl through Maka Chikowero, a remarkable young woman who started the foundation to educate young women in villages across rural Zimbabwe as well as to enable girls to take part in sports.

SJNA and Keeper Goals coordinated multiple sets of uniforms to be donated, but this specific kit arrived in Zimbabwe just in time for the 2023 MTC Girls Soccer Tournament.

MTC's founder Chikowero decided to share the soccer kit with a team based at Muchemwa High School in a rural district called Mhondoro Ngezi in central Zimbabwe.

MTC is a non-profit organization started by a girl to support other girls. MTC operates in rural and peri-urban areas of Zimbabwe.



# SJNA/Chesterton Varsity Soccer Team Completes Historic Season

The St. John's Northwestern Academies/Chesterton varsity soccer team achieved a remarkable milestone this season when they clinched their second consecutive MCC championship with an impressive 2-0 victory over Lake Country Lutheran.

The victory marked SJNA's eighth conference title overall, adding to their history of triumphs in '71, '79, '83, '84, '92, '94, and the recent back-to-back wins in 2022 and 2023.

But the Lancers weren't done. In a thrilling regional finals

Showdown, the Lancers showcased their prowess on the field with a definitive 3-0 victory over Lake Country Lutheran once again to become regional champions.

Year for guiding the tea regional championship.

Joining Aguilar on the Fi

Head coach Dave Burkle couldn't hide his pride in the team's performance, stating, "Our Lancers played with heart, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to each other. I couldn't be prouder of what they've accomplished."

After the season, the Lancers, who capped an amazing season with their third straight trip to the sectional finals and grabbed their first sectional win in SJN/Chesterton history, brought home a slew of post season awards from the Midwest Classic Conference (MCC).

Alex Aguilar was named conference Defensive Player of the Year and also earned First Team All-Conference from the MCC.

His coach, Dave Burkle, was named the conference Coach of the Year for guiding the team to its second MCC title in a row and the regional championship.

Joining Aguilar on the First Team was Florentino Tellez and Victor Valenzuela, as the trio was instrumental to the Lancers' success all season long.

Rounding out the postseason awards was the duo of Hunter Hopwood and Inigo De La Mata who earned spots on the Second Team for the MCC.







# Starfish Foundation Visits Borehole at Mbelekete School









Over the summer of 2023, students of St. John's Northwestern Academies and members of the St. John's Northwestern Starfish Foundation visited the Mbelekete School in Malawi, Africa.

The Mbelekete School is home to one of the wells that is fully funded by the student-run and student-founded St. John's Starfish Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to raise funds for the installation and maintenance of wells in Malawi, Africa. As a 100% student-led organization, it works to supply clean water to villages and schools.

By providing access to clean water, it hopes to improve the lives of those in need and preserve their human dignity.

In June, 1CPT Dillon Hamer visited one of the bores at Mbelekete School. When he arrived, he was greeted by hundreds of young students, teachers, and community members who were extremely energized to see him.

As a 100% student-led organization, it works to supply clean water to villages and schools.

The community was extremely grateful for the gift of water and expressed their thanks through music, dance, poems, and smiles. 1CPT Hamer even got the chance to speak in front of the gathering and showed wisdom beyond his years.

HOOL BOREHOLE

Malawi is a country in Southeastern Africa with a population of just over 20 million. Ten million are children under the age of 18. Many Malawian communities lack clean drinking water, leaving the job to young women who are forced to walk long distances carrying roughly 40 pounds of water just to provide for their families. As a result, many of them are late for school.

Recently, the St. John's Starfish Foundation came to the decision on where they will be building their third borehole. This newest one will be built for the school of Kapalankwhali.

The school has 400 students with a total of 150 boys, 250 girls, and 3 sole teaching staff members. The school is in a northern district of Malawi known as Mzimba and many of the children are suffering from cholera due to current unclean water sources such as dug wells.



# **Lancers Looking Forward: Academic-Focused and Ready** for the Future

The Class of 2024 has made its mark in St. John's Northwestern Academies' history as one of the graduating classes with the most offered scholarships. As the year came to an end, SJNA seniors totaled an impressive \$6,362,720 in scholarship offers. While most high school seniors across the country were getting ready to apply for Regular Decision applications (deadlines in January or February), SJNA seniors not only already had their acceptances but were already starting to accumulate offers.

To put this in perspective, last year's graduating class, which had 30 seniors, saw a total of over \$4.5 million in offered scholarships, and this year's class has accumulated nearly \$6.4 million, and counting! Our seniors have submitted 342 applications to 185 different colleges, and have been accepted to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country. Some of the universities that the Class of 2024 has been accepted to include:















But what makes an SJNA senior different, and what makes them stand out for scholarships and prestigious acceptances? While most other seniors across the country are preparing to apply, seniors at SJNA are ready. They stay one step ahead and are able to apply Early Action by starting their college application process during their junior year. Early Action is the first application cycle in the admissions process and has many benefits, including a higher rate of admissions and receiving an admissions decision up to four months earlier than a traditional Regular Decision application.

Applying early demonstrates to colleges that students are serious about their schools and are more likely to not only receive a merit scholarship but receive a larger amount than if they had applied later on in the process. SJNA students set themselves up for early success by beginning this process in their junior year, where they research colleges, write personal essays, begin filling out their college applications, and more in our exclusive College and Career Planning

"Our seniors have submitted 342 applications to 185 different colleges, and have been accepted to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country."



Cadet Kara Doerr was the first senior to apply to college this yea



In addition to taking College and Career planning, our students are also regularly invited to meet with admissions representatives from colleges and universities across the country. Each week, a different admissions officer visits the SJNA campus to meet with interested students. This year we have welcomed Hult International Business School from Boston, Grand Canyon University from Arizona, Hillsdale College from Michigan, the Citadel from South Carolina, Xavier

University, and many others. Along with high school visits, SJNA students attend campus tours of surrounding universities and various off-campus events to meet with admissions officers. Along with networking with different universities, the key to any student receiving a merit-based scholarship is rooted in strong academics and leadership - two things that St. John's Northwestern Academies has always been recognized for.



Students attended Service Academy Days at the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and learned about application requirements, admissions, congressional and senatorial nominations, student perspectives, and more!

Along with honors high school courses that students can begin taking as early as their freshman year, we also provide opportunities for our students to earn up to 50 college credits through AP Classes and Dual Enrollment College Courses by the time they graduate. We currently offer 10 different college classes through Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, with two class options in all core subject areas. College classes range from Introduction to Business to College Statistics, and students earn high school credit toward graduation and

transferable college credits at the same time. All college classes are taught on the SJNA campus by our faculty who have undergone a qualification and selection process through our partner universities. In addition to taking dual enrollment college courses, students are also able to take 6 different AP courses with at least one offering in each core subject area. Classes at the AP level range from AP Language & Composition to AP Computer Science and AP Calculus.



From challenging themselves with rigorous classes to being inducted in Honor Societies, engaging in fun after-school groups, and demonstrating their leadership abilities in everyday activities, SJNA students set themselves apart as distinguished college applicants. They begin building their college resumes during

freshman year to set themselves up for success their senior year with early college acceptances and large scholarship offers. Stay tuned throughout the year as our seniors continue to earn more scholarships and get admitted to their dream schools.

"...we provide opportunities for our students to earn up to 50 college credits through AP Classes and Dual Enrollment College Courses by the time they graduate"

# In Memoriam

We regret to announce the names of the following Old Boys, alumni, and friends who have passed away and were reported between 2023 and 2024. To report a death, please contact Greg Prospero at (262) 646-7220 or gprospero@sjnacademiesorg.

#### ALUMS

Arthur "Joe" Albert	S'46	1/17/2024
Will Askew	N'67	3/4/2024
David B Babcock	S'53	10/28/2022
Robert Bailey	S'71	12/1/2023
Bill Ballhorn	S'60	7/3/2022
Frank Ballou	S'49	7/19/2023
Robert Baylis	N′56	9/26/2021
MGYSGT Jeffrey Bialk, (Faculty/Staf	f) USMC	4/24/2022 R (Ret.)
Harry C Birchard	S'50	11/12/2022
William Blackley	S'72	6/16/2014
Joshua Block	10	10/16/2022
Paul Boissenin	S'65	Unknown
Bob Bramlett Jr.	S'70	12/23/2023
Grant Breuer	S'64	7/2/2011
Steve Buck	S'57	1/7/2024
Jeff Cappello	S'91	7/5/2021
Joe "Congo" Coglianese	S'76	9/11/2023
Christopher Clark	'13	6/18/2022
Richard Czopp	S'49	10/13/2023
JRandolph Dulany I 6/6/2020	II	S'65
Ed Eckersall	S'64	1/20/2024

Robert Edgers	N′48	6/4/2023
Larry Eldridge	S'65	1/14/2013
Carlos Enrigue	'99	6/2/2022
Jim Falkenrath	S'59	2/3/2022
Dr. Frank Fara	S'68	4/7/2022
Dallas Ferguson	05	11/22/2023
Ronald Fredricksen	N′52	6/30/2022
Jim Freeman	S'65	3/28/2014
Aaron Gaedtke	08	12/10/2023
Dino Giovan	N′58	6/1/2023
Harold Goodrich	S'65	Unknown
Charles Joseph Grant	S'61	4/26/2022
Michael Gray	S′72	6/20/2022
Henry Gundling	S'49	9/12/2022
John Hacking	S'59	1/20/2022
Kenneth Hall	'99	2/12/2021
Craig Havener	S'65	2021
Frederick Hegner	S'57	3/15/2023
Ralph Hess	S'65	Unknown
George Hessberger	·S'65	7/22/2023
George Hillier	H'20	7/8/2023
Mike Hoft	N′58	11/7/2021

Charles "Chuck" Holtz	N'59	2/24/2023
William Jensen	S'50	2/24/2022
Glenn Johnson	S'71	12/21/2023
Richard Johnson	N'49	11/8/2023
Carlos Enrigue Lancaster Jones	'99	6/2/2022
William Jones	5'86	2020
Uldis Kalve	S'68	7/4/2022
James Kelly	N′56	5/15/2022
David Kirkpatrick	S'64	8/24/2023
Erik Knudsen		7/7/2023
Stephen Wakefield Law	N′46	5/23/2022
Brian Legge	S'71	6/8/2022
Brian Leonard	'08	3/20/2024
Lt. Col. Fred Ley		1/14/2022
Robert Mack	N'57	3/20/2022
Stephan Manta	S'57	1/4/2023
Bruce Maynard	S'44	1/2/2023
Don McGough	N'55	7/26/2023
Samual Melich	5′40	3/24/2009
Duane "Duey" Mlachnik	S'80	3/21/2024

Bob Nietzold	N′74	5/4/2021
Jon Noble	S'77	12/31/2023
Doug Odell	S'64	8/29/2023
Dick Olsen	S'53	11/23/2023
David Ortiz	S'91	8/18/2023
John Papas	S'55	11/11/2021
Mason Pearce	S'66	6/22/2023
Michael Pellet	S'65	2/26/2004
Christopher Phillip	s N'84	Early March 2023
John Ricke	S'90	9/25/2023
Mark Roberts, Jr.	N'65	6/29/2022
Jay Robinson	N′71	7/19/2023
Grant Rogers	S'67	8/8/2023
Alex Roth	'11	7/1/2023
Jeffery Rumph	N′74	3/1/2018
Nick Sievers	N′50	2/2/2023
Richard A. Smith	S'61	5/11/2022
Richard H. Smith	S'61	2/23/2023
Matthew Snodell	'07	3/20/2023
Bruce Speidel	S'63	6/15/2022
Walter Thompson	S'47	3/3/2023
Mike Tomaro	S'62	12/23/2023

Al Vana	S'52	10/11/2021
Charles Van Patter	s'60	7/2/2023
George Wade	S'65	Unknown
Carl Werner	N'69	1/1/2023
Vincent Whelton	S'58	3/27/2023
Robert Wilson	S'44	2/27/2003
Ed Winiecke	S'79	3/12/2024
Thomas Wittkopf	S'58	4/30/2023
Ed Zenda	S'65	Unknown
Thomas Zimmerman	N'51	1/15/2023





# Honor Roll of Donors

With profound gratitude, we acknowledge our 2022-2023 contributors for giving so generously of your resources. Each of you is a vital part of St. John's Northwestern Academies and the long tradition of philanthropy that has guided our exceptional school since 1884.

St. John's Northwestern Academies has been propelled through a significant transition in recent years, and your support is truly an inspiration for our Academies, our mission, and most importantly, the young people we serve. You are making a notable difference in building a better future for our community, and we proudly salute you in this 2022-2023 Honor Roll of Donors and beyond.



Thank you for your generosity and for being a part of something more extraordinary than any one of us could achieve alone!

THE BEACON: EXPRESS is serving as a shortened version of our standard BEACON Magazine and is only being offered in an online format and will cover all events for the full calendar year of 2023.

THE BEACON Magazine will return to the regular scheduled Fall print version and be released in October of 2024. It will include the Honor Roll of Donors from fiscal year 2024 (07/01/23 – 06/30/24) and cover material from January 2024 through June 2024.

The Spring BEACON will be released in the Spring of 2025 and will include material from July of 2024 through December 2024.

Again, THE BEACON: EXPRESS is expected to be a annual recurrence to complement our full Beacon which is produced each fall.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we re-establish our communication vehicles and timelines.

# **Honor Roll Donors**

REFLECTS GIFTS RECEIVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

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