# THE SJA EXPERIENCE





### WE ARE OPTIMISTS.

We are intensely optimistic about the young people we teach.

They challenge us, surprise us, and inspire us. Every one of them has great potential, and we give them every opportunity to reach it. By helping each student recognize and use their individual gifts and talents, we help them achieve their own brand of excellence, transforming their lives and the world around them.

### WE ARE CATALYSTS.

We truly believe each student has the ability to do great things.

While they are here, our students build relationships with some of the very best educators in the world – our faculty and staff. Through these relationships, they learn to live out our mission as they build lives of good character, inquiry, and community.

### WE ARE MENTORS.

We create a culture of respect, caring, acceptance, and encouragement.

We treasure the spirit of young people – their energy, their creativity, their curiosity and kindness – as well as the unique potential of each one. We believe in them even when they don't believe in themselves.

### WE ARE GUIDES.

We provide the opportunities and support students need to succeed.

A student's teachers, advisors, college counselors, dorm parents, and many others help them navigate the remarkable opportunities St. Johnsbury Academy offers. As students try new things, many find their lifelong interests and passions.

but greater and more beautiful" to future generations. This was the commitment of our founders. We honor it still through our world-class faculty and programs located on a campus with expansive facilities for academics, the arts, technology, athletics, and boarding life.



### WE ARE RESOURCEFUL.

We will "transmit the school not less,

### WE ARE A LEARNING COMMUNITY.

We stay true to our motto: Semper Discens, Latin for "Always Learning."

With our semester-based schedule, students complete a one-year course in one semester. This opens up opportunities to students in many ways – they can explore a much broader range of courses or examine a subject in depth in preparation for later studies.

### CHALLENGING CHOICES

We focus on the success of every student.

One of the promises we make to all of our students is, "We will do all we can to help each student be the best learner possible." We keep this promise in many ways.

Although our selection of courses is very broad, our average class size is very small. Students are placed in classes with others of similar academic ability which allows them to master skills at a personalized pace. We also have many layers of academic support. Our focus on the success of every student is an integral part of our mission.

### Our Signature Programs provide unparalleled academic opportunities.

The academics at St. Johnsbury Academy are exceptional across the board, but a number of programs truly set us apart. From high-level math to the AP Capstone Diploma, from the visual arts to global travel opportunities, our Signature Programs ignite passion within our students, often leading them to pursue careers in fields first explored on our campus.

### Signature Programs

AP Capstone Diploma Bio-Medical and Health Sciences Certificate International Travel Study and Cultural Exchange Post-Calculus Mathematics Pre-University Engineering and FIRST Robotics SJA Arts Intensive SJA Field Semester SJA Technical Career Intensive

















"St. Johnsbury Academy has given me a great opportunity to strengthen my academics and find other avenues to pursue my interests including a number of history classes. I have benefited from the wide course selection and I have taken AP and advanced classes in many subjects. I have also participated in band, the Harvard Model Congress, Model U.N., and Green Mountain Boys' State which allowed me to meet peers with similar interests from across the U.S."

### Payton Molleur Hometown: Walden, Vermont



### **OVER 220 COURSES**

With the support of advisors and college counselors, we help students choose wisely.

Students at St. Johnsbury Academy benefit from small classes, talented teachers, and a huge array of academic opportunities. We offer over 220 courses including 31 Advanced Placement courses, more than 30 courses in the fine and performing arts, college-level engineering, five languages, and an award-winning technical education department.

### Small Classes

Each class has an average of 12 students, and many classes have eight to ten. Students receive individual attention from their teachers every day.

### Learning Support

Our comprehensive learning support complements students' course work. All students, regardless of academic level, homework habits, or previous academic challenges, are provided with the resources to excel. Students can benefit from our Learning Center, availability of their teachers during daily conference periods, or if they need more support, they can participate in our Guided Study programs.

### Accomplished and **Compassionate Faculty**

Many of our faculty members are working professionals or experts in their fields: our art teachers are artists; our music teachers are musicians; several of our English teachers are published authors; our drama teachers perform. One member of our faculty is a medical doctor who teaches Chemistry; another is a professional filmmaker who teaches three levels of filmmaking class. Best of all, these professional artists, musicians, writers, actors, doctors, and filmmakers love young people and love to teach.











full- and part-time faculty. Nearly 70% hold Master's or Ph.D. degrees.







"I've grown significantly as a student and feel as though my time here has prepared me for the future, specifically the coursework and lifestyle that awaits me at the University of Denver. Before SJA, I struggled to perform to the best of my ability in the classroom, specifically in math. Middle school was like a warm-up, my previous boarding school was a rough draft, and St. Johnsbury Academy feels like it was my final project."

### Jason Waldman

Hometown: Palm Beach, Florida



### **EXPRESS YOURSELF**

Study with a group of professional working artists – our arts faculty.



good and joyful memories."

Patrick Nkubito Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria

The St. Johnsbury Academy Fine Arts department offers a comprehensive range of courses that provide a solid technical and aesthetic foundation. In addition to offering more than 30 courses in the visual and performing arts, the arts program provides a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities including Art and Fashion clubs, photo lab, intaglio printmaking, and many others. Our semester-based schedule allows all students to include the arts as part of their high school experience.

### Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Each year our students participate in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. And each year our students win national gold or silver medals joining a legacy of celebrated authors and artists including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford, and Lena Dunham.













*The Arts Department at the Academy* has allowed me to expand my passions. The instructors are professionals in their artistic fields and have encouraged my creativity and enthusiasm for arts of all kinds. If it hadn't been for the guidance here, I would have never considered pursuing the arts as a career."

Emma Buhner Hometown: Wells River, Vermont



"The Morse building, or as I like to call it, my sanctuary, has been my favorite place on campus since the day I got here. I've spent countless hours working on art projects in all the different mediums the school has to offer, from fashion design to oil painting and printmaking. With the help of resources and great mentoring from my art teachers, I have won many awards, including a Scholastic Art and Writing National Silver Medal. I leave with nothing but



### **Charles Hosmer Morse Center for the Arts**

*Our state-of-the-art facility features a 220-seat* theater, a dance studio, music studio with soundproof practice rooms, Mac computer lab for graphic design and film editing, photographic darkroom, clay studio, and several large studio spaces with north-facing light. This spacious building is truly one of the best designed and most inspiring secondary-school art facilities in the country.





## **GET IN THE GAME**

Being on a team at SJA fosters responsible decision-making, honesty, and respect.



"I have been three-sport athlete, playing football, basketball, and lacrosse. In my senior year, I was named a varsity captain of all three teams. I am incredibly honored to have been a member of each respective team for my four years here. I have created bonds with the members of my teams that will stay with me forever, and I'll certainly never forget the atmosphere and school spirit that surrounds games and practices."

Sam Begin Hometown: Waterford, Vermont

Athletics are an important part of daily life at St. Johnsbury Academy. A large number of our students participate in at least one sport each year and many are three-season athletes. Eligible varsity sports are played at the Division I level, pairing our athletes against the most competitive opponents in the state.

### Fall Sports

Cheerleading Cross Country Field Hockey Football Golf Hilltopper Mountain Biking Club Soccer Volleyball

### Winter Sports

Alpine Skiing Basketball Cheerleading Gymnastics Ice Hockey Indoor Track Nordic Skiing Swim Club Wrestling

### **Spring Sports**

Baseball Lacrosse Softball Tennis Track and Field Ultimate Frisbee

### **Recent Vermont** State Championships

2019 Boys' Basketball 2019 Girls' Basketball 2019 Girls' Indoor Track 2019 Boys' Alpine Skiing 2019 Girls' Track and Field 2021 Boys' Cross Country 2021 Boys' Track and Field 2022 Boys' Tennis 2022 Boys' Track and Field 2022 Boys' Cross Country











Ellie Rice

Hometown: West Burke, Vermont











# **ROOM TO EXPLORE**

Our clubs and activities keep our students active and fulfilled.

The Academy offers over 40 clubs and activities, student leadership opportunities including Student Government, Dorm Council, and National Honor Society, and many community service opportunities. Students plan and stage plays, participate in our off-season conditioning program for athletes, run meetings, volunteer in youth sports programs, and participate in the governance of the school as they try new things and explore undiscovered talents.

Academy Theatre Band Dance Club Dungeons and Dragons Club Environmental Club Fashion Design Club Future Business Leaders of America Hilltones (a capella group) Intaglio Society International Basketball Model United Nations Mountain Biking Club National Honor Society Outing Club Robotics Scholar's Bowl SkillsUSA String Ensemble Student Government Trail Crew Yoga Club









"At St. Johnsbury Academy, the performing arts come to life! Jazz band, the Hilltones, musical theater, chorus, strings, and many other groups work together to perform in front of the community. Music at the Academy has helped me gain both confidence on stage and the ability to work effectively with my peers to create art."

Asher Solnit Hometown: Bath, New Hampshire





Just 20 minutes from the campus is Burke Mountain Resort, the training ground for champion Olympic skiers, and Kingdom Trails, which is home to some of the best mountain biking trails in the world!



"As a member of our school's FIRST robotics team, I have traveled to competitions across New England and worked with student engineers like myself to solve complex problems. I have gained real-world experience in the STEM fields that has prepared me for college and the workforce. I have also applied my knowledge in math, science, engineering, and technology to something bigger than myself."

Annie Cunningham Hometown: St. Johnsbury, Vermont



SERENCE:

SCAN TO VIEW OUR OUTING CLUB VIDEO.

## **A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

Building a student's character is integral to our mission.



"I feel so fortunate to have attended a high school that felt like a college campus. No matter where you live in the world, it is extremely rare to have a high school with such a beautiful campus and an extremely diverse group of students. Growing up in an environment like that gave me a greater appreciation of other cultures, and it made me more curious about traveling to other parts of the world."

Matthew Getz Class of 2000

The development of our students' character is part of our tradition at St. Johnsbury Academy and the first pillar of our mission. We work as a school to accomplish this in big and small ways every day. Fundamental to the development of good character in our students is our daily school-wide morning assembly, Chapel. Each day in Chapel, students are taught about respect, caring, integrity, compassion, inclusiveness, and responsibility. The phrases "love those the most who need it the most" and "leave this place better than you found it" have become a part of our culture and are lived out every day with the guidance of school leadership and faculty.

### Small-School Community, **Big-School Opportunity**

St. Johnsbury Academy combines the community of a small school with big-school opportunities. We work to form this tight-knit community in a number of ways, all of which focus on building strong relationships between students. We start with our advisory program. Students meet with their advisors in small groups as part of our larger Chapel meeting – what we call our morning all-school assembly – every morning. Advisors serve as faculty mentors, and fellow advisees become a close group of peers with whom many students develop lasting relationships.

From the day students begin school at SJA, they begin to forge an identity as a graduating class. During their 9th grade year, students meet for Chapel in a smaller venue, separate from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes. This encourages bonds within each class. Classes soon know all of their members, the faces become familiar, and lasting friendships are made.









*"Learning to live under one roof with"* several other girls around the same age as me is a highlight of my experience. The sisterhood and unbreakable bonds we form is beyond compare. The boarding program as a whole creates such a safe and compassionate environment, and this makes SJA a great home away from home."

Amari Trott Hometown: Smiths, Bermuda

### A GLOBAL NETWORK OF EXTRAORDINARY ALUMNI

### Once a Hilltopper, Always a Hilltopper!

With over 14,000 active alumni, St. Johnsbury Academy supports their graduates long after they leave the school. Stories abound about alums who have gotten jobs, apartments, met their spouses, or reunited with loved ones through their alumni connections at St. Johnsbury Academy. Our alums have gone on to any number of interesting careers, and many have succeeded in competitive athletics at the college level and beyond. Many take great pleasure in returning to St. Johnsbury to reunite year after year at Reunion or Homecoming, and many more support the school through gifts. Our alumni network allows graduates of St. Johnsbury Academy to continue to be part of something bigger than themselves.













## **A HOME AWAY FROM HOME**

*Meet students from around the world – they just might become life-long friends.* 

St. Johnsbury Academy is a home away from home for the many members of our boarding program. The Academy has welcomed boarding students since the school's founding in 1842, and they have always been an important part of the culture of the school. Our boarding program is very diverse with students representing nearly half the U.S. states and 25 countries. Students who board at the Academy learn empathy toward people who differ from them as they share the experience of life here. They also make life-long friends with peers from all over the world.

Our dorms range from a late 1800s mansion to a modern environmentally friendly "green" dorm. Dorm parents strive to make their students feel at home. Each week there is a family-style dinner, and outings such as hikes or trips to the local ice cream stand.

Every weekend, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of events and activities, ranging from outdoor wilderness excursions, to concerts, to professional sports events and theater productions, to shopping in nearby cities.





"I have spent all four years of my high school career at St. Johnsbury Academy. Each teacher has been extremely helpful and supportive, and most *importantly, passionate about what they teach and in the care they have for their students. This passion* makes you enjoy the class even more. I have always been engaged and even when I'm struggling, they make me feel okay about it."

Marcella Milne Hometown: Lyme, New Hampshire







Vermont ranks NUMBER ONE SAFEST STATE in America. WALLETHUB 2022 SAFEST STATES

"I have attended St. Johnsbury Academy for the past year, and since I've been here, I have made so many friends and now even consider some of them family. I believe young people should spend at least one of their high school years here at St. Johnsbury Academy. The opportunity and experiences of being a boarding student and student athlete have helped form the person I am today."

Hayden Brown Hometown: Ridgefield, Connecticut

## WE ARE ALWAYS AMAZED

We are witnesses to an extraordinary and life-changing learning experience.

By the time SJA students graduate, they have worked incredibly hard, overcome many challenges, chronicled numerous achievements, and have grown into young adults equipped to take on the demands of college and career.

Our students attend top universities and liberal arts colleges, culinary schools, fashion design schools, fine arts schools, engineering schools, technical colleges, and an array of other 2- and 4-year institutions. They also enter apprenticeship programs in the trades, become entrepreneurs, and enter the workforce as assets to their companies and communities.

Take a moment to visit our website and review the impressive results of an SJA education. Then, when you are ready, we invite you to take the next step in your journey toward a remarkable educational experience by contacting us, scheduling a visit, or applying online.











### THE SJA EXPERIENCE



### THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM OF VERMONT IS OUR HOME And we love it!

One of the most exceptional parts of St. Johnsbury Academy is its location. The Northeast Kingdom is a tranquil and unspoiled region of amazing beauty. It is home to quaint towns, farms, mountains, state forests, many lakes and rivers, and some of the best hiking in the state. Burke Mountain resort and Craftsbury Outdoor Center offer alpine and Nordic skiing, and Kingdom Trails, one of the best mountain biking trail networks in the United States, is also nearby.

Our region is also one of the safest in Vermont which, in turn, is one of the safest states in the U.S. We are rural without large metropolitan areas — there is plenty of room for everyone! Our air is fresh, and our water is crystal clean.

ST. JOHNSBURY

ACADEMY

EACH YEAR STUDENTS From over 20 states And 25 countries con To vermont to form The SJA community.



### **OUR MISSION**

This is the mission of St. Johnsbury Academy, a diverse, comprehensive, and independent educational community grounded by our traditions, our deep optimism regarding young people, and our commitment to academic excellence:

### Character

To teach good character by modeling and fostering compassion, respect, responsibility, and integrity.

### Inquiry

To foster a love for learning by challenging individuals to pursue knowledge, creativity, and intellectual self-reliance.

### Community

To encourage each individual to understand relationships, rights, and responsibilities within a community that is itself part of the larger world.



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