

# Watermark



## OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT:

*To Inspire a Nurturing Community of  
Enthusiastic Learners, Critical Thinkers  
and Responsible Leaders.*

SPRING/COMMENCEMENT 2025

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EDITOR  
Monica Jennings

CONTRIBUTORS  
Ryan Goldfarb '18  
Linda Konrad  
Kathy Savage

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Ryan Goldfarb '18  
Monica Jennings  
Tai Randall  
Denise Ritchie

DESIGN  
Lindsay Candler '87,  
Vero Marketing





## EXCERPTS FROM COMMENCEMENT REMARKS

### DR. STUART HIRSTEIN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Graduation is one of those rare occasions when the past, present and future all meet in a single moment. Today, we pause to remember the journey that brought you here, those early mornings and late-night study sessions, the friendships formed, the teachers who believed in you and the moments that tested you and helped shape who you are.

This year, as I watched each of you move through your final months at Saint Edward's School, I saw more than academic growth; I saw leadership. I saw kindness in the hallways, courage on the stage, tenacity on the field and creativity in the classroom. I saw seniors reaching out to underclassmen, lifting others as they climbed and modeling what it means to be both humble and proud.

You are stepping into a world that is full of promise and complexity. It is a world in need of your voice, your ideas, your values and your integrity. And though the path ahead will not always be clear, I encourage you to walk it boldly. Your success will not be defined by perfection, but by persistence, by the ability to rise after you stumble, to adapt when things change and to stand up for what you know is right.

Do you want to be Kind? Curious? Honest? Courageous? Because those qualities will shape your relationships, your career and your happiness far more than any title or salary ever will.

As you prepare to leave this place, remember that your education is not a destination; it's a foundation. Keep learning. Keep questioning. Keep listening. The most remarkable people I know are those who never believe they have it all figured out. They stay open to new ideas, open to growth and open to change.

When someone asks me what best describes a Saint Edward's graduate, I respond by saying Saint Edward's School produces leaders who are bright, hard-working, and, above all, have strong moral compasses. This is exactly what our world needs right now. Class of 2025, you set the framework for how this year would play out. You were wonderful ambassadors to this school community, and we can't thank you enough.

We are proud of you for what you have accomplished, but we are most proud of who you are as people. You have left Saint Edward's better than you found it, and for that, we are all grateful.

Stuart Hirstein, Ed.D., Head of School

## LOWER SCHOOL

One of the true highlights of the second semester was Field Day for kindergarten through fifth-grade students—an exciting and joy-filled extravaganza. The Lower School Field Days were filled with friendly competition, laughter and a fantastic display of teamwork and sportsmanship, spanning three action-packed days.

Mrs. Chin’s thoughtful planning and creativity shone through in every aspect of the event. She carefully tailored the games and challenges to suit the developmental levels of each grade, ensuring that every student was both engaged and appropriately challenged. From relay races and obstacle courses to team-building games, each activity encouraged students to collaborate, persevere and most importantly—have fun!









## MIDDLE SCHOOL

What an exciting year in middle school. It has been so much fun listening to our eighth graders relate stories of their growth and development at Saint Edward's School during these critical middle years. Our students have contributed to numerous varsity sports, including several middle school girls helping the varsity lacrosse team to a District Championship. They have starred in theater productions, performed in choir and band concerts, and given of themselves through community service, helping to bring in thousands of cans to donate during the Food Drive. Our community of learners has shown their abilities inside and outside the classroom. Middle school students qualified for the state science fair and participated in Model UN. We are so proud of the accomplishments of all our students and look forward to a very bright future.



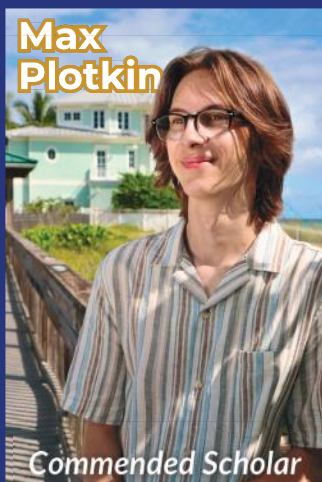
Mrs. Michos  
ART 7- FISH COLLAGE  
ART 6- Butterfly Project  
PRACTICAL EXAM  
WEEK of 4/7/25  
C1: TOOLS  
WEDGING  
CENTERING  
OPENING  
C2: USING



## UPPER SCHOOL

Upper School Spanish students spent a day in Little Havana and tested their language skills at the State Conference in Orlando. Our actors showed off their talents at the State Thespian Competition in Tampa, and our artists hung their work at the Vero Beach Museum of Art as part of the Congressional Art Competition. Our science students visited the Everglades and pushed themselves to new heights in the State Science Fair and Envirothon competitions. Our math team solved problems at events from Orlando to Fort Lauderdale; our Model U.N. visited Dublin, Ireland; and Academic World Quest vied for a national title in Washington, D.C. We look forward to seeing everyone on August 20!

# NATIONAL MERIT



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT RECOGNITION



**27** AP STANDOUTS

**14**

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION



AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR

**6**

**7**

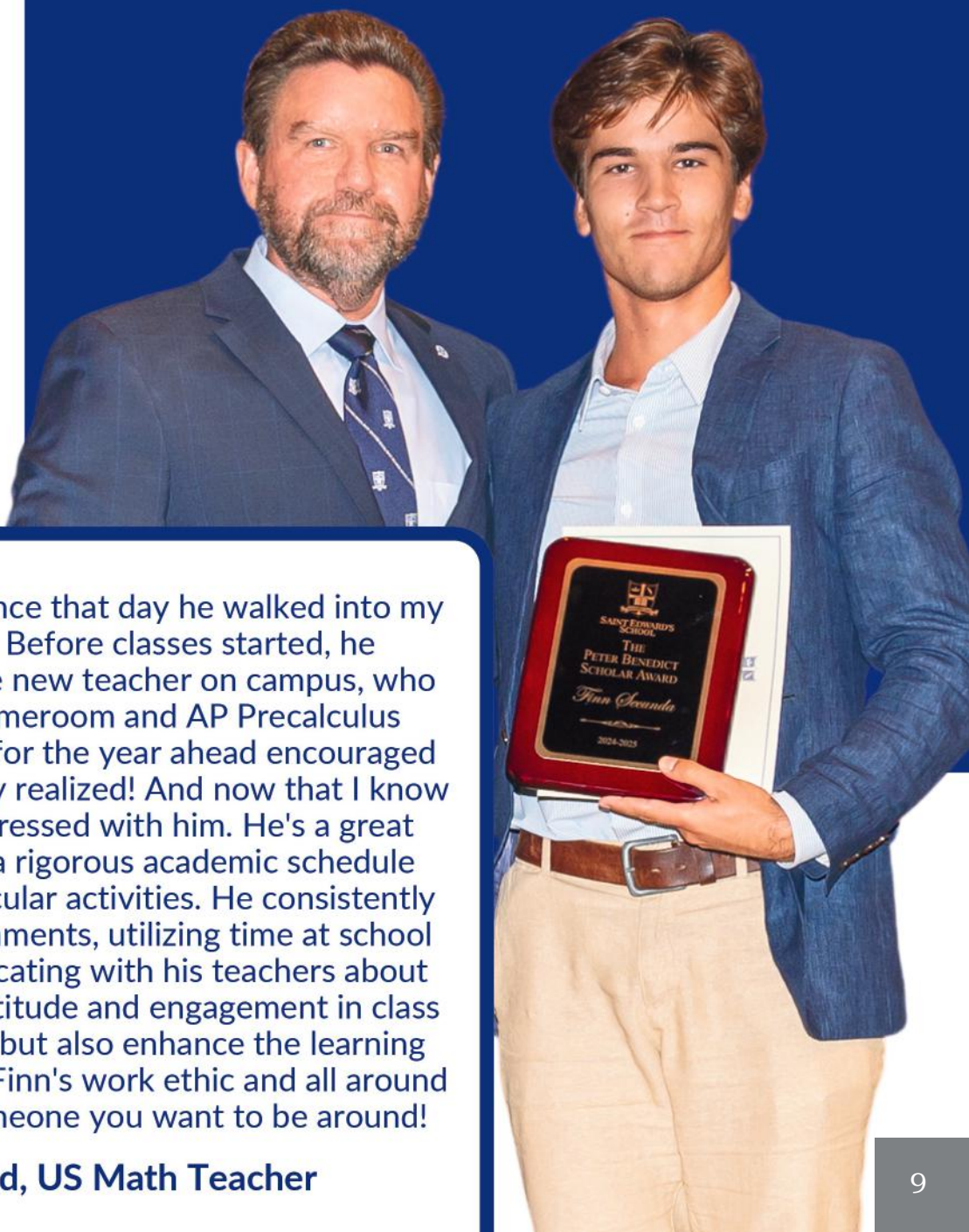
AP SCHOLARS



# CLASS OF 2025

# 2025-26 PETER B. BENEDICT SCHOLAR FINN SECUNDA

Every spring, one outstanding junior is chosen to receive the Peter B. Benedict Scholarship, which covers the cost of that student's tuition and books for his or her senior year. **Finn Secunda** was selected as the 2025 Peter B. Benedict Scholar.



Finn has impressed me since that day he walked into my classroom in August. Before classes started, he introduced himself to the new teacher on campus, who happened to be his homeroom and AP Precalculus teacher. His enthusiasm for the year ahead encouraged me more than he probably realized! And now that I know him, I'm even more impressed with him. He's a great student, who balances a rigorous academic schedule along with his extracurricular activities. He consistently stays on top of his assignments, utilizing time at school efficiently and communicating with his teachers about deadlines. His positive attitude and engagement in class not only help him excel, but also enhance the learning experience for his peers. Finn's work ethic and all around demeanor make him someone you want to be around!

- Marit Rowland, US Math Teacher



# VISUALS ARTS AT SES

2024-25



Maia  
Wallace '26

Reese  
Fox '26

Tullia  
Knight '27

Summer  
Soderman '25

## **2025 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION**

Mark Moore '26 (3<sup>rd</sup> Overall in IRC),  
SES Awards: Reef Blackman '28 (1<sup>st</sup>),  
Jack Engel '25 (2<sup>nd</sup>), Tullia Knight '27 (3<sup>rd</sup>)

## **SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS**

Jack Engel '25 (Gold Key), Maia Wallace '26 (Gold Key),  
Antonio Torres '28 (Silver Key), Max Plotkin '25 (Honorable Mention)

## **LAGOONAPALOOZA ART & POETRY CONTEST**

Mia Perez '28 (1<sup>st</sup>), Bruno Barreirinhas '26 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
Jack Engel '25 (1<sup>st</sup> in Special Categories)



Varsity boys tennis serves up the competition.



Coach Lamscha is honored by varsity girls soccer.

# MAKING STRIDES



Varsity girls lacrosse is fired up and having fun.

Congratulations to all of our winter and spring athletes who *jumped into action* in the 2024-25 season and raced toward excellence with heart and hustle.



Varsity boys basketball and weightlifting shoot for the stars.

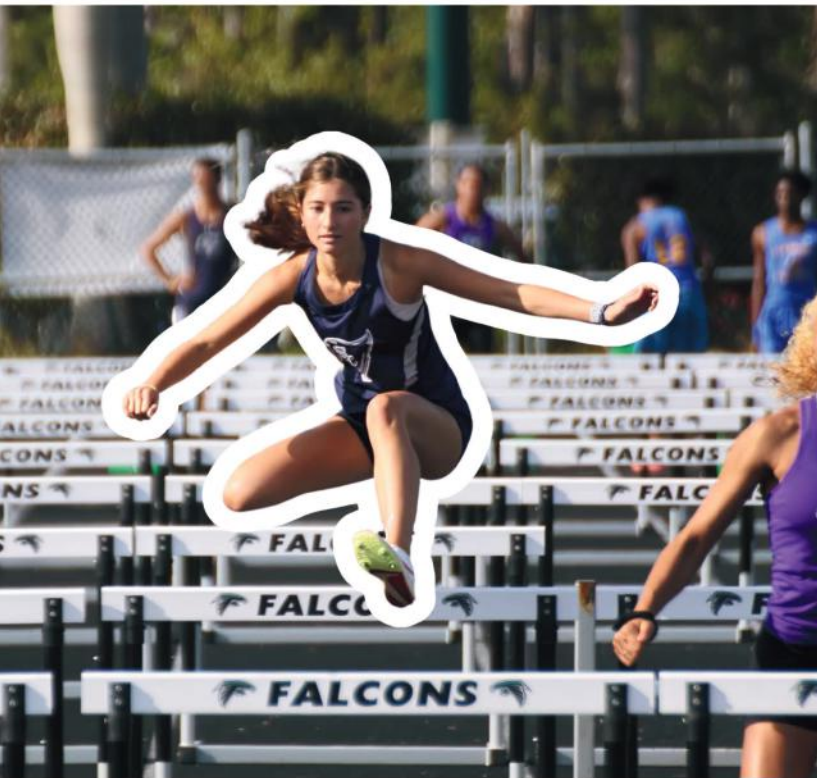


Varsity girls basketball has its eye on the



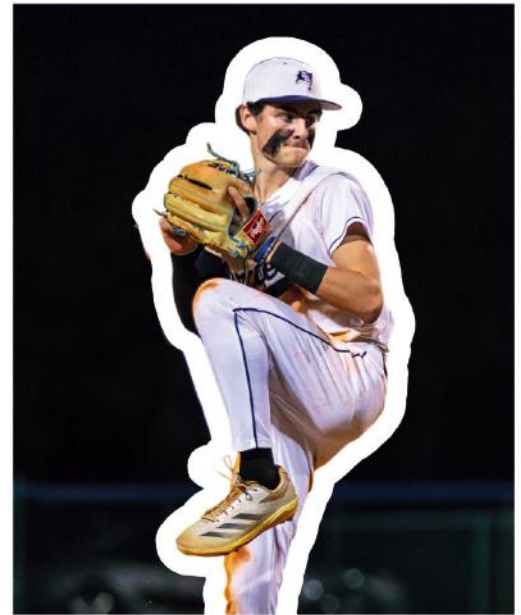
Goal-getters on the **varsity boys lacrosse** team.

Varsity girls weightlifting makes an epic comeback.



Leaping over limits in **varsity track and field**.

A  
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A stellar season for **varsity baseball**.



Varsity boys soccer kicks it into high gear.



Standout performance by **varsity girls tennis**.

prize.

# FUN WITH ALUMS



Pirates kicked off the holiday season with fierce competition and a lot of laughs with the third annual **Men's Alumni LAX game**. Special thanks go to **Peter Blake '94** and **Lazim Chowdhury '12** for underwriting this year's game.



**Zoey Gutierrez-Nickel '10**, **Andrew Nickel**, **Sarah Proctor '12** and **Collier Proctor '11** reminisce at the Alumni Holiday Party.



**Elizabeth Zoltak '19**, Director of Development **Kathy Savage**, **Avery Gerber '19** and **Andrew Hurwitz '19** at the NYC Alumni Gathering.



Alumni from across the country joined us virtually and in person to share their professional journeys during our annual Career Day. (From L to R) Divya Haryani '05, Whitney Wells '08, Tia Jiwa '05, Daniella Pulido '15, Lisa Moore '02, Alex Brown '05.



Nearly 160 alumni parents and students gathered before the start of the school day for the annual Alumni Legacy Breakfast held in the fall.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## FIVE QUESTIONS FOR ELIZABETH SORENSEN '97 & ANGELA WALDROP '98



- 1 You both just completed chairing the 60th Anniversary Pirate Ball. What motivated you to team up and take on this big responsibility?

A lot of things motivated us, but the 60th anniversary of the School was a driving factor, as were our love for the history of the school and what it means to us and our families. We wanted to look at the big picture and show the community our loyalty to this institution. It is about the big picture and having another 60 years of Saint Edward's School!

- 2 Angela, you have a son preparing to graduate, and Elizabeth, your son is just getting started as a Pirate. What is that like for both of you, watching your children have these big life moments at opposite ends of the spectrum with Saint Edward's School woven in?

It has been surreal at times, but we feel truly lucky to experience these major milestones together at our alma mater with our boys. Somehow the age difference of our children doesn't affect us as we just support them and each other at each stage that we are in. The cool thing has been to see how much they want to support each other. Hunter loves going to Beckley's games and Beckley loves going to Hunter's pumpkin carving and animal shows. We love them so much!

- 3 What role did Saint Edward's play in your close-knit, lifelong friendship? Were there any school traditions that really stand out for you?

Our friendship definitely grew on campus and has continued to grow ever since. We loved field days, Pals Day and competing for presidents awards. My father handing me my diploma as a board member (Elizabeth). Playing in the powder puff games was a great time.



“

*“Our friendship definitely grew on campus and has continued to grow ever since. We loved field days, Pals Day and competing for presidents awards... playing in the powder puff games was a great time.”*

- 4 With two full time jobs and two busy families, how have you both role-modeled the importance of giving back to the community?

Our parents were great role models. We are blessed to live in this wonderful community, and it is our responsibility. We love to help where we can and when we can!

- 5 What advice do you have for the Class of 2025?

Try new things, meet new people, study abroad if you are able, call your parents, visit and contribute to your alma mater. Most importantly, STAY IN SCHOOL!



# IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to report the passing of the following alumni and major supporters of Saint Edward's School. They will be deeply missed.

**Joseph "Joe" Candler** - Father of alumni Rick Candler '78, Joanne Candler Linehan '80 and Lindsay Candler '87; a former Trustee; and a longtime supporter of the School. Joe served on the Saint Edward's Board of Trustees from 1971 to 1975. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Betty Claire Candler; his sister, Patricia Boyer Candler Cushman; and his brothers, Henry E. Candler II and David G. Newbro. He is survived by his wife, Barby; his children, Rick (Meghan), Joanne (Tim) and Lindsay (Ray Comparetta); his sisters Greer Candler (Thom Coder) and Libby Candler (Dan Hughes); and many nieces and nephews.

**Leonor Lobo Montalvo de González** - Mother of alumnus Boris González '77, a former Trustee and Honorary Lifetime Trustee, a former chair of the English Department, a member of the Benedict Legacy Society and a longtime supporter of the School. Leonor taught English at Saint Edward's from 1971 to 1978 and served on the Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1990. She was predeceased by her husband, Jorge, and is survived by her son, Boris, and numerous relatives in the U.S. and Europe.

**Peter "Pete" Hengen** - Middle and upper school director of instrumental music from 2013 to 2025. Pete was predeceased by his parents, Claire Evelyn Price and Walter Scott Hengen III. He is survived by his partner, Shelby Anne Barnes; son, Josh Hengen (Elizabeth); grandson, Daniel Hengen; siblings, Paul Hengen, Ruth Starr, Mary Rogers and Stephen Hengen; and the many students who looked up to him.

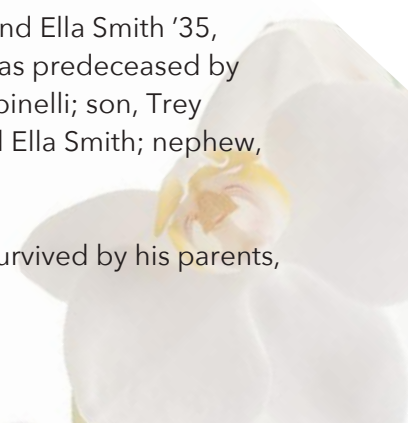
**William "Bill" Marine** - Father of alumni Gina Marine Kondziola '02, Chad Marine '05 and Amanda Marine '08; a former Trustee; and a longtime supporter of the School. Bill served on the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2002. He is survived by his wife, Pat, and his children.

**Anna Nichols** - Mother of alumni Cliff Norris '84, Meg Norris '85 and Lindsay Norris Durfee '88; grandmother of Johnny O'Brien '14, Cole O'Brien '15, Bennett O'Brien '16, Calli Norris '22 and Ford Norris '23; a former Trustee; and a longtime supporter of the School. Anna served on the Board of Trustees from 1977 to 1981. She was predeceased by her husband, Carl W. Nichols. She is survived by her former husband and father of her children, E. Clifford Norris, Sr.; her children, Cliff (Julie), Meg and Lindsay (Barry); four stepchildren; 19 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren.

**Robert "Bob" and Lori Schrock** - Parents of alumna Ellie Schrock '22 and longtime supporters of the School. Bob was predeceased by his father, William Schrock, and Lori was predeceased by her mother, Marcia Girard. Bob is survived by his mother, Kathleen Schrock, and his sister, Jo Pile. Lori is survived by her father, Bernard Girard, and her siblings, Stephanie May and Steven Girard. Both Bob and Lori are survived by their daughter, Ellie.

**Elson "Ray" Smith** - Father of alumnus Trey Smith '94, grandfather of Hughes Smith '33 and Ella Smith '35, a longtime supporter of the School and a member of the Benedict Legacy Society. Ray was predeceased by his parents, Elson and Delores Smith. He is survived by his wife, Beth; daughter, Maury Spinelli; son, Trey (Whitney Greene Smith '05); grandchildren, Kirk Spinelli, Alex Spinelli, Hughes Smith and Ella Smith; nephew, Todd Marchant (Deana) and their sons, Ritter '17 and Tanner.

**Peter Weise** - Father of Nick Weise '26 and a longtime supporter of the School. Peter is survived by his parents, Hilke and Jörg Weise; his wife, Jill; and their two sons, Nick and Ben.





# The SAINT EDWARD'S FUND

## *Gifts that make an* EXTRAORDINARY DIFFERENCE



### *Character, Compassion, Education and Leadership* OUR FOUNDATION SINCE 1965

Saint Edward's offers an extraordinary education and prepares students for a rapidly changing world. Our faculty teach and encourage independent thinking and foster a love of learning. Students are supported to be unique and to work hard. Creativity, teamwork and leadership are nurtured through our outstanding academic, athletic, fine arts and extracurricular programs.

All students, faculty and programs are directly influenced by your charitable, tax-deductible contributions to the Saint Edward's Fund. Your gifts empower us to hire and retain the brightest faculty, maintain a beautiful, safe campus and sustain an exceptional educational experience. **Every gift makes an extraordinary difference.**

*Annual gifts to the School have served a critical role in providing our students with the resources and programs necessary to discover their passion for 60 years.*



**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!**



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THE** *future*



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# FOREVER

# A *birate*



SAINT EDWARD'S  
SCHOOL

College Acceptances:



...and many more!

THE CLASS OF 2025: COMMITTED TO  
RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP  
ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING  
COMMUNITY SERVICE





*Congratulations to the Class of 2025!*







“

*“It is impossible to look at the Class of 2025 and not see the incredible potential to make a difference in a world that desperately needs difference-makers. We can’t know exactly what the future holds for them. What choices will they make? Which paths will they choose? I have no idea, but I take great comfort that each of them has the foundation, both academically and ethically, to do much good in this world.”*

~ Jack MacMullan, Head of Upper School



# STUDENT AWARDS



## SPIRIT AWARD

This award is given to that member of the senior class who has manifested sincere, enthusiastic and helpful school spirit throughout the entire school year. This year it was given to **Jack Engel**.



## HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

This year's award was presented to **Addison Logemann**, who exhibited all-around qualities of academic excellence, athletic prowess and leadership within the student body, as well as demonstrating outstanding citizenship and loyalty.



## SAINT EDWARD'S CUP AWARD

This award was given to **Augie Barreirinhas**. It is given to that student who has demonstrated unqualified excellence in the fields of citizenship, character and dedication to the School.





## WORDS OF WISDOM

### Advice from First Grade Buddies

“Brush your teeth. Brush your hair. Have a great time. Be on time. Be a good friend. Have fun with your room mate. I will always remember you.”

~ Simone Brown

“Don’t check out all the books in the library. Call mom and dad 3 times a day. Dont only eat junk food. Save your money. Be nice to your roommate because then you will have a lot of friends because people want to beyour friend if you are nice. Have a good life!!.”

~ Aiden Barron

“When you are in college make sure you do your best handwriting. At home do your homework every night even though you dont want to and make sure to take a shower or a bath at night also brush your teeth before you go to bed. ”

~ Aubrey Alexander

# FACULTY RECOGNITION



Jennifer DeBenedet

JENNIFER DEBENEDET '00  
& KATHLEEN RAYMOND  
*received the Harriett Graves Beckley  
New Teacher Merit Award*



Kathleen Raymond



Brandy Nelson

BRANDY NELSON '93  
*received the Richardson Family  
Foundation Distinguished  
Teaching Award*

# DR. HIRSTEIN BIDS BON VOYAGE

We bid farewell to the following teachers and staff and congratulate them on their well-earned retirement. Thank you for your dedication and contributions to SES.



**JEREMY BAKER** - Technical Director

What I will miss most about Jeremy is his energy. To say he is like the Energizer Bunny is an understatement. He has been the go-to person for all things tech-related in the Waxlax and his knowledge of the equipment and the things it takes to run this place is unmatched. When I think of Jeremy, I think of the videos he put out during COVID of him playing guitar and singing along. Both Jeremy and Maggie wanted the kids to have the experience of doing a musical, even though it was a virtual performance, it was still fantastic (as usual). Thank you for all you did for Saint Edward's and your students over these past 15 years. You will be missed.



**MAGGIE BAKER** - Theatre Arts Director

There was an article in Indian River Magazine a few years ago about Maggie. She was quoted as saying what she liked best about teaching was seeing the transformative power of theatre and what it can do for kids. It builds self-esteem, confidence, and breaks down barriers that go beyond the class setting. For 15 years at Saint Edward's, Maggie has transformed many lives through the power of theater. I saw firsthand how her "kiddos" responded to her during her last Thespian Society Induction ceremony. They adore her. Maggie, best to you in retirement, you will be missed.



**MARIE CAMPIONE** - Digital Communications

Marie is leaving us after 21 years of service to SES. She has such a unique skill set that she will be very hard to replace. She has managed our website and has also been at the forefront of all things regarding digital and media communications at Saint Edward's. She always had a smile when I would stop in to say hello and I will miss her easy-going demeanor. I did my best to teach her the art of how to tell a joke, however, she could never remember a joke to tell me! Marie, we will miss you and hope you have time to do the things that bring you joy in life!



**STAN GREENLEE** - IT Systems Administrator

Stan has been a member of our technology department for 26 years, the quiet force behind so many of the systems and solutions we rely on every day. Whether it was troubleshooting a mysterious network issue or helping a faculty member recover files just in time, he did it all with humility, professionalism and a calm that reassured everyone around him. We wish Stan the very best in retirement!



#### KELLY HUDSON - LS Science Teacher

For a quarter of a century, you lit the flame of curiosity in thousands of young minds, turning questions into discoveries and lessons into adventures. You taught children not just how to think scientifically, but how to wonder—how to look at the world with wide eyes and open hearts. Every time I visited your class, I saw kids engaged, out of their seats, building, creating and learning. I looked forward to the chick webcams and having the webcam open on my laptop as baby chicks hatched. May your days be filled with the same joy and discovery you brought into the classroom. You've earned every moment, and you will be missed.



#### JEFF LAMSCHA - LS PE Teacher

It's a special moment when we gather not just to say goodbye, but to celebrate a legacy. We honor Jeff Lamscha, who has shaped this community, not just through games and drills, but through decades of dedication, laughter and love. Jeff, you've been more than a teacher. You've been a coach, an athletic director, a mentor, a friend, and for so many of our students, a steady presence and trusted role model. You taught kids how to win with humility and lose with grace. You turned PE games into life lessons and every soccer season into a journey of growth. You may be stepping off the field, but your impact will keep running, generation after generation. Enjoy a well-deserved retirement!



#### MICHELE LAMSCHA - LS Learning Support

Michele has been a key figure in our Academic Learning Lab, working hard to support and uplift our students. She also taught Kindergarten and First Grade. Your commitment to your students and your steadfast approach have left a mark on our School. She has been more than an educator; she has been a steadfast advocate for every student who walked through the doors of the Learning Lab. Her ability to recognize each student's unique potential and to tailor her support accordingly has helped so many students. Your dedication has helped students overcome academic challenges and instilled in them a lasting confidence and love for learning. We wish you the best in retirement!



#### MARIA SEGURA '95 - Alumni & Special Events Coordinator

Maria had her hands in so many School events that I often wondered how she did it all. She was not afraid to ask for donations from Corporate Sponsors and Family Patrons. I think every year she was able to raise more than the previous year. My favorite memory of Maria was on an NYC alumni trip when she accidentally spilled her wine on Bruce Wachter. The next year in NYC Bruce wore a poncho to dinner. She laughed it off like the good sport that she is! We wish you the best of luck in this next chapter of your life.



#### MARCY SHARMAN - LS Music Teacher

For nearly four decades, Marcy has been the joyful heartbeat of our lower school's music program. Marcy has led all of the lower school musical performances with passion, a great deal of patience, and an unshakable belief in the power of music to transform young lives. Marcy's influence doesn't end with her students. She has collaborated on countless school productions and contributed to the fabric of our community in quiet but meaningful ways. Her legacy is woven into the culture of this school, in every assembly, every holiday program, and every child who hums on their way home. Thank you for your 37 years of service to Saint Edward's. You will be missed.

We bid fair winds and calm seas to the following teachers and staff. We are so grateful for your contributions to our community.



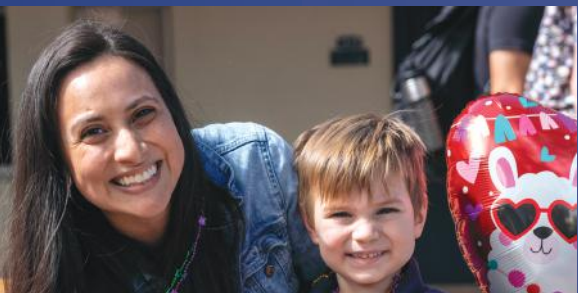
TORI BARNETT - Spiritual Leadership Teacher

*"The opportunity to teach students about Biblical leadership has been a true joy! As I tell my students, to lead by faith is to follow God's example of loving others even when it's hard. While I won't be in the classroom, I will continue leading the MS & US Girls Bible study, and next year moms are invited."*



ABBY DONOHOE '93 - History Teacher

*"Teaching to middle school students in the same classrooms where I once sat as a student has been a pleasure. Chaperoning two 8th grade trips to DC created memories I will cherish. I look forward to my next chapter as a parent, a volunteer and a substitute teacher."*



PAMELA MEJIA - MS/US Spanish Teacher

*"This is where I truly learned how to reach my students and where I found a community that felt like home. Every student has left a mark on me. From your fearless efforts to learn Spanish, to the beautiful notes telling me this class felt like a safe place, you've reminded me why I do what I do."*



CHAD MILLER - US Math Teacher

*"I loved observing the mathematical growth of so many students, my own children learning to love theater under the direction of the Bakers, coaching middle school basketball boys, and spending hours on the tennis courts with the varsity boys and girls. I wish the best to all my current and former students and colleagues."*



DR. LP PATHADE - Chemistry Teacher

*"My motto in teaching and in life can be summarized with the idea that getting the degree is not the end point, you must keep learning forever! Show up for work on time and consistently aim to improve."*



BETSY WENGLER - MS English Teacher

*"I still have the Watermark cover that asks, 'What is kindness?' and Ford Norris '23 answered, 'Kindness looks like Mrs. Wengler.' I have so many fond memories with my colleagues -- share hot field trips, sleepless overnight field trips, hugs during stressful times, the best book recommendations and so much more."*



# SAVE THE DATES

## OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL

August 20, 2025

## SENIOR COMMISSIONING

September 3, 2025

## STUDENT ART EXHIBIT, RAW SPACE

September 5-30, 2025

## HOMECOMING WEEK

September 29-October 4, 2025

## FALL BREAK

October 10-13, 2025

## FALL PLAY: Neil Simon's *Fools*

October 24 & 25, 2025

## THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 24-28, 2025

## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

December 4, 2025

## ALUMNI HOLIDAY PARTY

December 18, 2025

## LOWER SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

February 26, 2026



### MISSION

Saint Edward's School's mission is to inspire a nurturing community of enthusiastic learners, critical thinkers and responsible leaders.

### ADVOCACY

Centered on a love for children, advocacy is an environment of mutually supportive and respectful relationships. As advocates in a compassionate community, we are purposefully committed to nurturing and championing each other and to bringing out the best in each individual. It is a way of life!

*We shape the* **FUTURE**



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