



Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB presented Cornerstone Award

At this year's annual appreciation and awards dinner, Head of School, Jon McGee, presented Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB with the Cornerstone Award for his outstanding commitment to Saint John's Prep.

Beginning his career as Theater Director in 1995, Br. Paul-Vincent took a student-led group and transformed it into a premier high school theater program over his next twenty-three years as director. Retiring from the role in 2019, Br. Paul-Vincent remains involved with Prep Theater, raising thousands of dollars annually to ensure students have the resources needed to put on spectacular performances.

In 2014, when Br. Paul Vincent's parents entered eternal life, he established The Caroline and Walter Niebauer Endowed Scholarship Fund to support Prep students who demonstrate significant financial need. Since then, the scholarship fund has allowed the Prep School to award nearly \$50,000 in scholarship support to deserving students.

Above: Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB and Head of School, Jon McGee; Below (Left to Right): Chris Gimenez, Brandon Anderson, Patty Weishaar, Br. David Paul Lange, OSB, John Merkle, Sarah Pruett, Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, Scott May, Mary Kay May, Leigh Dillard, Br. Richard Crawford, OSB, Liz Bussey Fentress



“ ”

I hope that one day Prep is financially endowed to a point that tuition is not a barrier for anyone who has a desire to learn and be a contributing member of the school community. It is a tragedy when finances short-circuit the trajectory of a young person with a promising future. - Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB

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Jon McGee commented, “Br. Paul-Vincent is a remarkable human with an unparalleled commitment to Saint John's Prep. We are blessed to have him in our Prep School family.”

The Head of School's Appreciation Dinner is an event held each fall in celebration of those who annually support SJP with a gift of \$500 or more.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

For the most up-to-date information on Prep events, visit scan the QR code or visit www.sjprep.net/events.

NOVEMBER

10 - SJP Fall Play
16 - Give to the Max Day

DECEMBER

4 - SJP Christmas Concert
14 - Alumni Happy Hour
27 - Young Alumni Cookies and Cocoa

JANUARY

29 - Catholic Schools Week

MARCH

21 - SJP Spring Musical

APRIL

26 - SJP Career Day
27 - Grand Tour of Nations

MAY

24 - SJP Graduation

JUNE

28 - Alumni Weekend





THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR: EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

PREP BEGINS SCHOOL YEAR WITH A BOOST IN STUDENTS, NEW CURRICULUM, AND BIG PLANS

Jon McGee, Head of School

This fall, we began our 167th academic year at Saint John's Prep, a testament to the lasting impact and staying power of Catholic Benedictine education. At the beginning of a new year, everything seems possible. But I think it's better to simply say, "everything is possible." Always. Anytime. That is not just a sentiment, but rather a way of living and being, a disposition toward life. At our opening Convocation, I encouraged our students to take the opportunity of this year to expand their minds, expand their experiences, and expand their hearts: choose to make this a better school community, choose kindness, choose gratitude, and choose joy. Embrace this time and all the wonders it offers, leaning-in to the promise of aspirations and dreams. Direct advice to students, but just as true for us as adults. Continuous renewal fuels us.

Many exciting things are happening at Prep this fall. We enrolled 296 students in grades 6 to 12, our highest total since 2012 and 16% more than five years ago. Our students hail from 14 different nations, four states, and 29 diverse communities in Minnesota, bringing a rich tapestry of culture and experience to the school. We successfully launched our new Aspire to Excellence curriculum, designed by our extraordinary faculty to will challenge our students as creative thinkers, intellectual risk-takers, and imaginative problem-solvers, creating experiences that are both distinctive and distinctively Prep.

In October, we will begin construction of an outdoor classroom which will take advantage of our remarkable natural setting and expand opportunities for our students to study the local ecosystem. At the same time, we also are planning fundraising activities that promise to support affordability, improve the learning experience, and create community. This year represents a defining moment for Saint John's Prep, one that reflects our deep commitment to providing our students with exceptional learning experiences.

Promise. Possibility. Potential. Those words describe not just the optimism of a new year but also Prep students and the Prep experience. We are deeply grateful for your support of Saint John's Prep and invite you to join us as we race toward our future!



OPEN MINDS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Our 167th school year is underway! We welcomed students to campus on August 24 with our annual opening convocation. The program included a march of flags, blessings, words of wisdom, and inspirational messages. Student Council President Patrick Duffy '24 encouraged students to go into the year with an open mind and be ready to explore new opportunities. With more than 29 student clubs and activities, 5 academic teams, and 16 athletic teams, Saint John's Prep students find it easy to try new things! The possibilities are endless! Follow the QR code to read Patrick's full convocation speech!



Below: Student Council President, Patrick Duffy '24, Treasurers/Secretary, Vivian Fitch '26 (left), and Vice President Alayna Neal '25 (right).



MEET THE ADVANCEMENT TEAM

The Saint John's Prep Advancement Team works with alumni, parents, families, and friends of Prep to support our students and advance the mission of school. Please reach out to us with your ideas, questions and updates! Learn more about our team at www.sjprep.net/alumni.



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A TRUE GIFT OF APPRECIATION

Chris '66 and Darla Twomey

Early last school year, Chris Twomey '66 called Head of School, Jon McGee with an idea. Having recently concluded his term as Board Chair of the Saint John's Prep Board of Regents, a call from Chris was not uncommon or even unexpected. However, the idea Chris proposed was both, with the potential to forever change the meaning of the phrase, "teacher appreciation."

With Prep's storied history of outstanding educators who have transformed the lives of young people for generations, Chris shared that he, along with his wife Darla and family, wanted to create and endow a fund to recognize and reward faculty members for their hard work and dedication to the students of Saint John's Prep. The endowment, as Chris imagined, would provide a cash award of at least \$5000 to one teacher each year.

That's it. No strings. No conditions. A true gift of appreciation for our outstanding teachers and their service to Prep students.

A process for selecting a teacher of distinction was established to honor the true intent of the award. Any student, faculty or staff member, or family could nominate a faculty member who met four criteria: has passion for students, learning, and their academic discipline; inspires creativity, innovation, and discovery; engages students in meaningful learning; and models integrity, compassion, and excellence.

The community response was overwhelming. The inaugural Twomey Family Teaching Excellence Award was presented to physics and astronomy teacher, Charles Miller. The announcement was met with a standing ovation from the Prep faculty and staff.

A member of the Prep faculty since 2005, Charles is known for his passion and excitement for both his content and students, inspiring "limitless potential and providing individualized opportunities." As one student offered, "Even when I didn't believe in myself, Mr. Miller always believed in me."

The Saint John's Prep faculty dedicate themselves to the educational development and personal formation of our students – preparing them for meaningful lives of purpose, service, and achievement. A very special thank you to Chris and Darla Twomey and family for recognizing the outstanding efforts of our faculty and giving back to our incredible school.

TRUST THE PLAN EARNS STATE TITLE

ALUMNI COACHES MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF PREP ATHLETES



Kurt Salzl '87 and Stephen Woods '09 didn't cross paths as students at Prep, but they now run our wooded trails together as two of SJP's assistant Track and Cross Country coaches under Head Coach Lance Nydeen.

Kurt and Stephen specialize in distance running. Their motto of "Trust the Plan" outlines clear training plans and competition guidelines for the runners to follow in practices and during meets, which proved successful when the boys' 4x800 relay team brought home the title of 2023 State Track Champions.

For these alumni, the miles they run mean more than just medals for our students. Kurt and Stephen's commitment to Prep and our athletes illustrates that there are more ways to give back to Prep than just money. They are making a lasting impact on the lives of their athletes and our entire school. Stephen and Kurt are true mentors, offering support in academic challenges, encouraging healthy habits, and sharing insight into the college career search. They also build community by fostering strong friendships among our athletes.

2023
Fall
Athletics



Saint John's Prep
2280 Watertower Road
Box 4000
Collegeville, MN 56321

Support the Prep Fund!



The Saint John's Prep Fund provides critical funding for tuition assistance, teaching and curriculum, programming and operations. Scan the QR code to support the Prep Fund today!

ALUMNI WEEKEND JUNE 28-30, 2024

We're putting together the details of another great alumni weekend! We are excited for you and your classmates to join us for a weekend of friendship, memories and fun. Hike the trails, tour campus, including Saint Michael Hall, visit the Saint John's Bible, and learn about our history. It's going to be a weekend you will not want to miss! Visit www.sjprep.net/events for details!

We Can Help!

Reunion weekend is a time to gather with old friends and celebrate the relationships built while students at Prep. This year, alumni from 1964-2014 are getting together to celebrate their friendships.

Contact Director of Communications and Events Jill Pauly at jpauly@sjprep.net if you are planning an event with your classmates!



Welcome Home

Alumni Weekend 2024



Register online at www.sjprep.net/events.