

The

Skirmisher

Spring 2017

Volume XCVIV No. 3

St. John's Military School



Another year in the books!



Baseball...the boys of summer!

"There's no cryin' in baseball"

"We ended our season yesterday, against Sacred Heart. We split the double header with the first game ending in a 5-3 loss and the second game ending with a 12-3 victory.

Our overall record for this year was 4 wins and 6 losses, but we could have easily been 6-4.

Because of the weather, this year was a little tough to navigate. We lost a total of 4 games to it and many practices.

But I know these boys had a good time playing this year. Hopefully, next year's team will be able to get a few more victories. Thanks to everyone who came out to support the team this year."

Coach Casey McCoy



Joshua Smith catches some air as he makes sure the runner doesn't get extra bases.



Eirc Omdahl keeps the pitch count.



Michael Winters waits for the perfect pitch.



Dalton Thibodeau gets some advice from catcher Chase Fitzek.



sitting: Shawn Barr, Michael Winters, James Ushman, Joshua Smith, Dalton Thibodeau, Daniel Summer, Chase Fitzek, and Kolin Kuhn. *standing:* Coach Brandon Maio, Aidan Mac Lachlan, Coach Casey McCoy, Eirc Omdahl, Parker Diehl, Brennan Pecora, Chandler Latteman, Jacob Provost, and Coach Alan Randles.



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JPA

JROTC Program for Accreditation

The 129th pulled together in the weeks leading up to the annual army inspection and when the day arrived, they were more than ready.

Throughout the day, the Cadets carried themselves like champions and the final score reflected the effort put forth.



Reece Turner salutes the visiting inspector in front of the garrison flag on the morning of JPA.



top: The SJMS band led by Bandmaster Oluwatimi Osunkoya performs Sound-Off during the Pass-in-Review. *middle:* Members of the Color Guard, Robert Conde, Caleb Moscati, Brice Shao, and Michael Winters, case and uncase the colors. *bottom:* Justin Gilbert, D. Dale Browning, and Reece Turner await the casing of the colors.



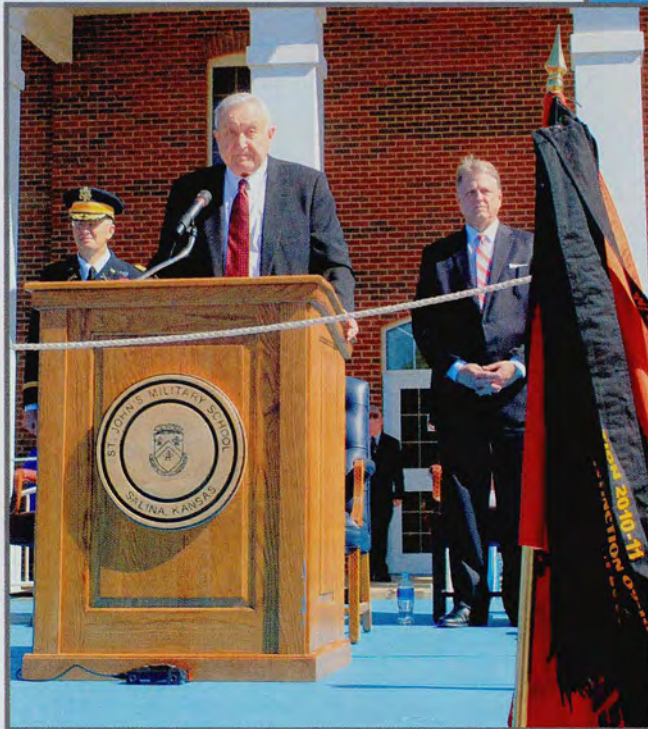
The Battalion Staff, Caleb Kirkpatrick, Christopher Reilly-Reed, Justin Gilbert, Scott Dunagan, Reece Turner, Carter Newby, and Bryce Kisner, draw their covers just before announcing the score.



The 129th Corps of Cadets listens to the speech given by the Battalion Commander following the announcement of a perfect score. Gilbert gives the corps credit for their hard work and diligence in earning the highest score possible saying, "It wouldn't have been possible without a total corps effort. Hooah, 129th!"

Commencement Weekend

The weekend was filled with traditions...the final roll call, the parade of flags, the transfer of command, graduation, and the final pass-in-review.



Above: President D. Dale Browning welcomes those in attendance at graduation. *below:* Retiring SJMS icons Ricky Jordan and Marc Polzella join Battalion Commander Justin Gilbert and Executive Officer Reece Turner as inspecting officers.



Jovanni Renteria carries the state flag of California during the parade of flags.



The senior class gathers on the porch of the Vanier Academic Center following the Freedom Tree ceremony.



MAJ George Stelljes holds the sabre during the Change of Command ceremony. Justin Gilbert, outgoing Battalion Commander, stands ready to hand the sabre to Christopher Reilly-Reed, the Battalion Commander of the 130th Corps of Cadets.



Father Randy McIntosh is assisted by Max Duncan, Lazaro Hernandez, Nathaniel Stepaniak, Parker Diehl, and Chandler Latteman during the dedication of the Donna Vanier plaque. Reece Turner lays a wreath at the base of the plaque.



Zachary Mazer salutes at the table of honor during Final Roll Call.



Oluwaferanmi Majekodunmi, Nicholas Dimare, Jack Jeffries, Connor Schieffer, and Hilario Suarez steady the garrison flag before it is raised.



Max Duncan is joined by Roy Lawrence for a photo after Max receives the Charlie Berault scholarship.





**Nicholas
Dimare**



**Scott
Dunagan**



**Christian
Ferrera**



**Justin
Gilbert**



**Michael
Meers**



**Caleb
Moscatti**



**Carter
Newby**



**Patrick
Olimna**



**Joshua
Smith**



**Hilario
Suarez**



**Reece
Turner**



**Daniel
Wei**

Class of 2017

diplomas in hand!



**Scott
Hoffman**



**Caleb
Kirkpatrick**



**Jack
Kramer**



**Blake
Masso**



**Eric
Omdahl**



**Carver
Patterson**



**Brennan
Pecora**



**Brodey
Slagle**



**Justin
Wilhelm**



**Brendan
Myrick**



Membership in the elite Blue Beret Club represents the top grade earners in the corps who are also members of the Dean's Honor Roll.

Blue Beret ~ Fourth Quarter

High School



Daniel
Wei



Elton
Duncan



Kody
Sudol

Middle School



Jackson
Forbes



James
Thomas



Nicholas
Rosenthal

Valedictorian



Daniel Wei

Valedictorian is an academic title given in the United States and Philippines to the highest-ranked graduate of the entire graduating class of a specific discipline.

Salutatorian



Carver Patterson

Salutatorian is an academic title given in the United States and Philippines to the second-highest-ranked graduate of the entire graduating class of a specific discipline.

Dean's Honor Roll~ High School ~ Fourth Quarter



Kenneth
Golden

Daniel
Summer

Justin
Gilbert

Caleb
Kirkpatrick



Blase
Whitting

Carver
Patterson

Jackson
Brinn

Eric
Omdahl

ChenHao
Li

Honor Roll ~ High School ~ Fourth Quarter



CheHao
Yu

Christopher
Bergman

Iteoluwakisi
Adekeye

Reece
Turner

James
Ushman

Nathaniel
Stepaniak

Aidan
MacLachlan

Elijah
Blackmon



Blake
Masso

Scott
Hoffman

Oluwatimi
Osunkoya

Charles
Gibbs

Ryan
Turner

Dalton
Thibodeau

James
Peterson

Jesse
Mirelez



Jack
Kramer

Patrick
Olinma

Zachary
Mazer

Brennan
Pecora

Kristopher
Schnedler

Christopher
Reilly-Reed

Honor Roll~ Middle School ~ Fourth Quarter



Jon-Michael
Frazier

Xander
Tamblin

Dawson
Odegard

Jacob
Delay

Reece
Findley

Jake
Downs

Cole
Rautanen

Elton Maximilian Duncan

In the fall of 2016, an extraordinary young man joined the 128th Corps of Cadets. Headmaster D. Dale Browning reported that this young man carried a 4.0 grade point average, spoke three languages, played the piano and was the goalie for his soccer team. Elton Maximilian Duncan, "Max," quickly became a force to be reckoned with. He jumped in with both feet and hit the floor running. Both these cliches only partially describe the impact Max had on the corps.

His goalie duties on the soccer team served to boost the spirits of his team mates. He also joined the basketball team and despite his lack of experience on the court, he displayed an amazing work ethic and a desire to improve.

Max was called upon to play piano for on-campus ceremonies and was quick to agree to any musical requests fielded by Mrs. Stein. When speaking about Max, Stein says, "Max's pleasant demeanor and fabulous musical skills were a welcome addition to the SJMS family."

In the classroom, Max earned the respect of his peers and his instructors by displaying great academic vigor and dedication to detail in his studies.

Duncan also joined Chapel Council and served weekly during the chapel services. His musical talents also added to the beauty of the service as he joined the Praise Band as pianist.

Elton Maximilian Duncan made the most of his opportunity to be a Cadet at St. John's Military School. He was named to the Battalion Staff for the 130th Corps of Cadets and will serve as the S1. We look forward to his contributions to the 130th Corps of Cadets.



Max tells his story.

What were your initial thoughts when you arrived at St. John's last year?

When I first arrived at St. John's, I missed my home. I was in an unfamiliar environment, and I didn't have much time to adjust. However, I soon realized that at St. John's, if you want to excel, you have to put your head down and work hard. If you work hard, you will have countless opportunities and privileges.

Did your attitude change as you progressed through the year?

As I progressed through the year, I began to understand the 'brotherhood' that is widely talked about. I learned to rely on others when I needed help, as well as help those who are weak and need help. In addition, I had two of the best roommates I could have asked for, Connor Schieffer and Kenneth Golden, both of whom helped make my bad days better and my good days great.

What was your most enriching experience as a Cadet?

My most enriching experience as a Cadet was the day I was announced as the Battalion S1 of 130th Corps; in addition, I won the spelling bee on this afternoon. I honestly was so thankful for these accomplishments, as they solidified in me the mentality that if I work hard, I can accomplish anything. And when I mean anything, I mean anything.

What was the most challenging part of the experience?

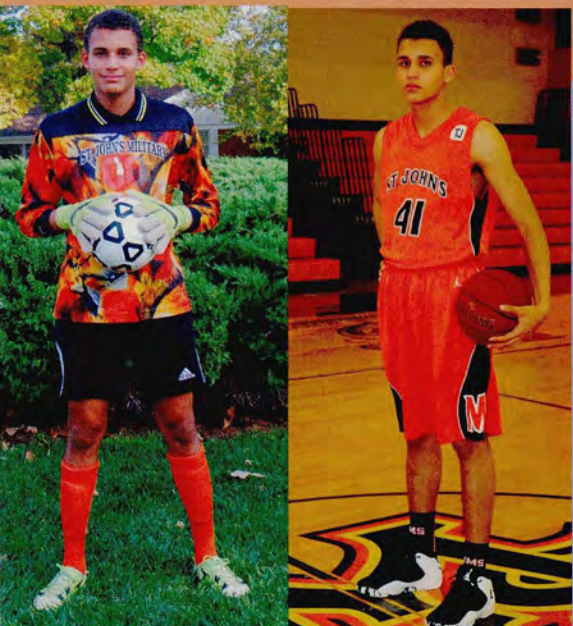
My most challenging experience was letting go of the life I had. I had an amazing soccer team, I had friends, and I had too much freedom. When I arrived at St. John's, I had to let go of all of these, and it was incredibly difficult to adjust. However, with the help of several influential people, especially CPT Young and SGT Toriano, I made it through these challenges.

How do you expect your senior year will progress?

I cannot wait for senior year. I especially look forward to a great season of soccer, basketball, and tennis. While I will be very busy with college applications, I hope to fill my last year of high school with memories, friends, and fun.

Do you have any thoughts about being on Battalion Staff and what you bring to the table?

I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the Battalion Staff. Most members of the Battalion Staff have been at St. John's for three years or more; this will be only my second year. I hope that I will add a fresh, exciting dimension to the leadership of the 130th Corps of Cadets.



“I am eternally grateful for my parents’ decision to send me here. Before I came to St. John’s, I had lofty goals, most specifically to receive an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy. However, during my years at home, I was merely walking towards these goals. My time at St. John’s has spurred me to pursue these goals relentlessly. Before, I was walking; however, now I am running towards them at full speed. I am confident I can achieve even my most selective goals by the work ethic, abilities, and discipline that St. John’s has enabled within me.” Max



Gabriele and Edward, Max’s parents, offer their thoughts!

What were your initial thoughts when you arrived at St. John’s last year?

We were seeking a more structured setting, and Max has always loved the military. The stronger and more traditional moral setting, we believe, is far preferable to the unstructured and lax environment of most high schools today. We also were seeking exposure to Judeo-Christian social norms, which we find typical high schools today do not support or encourage.

When did you decide that St. John’s would be a good fit for Max?

Although there was a great deal of information on your website and in the radio commercial, it wasn’t until we spoke and met with Mr. Browning that we were confident about St. John’s. Mr. Browning assured us that he would watch out for Max. This made us realize that we were safe in sending Max to St. John’s.

How have you felt about your decision?

Despite our initial uncertainty – and missing him despite wanting the best for him – after a couple of months we were surprised to see how quickly and fully Max adapted to St. John’s, and how much he enjoyed being there. Also,

since Max is an “only child,” he truly cherishes the camaraderie that exists at St. John’s.

What are your hopes for Max’s future?

We hope for continued success at St. John’s, and then his admittance to the US Air Force Academy. But, regardless, our deepest hope is that Max develops into a man of integrity, honor, and character that God created him to be, and that Max will be able to recognize the path that God has laid out for him.

Some additional thoughts.

We do believe our son is in a safe environment. Although we do believe the students could be more academically challenged, we have been impressed by St. John’s focus on its true mission of guiding and developing young men as well as its obvious proven record of succeeding in that. St. John’s formula is right and it works.



Leadership chosen for the 130th Corps of Cadets

**Christopher
Reilly-Reed**



BC

**Zachary
Mazer**



XO

**Dalton
Thibodeau**



CSM

**Jack
Jeffries**



SGM

Hometown:
Wichita, KS
Son of: Brenda
Reed
Senior

Hometown:
Castle Rock, CO
Son of: Renee
Boulet
Senior

Hometown:
Sonoma, CA
Son of: Jennifer
Irving and Phil
Thibodeau
Senior

Hometown:
Lonetree, CO
Son of: Cynthia
Jeffries and John
Jeffries
Senior

**Jackson
Brinn**



Alpha CO

Hometown:
Northshore, MI
Son of: Sandra
and Steven Brinn
Junior

**Casey
Darroll**



HHC CO

Hometown:
Beverly Hills, CA
Son of: Tracey
Darroll and
Robert Darroll
Senior

**Brandon
Rucker**



Bravo CO

Hometown:
Salina, KS
Son of: Randi Kirk
John Rucker, and
Aaron Kirk
Senior

Each of these Cadet leaders has a myriad of duties assigned to his position. The **Battalion Commander** must command the corps, set a good example at all times, and is basically responsible for everything the corps does or fails to do. The Battalion Commander must quickly and completely carry out the directives of the Headmaster, President, Commandant, Deputy Commandant, Academic Dean, and Senior Army Instructor. In addition to his duties, he must rely on his staff to help run the corps. The **Executive Officer** is second in command and is responsible for organizing the Battalion Staff and ensure they work as a team. The Executive Officer must also assist the Battalion Commander as needed and assume command of the corps in his absence. The **CSM** must supervise the RAT program and with adult supervision and input, recommend and train RAT drill instructors. He must also function as the primary point of contact for all color guard and other flag details conducted during the school year. In addition to their individual duties, the members of the staff (**S1-5**) should follow the Battalion Commander's guidance, set a positive example for the corps, help supervise the corps, guide company leadership towards success, and support the faculty and staff while placing SJMS and the corps above themselves.

**Max
Duncan**



S1

**Blase
Whitting**



S2

**Nathaniel
Stepaniak**



S3

**Steven
Linville**



S4

**Bryce
Kisner**



S5

Hometown:
Aurora, CO
Son of: Gabriele and
Edward Duncan
Senior

Hometown:
Glen Head, NY
Son of: Janine and
Dave Whitting
Senior

Hometown:
Brighton, CO
Son of: Margaret
And Scott
Stepaniak
Junior

Hometown:
Longmont, CO
Son of: Heath
Linville
Senior

Hometown:
Ludell, KS
Son of: Meghan and
Larry Anderson
Senior

**1st Sgt
Aaron Kirk**



Alpha SMA

**1SG
Stephen Young**



HHC SMA

**1SG Roy
Burch**



Bravo SMA

In the Spotlight

Honorary Colonels

The honorary colonel program at St. John's began many years ago as a way of recognizing individuals who make outstanding contributions to the school. In the west hallway of the Vanier Academic Center, the honorary colonel board displays a photo and plaque of each recipient.



Lance Werber, Director of Facilities, has been at St. John's since 1999. Werber served as a military advisor, a member of the maintenance staff, and in 2006 was promoted to his current position. Lance takes his responsibilities seriously and guides his staff with compassion and humor. The SJMS campus is beautiful throughout the four seasons and rarely a day goes by that the mechanical plant isn't humming like a well-oiled machine.

Terry Plumberg, Director of Alumni, joined the St. John's family in 2000. Since that time, she has built a thriving network of SJMS "Old Boys," created an Old Boy Association (OBA) and continues to serve as a viable resource for "Old Boys" around the world. In addition to her duties as Director of Alumni, Plumberg assists juniors and seniors with their ACT/SAT registrations, their college applications, and is tenacious in her efforts to ensure the Cadets get into the college of their choice.

Debby Edgerton serves as an Administrative Assistant in the admissions department. Edgerton joined the SJMS family as a temporary employee in 2002 and quickly became a valued member of the admissions team. D. Dale Browning said, "If there is anything I need to know about the status of an admission prospect, or any information pertaining to admissions, I go straight to Debby. She always has an immediate answer to my inquiry." Debby works extra hours to ensure her department runs smoothly.

Golden Apple Award



D. Dale Browning, Chris Zerger, Ginger Wooten, and the KAKE TV crew gather after the presentation.



The golden apple award trophy.

A crew from KAKE TV in Wichita, Kansas, visited St. John's Military School to present the Golden Apple Award to longtime SJMS English teacher, Chris Zerger. The KAKE organization has presented over 400 Golden Apple awards to teachers across the state of Kansas. The program recognizes local teachers for the way they motivate and encourage a lifetime of learning.

Zerger received the prestigious Golden Apple trophy provided by Davis-Moore, a car dealership in Wichita, Kansas, and the school received one thousand dollars worth of school supplies provided by Project Teacher, an organization which helps equip teachers to succeed. She was nominated for the award by her colleague and friend CPT Mike Reid, SJMS Senior Military Advisor.

The SJMS family gathered in the library to watch Ms. Zerger receive her award. Cadets, faculty and staff on hand to watch Zerger receive her award cheered loudly when the TV crew made their announcement. Ms. Zerger thanked everyone saying, "Teaching at St. John's for the past 21 years has been a blessing in my life."

Congratulations, Chris!

At Moms in Prayer International, we believe that a mom can be the single greatest force for good in the lives of her children and the children around her. We believe that lives and whole communities are changed forever when moms gather together to pray to the only One who can change a human heart. Moms can make the difference as they reach out to God in prayer- moms just like you.



Four times a year like clockwork an amazing array of goodies shows up on the table in the faculty lounge. Within the baskets and trays of food are inspirational Bible verses meant to encourage and inspire the teaching staff to stay strong in their work. A tireless and generous collection of Salina women belonging to the local Moms in Prayer International group bring homemade goodies baked from the heart and place them on the table amongst decorations matching their holiday theme. The faculty and staff look forward to having the delicious food magically appear, but even more they appreciate the Bible verses and knowing that they are in the prayers and thoughts of women who make it their mission to support our school.

When the St. John's Cadets earned a perfect 100% score during the annual inspection, Brenda McCoy received this message in an e-mail from one of the members of the organization: "We rejoice with you. 100% is amazing. We prayed for each of you on Monday concerning this important event. So proud of all who were involved to make this happen."

The faculty and staff of St. John's is grateful for the prayers and concerns of the Moms in Prayer group and would like to thank each and every member for keeping us and our Cadets in their prayers.

Bless you all.



Suzanne Jordan and Daniel Jones sample the goodies as the table is being prepared. YUM, YUM!

Battalion XO of SJMS 115th Corps
of Cadets and West Point Graduate
Class of 2011

CPT. Nick Dockery ...wins prestigious Nininger Award.

The Award is given to an exemplar of heroic action in battle. In addition to recognizing the recipient for his or her bravery as an individual, the Association regards the recipient as a given year's representative of all West Point-commissioned officers who have heroically led Soldiers in combat.



West Point press release

West Point, NY: The West Point Association of Graduates is pleased to announce that Captain Nicholas "Nick" Dockery, Class of 2011, has been selected to receive the 2017 Alexander Nininger Award for Valor at Arms. The award will be presented on September 28, 2017, at West Point, New York.

Dockery graduated from West Point in 2011 and calls Indianapolis, Indiana his hometown. He is currently an Infantry officer attending the Special Forces Qualification Course at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, the Special Operations Center of Excellence, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Commendation with oak leaf cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Basic Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

In 2012, Captain Dockery deployed as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Light), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado to Kunar Province, Afghanistan. As a member of Task Force Lethal Warrior, Captain Dockery trained and worked with Afghan National Security Forces in the Dewegal Valley and Chowkay District. In September, Captain Dockery's unit was reassigned to the Tagab District in Kapisa Province to work under Task Force War Eagle alongside the French Military. In October, Captain Dockery was wounded in a direct fire engagement from hand grenades and rocket propelled grenades. Captain Dockery stayed in country and finished the deployment as a Platoon Leader.



Upon hearing of CPT. Dockery's award, long-time SJMS Commandant,

George Stelljes said, "Nick who is currently stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC, is a real bad ass hero." Everyone who knew Dockery when he was a Cadet at St. John's remembers a young man with a strong sense of self who was driven to achieve the highest possible academic success and was willing to go the extra mile for his SJMS brothers.

Congratulations, CPT Dockery, from your entire SJMS family.



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Military Field Day gives the companies a chance to score more points towards earning honor company. Team building, relay races, tug-of-war, and company drill add up to an exhausting and eventful day.



Caleb Kirkpatrick and Carter Newby display true grit.



Cameron Ojennes, Kayden Ashby, Chandler Latteman, Nathaniel Stepaniak, and Parker Diehl work together.



The Cadets help Iteoluwakisi Adekeye celebrate his victory.

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