

# THE ACADEMY AT A GLANCE

***Founded***

***1842***

***Motto: Semper Discens: Always Learning***

***Colors: Academy Green & White***

***Nickname: Hilltoppers***

## **History**

St. Johnsbury Academy was founded in 1842 to educate the youth of St. Johnsbury and surrounding towns—and since then has expanded and evolved to serve students from 22 countries, 50 towns, and 17 US States. Since 1971, the Academy has provided a “comprehensive” education by integrating programs in Academics and Career and Technical Education. The Academy has from its founding been a “private” school, independently governed and administered, with a powerful public mission to serve the local rural population and a diverse student body with a superb secondary education.

## **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 learning:

**Character:** To teach good character by modeling compassion, respect, responsibility, and integrity

**Inquiry:** To foster a love for learning by engaging individuals in the pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual self-reliance

**Community:** To encourage each individual to understand his or her relationships, rights, and responsibilities within a community that is itself part of the larger world

## **Academy Facts**

- St Johnsbury Academy is an independent school approved by the State Board of Education
- Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Member of Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE) and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS)
  
- 916 students enrolled for the 2022-23 academic year, with a diverse student body:
  - 728 Day Students (694 public tuition)
  - 188 Boarding Students (120 International, 68 Domestic)
  - Representing 50 communities in VT/NH, 17 states, and 22 countries
  
- Placement: 84%-88% post-secondary, 6%-8% workforce, 2%-3% military
- Daily morning assembly for all students

## **Resources and Programs**

- 27 AP courses offered with potential for college credit, coupled with dual enrollment
- 16 SNHU dual-enrollment courses, CCV, VTC, LSC programs
- 21 language courses
- 15 STEAM courses
- Work based learning: CTE, apprentice-ships, Co-operative education, internships, summer programs
- Flexible pathways partnership with VSC
- On-line courses, Virtual Academy, VTVLC partners
- Capstone and AP Capstone
- 35 Varsity athletic teams open to all students, 57 teams for wide participation
  
- Intramural/club teams
- Unified (special needs) Basketball program
- Art Programs: Theater, Music (inclusive chorus, a capella, jazz band, strings, marching band) Dance, Painting, Drawing, Printing, Pottery, Sculpture, Photography, Digital Design, Video and Filmmaking, Fashion Design
- Summer Programs: Summer Youth Corps (Operation Creation), transition programs (HALO), "Moving Minds and Muscles" (middle school experiential), sports camps- available at no charge

- International Travel Opportunities (w/ financial aid): India, Germany, Japan, Italy, Iceland, France, and Korea
- Participant in “We The People”
- 40 organized clubs, activities, service and citizenship opportunities open to all students, including
  - Affinity groups: LGBTQ+, Black Student Union, Chinese Culture Club, Hispanic Club, Jewish Student Alliance
  - National Honor Society (community service)
  - Math Team
  - Science Olympiad
  - Creative Writing Club
  - Model United Nations
  - Model Congress
  - Chess Team
  - Scholar’s Bowl
  - Arts
  - Culinary Club
  - Student Government and Class Councils
  - Student Diversity Council
  - Student Sustainability Board

## **Access and Equity**

### Institutional/planning measures

- Non-discriminatory, inclusive Admissions: we accept students regardless of disability, socioeconomic status, representation in a protected class; comply with non-discrimination laws as required by State of Vermont
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Faculty and staff Focus Group making recommendations to the Board of Trustees
- Having outside consultant fully assess our policies and practices with an equity lens
- Gender neutral dress code for all students as of 11/21

### Addressing Poverty

- NEK and St Johnsbury School District rural, 28% of children in poverty (more than double Vermont average)
- 71 % from district on FRL, provide universal school meals
- Offer free breakfast, snacks, bagged meals for nights and weekends for high number of food insecure students

- Endowed funds for dental and eye care, clothing, computers, supplies, home internet access, international travel
- Obtained grants to support students struggling with housing insecurity to reside in dormitories

#### Addressing Learning loss post-Covid

- New Literacy Program: Reading and Writing Lab with 3 full-time staff
- New capacity for in-house neurodivergence and learning difference testing
- Expanded Special Services capacity with Orton Gillingham expertise, professional development available to local districts
- Integrating Multi-Tiered System of Support and universal accommodations for general education, training all teaching faculty to differentiate instruction (Jan/23)
- Summer Transition programs (HALO, Operation Creation) open to more students
- 9th grade seminar program focuses on transition to high school for all students
- 67 new 9th graders out of 200 are in remedial math—working with districts to help coordinate curricula

#### Addressing student and community mental health

- Five (5) full time mental Health counselors, three (3) full time nurses to address mental health crisis among adolescents
- EAP and PATH programs for employee wellness
- Educational program open to community addressing Anxiety and Depression
- The Advisor program provides each student with a faculty mentor and places each student in a supportive peer group of eight to ten other students
- Wellness programming at “RecFit” for community