



ST JOHN'S
College

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

December 2020

Dear Freshmen,

Welcome to St. John's College. Here are your first assignments for classes beginning on Monday, February 1, 2021.

SEMINAR: Be prepared to discuss the first six books of *The Iliad*. Please use a translation that has line numbers. (Note: a complete schedule of seminar readings will be posted on the website, and the dean's office will email a copy shortly before you arrive.)

LANGUAGE TUTORIAL: When you arrive on campus, purchase at the bookstore *An Introduction to Ancient Greek* by Mollin and Williamson (4th edition, from Hamilton Books). Read Lesson One, concentrating on pages 2-5. Memorize the Greek alphabet so that when you come to your first language class you can:

- 1) name any letter you see
- 2) write any letter if given its name
- 3) give the sound of any letter
- 4) pronounce the words in the exercise on page 3

MATHEMATICS TUTORIAL: Be prepared to discuss the Definitions, Postulates, and Common Notions in Book I of Euclid's *Elements*. At convocation, you will be presented with Euclid's *Elements* as a gift from the College.

LABORATORY: Be prepared to discuss Theophrastus, "An Inquiry Concerning Plants." This reading is in the first semester manual, *Observing Living Beings*, which is included in the packet of manuals that you will receive at the time of registration. Here is a link to the first assignment: www.sjc.edu/freshman-first-lab-reading.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Macfarland
Dean