



ST JOHN'S
College

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

From the Dean of St. John's College, Annapolis

To aid you in the interpretation of a SJC transcript, please bear in mind the following facts:

The St. John's program is an all-required four-year curriculum based largely on the study and discussion of original sources. Central to the program is the four-year seminar in which philosophical, literary, political, psychological, theological, and historical works seminal to Western thought are read and discussed. For these classes, semester essays are written and oral examinations are held.

The program also includes four years of language and mathematics study, three years of laboratory science, and two years of music.* The languages studied are Greek and French; these serve as the basis for exercises in translation, rhetorical analysis and writing, as well as for reflection on the nature of language itself. Our study of mathematics ranges from Euclid and Ptolemy, through calculus, to non-Euclidean geometry. In laboratory, chemistry, physics, and biology are studied. Music includes the study and discussion of theory and of seminal musical compositions; singing is incorporated as part of this work. For all classes, papers are assigned on a regular basis. Demonstration, translation, and composition round out our core approach to student assessment.

Prior to the class of 2027, the course of study here described has been designated as Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. Beginning with the class of 2027, it is designated as Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Literature, and the Natural Sciences. It is the same course of study in either case and does not reflect a change to the program; the newer degree name is intended to convey more clearly the breadth of the education, and correctly, though unofficially, characterizes the program and degree before the 2027 class year.

Since there are no electives, and no part of the curriculum is ever forgiven, students undergo a broad and rigorous education which does not allow them to choose only those classes that conform to their particular strengths; our students are first and foremost avid learners with the intellectual courage to pursue a wide-ranging curriculum.

Suzy Paalman, Dean
St. John's College, Annapolis MD

* The music program has been revised over time. Some transcripts will show a year and a half to two years of music.