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# THE LION LINE

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Learn the True, Do the Good, Love the Beautiful

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## A Message from the Headmaster Johnson

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! As we move into the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, I hope you are looking forward to finishing this school year LION STRONG. With that said, I want to update you about some activity and upcoming events at St. Johns Classical Academy.

**First Annual SJCA Winter Dinner.** This event is right around the corner! On Friday, January 29th, we will host a dinner to showcase our school to the community as well as raise funds for a gymnasium. Please go to our website to reserve your seating and to pay. I really want many parents to attend this event, so sign up today.

**New construction.** The development of our new playground area continues to progress on the east side of the Academic Building. Once that is completed, you will begin to see construction on the west side of that building as we add more classrooms to meet our school mission of providing an excellent classical education to our scholars.

**New signage on our buildings.** As you pass through the campus (while experiencing our top-notch car line) notice the new signage on our buildings. The signs will allow for quicker reaction of first responders in the event they ever have to react to an emergency on our campus.

**First graduating class next year.** We are so excited to be making plans for our very first graduating class. I have been studying and contemplating their Senior Thesis and realize that this is an "all-in" effort by not only the scholars, but by faculty and parents as well. The Senior Thesis is the culminating event of a classical education, and we plan to make it special.

Thank you for entrusting us to assist you in educating your children. We are so grateful for this opportunity and we are excited about the future of St Johns Classical Academy.

Lion Strong,

Mr. Johnson



## Study is Hard Work: Part One

by Mrs. Maegen Satcher, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction

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One of the benefits of partnering with Hillsdale College's Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI) is the ongoing professional development and support offered by the instructional team. They often recommend books for administrators, teachers, and parents to read. *Study is Hard Work* by William H. Armstrong is one such recommendation BCSI made for parents. You may be familiar with the author as he also wrote the book, *Sounder*, that many of us read in elementary school. In *Study is Hard Work*, Armstrong teaches scholars how they can develop essential study habits and utilize tools that promote success in school. Armstrong (1995) defines study as, "the determined, purposeful processes by means of which we learn" (p. 5). Effective study practices and habits will enable scholars to glean the most from their Classical education.

The intent of this new series of articles in *The Lion Line* is to summarize Armstrong's work in a succinct style that parents can use as a springboard for discussion at home. Armstrong divides his work into three sections (1995, pp. 6-21). In the first section, he reviews the basic requirements that scholars must take responsibility for; in the second section, he reviews practical tools that will assist scholars in studying; in the third section, the study skills to use in different subject areas are outlined. The first two articles in this series will discuss the two most important attributes scholars, themselves, must be responsible for bringing to their studies—learning to listen and desiring to learn. This month, we will examine the process of listening.

Listening is the most demanding skill because it requires external control (Armstrong, 1995). In contrast, reading, writing, and thinking all occur internally; therefore, these processes are much easier. Scholars must develop the ability to intentionally control their minds while listening to a teacher. This effort is the most challenging because scholars' thought processes move much quicker than a teacher can speak. Listening requires intense concentration, attention, and discipline. While in class, scholars have the opportunity to actively practice and improve listening. With regular and continued practice, they will improve their ability to listen. Learning is made much easier when scholars have developed the ability to listen well. Specifically, they will save time studying because teachers often explicitly identify what information scholars need to know and explain how to complete assignments.

### **Armstrong's Tips for Improving Listening (1995, pp. 10-11)**

1. Be ready to listen immediately. Sit up straight, keep your eyes on the teacher, and have your materials ready to begin learning.
2. Stay attentive to everything the teacher says and does. Teachers have spent time preparing the day's lesson. Be respectful and consider how you would feel if you were the teacher. You would want your students to listen. Do not take away from the teacher's ability to teach or from the other students' ability to learn by being distracting in class.
3. Listen for directions. Knowing exactly what to do on your assignments will save time when you are at home studying.
4. Begin to understand each teacher's unique teaching style. Sometimes, teachers will state what they want you to know. Other times, they will outline important information through notes.

5. Pay attention to your own mind. If it starts to wander, stop, and refocus on what the teacher says or does.
6. “Listen critically, thoughtfully, and understandingly” (Armstrong, 1995, p. 11). When you do so, you will be able to ask the teacher for clarification when you do not understand a concept.
7. Remind yourself that you are committed to learning. Convince yourself that you will leave the each class learning something new.

Scholars must develop the ability to listen on their own. These tips will help them to improve. Encourage your scholar to practice and develop their most important learning process—listening. If you are interested in reading *Study is Hard Work*, you can find it by clicking [here](#). Stay tuned for next month’s article. The topic will be on scholars’ desire to learn.

### Reference

Armstrong, W. H. (1995). *Study is hard work* (2nd ed.). David R. Godine.

### Wreaths Across America

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Thank you SJCA families for helping the Interact Club collect \$650 in gift cards and 1,700 food items to donate to the community over the holiday season. Your generosity also donated 62 wreaths to Wreaths Across America to honor our veterans. Thank you, Lions!

## Science Club

This club will expand students’ knowledge on a variety of science topics by conduct experiments and researching the topic of the meeting.

Scholars:

1. Must be in biology or above.
2. Must pay the \$10 admission fee by the second meeting.
3. Must uphold all the virtues.

The first meeting will be held on January 12, 2021 at 3:15 in room 117 in the cafeteria building. There will be a meeting every Tuesday. If you have any questions, ask the club sponsor, Mrs. Weaver.

### Important Dates

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- **Tuesday, January 12th:** Community Information Night at 5:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 15th:** Half Day. The Upper School classes dismiss at 10:45. Lower School classes dismiss at 11:15.
- **Monday, January 18th:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
- **Tuesday, January 19th:** Planning Day, No School
- **Friday, January 29th:** First Annual Winter Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 2nd:** Community Information Night at 5:30 p.m.



ST. JOHNS CLASSICAL ACADEMY  
*First Annual*  
*Winter Dinner*  
SHOWCASE & FUNDRAISING EVENT  
FRIDAY  
JANUARY 29, 2021  
Social & Silent Auction 6:00 PM  
Dinner Served 7:00 PM  
Business Attire Requested

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Register online at [stjca.org](http://stjca.org) by January 20, 2021.

114 Canova Road  
Fleming Island, FL 32003

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## First Semester Exam Schedule: 7th-11th Grade

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### **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

*School Hours: 7:30-2:30*

1<sup>st</sup> 7:30-8:25

2<sup>nd</sup> 8:29-9:19

3<sup>rd</sup> 9:23-10:13

LUNCH 10:18-10:48

4<sup>th</sup> 10:53-11:43

5<sup>th</sup> 11:47-12:37

NO 6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD

7<sup>th</sup> 12:41-2:26 (extended block for exam prep)

### **Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

*School Hours: 7:30-2:30*

**7<sup>th</sup> PERIOD EXAM 7:30-9:00**

1<sup>st</sup> 9:05-10:15 (extended block for exam prep)

LUNCH 10:18-10:48

1<sup>st</sup> 10:50-11:25 (extended block for exam prep)

2<sup>nd</sup> 11:30-1:15 (extended block for exam prep)

3<sup>rd</sup> 1:19-1:34

4<sup>th</sup> 1:38-1:53

5<sup>th</sup> 1:57-2:12

6<sup>th</sup> 2:16-2:28

### **Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

*School Hours: 7:30-12:30 Early Release*

**1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD EXAM 7:30-8:45**

Snack in 1<sup>st</sup> period 8:45-8:50

**2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD EXAM 8:55-10:10**

3<sup>rd</sup> 10:14-11:20 (extended block for exam prep)

4<sup>th</sup> 11:24-12:28 (extended block for exam prep)

\*NO LUNCH THIS DAY

### **Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

*School Hours: 7:30-2:30*

**3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD EXAM 7:30-8:50**

**4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD EXAM 8:55-10:15**

LUNCH 10:18-10:48

5<sup>th</sup> 10:50-12:20 (extended block for exam prep)

6<sup>th</sup> 12:25-1:55 (extended block for exam prep)

2:00-2:30 house meetings

### **Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

*School Hours: Half Day 7:30-10:45*

**5<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD EXAM 7:30-9:05**

**6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD EXAM 9:10-10:45**