

ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JEJU



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ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JEJU



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Cultivating Global Leaders through an Inquiry-Based Curriculum

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju is an international day and boarding school for students in grades Pre-K3 through 12th, located on the island of Jeju in South Korea.

SJA Jeju's curricula and teaching methodologies parallel those of our Vermont USA school (founded 1842) but within the culture and society of the Republic of Korea. Our inquiry-based curriculum and student life programs provide an enriched course of study and a unique boarding experience to Korean and international students.

Each Academy graduate is college-ready, self-reliant, and prepared to start on his or her individual path to success as a problem solver and global thinker.





Head of School's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome you to St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju, the newest addition to the Global Education City. As its first Head of School I am honored at the opportunity to work with a world-class faculty in a state-of-the-art facility.

Our goal is to fuse academics with real-world applications. To this end, our educators have designed innovative curricula that focus on inquiry / project-based learning. We'll engage students by offering a unique *Capstone Intensive Learning Model* that provides numerous opportunities for students to research and present projects that are personally meaningful. Through this we hope to encourage each student to discover his or her passion in life.

In addition, we are delighted to be located on Korea's beautiful island of Jeju and proud of our connection to our home school in Vermont. Founded in 1842, St. Johnsbury Academy is a respected independent secondary school widely recognized as an institution that develops character, academic excellence, and civic awareness in its students.

For over 170 years, our home school has fostered a sense of community that has allowed all its students the opportunity to recognize the interconnectedness of their studies and its influence on the local and global communities.

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju hopes to construct a similar story of achievement by emphasizing the mission statement of our home school: Character, Inquiry, Community. Our entire school community will be committed to the values of respect, compassion, humility, and integrity.

Students will progress to their future colleges and universities ready to pursue their passions with a deep love of learning - prepared to be principled leaders who make a difference in their communities, countries, and the world.

Thank you for visiting our website. I am truly enthused by the opportunities before us this year and in the future. Please accept my personal invitation to join us as we prepare our students for success.

Peter M. Toscano, Ed.D.
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Toscano".

We are SJA Jeju!



Building Community and Inspiring Passion

The tenets of St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju, character, inquiry, and community are integral to our school's educational and student life programs. The goal is to create a community of well rounded students who are compassionate individuals, passionate learners, and global citizens.



Our Mission

Character

We are committed to the values of respect, compassion, integrity, and responsibility. We try everyday to be the best person we can be.

Inquiry

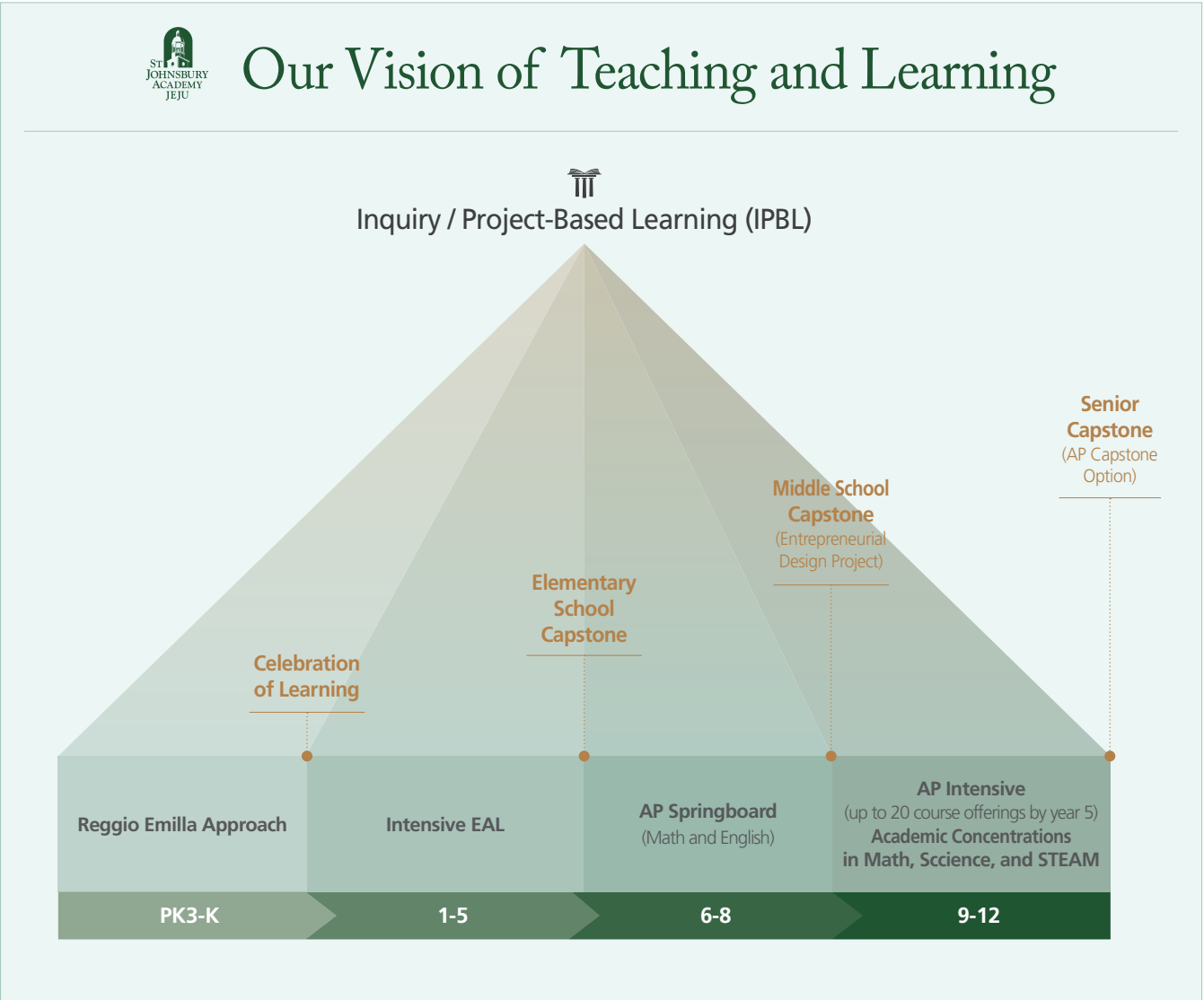
We value expertise, creativity, and opportunities for students to pursue their passion and develop a love for learning.

Community

Each student will come to understand the importance of becoming part of something bigger than him or herself and engaging in their local and global communities.

Student Centered and Inquiry / Project Based Learning (IPBL)

Inquiry / Project Based Learning (IPBL) is a constructivist approach to education in which the overall goal is for students to make meaning out of their own active learning which starts by posing questions, problems or scenarios – rather than simply presenting established facts. Students are directed and guided to explore academic content through their own investigative strategies.



Inquiry / Project - Based Curriculum

From PreK-3 to 12th grade SJA Jeju offers an innovative inquiry, project - based curricula (IPBL). Each unit of learning follows a similar process as students research, discover, and present projects based on their interests. Our *Capstone Intensive Learning Model* then gives students opportunities at the end of each developmental stage to offer Capstones. In addition, each stage is organically interconnected, forming the basic structure of SJA Jeju's curricula and sharing a common thread regarding the processes of investigating and learning.

Student - Centered Bottom-up Education

Teaching at SJA Jeju involves a ‘bottom - up’ approach, which means less lectures and more direct learning and meaningful activities for students. We place great value on a student's individual interests, passion and motivation so that his or her learning is more comprehensive and complete.

Capstone Projects Supports SJA Jeju’s Mission

Our Capstone Projects (Celebration of Learning, Elementary, Middle School and Senior Capstones) are closely aligned with our school mission. While they foster critical thinking, research, and problem solving skills, they also broaden students’ self-awareness and present opportunities for students to become more involved in their school community. They teach students the value of good communication and citizenship.



“I love the dedicated teachers at SJA Jeju who provide my kids with warm support. I also really like that there are lots of opportunities for kids to do the team project. With these experiences, they can learn how to work together from an early age.”

- Parent of 7th & 8th Graders

“So far, my most memorable moment at SJA Jeju was when I first toured the campus back in October 2017. I was impressed by the facilities and the sheer size of the campus. It's like a little university!”

- High School Art Teacher

“Our inquiry-based learning is one of the most important parts at SJA Jeju. It helps you have a deeper and better understanding of the matters that you question.”

- 7th Grader

“SJA Jeju supports students to study what they are interested in. They can be self-directed learners and share their ideas with teachers and other students. I love the quality of the communications between teachers and students at SJA Jeju!”

- Parent of 11th Grader

“It is not only about studying, but it is also about living together. I love the idea of “Community” that SJA Jeju emphasizes as one of the missions of the school.”

- Parent of 2nd & 8th Graders



“Everyday I have the opportunity to watch students learn and grow as both individuals and young adults. Nothing is as rewarding as being a part of a student's intellectual maturation.”

- High School English Teacher



“I love Jeju! It's truly a unique place with its distinct culture central to East Asia; a growing community that is rich in history that is moving fast in innovation and diversity. Being a big city person from NYC, I was worried about adjusting to island life, but I have no regrets as Jeju has lots to offer. Whether it's the community and culture of bustling Jeju City or its idyllic nature of beaches and lush forests, this volcanic island appeals to all types of people.”

- Middle School Counselor/Psychologist



Early Childhood

OVERVIEW

Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kindergarten

Nurturing Curiosity through Play

The SJA Jeju Early Childhood Program is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education. Children are viewed as competent, curious, full of knowledge and potential, and interested in connecting to the world around them.

Teachers observe what their students know instinctively, what they are curious about and what challenges them. These observations are recorded and teachers reflect on developmentally appropriate methods to help children expand their academic and social potentials.

Our Pre-K3 to Kindergarten students (ages 3 to 5) are encouraged to explore their surroundings, to think critically, to learn how to express their ideas, and, perhaps most importantly, to develop an understanding of what it means to belong to and interact with a community.

Using play - centered learning in math, science, social studies, art, cooking, music, and technology. These are the years when our youngest students need a nurturing, warm environment where they feel safe and valued and where they are able to develop their natural curiosity and love for learning.



- The **Reggio Emilia** philosophy (students learn through play)
- Classroom activities to expand academic and social potential
- Students exhibit their gained knowledge in inquiry - based projects
- Natural curiosity and love for learning are encouraged

Elementary School



OVERVIEW

GRADES 1-5

Discovering Dreams

SJA Jeju's Elementary School offers a rich, vibrant program within a supportive and friendly school environment. Our core curriculum (literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies) occurs within the homeroom and is enriched by art, music, drama, physical education, and library. Global citizenship is encouraged through our history and culture studies. Experiential learning, intellectual inquiry, and personal development are the cornerstones of our Elementary School

The Elementary learning program is focused on Science and technology, where students have the opportunity to investigate, explore, experiment, and use engineering practices to allow their learning to come alive.

- EAL (English as an Additional Language) experienced grade level teachers
- LS (Learning Support) age and material appropriate support when needed
- Makerspace projects fostering creativity and exploration
- After - school Activities including options like engineering, coding and yoga



Middle School

OVERVIEW

GRADES 6-8

Realizing Potential

Each student has an individualized way of learning and understanding this fact is key to helping middle school students realize their potential.

Our 6th - 8th grade students are prepared for the rigors of high school through our innovative middle school curricula in math, STEAM, the Humanities, World Language and the Arts. Students are taught to research and demonstrate their understanding of course material and to offer sophisticated analysis from multiple perspectives.

Throughout the Middle School years students increase their academic skills, broaden their self - awareness and become more involved in local and global communities, while learning to understand the complexities of the world around them.

- STEAM Program
- Middle School Capstone (Entrepreneurial Design Project)
- AP Springboard
- Advisory Program for all students
- Middle School After - school Activities (ASAs) including athletics and arts



High School

OVERVIEW

GRADES 9-12

Experience, Expertise, Achievement

Our High School programs are inquiry and project based with less lecture and more student activities to engage students with their learning. Students are challenged to develop critical thinking, high-order reasoning and analysis from different perspectives by actively solving problems through both real world experience and state-of-the-art simulations. The “bottom up” method allows students to build the foundation to their own education.

SJA Jeju’s High School is based on the concept that students learn best when appropriately challenged. Our English Language Arts / Social Studies program combines cutting edge approaches to reading, writing, and literature infused with real-world connections to civics, culture, and history. It also focuses on developing 21st-century skills in research, technology, and media.

We offer each student a rigorous college preparatory program, preparing them for higher education and allowing them to grow intellectually and personally within a community of supportive faculty. We encourage SJA Jeju students to think freely in order to grow as thinkers, researchers, and writers who will succeed in the age of design thinking and innovation.

- Senior Capstone a discipline-specific study for 12th grade students
- Semester exchange program with St. Johnsbury Academy in Vermont
- College Counseling Program
- Specialized Math and STEAM programs
- Advanced Placement classes



Block Schedule

The SJA Jeju Block Schedule allows students to earn 4 credits in each semester (8 credits a year). Course work in certain subject areas can be accelerated, allowing students to achieve high levels of study in academic areas of special interest to them. Students can also take elective courses focusing on subjects such as science, math and art.

AP (Advanced Placement)

The Advanced Placement program of the College Board is offered to students who have demonstrated a superior understanding of the subject matter and have signified their desire to attempt to achieve college credit for courses taken while they are still in high school. Many major colleges and universities, at their discretion, accept advanced placement for credit, recognizing the successful completion of an AP exam.



Elementary School Arts Program

Cultivating Creativity

ES Visual Arts

The art program at SJA Jeju is designed around the internationally recognized “Teaching for Artistic Behavior” (TAB) philosophy which is a choice - based approach to teaching art. SJA Jeju regards individual students as artists and the art program offers students the opportunity to engage personally with their own ideas and interests through the making of art. Choice - based art education supports multiple modes of learning and assessment for the diverse needs of students. Students learn how to develop creative ideas through direct and indirect experiences as artists.

ES Music

Music at SJA Jeju is based on the Orff approach, or “Music for Children,” which is an integrative method that brings a mixture of singing, dancing, acting and the use of percussion instruments into the music classroom and fosters problem solving ability through play. Students study standard notation through recorder and different percussion instruments. They experience music from around the world and learn about orchestral instruments. They compose their own music using both the instruments in the classroom and their laptops and make musical connections to other subjects. This develops confidence, musical talent and creative problem-solving ability.



Middle and High School Arts Program

Nurturing Artistic Expression

Visual Arts

Visual Arts courses students are taught to think and act like artists. Students are taught various artistic expressions and techniques to foster their creative problem solving ability. Students may also choose to explore digital artistic mediums, such as film-making and graphic design. These courses teach students basic software techniques and processes which are utilized in the artistic world while enhancing their creative thinking skills. In addition, students have various experiences brainstorming, editing, exhibiting, and creating multimedia pieces. This all supports a rich understanding of the range of visual concepts.

Music

SJA Jeju Music courses in middle and high school are designed to build performance skills in both Vocal and Instrumental studies at all levels. Skills can be developed through individual instruction as well as ensembles. The focus of the ensembles is Band and Choir. Classes consist of the entry / beginning level, the intermediate level and the advanced level. Students explore music through their instruments and voices in solo, small group and larger ensemble settings. Band students have an opportunity to learn a variety of brass, woodwind and percussion instruments and to collaborate in a Concert Band. Choral students learn vocal practices and experience collaboration and cooperation in Concert Choir.



Drama

The SJA Jeju Middle and High school drama department encourages the exploration of physical movement, imaginative and intellectual thinking, emotions, integration of aesthetics, and social collaboration.

The study of drama can help foster positive self-awareness and help individual students see how they interact in the world. Students develop drama skills, get accustomed to scene studies, create original works and explore the range of theater styles. They learn to communicate and cooperate with each other in the production of small and large performances both in the classroom and the larger community.

Festival of the Arts

The “Festival of the Arts” is a two-day event which showcases student work in visual, performing, and media arts. Students and teachers cultivate enormous goodwill in this community effort. The ‘Artist in Residence’ program invites local and/or international artists for a few weeks to work on campus with students on cooperative projects. The finished projects and demonstrations of the process are presented during the “Festival of the Arts” weekend.

The Performing Arts Center (PAC)

The Performing Arts Center is the art and community hub for SJA Jeju and is located in the heart of our campus. It boasts a 665 seat performance theater, a mini theater, a ‘black box’ (drama room), a band and choir room, private practice rooms and a cafe. Besides performances and art shows students host their high school dances, science projects, sing alongs, and talent shows in these venues.



Athletics

Competition, Collaboration, Communication

Athletics Program

At SJA Jeju, we view sports participation as an extension of the academic program and a dynamic opportunity for learning, growth and development. We offer the "Big 3 Sports" in Korea - basketball, volleyball and soccer in addition to track & field, swimming, golf, tennis, table-tennis and badminton. In addition, SJA Jeju's athletic program emphasizes teamwork, discipline, fun, commitment, responsibility and respect for one's teammates, coaches and opponents.

Field House

State-of-the-Art Facilities

SJA Jeju's spacious field house, alongside the track and field, is at the center of our very active Physical Education Department and Athletics' programs. The field house has a four court gymnasium, 25 meter pool, Fitness Center, and dance and yoga studios. Our Medical Center is also in the Field House and is staffed during the day and sporting events.





Residential Life

The core values of character, inquiry, and community that make SJA Jeju such a unique place to learn are vital to the Residential Life Program. All students are encouraged and challenged to “become part of something bigger than themselves,” and this sense of belonging is an important part of our identity as a school from which all students benefit. Our commitment is to help each resident student become the best person possible. This means providing activities and experiences that promote values of respect, compassion, integrity, and responsibility. Whether your child is helping in a mentoring program, practicing a martial art, learning a new skill or challenging themselves to rock climb, they will be learning to become more than they are and to take pride in their accomplishments.

Learning Respect and Responsibility

“As a captain in the dormitory, I can listen to students’ opinions and find ways to improve the dorm community while developing my leadership skill. This is the best part of living in the dormitory.”

- 7th Grader



Dorms

“I love my dorm life at SJA Jeju! The best part of living in the dorm is that we can be closer to each other by participating in a wide variety of dorm activities. All the students are mentors to me and motivate me to be more passionate.”

- 11th Grader



“The best part of living in the dorm is the evening study. It’s a mandatory studying time and I can get help for my homework and self-study from the teachers living in the campus!”

- 11th Grader

Campus Life & Services



Self Directed Learning: Evening Study Halls and Study Rooms

Students can study either individually or in groups at several places designated for study in the library or the dormitory. There are set evening hours for study halls Sunday to Thursday in the library. All boarding students must attend and these study halls are under the supervision of teachers. Students work on homework and can get help from teachers if needed. Teachers alternate supervision throughout the week, so students can be assisted with tutoring in all subjects.

Weekend Activities

There are a number of weekend activities planned for boarding students such as on campus barbecue parties, movie nights, picnics and field trips (cinema, beach, museums, shopping, etc.).

Medical Center

SJA Jeju's Medical Center has three nurses who are always on duty or call. 24 hours, seven days a week coverage so parents can rest assured their children are cared for and safe. The nurses provide immediate emergency and preventative care to all our students.



Counseling Services

Being a student today is an exciting and rewarding life experience, but with that excitement can come stress, relationship issues, academic difficulties and other concerns. Our counselors are here to help. SJA Jeju has five counsellors (2 for the Elementary School and 3 for the Middle and High Schools).

College Counseling

The College Counseling Office offers students a vast array of resources designed to help them find good matches between themselves and colleges or university. Our experienced college counselor engages our college bound students in individual conferences that are designed to help students reach a greater awareness of who they are and which colleges are their best fit.

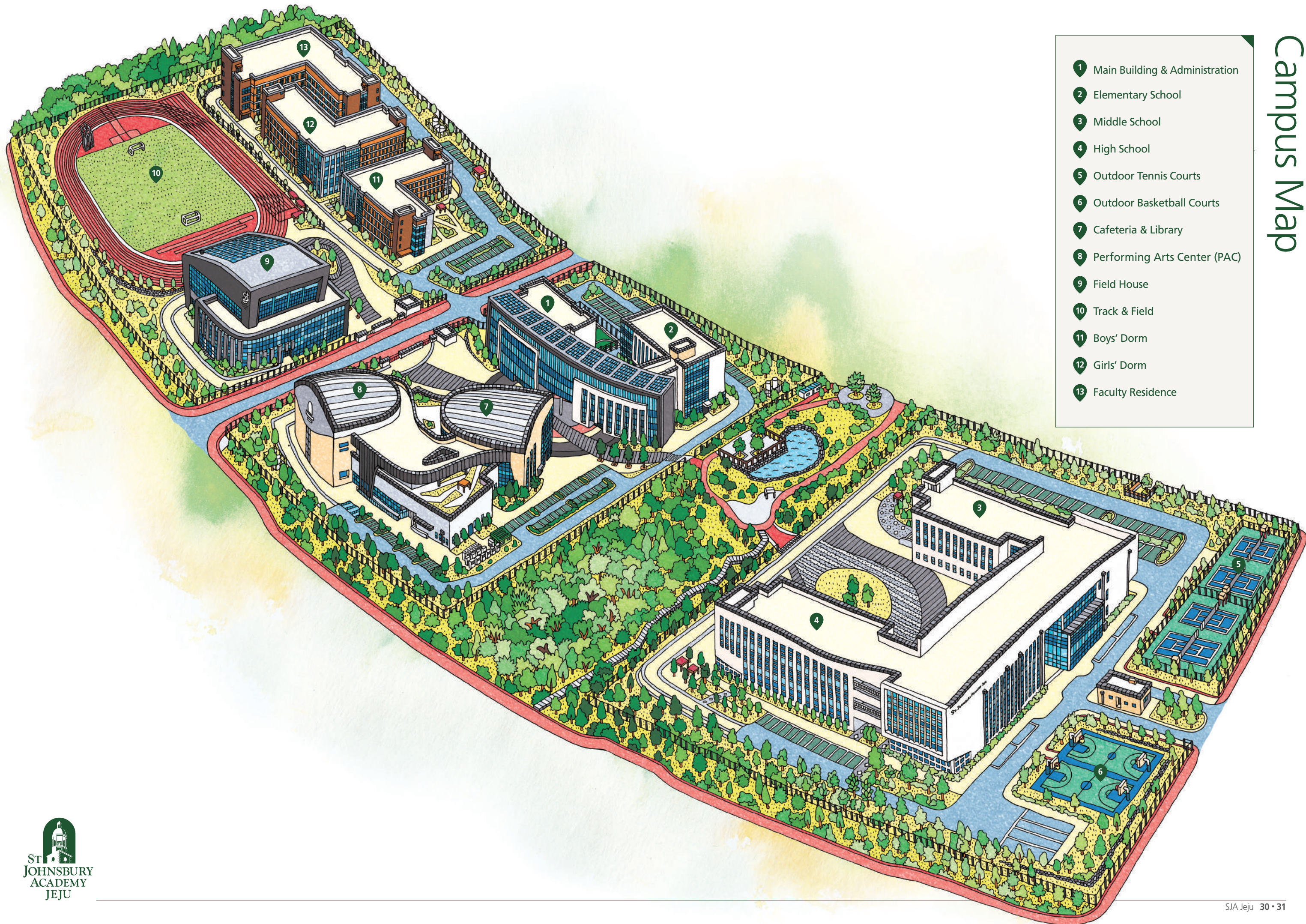
Cafeteria Healthy Food & Varied Menus

We are fortunate to have a committed meal provider in our dinning hall who delivers delicious, nutritious, healthy and varied meals everyday. Menus and other information are made available to students and parents via the mobile phone app.

Library Easy Access to Information Builds Literacy

Each library's collection includes books, periodicals, newspapers, magazines, and databases. Students have easy access to information and they have a variety of formats and subjects to choose from. New books and materials are continuously acquired.

Campus Map



- 1 Main Building & Administration
- 2 Elementary School
- 3 Middle School
- 4 High School
- 5 Outdoor Tennis Courts
- 6 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 7 Cafeteria & Library
- 8 Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- 9 Field House
- 10 Track & Field
- 11 Boys' Dorm
- 12 Girls' Dorm
- 13 Faculty Residence