

Saint John's Preparatory School (Collegeville, Minn.). Office of the Headmaster.

Records, 1919-

SJU Archival Collection 18

41.25 cubic ft. (55 archive boxes and 3 shelves)

Update: 12 June 2020

ABSTRACT: Collection contains records of the Office of the Headmaster of St. John's Preparatory School. There are separate collections for the Office of the Registrar, for General Photographs (including early SJP photos) and SJP Negative Film.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The records of the St. John's Preparatory School Headmaster include minutes, correspondence, reports, directories, student newspapers and yearbooks, newsletters, and financial records. Topics include the Melk study abroad program, accreditation, and events.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY: St. John's Seminary was chartered in 1857 for the "education of youths." It was more popularly called St. John's College. In 1883, the school's official name became St. John's University. Although students could earn academic degrees, the early course of studies was modeled on the German *gymnasium*. In 1872, St. John's began offering a commercial course, in addition to the classical course. The first recognizable high school program, distinct from undergraduate college study, appeared in 1899, and was called the Academic Department. In 1920, elementary school offerings were discontinued. In 1922, the Commercial Department merged into the College Preparatory School. The Preparatory School gained its first division head the same year, when Virgil Michel was named Dean. The Preparatory School was a division of the University until 1951, when organizational restructuring placed the Preparatory School parallel with the University, directly under St. John's Abbey. Girls were first admitted as students in 1973. A middle school program for 7th and 8th grade students was added in 1997, and a 6th grade program was added in 2009. Jon McGee is the first layperson to head the school.

The Heads of St. John's Preparatory School have been:

Cornelius Wittmann, OSB, 1857-1858
Benedict Haindl, OSB, 1858-1862
Othmar Wirtz, OSB, 1862-1865

Benedict Haindl, OSB, 1865-1867
Rupert Seidenbusch, OSB, 1867-1869
Wolfgang Northman, OSB, 1869-1872
Alexius Edelbrock, OSB, 1872-1884
Chrysostom Schreiner, OSB, 1884-1885
Oswald Baran, OSB, 1885-1890
Herman Bergmann, OSB, 1890-1896
Peter Engel, OSB, 1896-1921
Virgil Michel, OSB, 1921-1923 (named Dean in 1923)
Lambert Weckwerth, OSB, 1923-1924
Walter Reger, OSB, 1924-1927
Mark Braun, OSB, 1927-1928
Theodore Krebsbach, OSB, 1928-1936
Arno Gustin, OSB, 1936-1940
Vincent Tegeder, OSB, 1940-1942
Philibert Harrer, OSB, 1942-1946
Alfred Deutsch, OSB, 1946-1952
Stanley Roche, OSB, 1952-1958
Gregory Soukup, OSB, 1958-1972 (title changed from Dean to Headmaster)
James Tingerthal, OSB, 1972-1974
Alan Steichen, OSB, 1974-1980
Linus Ascheman, OSB, 1980-1988
Tom Andert, OSB, 1988-1994
Mark Thamert, OSB, 1994-1998 (title changed in 1995 to President, and the
position of Principal was created, filled initially by Sarah Pruett)
Gordon Tavis, OSB, 1998-2006
Timothy Backous, OSB, 2006-2013
Jonathan Licari, OSB, 2013-2019
Jon McGee, 2019- (Head of School)

ARRANGEMENT: The files are organized alphabetically.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public.

COLLECTION CITATION: This collection should be cited as:

Saint John's Preparatory School (Collegeville, Minn.). Office of the Headmaster.
Records, 1919-. SJU Archival Collection 18. St. John's University Archives,
Collegeville, Minnesota.

ACQUISITION: The collection was transferred to the archives in small sections by a number of donors over the years.

PROCESSING: This collection was initially appraised and processed in January 2000.

SUBJECT TERMS:

- St. John’s Preparatory School (Collegeville, Minn.)
 - St. John’s Preparatory School (Collegeville, Minn.). Headmaster.
 - St. John’s University (Collegeville, Minn.)
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INVENTORY: For contents, search for “SJP Headmaster” in the Inventory List (<http://apps.csbsju.edu/sjuarchives/Inventory.aspx>).
