



## Class of 2023

Christian Academy in Japan  
The 68<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony  
Friday, June 2, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

# Program

Processional .....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March, No. 1</i> Sir Edward William Elgar
* Alma Mater .....	“Hail, Alma Mater!” recorded by the CAJ Concert Choir
Welcome .....	David Mawhinney
Invocation .....	Daniel Sexton
Presentation of Senior Awards .....	Tanya Hall
Senior Address .....	Josh Julian
Commencement Address .....	Shani Mutenda
Presentation of Diplomas and Bibles .....	David Mawhinney
* Scripture Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)	Mrs. Yoriko Yabuki (Japanese) Mr. Jeffery Santulan (Tagalog) Mr. Jungkyu Kim (Korean) Mrs. Lisa Li (Mandarin) Mr. Karunalayam Pramodkumar (Malayalam) Mrs. Evangeline Kindervater (English)
Announcement .....	David Mawhinney

\* Please stand

*The ceremony is being broadcast live over the internet. Photos and the video of the ceremony will be available at*  
<https://www.caj.ac.jp/divisions/hsgraduation/>.

## Hail, Alma Mater!

1. Hail, Alma Mater, raise high thy gold and blue!  
Colors reflecting our loyalty to you.  
Strong and enduring, in Christ you ne'er shall fail.  
Hail, Alma Mater, all proudly we hail!

2. Hail, Alma Mater, beneath the towering pines!  
Christian Academy stands beloved through time.  
God hath ordained thee to blaze a truth-sod trail.  
Hail, Alma Mater, all proudly we hail!

### Senior Music Awards

Sunhye Baik  
Marikah Bedow  
Sofia Iijima  
Sora Inoue  
Hyugo Ishikawa  
Rachel Kang  
Grace Kim  
Eryka Kindervater  
Joel Nakazawa  
Stephen Oue  
Devika Pramod  
Sarah Roberts  
Hikari Shinagawa  
Sho Surai  
Shun Tanaka  
Sophia Taylor  
Caleb Wilkins

### Senior Medallion Awards

Marikah Bedow  
Sora Inoue  
Eryka Kindervater  
Jamie Marshall  
Rika Matsui  
Stephen Oue  
Devika Pramod  
Sho Surai  
Hikari Shinagawa

### Career Knights

#### Roll of Honor

Sunhye Baik  
Kyoungbin Cho  
Rei-AynD'ru Fleming  
Anne Harada  
Sora Inoue  
Hee Jin Kim  
Sojin Kim  
WooJin Kim  
Grace Kim  
Eryka Kindervater  
Sejin Lee  
Jamie Marshall  
Joel Nakazawa  
Stephen Oue  
Devika Pramod  
Sarah Roberts  
Kayla Rood  
Mao Saijo  
Hikari Shinagawa  
Shun Tanaka  
Sophia Taylor  
Yasuko Yabuki

*Please check the CAJ high school handbook on our website for more details about these awards, including past recipients.*

### PTA Departmental Awards

The recipient of each award is an outstanding student who has demonstrated one or more of the following:

- A deep understanding and appreciation for the subject.
- A mature proficiency in the use of the tools of the subject.
- The ability and willingness to contribute to the learning of others.
- The ability to do useful, independent study in the subject.

Art: Hikari Shinagawa

Bible: Joel Nakazawa

Creative Arts: Sojin Kim

English: Shun Tanaka

Mathematics: Kyoungbin Cho

Music: Rachel Kang

Physical Education: Caleb Wilkins

Science: Samuel Clapham

Social Studies: Eryka Kindervater

World Languages: Mao Saijo (Spanish)

## **Fitzgerald Career Athletic Awards**

These awards go to a female and a male senior athlete for the positive impact that they have had on CAJ's athletic program over their entire high school career. The recipients have demonstrated excellence in their achievements in sports and are recognized for their consistent level of leadership. Seniors are compared based on the total number of varsity letters they have received over the course of their time at CAJ, the individual successes they have experienced during their careers, the total number of awards, and the opportunities they have had to emerge as leaders.

Recipients: **Marikah Bedow and Sho Surai**

## **June Habbestad Fine Arts Award**

The Habbestad Fine Arts Award was endowed as a tribute to Ms. June Habbestad, who was active as a sponsor of fine arts activities for many years. Senior students are nominated for this award by either a staff member or fellow student and then submit an application outlining their artistic achievements, which includes a statement on the role they foresee the arts playing in their lives after they leave CAJ.

Recipient: **Hikari Shinagawa**

## **Howard Blair Award**

This award is endowed as a tribute to Mr. Howard Blair, who was active as a teacher of English at CAJ for many years. This award is presented to a senior who has consistently demonstrated talent, dedication and excellence in the study of literature and who has maintained a high standard of communication in writing and speaking. The student is remarkable for developing skills and for presentation abilities.

Recipient: **Rei-AynD'ru Fleming**

## **The Joan Johnston Senior Comprehensives Awards**

These awards honor Joan's lifetime of service, many years of which were dedicated to the care and nurturing of CAJ students, staff and parents. Joan's life exemplified what we desire to train our students to do: serve Japan and the world for Christ. This was something she did one class, one student, one conversation, sometimes one cookie, at a time. The awards are presented to seniors who have engaged with the senior comprehensives process in a manner that has made a lasting impact on their lives and the world around them. These awards are not necessarily selected based on the highest marks but by the passion and manner in which the students seek practical solutions to a significant problem.

Recipients: **Sunhye Baik, Hyugo Ishikawa, Eryka Kindervater, Shun Tanaka, Marin Yoshihara**

## **Les Johnston Biblical Perspective Award**

This award is presented to a student who has shown exceptional ability to apply a biblical perspective across disciplines and issues. This student not only has mastered the academic skills involved, but also has made a personal commitment to embracing a Christian worldview.

Recipient: **Eryka Kindervater**

## **Ron and Carolyn Hardy Discipleship Award**

This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated and expressed a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and who has been involved in discipling others within CAJ or the wider community, encouraging them in their faith journey and helping them move toward where God desires them to be.

Recipient: **Eryka Kindervater**

### **Kidron Valley Award**

The Kidron Valley Award is funded by a donor who desires to assist missionary kids, or MKs, with the costs of going to college. This award, the only one we present that is restricted to MKs, is given to the MK with the highest GPA after the Academic Achievement Awards are presented.

Recipient: **Sophia Taylor**

### **Academic Achievement Awards**

There are so many excellent and hard working scholars at CAJ that these awards are often determined by their academic performance in the last quarter, or even in the final days of their high school careers. They are based on the students' cumulative grade point averages (GPA), calculated from all their grades in high school at CAJ.

Recipients: **Valedictorian: Kayla Rood; Salutatorian: Grace Kim**

### **Alvey Leadership Award**

This award is given to a senior who has demonstrated the highest degree of leadership qualities over his or her high school career. The donor for this award asked the man for whom it is named what leadership trait he thought was most important. This very successful businessman, at the sunset of his life, stated, "Humility." Humble leadership is one of the defining traits to qualify an individual for this award.

Recipient: **Shun Tanaka**

### **Judy Amos Distinguished Service Award**

Mrs. Judy Amos served CAJ as a teacher, board member, board secretary, board vice chair and board chair. This award honors her service, and the recipient, in like manner, is a student who has selflessly served the CAJ community.

Recipient: **Yasuko Yabuki**

### **Samuel Public Speaking Award**

This award is named after a dynamic and exceptionally well-prepared preacher who was also a mentor for others. It should also be noted that the talents of the biblical Samuel included ministry, speaking and teaching.

Recipient: **Josh Julian**

### **CAJ Honor Award**

The criteria for this award, considered the most prestigious of our awards, are as follows: "One member of the senior class who is respected as a leader and outstanding role model of what CAJ desires its students to become spiritually, academically and socially. Some qualities that are exemplified and looked for include: interest in helping others, attitudes of genuine friendliness, a daily lifestyle that brings honor to the Lord, and faithfulness."

Recipient: **Rachel Kang**

Dear Class of 2023,

Although I taught many of you in middle school PE and coached some in basketball (undefeated team—good job!), I *really* got to know your class personality when you were in 10th grade. Through the project you had to do in your Comparative Government class, I was able to see your passion, your sense of justice, your compassion for others, your desire to stand up for those who cannot raise their voice or who have no voice, and your love for your classmates. It has been a joy to see you continue to develop these characteristics, using them to make a difference through CAJ organizations or clubs at school and in the community around us, despite the limitations due to COVID. I'm so glad that you were able to see a bit of normalcy this year before you head out into the world.

In my first year as high school principal, I wrote a letter to the senior class using characters (Harry, Ron, and Hermione) from one of my favorite books, *Harry Potter*. The following year I talked about the hardship I had gone through when my father passed away, and last year I used one of my favorite children's books, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, that I read to my kids and still read to the kindergarten class each year. This year, I thought it was fitting to incorporate manga, which I know many of you enjoy as much as I do.

Some of my conversations with you have started with “What’s your favorite manga?”, a question which is really hard for me to answer. I don’t know if I have an all-time favorite, but I definitely know what *type* of stories I like. Interestingly (or not), it somewhat relates to the books I listed above. Some of the manga I’ve really liked and can re-read and still cry over are: *One Piece*, *Naruto*, *ハイキュー*, *My Hero Academia*, *アオアシ*, and *進撃の巨人*. They all vary in the struggles the characters go through (無個性), the games or tournaments they win or lose (全国大会), the villains they face (ライオンレン連合), or the ultimate goal they are pursuing (俺は海賊王になる!). What those manga have in common is that they are about the relationships between characters and the way they overcome whatever challenges are in front of them, similar to the other books and themes I mentioned. This is what I enjoy: seeing how these characters grow and overcome *together*.

It’s the people you surround yourself with that matter, whether that is where you work, in your community, or in your home. Those relationships you build are what will help you get through life and all that it has to offer. ルフィー can’t do it withoutゾロ; デク can’t do it without 一年A組、ヒナタ can’t do it without 影山 ... and you also can’t do it alone. God called us to be in community with him and with each other. Find good people to surround yourself with: people you can fight with, fight for; work with, work for; love with, love for...that is my prayer for you as you leave this place.

Know that you are always welcome here and in Texas! Looking forward to seeing all the great things you will do in the world!

Congratulations!

**Mrs. Hall**  
**High School Principal**

“May all that is unlived in you blossom into a future graced with love.” —John O’Donohue

## Other Accepting Institutions

*In addition to the institutions our graduates have chosen to attend, the following have accepted one or more of our students*

Abilene Christian University	Gordon College	Temple University
Arizona State University	Grove City College	University of British Columbia
Auburn University	Hope College	University of California, Davis
California Baptist University	Hosei University	University of California, Irvine
California College of the Arts	Iowa State University	University of California, Riverside
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	Maryland Institute College of Art	University of California, San Diego
Capilano University	Michigan State University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Carleton College	New Jersey Institute of Technology	University of Colorado Boulder
Case Western Reserve University	Ohio State University	University of Connecticut
Drexel University	Purdue University	University of Denver
Fordham University	Rollins College	University of Michigan
Geneva College	Rutgers University	University of Warwick
	Simon Fraser University	University of Washington
	Sophia University	Washington State University

## Plans for the Future

Sunhye Baik .....	Boston College	Sejin Lee .....	Waseda University
Wonyoung Bang .....	Waseda University	Siwon Lee .....	Bunka Fashion College
Marikah Bedow .....	Calvin University	Jamie Marshall .....	University of Queensland
Junu Byun .....	undecided	Rika Matsui .....	gap year
Kyoungbin Cho .....	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	Joel Nakazawa .....	Westmont College
Samuel Clapham .....	Tsukuba University	Stephen Oue .....	Kennesaw State University
Sean Common ....	Colorado State University	Sejun Park .....	undecided
Neo-blu Fannin .....	undecided	Devika Pramod .....	Wageningen University
Rei-AynD'ru Fleming ....	New York University	Sarah Roberts .....	International Christian University
Anne Harada .....	Waseda University	Kayla Rood .....	Wheaton College
Juna Huh .....	Pennsylvania State University	Mao Saijo ....	International Christian University
Sofia Iijima .....	Temple University Japan	Cassandra Santulan ..	Temple University Rome
Sora Inoue .....	San Diego State University	Hikari Shinagawa ..	gap year, then Emily Carr University of Art + Design
Hyugo Ishikawa .....	International Christian University	Daniel Smith .....	Liberty University
Yoobin Jang .....	university in Japan or South Korea	Sho Surai .....	university in Canada
Josh Julian .....	Trinity Western University	Kaya Tamaki .....	university in Japan
Rachel Kang .....	Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in St. Joseph's University	Shun Tanaka .....	Cornell University
Hee Jin Kim .....	University of Toronto	Sophia Taylor .....	gap year
Sojin Kim .....	Keio University	Ricky Uematsu .....	University of Auckland
WooJin Kim .....	International Christian University	Caleb Wilkins .....	Asbury University
Grace Kim .....	Keio University	Mia Williams .....	Evangel University
Eryka Kindervater .....	Crown College	Kenny Wu .....	University of Waterloo
		Yasuko Yabuki .....	Trinity Western University
		YeSub Yang .....	Waseda University
		Marin Yoshihara .....	Waseda University

## The Class of 2023

Sunhye Baik\*†  
Wonyoung Bang  
Marikah Bedow  
Junu Byun  
Kyoungbin Cho\*†  
Samuel Clapham  
Sean Common  
Neo-blu Fannin  
Rei-AynD'ru Fleming\*†  
Anne Harada  
Juna Huh  
Sofia Iijima  
Sora Inoue  
Hyugo Ishikawa\*†  
Yoobin Jang  
Josh Julian‡

Rachel Kang\*  
Hee Jin Kim\*†  
Sojin Kim\*‡  
WooJin Kim†  
Grace Kim\*†  
Eryka Kindervater  
Sejin Lee  
Sion Lee  
Jamie Marshall†  
Rika Matsui  
Joel Nakazawa  
Stephen Oue\*  
Sejun Park  
Devika Pramod†  
Sarah Roberts\*  
Kayla Rood†

Mao Saijo\*‡  
Cassandra Santulan\*‡  
Hikari Shinagawa†  
Daniel Smith  
Sho Surai†  
Kaya Tamaki  
Shun Tanaka\*‡  
Sophia Taylor‡  
Ricky Uematsu  
Caleb Wilkins  
Mia Williams\*  
Kenny Wu  
Yasuko Yabuki‡  
YeSub Yang  
Marin Yoshihara\*

\*National Honor Society member †Senior Council member ‡Student Council member

### Senior Homeroom Teachers

Shani Mutenda, Ryan Potter (’98), Morris Yaegashi (’98)

### Senior Comprehensives Shepherds

Tanya Hall (’91), Keith Kelleth, David Marshall, Patti Matanza, David Mawhinney,  
Tom McGlothlin, Morris Yaegashi (’98)

### Administration

David Mawhinney (Head of School)  
Tanya Hall (’91) (High School Principal)  
Winnie Langelaar (Middle School Principal)  
Jean Hino (Elementary School Principal)  
Jacqueline Willson (’84) (Director of School  
Support Services)

Bryan Lewis (Business Manager)  
Pam Kumate (Human Resources Manager)  
Nathaniel Rudd (Information Technology Director)  
David Marshall (Director of Teaching and Learning)  
Stephen Willson (Facilities Manager)

### Board of Directors

Daniel Sexton, OMS, Chair  
Jeremy Seminoff, Vice Chair (*Educator*)  
Tiffany Neufeld, SEND, Vice Chair of Finance  
Grant Buchholtz, ECC, Secretary  
Matt Jansson, TEAM  
David Mawhinney (*Head of School*)  
Seita Sakaguchi  
Anne Marie Smoker, CRJM  
Greg Swenson, JVenture

### Board of Councilors

Jay Greer, CRJM  
Hydi Peterson, ECC  
Heidi Skipper, JVenture  
Keiko Sexton, OMS  
Jim May, SEND  
Kathy Trim, TEAM  
Josh Matsumaru  
Mark Roberts  
Debbie Umipig-Julian  
Philip Foxwell (*Alumni*)  
Poppy Roberts (*Educator*)  
Hiroaki Tada (*Staff*)