



Christian Academy in Japan
69th Commencement Ceremony

Class of 2024

Friday, May 31, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Program

Processional	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March, No. 1</i> Sir Edward William Elgar
* Alma Mater	“Hail, Alma Mater!” led by our Senior Choir
Welcome	David Mawhinney
Invocation	Daniel Sexton
Presentation of Senior Awards	Tyrone Fambro
Senior Address	Marcus Hershberger
Commencement Address	Keith Kelleth
Presentation of Diplomas and Bibles	David Mawhinney
* Scripture Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)	Mrs. Noriko Kato (Japanese) Mr. Roberto Hayashi (Portuguese) Mrs. Sheila Jean Ang (Tagalog) Mr. Joonpyo Park (Korean) Mr. Jeff Loomis (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://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

Soo Min Cho
Kaia Dishner
Minjun Kim
Esther Kudo
W. Kade Loomis
Joanna May
Elliot McKay
Eri Noguchi
Charlotte Oguro
Jahnvi Paramata
YoungJun Ryu
Kosuke Sumihiro
Mana Tsuruta
Ezekiel Wilson

Senior Athletic Awards

Isabelle Marie Ang
Joe Byrd
Christopher Kinoshita
Eastin Lowther
John Sakaguchi
Ashlie Sawka

Career Knights

Roll of Honor

Joe Byrd
Kaia Dishner
Spencer Eisley
Marcus Hershberger
Chajah Kato
Christopher Kinoshita
YunSeo Lim
Eastin Lowther
Joanna May
Elliot McKay
Eri Noguchi
YoungJun Ryu
Kosuke Sumihiro
Yukari Takamizawa
Mana Tsuruta

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Kidron Valley Award

The Kidron Valley Award is funded by a donor who desires to assist missionary kids (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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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."

Please check the CAJ High School Handbook on our website for more details about these awards, including past recipients.

Dear Class of 2024,

In my final message to you I want to share this journey of the Apostle Paul as he faced a dangerous storm on his way to meet Caesar.

Due to the storm, the ship was wrecked, and the passengers, including Paul, had to abandon ship. Despite the challenging circumstances, Paul was reassured by an angel the night before the incident, that God would guide him safely to his destination.

As you reflect on this story, I want you to consider the different approaches taken by the passengers to reach safety. Some dove in and swam, showing leadership and determination like trailblazers. Others surfed the waves with boards, defying the natural elements while displaying creativity and adaptability. Lastly, there were those who clung to broken pieces of the ship, symbolizing survival through resilience and sheer will. The lesson here is that despite facing adversity, each of them found their own way to make it through.

Just like Paul and the passengers in the story, each of you have the strength and faith to overcome challenges and reach your destiny. Trust in yourself, have faith in God, and as you navigate your next academic and personal journeys, remember that success comes in various forms. Whether you lead the way, take creative routes, or are forced to take a path that is less traveled, embrace your unique journey and remember, no matter how you choose to weather the storm, or whatever road you decide to take, believe you will make it through.

Sincerely,

Coach Fambro
High School Principal

“He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.” Acts 27:43-44

Plans for the Future

Fuka Abe	undecided	Esther Kudo	Waseda University
Nathan Abels	Wheaton College	YunSeo Lim	Waseda University
Isabelle Marie Ang	International Christian University	W. Kade Loomis	Ouachita Baptist University
Madeline Bae	Wheaton College	Eastin Lowther	Boston University
Joe Byrd	Wheaton College	Ryosei Maekawa	Waseda University
Soo Min Cho	University of Minnesota - Twin Cities	Joanna May	Cairn University
Kaia Dishner	George Fox University	Elliot McKay	undecided
Spencer Eisley	University of St. Thomas	Eri Noguchi	Waseda University
Natsumi Ekanayaka ...	Stony Brook University	Miho Ogawa	Temple University - Japan
Ayana Hanatani	undecided	Charlotte Oguro	Dallas Baptist University
Taizo Harada	Lehigh University	Jahnavi Paramata	undecided
Rebecca Hayashi	gap year	Sunwoo Park	Waseda University
Marcus Hershberger	Wheaton College	YoungJun Ryu	Waseda University
Jikang Hyun	New York University - Shanghai	John Sakaguchi	Westmont College
Makishi Kanei	Sophia University	Ashlie Sawka	gap year
Chajah Kato	International Christian University	Tryphena Sexton	Cloud County Community College
Minjun Kim	Waseda University	Kosuke Sumihiro	The University of British Columbia
Christopher Kinoshita	University of California - Los Angeles	Leon Suzuki	undecided
JangGun Ko	Sophia University	Yukari Takamizawa ..	Northwestern University
		Mana Tsuruta	Harvard University
		Ezekiel Zelaya Wilson	Concordia College

The Class of 2024

Fuka Abe
Nathan Long Abels
Isabelle Marie Dodson Ang[†]
Madeline Sooyun Bae[†]
Joe Christopher Byrd
Soo Min Cho
Kaia Corinne Dishner*
Spencer Kazuki Easley[†]
Ekanayaka Mudiyansele
Natsumi Briana Ekanayaka
Ayana Hanatani
Taizo Harada
Rebecca Hote Hayashi[†]
Marcus Christopher
Hershberger[†]

Jikang Hyun
Makishi Kanei
Chajah Kato*
Minjun Kim[†]
Christopher Try Kinoshita* ‡
JangGun Ko
Esther Kudo[†]
YunSeo Lim*[†]
William Kade Loomis[‡]
Eastin Athelas Lowther
Ryosei Maekawa
Joanna Joy May*
Elliot Bryce McKay*

Eri Noguchi*
Miho Ogawa
Charlotte Lika Oguro
Jahnavi Paramata
Sunwoo Park[†]
YoungJun Ryu
John Kotaro Sakaguchi
Ashlie Maya Sawka
Tryphena Lila Sexton
Kosuke Sumihiro
Leon Suzuki[†]
Yukari Takamizawa
Mana Tsuruta*[‡]
Ezekiel Zelaya Wilson

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

Senior Homeroom Teachers

Matt Lindsey, Ryan Potter (‘98), Morris Yaegashi (‘98)

Senior Comprehensives Shepherds

Tyrone Fambro, Keith Kelleth, Megan LaPoint, Patti Matanza, David Mawhinney,
Nelle Potter, Morris Yaegashi (‘98)

Leadership Team

David Mawhinney (Head of School)
Tyrone Fambro (High School Principal)
Renee Van Druff (Middle School Principal)
Jean Hino (Elementary School Principal)
Jacqueline Willson (‘84) (Director of Parallel
Educational Services)

Selwyn Chua (Business Manager)
Pamela Kumate (Human Resources Manager)
Nathaniel Rudd (Information Technology Director)
Marie Wahl (Director of Advancement)
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
Nick Petkoff, TEAM
David Mawhinney (*Head of School*)
Seita Sakaguchi
Anne Marie Smoker, CRJM
Greg Swenson, JVenture
Taizo Morimoto (*Supervisor Auditor*)
Mark Bedow (*Supervisor Auditor*)

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*)