



St. John's Academy Spotlight

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The History Continues

St. John's Academy (SJA) is steeped in history. Originally built as a hotel in 1920, it then became the Strathcona Lodge School for Girls in 1928. After 51 years the school closed in 1979, but many memories and some buildings remain. The gymnasium is the oldest building on the site and can be observed in the centre of both photos. Though built for the girl's school, it is still used for athletics today.

There are still those in the community that remember the days when the "boys" would row over to meet-up in secret "with the girls" along hidden pockets of the waterfront. Since then, the site has transitioned between a few schools: School of Bahá'í (Maxwell School), Dwight School, Brooks School, and in 2019 we became St. John's Academy (SJA).

Looking forward, it's important to the leadership of St. John's Academy to respect the history of the site and to continue the legacy started in 1928. We believe bringing local and international students together offers our students the best growth



Strathcona Lodge School for Girls
Photograph credit: Shawnigan Lake Museum



St. John's Academy campus, 2022
Photographer: Josh Hart

and learning opportunities. We currently have 150 local students and 40 boarding students from 7 countries at the school.

The school's educational approach is unique due to offering the International Baccalaureate (IB)



program. This inquiry-based program provides a challenging, inclusive, and internationally-minded education. Our graduates are life-long learners and are sought after by universities around the world.

The school is blessed and proud to be part of the Shawnigan Lake community. Nestled against the lake, we are committed to investing in the school grounds and in the Shawnigan Lake community. Our students are encouraged to be active in the community and be great ambassadors for the IB program and SJA. Thank you for almost 100 years of our shared history together.

For a tour, please contact:

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