



Benedictine Bits

Saint John's Preparatory School: Yesterday and Today



The monks of Saint John's Abbey founded Saint John's Preparatory School in 1857 and is Minnesota's oldest, continuously run high school. However, it wasn't always on the hill overlooking Lake Sagatagan. The school was originally housed in the Quadrangle, but increased enrollment and lack of space led to the construction of the current facility in the fall of 1961. Historically, both administration and faculty roles were fulfilled by members of the monastic community. In fact, until 2019 the head of school position was always held by a vowed Benedictine. Nevertheless, the mission remains focused on community, integrity, excellence, and spiritual growth to the students it serves from 14 countries and five states.