

KNIGHTLINES

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Giving Back with a Purpose

BECKERICH '91 ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIPS TO ADVANCE SCIENCE

Mike Beckerich '91, a former SJR board member, had been disconnected from the school, focused on raising his three daughters and growing his business, York Analytical Laboratories.

But in 2022, he reengaged in the hopes of "paying it forward" and keeping the tradition strong and vibrant for new Green Knights.

"Since I graduated in 1991, life has taken many turns. Now at 49 years old as the father of three daughters and the head of York, life is full and busy," he explained. "But more than any other stop on my life's journey, I am often reminded of the great lessons about teamwork and perseverance I learned from my time at SJR."

Beckerich had lunch with Tony Karcich in the Advancement Office and had a specific idea in mind. He wanted to connect students with his lab work, to provide opportunity and education for the future generation.



Advancing science is something I can get behind long term.

Mike Beckerich '91

"My goal was to give back to St. Joe's and to fuel the next generation of environmental chemists," Beckerich said. He created a four-year scholarship for two outstanding science students in the Class of 2026. Jayden Baldwin of Mahwah is a Donnelly Scholar, who excelled with a 98 in honors biology for the first marking period. His quarterly project focused on the morality of parent choice in a baby's genetic makeup.

Griffin Buntzen of West Milford also managed an 'A' in Mrs. Danielle Nathan's biology class, writing about the pros and cons of offshore drilling for his quarterly project.

"Both boys show a very strong interest in science, stay on task in the classroom, and do not hesitate to help others," explained Nathan.

Beckerich attended Villanova University on a baseball scholarship and held a variety of jobs in different industries after college. Now, as the President and CEO of York, and a member of St. Ann's Parish in Nyack, he takes a broad view on the future of science and Catholic education.

"We need chemists – environmental chemists. If I can find good kids with ambition and good families and they need some financial support, I'm all in."

York has labs in Queens, Stratford, Newton, and Paterson with corporate offices in Nyack. It works with Villanova, Fairfield, Southern Connecticut State, and Bridgeport Universities, and now, Saint Joseph Regional High School.

"It is important to me that SJR continues to thrive. I look forward to working with the faculty and students and giving them access to a world-class environmental laboratory."