



[The Grant Legacy Leadership Program](#)

In **December 2023**, the second year of The Grant Legacy Leadership Program at St. Albans concluded, marking another successful milestone. This program, tailored for Form V and VI students, aims to cultivate personal, leadership, and life skills through a nine-module, nine-week online course presented by the nonprofit organization Major Minor Global Youth Forum (MMGYF). The program serves as an enriching opportunity for young leaders to uncover and nurture their strengths, preparing them for future endeavors in higher education or the professional world, all while instilling the essential values and intricacies of leadership. The curriculum covers a spectrum of leadership skills, including organizational proficiency, teamwork and relationship cultivation, financial literacy, emotional intelligence, problem-solving, and decision-making. Importantly, students are empowered to recognize that leadership manifests in many walks of life, fostering a sense of self-discovery and empowerment among participants.

Tracy Grant, CEO of MMGYF, and Ms. Lynn (Grant) Blades, the visionary behind the Grant Legacy Leadership Program, are the daughters of Skip Grant, the namesake of the Skip Grant Program. Their dedication builds upon his legacy and his fundamental belief that every student, regardless of background, deserves the chance to realize their full potential. This ethos forms the cornerstone of the Grant Legacy Leadership Program, where students are encouraged to challenge and refine their understanding of leadership while exploring the qualities of impactful leaders in contemporary society.

The 2023 Cohort of the Grant Leadership Legacy Program consisted of a total of 17 students in Form V & Form VI. The students started the nine weekly sessions in in early October and

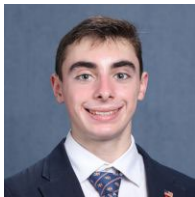
concluded prior to Winter Break. The cohort of students raved about their individual experience in the program and got a first-hand opportunity in and outside of the classroom to put their leadership training and skills to the test. Here are four participants sharing their perspective and feedback on the program.



Christian Weaver '25

Q: *What is the purpose of the Grant Legacy Leadership Program?*

A: The Grant Legacy Leadership Program sought to instill in each member useful pieces of advice that would foster the growth of our potential as future, and current, leaders. These nuggets of wisdom were split into nine lessons, each at a reasonable one-hour length. The program highlighted that a leader does not need a special position or specific personality; instead, we must embrace our authentic character and lead in a manner that best utilizes that identity. Iliana Alvarez, the leader of our seminars, was intentional, and ultimately successful, in reaching this goal. From our first Zoom meeting, we filled out a personality test to help us better understand who we are. The results indicated areas in which we were strong and others where we needed improvement. Although it is also important to build ourselves up in the areas we struggle with, this class focused on how we could use our natural gifts to make an immediate positive impact in our communities. Through all nine seminars, the Grant Legacy Leadership Program assisted us in unlocking our leadership potential through its unique focus on leveraging individuality and practical application.



Evan Virtue '25

Q: *What did you find as the key takeaways of the Grant Legacy Leadership Program & how will these benefit you in/outside of school?*

A: Every week of the Grant Legacy Leadership Program, students were taught thoughtful and well-crafted lessons focused on ingraining valuable leadership skills. At the onset of the program, I was unaware of the multitude of strategies strong leadership employs. I believed leadership only applied to strong-willed, likable, compelling people, but through the Grant Legacy Leadership Program, I discovered many unique facets of leadership, which can be found within everyone. The program discussed understanding personal biases, building emotional intelligence, being an ally, and managing money. These lessons were not only engaging and thought provoking, but they also led me to form new habits and reflect on my own personal approach to leadership. I will rely on the expertise I gained from the Grant Legacy Leadership Program to guide me as I make confident life decisions.



Cole Sather '25

Q: *What did you find as the key takeaways of the Grant Legacy Leadership Program & how will these benefit you in/outside of school?*

A: Participating in a leadership training course was a transformative experience for me. I gained priceless skills throughout the course, including some highlights of learning decision-making, teamwork, and communication—all necessary for efficient leadership. I applied these tactics by becoming a better leader on my sports team by actively listening to teammates, rallying them during challenging moments, and making quick, informed decisions during games. As a result, I was able to lead by example and contribute positively to our team's success both on and off the field. I was also able to apply these ideas in practical settings through participation in various interactive exercises and conversations, which helped me better comprehend their practical consequences.



Thomas Duckenfield '25

Q: *Why should current or future STA students sign up and participate in this program?*

A: Being a leader is foundational to being successful. Being a leader does not have to mean being the CEO of a fortune 500 company or the captain of a sports team. In fact, you can be a leader in everything you do. Effective leadership entails strong communication skills, connection with the community, teamwork, and self-mastery. The Grant Legacy Leadership program teaches you how to gain and improve these skills in weekly one-hour sessions. Through interactive presentations, real life scenarios, and concrete exercises, you can learn to do things like budget your finances, use body language to your advantage, and set realistic, attainable goals. The Grant Legacy Leadership Program helps you develop what it takes to find achievement in all your endeavors in high school and beyond, not only in the workplace but also in everyday interactions. Having completed the curriculum, I can safely say that it has helped me become a better leader and a better person. I would encourage all students to sign up for the program in the future.

We look forward to another great cohort next Fall participating in this unique and valuable program helping to continue to shape the future leaders of St. Albans School.

For more information regarding Major Minor Global Youth Forum and Lynn (Grant) Blades, please visit: www.major-minor.org & <https://lynnblades.com/>.



A Few Testimonials

Grant Leadership Program

Saint Albans School Washington, DC Class '22

"The Grant Legacy Leadership Program has helped me build a strong foundation (spanning from emotional intelligence to money management skills) for when I graduate from St. Albans. With this program under my belt, I feel far more prepared for college and the workplace." (Jack Thomas '23)

"Through the Grant Legacy Leadership Program, I have learned new leadership tactics I can use to help my own school community at St. Albans. The most intriguing thing I learned so far was about financial management skills as I begin college next fall." (Marton Sharpe '23)

"The Grant Legacy Leadership Program has a clear, succinct, and highly applicable curriculum. We cover relevant skills that are rarely covered in the classroom; not only the qualities of a good leader but the qualities of a well-rounded human being. I hope to use the skills we have covered in this program to guide me as I pursue college next year." **(John Rhee ' 23)**

"Going into the program, I did not know what to expect as leadership can be defined in many ways. However, the life lessons I took away from these meetings were very beneficial, varying from how to be more confident to managing money wisely. Through the short, weekly meetings, we learned how to be better people in every facet of life, thus being able to lead by example." **(Aryaman Lall ' 24)**

"I learned how important patience is when taking up a leadership position and why you need to practice self-awareness before trying to instruct others." **(Jack Zamer ' 24)**

"Grant Legacy Leadership Program has offered me important lessons about my life after high school. I particularly enjoyed the lessons about financial management and how to be a better leader. " **(Jack Verdery ' 24)**