

**PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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## **St. James Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Earned Character Award**

Solana Beach, CA: **St. James Academy** in Solana Beach is proud to announce that for the second year in a row, one of their students has won the **University of San Diego *Character Matters*** Essay Contest. **Rex Hammock**, in eighth grade at the academy, took first prize in the middle school division. Last year an academy student, **Patrice Nguyen**, won the elementary division. The ***Character Matters*** Essay Contest provides a platform for insightful classroom discussion and students' personal reflections on their experiences that foster one or more of USD's Character Development Center's 10 Badges of Character—respect, responsibility, compassion, courage, perseverance, trust, honesty, gratitude, self-discipline, and citizenship. This essay contest offers students an opportunity for conscious reflection and writing about these character traits. Rex was the recipient of \$125 check and a plaque for his winning essay.

St. James Academy is a K-8 elementary school serving the North County communities of Solana Beach, Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, Carlsbad and San Marcos. St. James Academy is part of the St. James Catholic Community, which includes St. James Church and St. Leo's Mission. For more information, go to [www.saintjamesacademy.com](http://www.saintjamesacademy.com) or call 858.755.1777.

Attached photo is of award winner Rex Hammock.

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