



VOLUME IV ISSUE XI

October 14, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATE-OF-THE-SCHOOL

Thank you to those parents, new and old, who joined me for the State-of-the-School address on Wednesday evening. For those unable to attend, here are the highlights for you.

Change in Leadership Model

John Paul II Catholic School has received permission from Bishop Fabre to change to a president-principal leadership model. It is estimated that over 70% of Catholic high schools across the country now employ this model of governance. The primary reason for this change is that Catholic high schools are not only educational institutions, but businesses as well. Unlike parish schools, where there is an administrator and support staff, JPII is more like an independent school without this support. While the diocese provides some support, our school must ensure that finances, marketing, enrollment, and facilities are properly administered to create a balanced operating budget and long-term financial viability. Because JPII is growing rapidly and planning a major campus expansion project and capital campaign, it is critical for us to move to this model now. This change will become effective Monday, October 17.

What this means in practice is that I have been appointed to the role of president and Mrs. Heather Rembold will become JPII's 5th principal. This change is actually very subtle as Mrs. Rembold, in her role as assistant principal for academics, has already been performing many of the responsibilities of a high school principal. The biggest change will be that the supervision and evaluation of teachers now falls under her domain. From our school community perspective, you will not notice much of a difference. All academic and student issues should be directed to Mrs. Rembold. I will continue to handle all finance, fundraising, marketing, admissions, and facilities. Essentially day-to-day operations will be Mrs. Rembold's responsibility. Big picture will be mine. Ultimately, I am responsible for everything as Mrs. Rembold still reports to me. Students should notice little to no difference with this change.

Tuition for 2023-2024 School Year Announced

The Advisory Council has approved a tuition increase for next year. The high school tuition will increase by \$875, or 6%. Middle school tuition will be \$13,600. All families who are participating members of one of the Beaufort Deanery parishes will receive a \$1,500 discount per student. The \$500 sibling discount for two or more students from the same family remains in effect. We will continue to offer over \$600,000 in tuition assistance and scholarships, keeping our school affordable for many families.

The rationale for the increase is as follows. One, inflation has impacted our ability to fairly compensate our teachers and staff. Our salary increase this year was only 2%. Inflation has been running well above that number. Beaufort County Public Schools announced a significant increase for teachers in July, however we had already set our budget and tuition by then so we have some catching up to do. We endeavor to compensate our teachers at least 90% of the public school salary scale. JPII teachers are among the hardest working anywhere and deserve to be fairly compensated. The second reason is that while our operating budget is balanced for the first time in the school's history, this does not include debt. The financial goal has always been to fully pay principal and interest as part of operating costs. Right now, the diocese pays the debt. The third reason is the end of EANS funding. This grant program, initiated two years ago as part of COVID stimulus, is coming to an end in July. These funds not only pay for the lease of the two-classroom modular, but for three critical positions. Those positions, two special educators and a counselor, will need to be absorbed into the budget now as well as the lease.

Despite the increase, we remain the best private school deal in the Lowcountry. Our tuition, when compared to the tuition and fees of our private school competitors, is below the average, yet the program we offer is superior. The average high school cost (tuition and fees) of our local private school competitors was \$14,500. So we were right at the average, however JPII is anything but an average school. The middle school average cost this year was \$13,500 so we are well below the average cost there.

Enrollment is Now Open

We have opened applications for new students and re-enrollment for current students. This is earlier than ever before. The reason is simply the demand. With so many families interested in private education now, as well as the continuing growth of our area, we need to be sure we have room for all our current students. Families should have received an email with re-enrollment instructions. Remember, all current families must **re-enroll no later than February 1, 2023** to reserve their spot.

Other Important Changes

- Tuition Assistant applications are **due by January 1**. Current recipients must apply to be eligible. You only need your 2021 federal tax return as documentation so there's no need to delay. All aid recipients must apply each year, with the exception of Promise Scholars.
- Rising 9th graders are eligible for merit-based scholarships. More information to follow on how to qualify.

- The re-enrollment deposit is now **\$500 per student**. Previously it was per family. This deposit is due by February 1. New students will be required to pay \$1,000. This puts JPPI closer in line with our competitors. Deposits are not a fee. They go towards 23-24 tuition.
- The **monthly payment plan is now 11-months**, July-May. All other payment plans remain as is.

Please pay careful attention to the following dates:

- **December 1** – early admissions deadline for new students, including siblings and Catholic feeder school students
- **January 1** – application deadline for tuition assistance
- **February 1** – deposit due for all students, new and current

DAY OF SERVICE IS NEXT FRIDAY

We are quickly approaching our Annual **JPPI Day of Service scheduled for Friday, October 21st**. With SERVICE as the starting point of our S.H.I.E.L.D. values, we made the decision a few years ago to emphasize the importance of living our lives centered on caring for our community on the feast day of our patron, Saint John Paul II. As we prepare to celebrate the life and ministry of Pope John Paul II, we remember these words, "...we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son Jesus." And there is no better way to become the image of Jesus Christ than through service to our community.

Our Day of Service will begin with Mass and then students will be "sent forth" to their projects. Our Middle School students will remain on our JPPI campus, our 9th and 10th Grade students will go off campus to our local parishes and missions, and our 11th and 12th Grade students will go off campus to assist with other community-based projects. Dismissal is 2:10pm.

WE ARE LOOKING TO BORROW SOME ITEMS TO COMPLETE OUR PROJECTS AT THE SCHOOL AND PARISHES...

- We can use lawn/garden tools (RAKES, SHOVELS, HAND TRIMMERS, WHEELBARROWS, WEED EATERS, PITCHFORKS, TREE SAWS (HAND), ETC.)
- If you are able to send in any items, please be sure to CLEARLY LABEL each item with your LAST NAME

Thank you in advance! Please keep praying for us, know that we're always praying for you, and may all we accomplish throughout our Day of Service be done, **"...according to HIS purpose!"**

KP, Campus Minister

PURPOSE=One community, One Mission, One Purpose

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

GRADE CHECK COMING OCTOBER 21

While JPII employs a semester grading system, we nevertheless complete a grade check on the third Friday in October. This is the traditional end of the quarter marking system. The grade check is performed to hold students accountable for completing their work. Students failing two or more subjects are placed on academic probation for a minimum of two weeks, or until they are passing all subjects. Students on academic probation are ineligible to participate in sports, that means practice and games. Most students who fail do so not because of poor performance on tests and quizzes, but rather because they fail to complete assigned work. With our DOCS/Advisory period available Tuesday-Thursday there is no reason for any student to be failing a course. Parents can check Google Classroom for any missing assignments. Our counselors will be reaching out this week to assist students with meeting their expectations. Our school not only holds students accountable but provides the necessary support for all students to succeed, however it is ultimately up to the student to do their part.

ADMISSIONS EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Speaking of marketing, the best recruitment we have is word of mouth. Current students and families play an important role in this by sharing their experiences with friends and families. It provides our community the opportunity to shape the culture of the school for years to come. JPII in the Neighborhood events are parent-to-parent socials featuring wine and appetizers. If we are coming to your neighborhood we need you to attend and bring friends. If we are not coming yet, please contact Anne McClure and help us get into your neighborhood in November.

Admissions-related events in October

- October 15-16: Habersham Harvest Festival @ 10:00am-6:00pm
- October 16: Coffee and Donuts after Mass at SGG @ 9:00 and 11:00am
- October 17: Prospective Student Visit / Non-Feeder Schools (must pre-register)
- October 20: Bluffton Farmer's Market @ 1:00 – 5:00pm
- October 21: JPII in the Neighborhood at Oldfield @ 5:30 – 6:30pm
- October 23: Coffee and Donuts after Mass at Holy Family @ 8:00, 11:15 and 1:00
- October 25: JPII in the Neighborhood at Cypress Ridge @ 5:30-6:30pm
- October 27: Bluffton Farmer's Market @ 1:00 – 5:00pm
- November 1: Pinecrest Wood Room @ 5:30-6:30pm

UPDATES TO THE EUROPE TRIP

We have a great group already signed up for the Europe 2023 trip, traveling to London, Paris (and Versailles), Assisi, Florence and Rome. This trip will take place June 5-14 and is open to all current JP II high school students (and their families)! Visit <http://explorica.com/Woodham-4082> to sign up and take advantage of the lowest price of the year, as the cost increases on November 10. Enrolled students will have a meeting to discuss exciting fundraising options soon

FROM STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Preview of Coming Attractions:

October:

- 17: Prospective Student Visit-Non-Feeder school
- 18: MS FCA Huddle
- 19: HS FCA Huddle
- 20: Senior Retreat
- 21: JP II Day of Service/No Color Day/Sports Grade Check
- 22: MS Robotics Tournament
- 26: Make-up Pictures/Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences 3 to 7pm-No Advisory and DOCS
- 27: 7th Grade Retreat
- 28: Powder Puff-Round 1 and Home Football Game-Senior Night
- 29: Trunk or Treat 4 to 6pm

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Football

The Varsity Football Team scored two big victories over Hilton Head Prep and Northwood Academy to improve their record to 4-4 and put themselves into position for a possible SCISA playoff berth. Big game Friday night at Hilton Head Christian. Let's turn out like we did last Thursday and watch the Warriors ground the Eagles.

The Middle School Football Team remained undefeated as they defeated St. Andrews by the score of 30-8. The team will put its undefeated season on the line next Wednesday at home against HHCA.

Volleyball

A relatively quiet week for our volleyball teams. The middle school team defeated Patrick Henry in their second match up of the season. Multiple aces from Madi Murphy and Ellie Heathcott helped the team succeed. Audrey Litchfield, Ava Stabak, Gabby Heathcott, and Ellie Heathcott had multiple kills tonight. The teams next game is scheduled for Monday 10/17 at Beaufort Academy.

Tennis

The Girls Tennis Team finished an outstanding season with a loss to Hilton Head Prep in the SCISA state tournament semi-finals. Injuries and illness somewhat affected the girls in the last two weeks. While the loss of dedicated seniors Samantha Reilly, Paige Weniger, Alexa Eaddy, and Bri Suiter will hurt, a promising return of #1, 2 and 3 singles, as well as some talented newcomers, will position the team to be very competitive again next year.

GOOD-BYE MR. RICHARDSON HELLO MR. LAMBERT

Mr. Sam Richardson, current media arts teacher and choir director has announced his resignation effective October 28. He will join Republic Airlines and be relocating to Indianapolis. When Mr. Richardson joined us in the middle of the 2020-21 school year as a recent graduate of Full Sail University, and as our first alumnus returning to teach at JPII, we knew it was only temporary as teaching was not his long-term career goal. We thank “Sam” for all he has contributed to his alma mater in such a short time, from developing new courses in multimedia storytelling and integrated arts, to building the choir, producing the yearbook, and assisting with the musicals each spring. His contributions were amazing and he will be missed.

We are very excited to announce Mr. Brackin Lambert will be joining the faculty to take over for Mr. Richardson. Mr. Lambert is a native Beaufortonian, graduating from Beaufort High before earning a B.A. from USCB and an M.A. in Sport and Exercise Science Cumberland (TN) University. He most recently taught in the Beaufort County Schools, at both Robert Smalls Academy and Battery Creek High School, where he was the media technology teacher. He was involved in designing and maintaining Battery Creek’s athletic website and coached baseball. He has also worked for the Atlanta Braves baseball team and St. Francis (PA) College. Besides teaching at JPII, Mr. Lambert will assist with sports information director responsibilities, redesigning and maintaining our athletic website and social media pages, as well as coach baseball and esports. Mr. Lambert’s first day will be October 31; however he will be at JPII for a shadow day on Monday. Welcome Mr. Lambert to the BEST school in the Lowcountry!

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Part-Time Custodian (4:00-10:00pm) \$16.50 per hour / 29 hours per week
- Bus Drivers (must possess valid CDL with passenger endorsement) \$25 per hour
- Spring Musical Director – Stipend
- Girls Basketball Middle School Assistant Coach – Stipend
- Boys JV Soccer Coach – Stipend
- Boys Tennis Head Coach – Stipend

Consider joining the BEST school in the Lowcountry. If interested, please email me at john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org or pass along to someone who might be.

Sincerely,

John E McCarthy

Principal