



VOLUME IV ISSUE XXII

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The Value of a Catholic Education

When parents make the conscious decision to send their child to a Catholic school there are often as many different reasons as there are students. For some families whose children have known only a Catholic school, the answer is sometimes an easy one...first and foremost they want their child educated in the faith. A quality education, though very important, may be a close second. However, many of our students come to JPPII experiencing a Catholic school for the very first time. Often they are choosing JPPII for other reasons. It may be the quality of the academic program, the caring and supportive faculty, administration and staff, or the vast array of afterschool sports and clubs offered. Regardless of the reason, all students receive the benefit of a high quality, faith-based education in a safe and nurturing family environment.

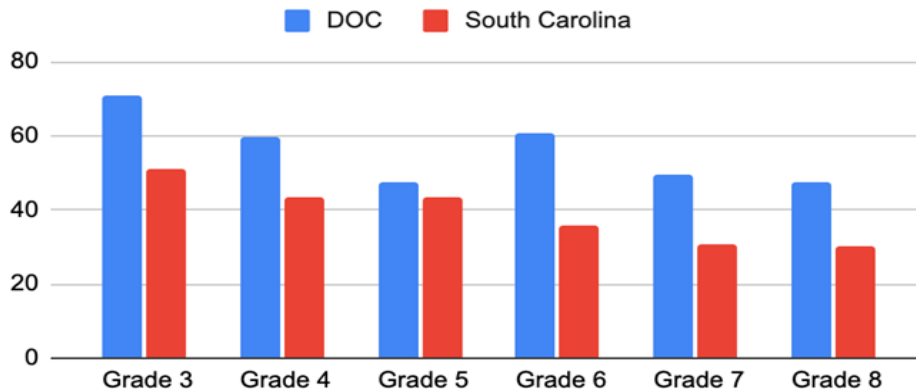
As an educator of almost forty years, in both public and Catholic schools, I offer the unique perspective of someone knowing the difference between the two. As a parent of children who spent time in both a Catholic and public high school as I changed jobs, I can also speak to a parent's perspective. While students can access quality teaching and programs at both, the primary difference for me is found in the culture of the school. That simply cannot replicate itself in a public school, no matter how good it is. The culture emanates first from faith. Daily prayer, weekly mass and retreats are only part of the formation of this culture. It also comes from the fact that people who choose to work in a Catholic school forgo some monetary compensation for the benefit of working in a faith-based environment, and that's where the feeling of family begins. Our school culture is often described as a family because no matter the challenges teenagers may face as they traverse the secular world, what happens within the walls of JPPII provides them the love, understanding, compassion, and kindness to develop the skills and strength to navigate life. They are in a place where they are cared for and supported. You cannot place a monetary value on that.

Evaluating the academic rigor of one school against another can be difficult. I have heard parents say before that "my child will do fine in a public school because they are a good student". That may be true, but the real question that should be asked is are they prepared for that next step? Preparation for life is different from preparation for college. Academically,

Catholic schools rank higher than public schools. That's a fact. Below is recent assessment data that demonstrates how Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charleston are outperforming public schools across the state.

Percentage of Students Meets or Exceeds Expectations on Mathematics SC Ready

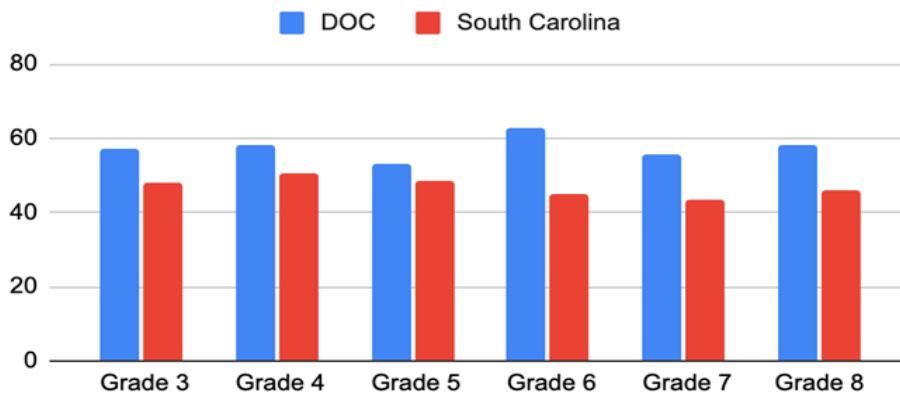
DOC and South Carolina



Diocese of Charleston Compared to South Carolina Spring 2022

Percentage of Students Meets or Exceeds Expectations on Reading SC Ready

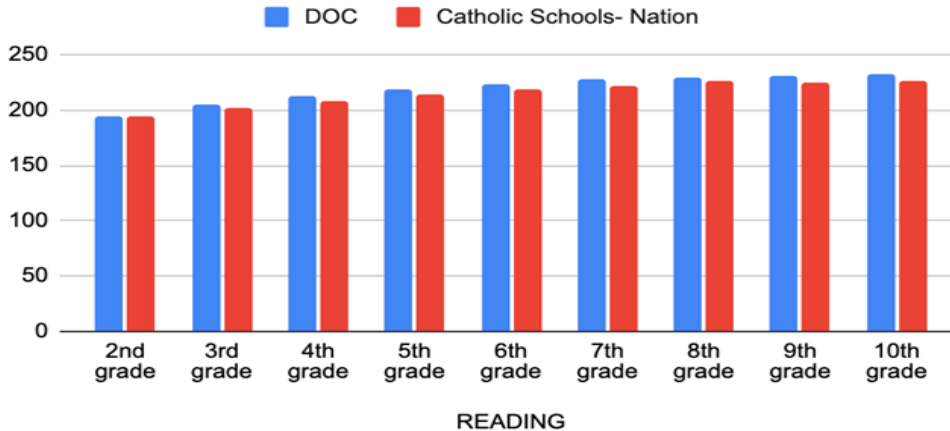
DOC and South Carolina



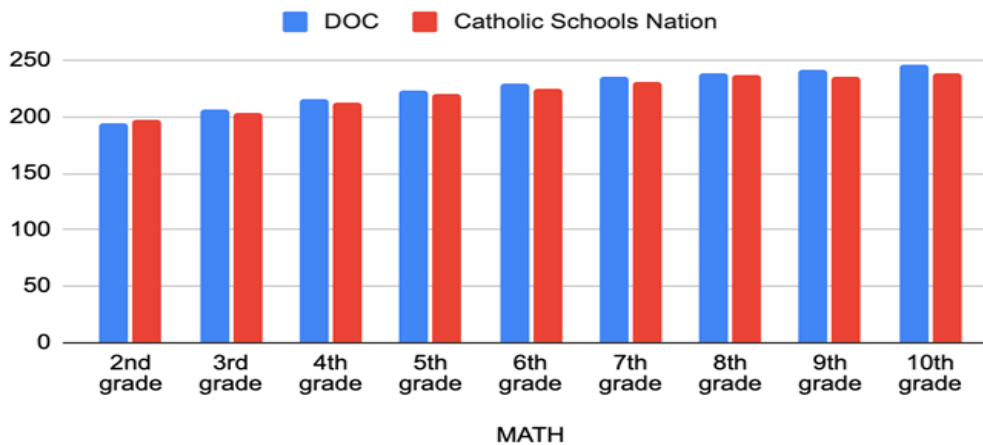
Diocese of Charleston Compared to South Carolina Spring 2022

Not only are Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charleston outperforming public schools in the state, they are also outperforming other Catholic schools across the nation. The chart on the following page demonstrates this significant fact.

DOC and Catholic Schools- Nation



DOC and Catholic Schools Nation



The bottom line take away is that Catholic schools across the state academically outperform most schools. The data does not lie. If you are choosing JP II for the academic rigor and challenge to prepare your child for college, we do that quite well. Our students are accepted to the best schools across South Carolina and the nation. While many students **choose** to attend a state school due to the tremendous financial advantages and scholarships offered, recent acceptances to Notre Dame and the U.S. Naval Academy demonstrate JP II prepares students to compete at the most selective schools, whether they choose to attend or not. Last year alone, our small graduating class received a total of \$2.6 million in scholarships. Where can you get a better return on investment?

Why am I telling you this? Because now is the time we ask parents to make the commitment to us for next year, both new applicants and returning students. It's important to understand the X factors that assist with the decision to enroll. We realize the tremendous financial sacrifice families make to afford JP II and we thank you for the faith you place in us as we provide your child with an education that will last a lifetime.

Admissions Update – Enrollment due February 1

Applications for next year continue to run well ahead of the record pace set in 2022-23. A total of 61 applications have been submitted compared to 47 at this point last year. There are another 16 applications in process. We recently filled 6th grade and 7th grade for this year and will likely experience waiting lists in all middle school grades next year, as well as some high school grades. With only 37 students graduating, we will have limited space available over the next two years while we wait for our new building to open. Now is the time to guarantee enrollment for your child.

We ask all current families to deposit no later than **February 1** to secure your spot. If you applied for tuition assistance, and have been verified by FACTS, you will be emailed your tuition statement for next year. Please understand that we did our very best to meet the FACTS identified need, but as is usually the case, the need exceeded the funds available. With demand for enrollment high right now, we request you submit a \$500 tuition deposit per child by February 1. This deposit also secures your aid award. If you do not deposit by February 1 you risk losing your spot as well as aid, since we will begin accepting more students who applied after December 1. We thank you for your prompt attention to this deadline.

From Admissions: Open House is January 29

On **January 29 at 2:00pm** JPIL will conduct its annual Open House. New this year, we will give away \$1,000 towards the tuition deposit for a new student. We are encouraging all families, regardless of whether they have already committed to JPIL or not, to attend. You must be present to win the drawing. We sent an invitation to over 6,000 households across Beaufort and Jasper County so we could get a sizable turnout.

Open House provides future students and parents with important information as they prepare for the next step in their educational career. For those undecided, the opportunity to learn more about the school helps them become better informed to make this decision. For those who have already enrolled, Open House provides an opportunity to learn more about their future school. Please join us if you have an incoming student and spread the word to all your friends. No pre-registration required.

More Admissions Events Planned

On **January 25 at 6:00pm** JPIL will be at Riverview Charter School's Annual High School Night.

We will host student and parent visit days on **February 6 and 10 at 9:00am**. Prospective students will tour the school and spend valuable one-on-one time with current students while their parents will spend time with the school's administration and current parents. This is just one more opportunity to learn more about JPIL before making the critical decision to attend. Please contact Anne McClure to register for one of these visit days.

Welcome Mrs. Karen Erwin

To bolster our Math Department and provide more academic support to our middle school students, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Karen Erwin to the position of part-time math and academic support teacher. Mrs. Erwin brings to JP II over twenty years of experience as a math teacher in Texas and South Carolina, most recently at Beaufort High School where she taught Algebra I and II and Geometry. She was also the Eagles' varsity volleyball coach. Mrs. Erwin attended the College of William and Mary and was a member of the varsity basketball team before transferring to the University of Maryland-College Park, graduating with a BS in Finance and BS in Accounting.

Europe '23 Trip Virtual Meeting February 1

There will be a virtual meeting via Google Meet for those enrolled in the Europe '23 trip on 2/1 at 7:00pm. This meeting is required for all currently enrolled travelers, as we'll be going over time sensitive information. You will receive the Google Meet joining information via email, using the email address used to log in to your Explorica account. For any JP II high school students not yet enrolled but interested in getting more information, visit the link below or email Mrs. Woodham kefrin.woodham@johnpaul2school.org. There are still a few spaces available, although the price increases on 2/15. The trip visits London, Paris, Florence and Rome, traveling on from June 5-14, 2023. <http://www.explorica.com/Woodham-4082>

Yearbook 2023 is Still on Sale!

Our largest yearbook to date is still for sale for \$65, through 2/1. Senior parents can still purchase Recognition Ads to honor their senior, but mark your calendars, as the deadline is 2/1. Visit the link below to purchase your yearbook, as well as Recognition Ad. Payment plans are available! <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/2421070/John-Paul-II-Catholic-School/>

From Student Activities

Next Week

January 23 (Blue Day) Regular Schedule and Uniform / Dr. Chen's Mandarin Trip

January 24 (Gold Day) Regular Schedule and Uniform

January 25 (Blue Day) Mass Schedule and Uniform

January 26 (Gold Day) Regular Schedule and Uniform

January 27 (Blue Day) House Schedule and Uniform

Coming Attractions

January

23: Dr. Chen's Mandarin Field Trip

28: IQ Robotics Tournament in the Commons and Academic World Quest

29: Open House 2:00 to 4:00pm and Start of Catholic Schools' Week

30-Feb 3: Catholic Schools' Week

30: Blood Drive sponsored by Lisieux House

February

1-3: Catholic Schools' Week

6: Prospective Student Visit Day from 9:00-11:00am

7: Dr. Chen's Lunar New Year Student Presentations at 2:15pm

9: 9th Grade Retreat

10: Prospective student tours from 9:00-11:00am

6-10: Student Leadership Rose Sale

20: President's Day-No School

21: Black History Month Presentation @11am (Tentative)

22: Ash Wednesday

23: Junior Career Day

24-26: DECA State Competition

27-1: Kairos Retreat

Juniors Important Dates

February 23: Junior Career Day (All Juniors are off campus)

February 27-March 1: Kairos (All Juniors and select Seniors off campus)

March 22: SAT Testing (Juniors opting in will miss morning classes, will return at noon)

April 4: ACT Testing (All Juniors will miss morning classes, will return at noon)

April 28: Junior/Senior Prom (Juniors and Seniors attending prom will be dismissed at noon)

TBD: ASVAB Testing

Warriors for Life at the Mini March-for-Life

As a group of seniors and chaperones spend the time in Washington D.C. at the March-for-Life, a group of JPIL students, along with Deacon Heathcott, joined St. Gregory the Great students, parents and parishioners for Mass and a "Mini March for Life." After Mass, our JPIL students from our very own **Warriors for Life Ministry** participated in a march from the church to the memorial for unborn children in SGG's cemetery. There, as you can see in the picture below, our students were part of a wonderful prayer experience to recognize the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death.

Warriors for Life is a new ministry here at JPIL, led on the student level by junior Olivia Klepesky. The group is small now, but mighty in its efforts to grow! You will be hearing more about the mission and activities of **Warriors for Life** in the near future!



From the Sports Desk

Girls Varsity Basketball: Another nice win for the girls, bringing our record to 10-2. In a physical battle, we defeated Thomas Heyward 51-12. All girls played quality minutes and great fight was shown from start to finish. Our double-double machine, Brady Mahoney, had 17 points and 11 rebounds. Camryn Michael was second in scoring with 9. Lily Termini had another solid performance with 8 points, 8 rebounds, 4 steals, and 3 assists.

We had a great win against a good Palmetto Christian team. Being down 10 in the first quarter, we showed a lot of confidence and resiliency in the comeback and to maintain our lead once we got up in the second quarter. Brady Mahoney finished with 26 points, 21 rebounds, 5 steals, 3 assists, and 2 blocks. She's clearly one of the best in the Lowcountry. Emily O'Sullivan also had her first double-double with 16 points, 11 rebounds, and a block. Cayce Graves had a great game on both ends of the floor with 10 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 steals. These girls are team oriented and work hard - makes for fun basketball.

Girls JV Basketball: The band of merry girls defeated Palmetto Christian JV Tuesday night 34-10. The girls played fabulous defense throughout the game and it was truly a team win. Hollis Melnick led the offense with 13 points, followed by Trice McClure and Madison Burke each with 8 points. Rachel Brenneman scored 4 and Isabella Perez had 1. Frances Calvert had a great defensive game with several solid rebounds. Go Warriors!!

Girls Middle School Basketball: A smothering half-court trap defense allowed the middle school girls basketball team to blow open a close game at halftime and cruise to a 37-14 victory over Thomas Heyward tonight at home. The Lady Warriors scored 24 points in the second half, most of which resulted from turnovers caused by their trapping defense. The transition offense and passing was fantastic. Offensively, seven different girls scored, led by Alivia Ogden's 10 points. Ellie Heathcott added 9 points and Gabby Heathcott chipped in with 7. Other scorers included Calleigh Geregthy with 4 points, Emma Karrh with 3 points and Kiera Doran and Sofie Hannigan with 2 points each. The Lady Warriors improved to 6-6 on the season. Next up is a rematch with Cross on the road Friday. Game time is 4 p.m.

Lay-up practice will be the order of the day Wednesday after our middle school girls' basketball team missed several shots close-in to the basket in-route to a 23-11 loss at St. Francis. With the lid on the basket for our Lady Warriors, scoring was not the order of the day. Ellie Heathcott led our girls with 5 points.

Boys Varsity Basketball: The Boys Varsity notched their second win of the season 60-51 at Thomas Heyward. Some clutch defense and FT shooting from Sebastian Slusne closed out the evening, and he was joined by three Golden Warriors in double-figures led by James Keefer's 16 points.

The Golden Warriors could not sustain a first quarter lead and lost to Palmetto Christian 61-46 Tuesday evening. Double figure scorers for JP II were senior Finn Mahoney and junior Christian Tilton.

Boys JV Basketball: The Warriors jumped out to a 24-5 lead and cruised to victory. They were led by 10 points from Garrett Heathcott and 8 points from Sean Phalen. Ayden Kollstedt contributed off the bench with 4 points. In the end, stellar team defense proved to be the difference with the Warriors coming away with the 39-19 victory. The JV Boys are back in action Friday at 5 pm vs. Patrick Henry at home.

Boys Middle School Basketball: The team had a good game against Thomas Heyward. The final score was 49-17. The top scores were Ayden Haskins with 10 points, and Leland Fripp and Matthew Termini with 7 points each. The sixth graders lead the way. We are on the road Friday at Cross.

The MSB basketball also won 40-11 against St. Francis Catholic School.

Wrestling: The Golden Warrior wrestling team finished a grueling week of wrestling which saw the team compete in 15 dual matches- a month's worth of wrestling. Wrestling in two tough

team tournaments and 5 dual matches, the team ended up 8-7 for the week. JP2's record now stands at 19-10 for the season. In Saturday's tournament at Bluffton the team finished 2-3 and in 8th place overall; the team wrestled tough all day dropping some close matches. Individuals that finished with winning records for the day were: Jase Reynolds 3-2, Daniel Snyder 4-1, Archer Dewig 3-2, Brandyn Horton 3-2, Jack Brock 4-1, and Matei Porcelli 2-1. Wrestlers of the tournament are Daniel Snyder 120 and Jack Brock 152! After some much needed rest, the team's next match will be January 24th at Bishop England.

Employment Opportunities

CDL Bus Driver – Part-Time, \$25 per hour. Drive as often or as little as you wish

Custodian/Maintenance – Part-time, \$17 per hour / 29 hours per week. 4:00-10:00pm

Come join the BEST school in the Lowcountry!

Contact

john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org

Save the date of March 18 for the 10th Anniversary Gala! Have a great weekend everyone.



President

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