



VOLUME IV ISSUE XXIV

February 10, 2023

## Rigor, Relevance and Relationships

For years, schools have emphasized the importance of the three R's...reading, writing and arithmetic. These are the foundational skills that all children must learn to progress through school. While all three are important, there are three other R's that are equally, if not more, important. From the day I first met with teachers at JPIL almost four years ago, I have stressed the importance of *rigor*, *relevance* and *relationships*. These are the three R's that best describe the program and environment we are striving to create.

While some may think rigor is defined as being hard or difficult, I would prefer to use the synonym of challenging to describe rigor at JPIL. Because we accept students of varied academic abilities and backgrounds, our definition of rigor is to meet students where they are and challenge them to be the very best they can be, while always raising the bar. This does not just apply to the classroom, but to how they conduct themselves in and outside of school. The character of the person they are, the decisions they make, and how they treat others are equally important to the grades they achieve. To have one without the other leaves incomplete the formation of the whole child. Our goal, therefore, is to challenge students to be their very best...academically, spiritually and socially.

Relevance implies two things. First, relevance refers to the incorporation of Gospel values into the curriculum. This is the type of relevance that separates us from other schools. While some may see the integration of faith and reason as incongruous, they are in fact a natural when the Gospel is applied. Bishop Robert Barron, the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in Minnesota, recently espoused on the importance of Catholic education in today's secular world. In his words, the value of Catholic education was "the manner in which those schools showed the integration of faith and reason". Every subject, no matter how rational it may appear, "has at its origin a higher spiritual experience offered by religion". Yes, there is a Catholic way to teach math and science. The second meaning of relevance comes in the application of learning to life. Learning for the sake of learning is no longer sufficient. Our students must not only possess a solid knowledge base, but a skill set that includes the ability to collaborate, creatively solve problems, and communicate effectively. These definitions of relevance are what JPIL endeavors to embrace throughout its curriculum as we prepare our *scholars with a soul*.

The third R, relationships, appears to be the easiest to achieve, but can in fact be the most elusive. We hire teachers based on their ability to form authentic relationships with students. For me this is foundational to being an effective educator. Our teachers are more than instructors, they are mentors. Many students will not remember what they learned in school but will remember those teachers and coaches who helped shape their lives. Relationships are also measured in how students treat one another, are accepting of differences, and demonstrate compassion and kindness. Character matters, but absent the focus on good character, relationships can deteriorate only to be replaced by bullying, feelings of isolation, and poor decision-making.

We do not live in a bubble, walled off from issues affecting youth everywhere. The impact of social media, the proliferation of vaping, and the rise of anxiety in children partly caused by Covid-related isolation and learning loss, has presented challenges to educators everywhere. JP II has made tremendous strides in the past few years in setting the culture of rigor, relevance and relationships, but we must continue to improve. The mark of a great school is one that reflectively examines its areas of growth and develops a plan moving forward and that's exactly what we plan to do.

As we continue to build upon an already excellent school, we renew our laser focus on creating that culture. Growth is a necessary and wonderful development for our school, but as we approach 400 students next year, we must ensure we have the right culture in place to transform children into confident and compassionate young adults. We will reexamine our curriculum to ensure both rigor and relevance are what JP II is known for. Likewise, we will develop an advisory curriculum to be incorporated into our House mentoring system that helps encourage student leadership, addresses bullying, harassment and racism, and provides the mental health safety net to enable students to safely navigate the world in which they live. With the plan for four full-time counselors and three special educators next year, we will deploy a student support system second to none for a school our size. The teachers we hire to address the increase in students will not only be highly competent in their subject matter, but must be mentors first and foremost, capable of forming those transformational relationships with students both in and outside of the classroom.

We are about to exceed the 93% retention goal we set this year thus achieving another milestone in the short history of our school. The overwhelming majority of our students are happy and thriving. However, even one student or family who chooses to leave JP II because they do not feel that joy of belonging is one too many. While a goal of 100% retention is virtually impossible due to family moves and other issues, it nevertheless should remain a lofty aspiration. JP II is on the precipice of creating something very special...a school where every student, no matter socio-economic background, religion, race, or personality, finds a safe and nurturing home. A school where students are not just held accountable by rules in a student handbook, but rather through student leadership that establishes the norms of behavior. We must double down on our intentional efforts to establish a school where rigorous high expectations exist in all aspects of school life, where relevance is found throughout our curriculum, and where deep and caring relationships define our community. That school will be JP II. We thank you for choosing to be part of our commUNITY.

## Campus Construction Update

I would like to take this opportunity to update our school community once again on the progress being made with the expansion of our campus. Many of you may have noticed the new sign that went in last month announcing the Innovation Center building. While that is the cornerstone of the plan, there will be a lot taking place before we break ground.

Phase I of our project plan began with the construction of the new natural grass multipurpose field beyond the right field baseball fence. That field will soon begin to see grass growing and will be ready for play in late August. You will also see a new visitor's softball dugout, along with windscreens on both baseball and softball outfield fences, by this spring. As soon as school lets out for the summer, construction will begin on a security gatehouse, brick wall, fencing, and gates that will redefine our front entrance and allow us to create a safe and secure campus 24-hours per day. The plan is to staff the gatehouse between 7:00am and 7:00pm on days when school is in session. We are working with Ward Edwards Engineering and Whitmer Jones Keefer Landscape Planners (JP II parent Dan Keefer) on design and permitting of the entire masterplan, along with the construction of a new parking lot behind the athletic center and improved traffic flow on campus. That work should begin by fall with a completion scheduled by the end of the calendar year. On the northeast corner of the parking lot will be a maintenance building for much needed storage. We will be removing the two-classroom modular building to the left of the athletic center to make room for a new road. The sand volleyball court will be relocated and we plan to add an outdoor basketball court next to it. A four-classroom modular will be installed adjacent to the current modular building on the right as you enter the campus. This will create an eight-classroom pod for some high school classes for the next two years.

Phase II, the construction of the Innovation Center, is scheduled to commence in January 2024. This is contingent on the school hitting its capital campaign goals. Assuming we do, and construction moves according to schedule, the Innovation Center will open in August 2025 and allow JP II to grow to an optimal enrollment of 500.

Phases III and IV are planned for the future. Phase III is to complete our athletic facilities with a new multipurpose stadium, tennis courts, lighting for all fields, locker rooms and fitness center, as well as the completion of the frontage road and new entrance coming from Beaufort. Phase IV will be the chapel, serving as the cornerstone of our Catholic identity and creating the visual link for the ***School Where Faith and Innovation Meet***.

The capital campaign to make this all happen is now underway with the Leadership Phase, pledges of \$25,000 into the millions with an overall goal of \$19,000,000. It is only through success in this phase that the plan will become reality. If you would like to be part of the Leadership Phase please contact Mr. Brian Quinty, Director of Advancement, to commit to a pledge of 3-5 years. The Public Phase, pledges under \$25,000 over 1-3 years, will have a soft launch at our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We plan a full marketing campaign in the fall of 2024 to bring the greater community on board. It will all happen according to God's plan and your support.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Tickets on Sale Now!

The JPII social event of the decade is coming March 18<sup>th</sup> and is sure to be a sellout so buy your tickets now. Click on the link below to purchase tickets.

<https://johnpaul2school.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/250>



*You are invited to celebrate with us*  
AT OUR  
**10th Anniversary Gala**

**T H E M E**  
Denim and Diamonds | The Number "10"

**E V E N T   D A T E**  
March 18 at 6:00pm

**L O C A T I O N**  
Athletic Center at John Paul II Catholic School

**A C T I V I T I E S**  
Dinner, Dancing and Donating to the Capital Campaign (no auction)

**C O S T**  
\$110 per person / \$1,110 for a reserved table of 8 plus sponsorship (15)

**S P O N S O R S H I P**  
Event (1) - \$10,000 | Entertainment (1) - \$5,000  
Alumni Table (1) - \$1,010 (Invite a teacher or two to your table)

**T I C K E T S**  
Scan QR code for link  
to purchase tickets



*Welcome by President John McCarthy followed by a cocktail hour and seated dinner. After dinner, we will have an introduction of the **Where Faith and Innovation Meet** capital campaign that will include brief testimonials from alumni, a video, and a campaign pledge request. Dancing to follow.*

## JPII Choir to Appear with the Notre Dame Glee Club

On March 15, at St. Gregory the Great Church, the JPII Choir under the direction of Mrs. Leslie Gereghy will open for the University of Notre Dame Glee Club. The Notre Dame Glee Club is an all-male choral ensemble. Founded in 1915 in the tradition of English and American glee clubs, it is the oldest Glee Club at a Catholic university in the United States. Sponsored by the Notre Dame Club, all proceeds from this event will go towards supporting the JPII music program. Tickets for this event may be purchased using the link below. We hope to see you there!

<https://johnpaul2school.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/251>



## From Student Activities

Student Leadership will be sponsoring a Rose Sale the week of February 6th, \$3 per rose or two roses for \$5. Roses will be delivered on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Next Week

- Monday, February 13 (Gold Day) Regular schedule and uniform
- Tuesday, February 14 (Blue Day) Regular schedule and uniform Rose Delivery - A Block
- Wednesday, February 15 (Gold Day) Mass schedule and uniform

- Thursday, February 16 (Blue Day) Regular schedule and uniform
- Friday, February 17 (Gold Day) House schedule and uniform - House Event sponsored by Student Leadership Council in the Athletic Center

## **Coming Attractions**

### **February**

- 20: President's Day - **No School**
- 21: Black History Month Presentation @11:00am (Tentative)
- 22: Ash Wednesday
- 23: Junior Career Day
- 24-26: DECA State Competition
- 25: Robotics State Championships in Greenville
- 27-1: Kairos Retreat

### **March**

- 1: Kairos
- 3: Professional Development - **No School**
- 15: Choir at SGG for Notre Dame Glee Club Concert
- 17: Grade Check
- 18: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala
- 20-24: Tech Week for Fiddler on the Roof
- 22: SAT Testing (Juniors Only) and no mass
- 23: Feeder school performance of Fiddler on the Roof @10am (Cast/Crew Out of classes)
- 24: Fiddler on the Roof performance @7pm (Cast/Crew Out of classes)
- 25: Fiddler on the Roof @1pm and 7pm
- 27-29: IQ Vex Robotics National Competition in Iowa
- 29-31: Model UN
- 31: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade 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 18: ASVAB Testing
- April 28: Junior/Senior Prom (Juniors and Seniors attending prom will be dismissed at noon)

## Sebastian House Fundraiser for JARM

Sebastian House starts their service project collecting and fundraising for Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM) starting February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to donate, there is a link to a SIGNUPGENIUS that outlines what they need to support the stray and neglected dogs and cats they take in . All donations should be dropped off in Mrs. Sklarin or Mrs. Wood's classroom in the main building. Thank you for your continued support.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BADA62DA5F9CF8-jasper2>

## Robotics

Last Saturday the JPII SHIELD Robotics IQ teams competed at River Ridge Middle School in Bluffton. Team 61713M won their 3rd Design Award for the year. 61317W won the Sportsmanship Award. Teams 61317X and 61317S also performed very well. 61317X finished 2nd in skills, 4th in qualifying, and 2nd place to conclude the Teamwork finals. Next up for IQ Robotics is the VEX IQ MS State Championship on February 25. High School VRC robotics teams will compete in Lexington on Feb 11 and at Beaufort High School on Feb 18.



## From the Sports Desk

**Girls Varsity Basketball:** It wasn't pretty, but the girls rallied with a great 4th quarter and pulled out another win 46-38 over Region 3A rival Hilton Head Prep. Brady Mahoney had 14 points and 12 rebounds. Lily Termini had 10 points and 7 rebounds. Cayce Graves had 8 points and 5 rebounds and made some clutch free throws. Lauren Majorkiewicz also added 6 points and played a great defensive game, having to guard one of the top players in the region.

**Girls JV Basketball:** The JPII girls basketball team defeated Heritage Academy 19-14 Tuesday. The Warriors were led in scoring by Hollis Melnick w/ 10 points and Emma McKamey w/ 5 points. Trice McClure added 4 points. Fabulous defense Golden Warriors!

**Girls Middle School Basketball:** The MS girls' basketball team lost 25-4 to Hilton Head Prep. Calleigh Gereghy led the Warriors with 3 points. The girls will play in the HHP tournament this weekend.

A lockdown defensive effort by the Warriors helped them avenge a loss to HHCA a week ago, winning a hard-fought battle last Friday night, 11-8. A basket by Ellie Heathcott after great passing by the Warriors gave them a 9-5 lead with a few minutes left and they were able to hold on from there. Ellie Heathcott led the Warriors with 7 points. Calleigh Gereghy and Alivia Ogden had 2 points each. The Lady Warriors improved to 9-9 on the season.

**Boys Varsity Basketball:** The Boys Varsity lost to Hilton Head Prep. The guys played tough half-court defense but struggled to score against the bigger, senior-heavy Dolphins. The season winds down in the next week with Senior Night on Monday vs. Northwood.

**Boys JV Basketball:** The JV Boys started the game full court pressing and jumped out to a 15-5 lead after the first quarter. Stellar defense by Merrick Baroni and Connor Brown off the bench led to a 25-14 advantage at half. The defense continued in the second half and the Warriors would get the 53-28 win. Stewart Misko led all scorers with a season-high 17 points and Sean Phalen chipped in with nine points. The Warriors end their season with their final game at home on Monday vs Northwood Academy at 5:00pm

**Boys Middle School Basketball:** The MSB came up three points short against Hilton Head Prep, 44-41. Leading scorers Adrian Simmons with 10 points and Alan Wolf with eight points. Overall record is now 16-5.

Down by 13 at half, the boys came back in second half to win by three 44-41 over Riverview Charter School moving to 16-4 on the season. The leading scorers were Chase Cotter with 18 points and Leiland Fripp with 11.

### Senior Night

Come out Monday night for some great basketball and a final homecourt recognition of our Senior Class. Girls varsity at 6:00pm followed by the boys.



Have you checked out the new website? Same old address, [www.johnpaul2school.org](http://www.johnpaul2school.org), but a much more attractive and easier to navigate website. You can click on the “Future Campus Plans” for a simulated walking tour of the future Innovation Center.

Have a great weekend y'all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John McCarthy".

President

(843) 645-3838

[www.johnpaul2school.org](http://www.johnpaul2school.org)

