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Congratulations to Mrs. Williamson

The Archdiocese of Mobile Office of Catholic Schools has announced that Andrea Williamson has been named the next principal of St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope, AL. She will finish the year at JP II and will assume the role for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Williamson has served as a teacher and Assistant Principal for Student Life since 2015.

“I have been blessed with the vocation of teaching in Catholic schools and I am honored to be chosen to take on the role of principal at St. Michael Catholic High School,” Mrs. Williamson said. “Saint John Paul II told the young people of America to ‘listen to His voice. Do not be afraid. Open up your hearts to Christ.’ I remember hearing these words, from then-Pope John Paul II, as a young student in Catholic school challenging me to listen to His voice and this challenge has stayed with me ever since.

During her time at JP II, Mrs. Williamson was not only an excellent teacher, but the self-proclaimed “party planner” as well. Many of JP II’s current events and traditions originated under her leadership. By training she was a social studies teacher, however her greatest academic contribution came in the establishment of the AP Capstone Diploma program. She also helped to revamp the senior project and was our very first teacher of the senior capstone course. Many of our graduates have been well prepared for college research by taking her classes.

We congratulate Mrs. Williamson on this accomplishment and wish her, Anna and John well as they transition to their new home. We expect that St. Michael Catholic High School will soon begin to look and feel a little like JP II South.

Thank You Coach Myers

We also learned this week that head football coach Mr. Chris Myers has decided to move on to likely pursue other opportunities closer to home. Coach Myers, the dad of a young and growing family, commuted over an hour each way to get to JP II. One can only imagine what time he arrived home following a Friday night football game.

Coach Myers arrived at JP II the year I arrived. While I was not involved in his selection, I quickly realized why he was the right man to lead a young and developing program. The team had

barely 20 players, when healthy, some playing football for the first time. They did not win a game; however I was impressed by Coach Myers' calmness and demeanor on the sideline. He never yelled like some football coaches are known to do, rather choosing to teach and encourage with positive words to his players. I knew right then and there he was the right man to build a winning program the right way. This past year, the JP II football program fielded its biggest and best team ever. Playing for the first time in the competitive Class 3A against larger schools, the Golden Warriors were ahead in 9 of their 11 games. They scored more points than any football team in JP II history. With many returning athletes, as well as a talented rising 9th grade class, the future could not be brighter for this program.

The search to replace coach Myers will begin this month as we hire teachers for the 2023-24 school year. While hiring a football coach the quality of Coach Myers is important, even more important will be hiring a highly qualified teacher and mentor first, who also happens to be an excellent football coach. One of the challenges I inherited at JP II when I arrived four years ago is that many of our coaches came from outside the school. While not unusual for such a small school with a big athletic program, I set a goal of hiring excellent teachers and high quality people who could also coach. The reason for this is that our teachers are also role models and mentors. Having them on campus both day and night only strengthens the quality of their relationship with students. It not only makes them a more effective teacher in the classroom, but a more effective coach as well. The results speak for themselves. In the past four years we have added Mrs. Louise Sanders (volleyball and soccer), Mrs. Jamie Roberts (cross country and track), Mr. Asa Haskins (football), Mr. Stephen Gaylets (football and baseball), Ms. Bri Sapienza (volleyball and softball), Deacon Brent Heathcott (basketball and softball), Mrs. Tracy Sklarin (tennis and cheer), Mr. Alan Lewis (basketball), Mrs. Karen Floyd (basketball), Mr. Brackin Lambert (baseball), Mrs. Anissa Sauls (cheer), and Mr. Richard Jennings (baseball). Add to them those staff members who were already here, Mrs. Kefrin Woodham (cheer), Ms. Haley Pina (soccer), and Mr. Brian Quinty (soccer), and we now have a coaching staff where the majority of head coaches are JP II teachers or support staff. I cannot emphasize enough what a difference maker that is.

The football program is in great shape for the next coach to build upon the foundation established by Coach Myers. Next year, it is quite likely over 60 boys will be in the program across grades 6-12. JP II will be the largest private school with grades 6-12 in the Lowcountry. An on-campus stadium, planned for the future, will bring new energy to the program. The addition of lacrosse will attract more athletes to the school. We offer a stipend competitive with the largest schools in SCISA. It will not be long before JP II will be known for its championship athletic programs, but more importantly, we will have built those programs the right way. Thank you Coach Myers for showing us how that is done.

The Search is on for Teachers and Support Staff

It is that time of year when we begin planning in earnest for the 2023-24 school year. With enrollment continuing to increase, we are seeking teachers and support staff who will help take JP II to new heights. We cast a wide net for teachers who are highly qualified in their subject matter, are compassionate mentors for students, and who can contribute to the extracurricular

and faith life of the school. If this describes someone you know, please share the following openings with them.

Instruction

- Art Teacher
- Math Teacher
- Theology Teacher
- English Teachers (2)
- Social Studies Teacher
- Spanish Language Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher
- Special Education Teachers (3)
- Science and Technology Teacher
- Performing Arts Teacher (vocal music and theater)

Support Staff

- Technology and Information Systems Specialist
- Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
- Custodian (part-time evenings)
- Campus Security (part-time)
- Bus Drivers (3)

Coaches

- Head Varsity Football

If interested in any of the above positions, please email a letter of interest and current resume to: John McCarthy, President at john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org . Positions are open until filled. Visit our website at www.johnpaul2school.org to learn more about our school.

Why Attend the 10th Anniversary Gala?

The JP II social event of the decade is coming March 18th and we need all JP II parents to attend. This is an opportunity to celebrate as a community of staff, families and benefactors. A school that has achieved so much in such a short period of time owes so much gratitude to all those who made it happen. The Gala also provides the opportunity to launch our Where Faith and Innovation Meet capital campaign to the public. With all that is happening there has never been a better time to be part of this story, so please click the link below and reserve your spot before they are gone.

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

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 Gereghty 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>

The 2023-24 School Year Calendar is Released

So that our families can begin making their vacation plans, we are now ready to release the 2023-24 school year calendar. You can find the calendar as a separate page for printing at the end of this newsletter. You will also be able to find the calendar on our website's homepage.

Some of the changes that parents should be aware of are as follows;

- Due to our size, we will now have two orientation days, one for middle school on August 10 and another for high school on August 11. Please be sure to plan your summer vacations around these days.
- The first official day of the new school year is August 14. It is a Blue Day.
- Christmas Break begins on December 21 and does not end until January 5.
- Commencement will close out the school year on May 31 @ 5:00pm and will not occur on Memorial Day weekend as has been the tradition.

Please keep in mind that the summer sports schedule, along with in-season team schedules, may impact your vacation plans. I would suggest not making concrete plans for summer until the Athletic Department releases the summer and fall schedules.

From Student Activities

Next Week

- Monday, February 20 **No School President's Day**
- Tuesday, February 21 (Blue Day) Regular schedule and uniform
- Wednesday, February 22 (Gold Day) Ash Wednesday Mass schedule and uniform
- Thursday, February 23 (Blue Day) Regular schedule and uniform
- Friday, February 24 (Gold Day) House schedule and uniform

Coming Attractions

February

20: President's Day-No School
22: Ash Wednesday (No Meat)
24-26: DECA State Competition
25: Robotics State Competition
27-1: Kairos Retreat
28: Black History Month Presentation

March

1: Kairos Retreat
3: Professional Development-No School
6: NHS/NJHS Inductions @ 6:00pm in the Commons
16: Junior Career Day (Juniors off Campus)
17: Grade Check
18: Denim and Diamonds Gala
20-24: Tech Week for Fiddler on the Roof
22: SAT Testing (Juniors Only) No Mass
23: Feeder school performance of Fiddler on the Roof @ 10:00am
24: Fiddler on the Roof performance @ 7:00pm
25: Fiddler on the Roof @ 1:00pm and 7:00pm
27-29: IQ Vex Robotics National Competition in Iowa
29-31: Model UN

April:

1: Middle School Dance 7:30-9:00pm and New Parent Mixer
3: Mass Schedule for Stations of the Cross
4: ACT Testing
5: 10th Grade Retreat
6-14: Easter Break
17-21: Senior and AP Research Presentations
18: ASVAB Testing
24: Blood Drive
28: No House-Amended Schedule and Prom 7-11

Juniors Important Dates:

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

March 16: Junior Career Day (All Juniors are 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 14th through March 14th. 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-iasper2>

From the Sports Desk

Girls Varsity Basketball: Congratulations to Coach Floyd for being named Region Coach of the Year and Brady Mahoney and Emily O'Sullivan for being named First Team All-Region.

The girls played hard against a very strong Northwood Academy and kept the game close for three quarters before falling 54-39. Senior Emily O'Sullivan had an awesome game with 10 points and 9 rebounds. Lily Termini had her best game of the season with 9 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals. Brady Mahoney had 8 points and 13 rebounds, and Gracie Henderson added 8 points.

Girls JV Basketball: The JPII JV Girls' basketball team defeated Northwood Academy 37-20. All the girls played well and the team defense was fabulous. Hollis Melnick had 15 points, Emma McKamey had 14 points, and Trice McClure and Rachel Brenneman each scored 4. It was a great win to end a wonderful year for the JVs. They are all a joy to coach! Thank you for all the administrative support from the school and from our AD, Louise Saunders, Katie Leigh Floyd and, especially, Karen Floyd! You guys are the best!!

Girls Middle School Basketball: The Lady Warriors went 1-2 this weekend at the HHP Dolphin Jam tournament. In their final game Sunday, the Warriors lost a heartbreaker 18-17 to St. Francis. The girls were done in by making just 7 of 25 free throws. Still, the girls played hard all three games in preparation for the season-ending Diocesan tournament in two weeks. Ellie Heathcott was an offensive force for the Warriors, scoring 52 points in three games, including 23 against HHP B in the first game of the tournament. Ellie was named to the Dolphin Jam all-tournament team

Boys Varsity Basketball: The Boys Varsity finished the year with a great home win on Senior Night 53-52 over Northwood Academy. The game was close from the tip to the final buzzer,

with seniors Jackson Ogden (18 points) and Finn Mahoney (11 points) making game-winning plays on both ends of the court in the closing seconds.

Boys JV Basketball: The JV Boys took on Northwood Academy in the final game of the 2022-23 season. They fell behind 10-3 to start the game but went on a 26-0 run to take a 29-10 lead. The Warriors coasted to the 45-24 victory behind unselfish play on the offensive end and relentless defensive pressure. Stewart Misko led the team with 10 points. Connor Brown, Sebastian Frickel and Sean Phalen all chipped in with 8 points each. The Warriors end a great season on a high note. The future is bright for the Warriors!

Boys Middle School Basketball: Your MSB basketball team finished the long season 19-8. We ended the season 2-1 in the Dolphin Jam tournament. In the first game we defeated Riverview 50-38. In the finals we played HHP and ended up losing by 4. Alan Wolf made the all-tournament team. We will wrap up the season end of the month at the Diocese of Charleston Tournament.

Wrestling: The JP2 wrestling team had a great showing at the State Individual Tournament Saturday. Taking 12 wrestlers, we had 5 who placed in the top 4 in the state for their weight class, and all but 2 won at least 1 match during the tournament. Congratulations to Peter Torinese on his second state championship at 132lbs. His Freshman year he won it at 113lbs. Congratulations to state runner-up Kohl Woodham who finished 2nd at 182lbs. Congratulations to Jack Brock (152lbs) & Daniel Snyder (120lbs) on finishing 3rd in the state, and Jude Witkowski on his 4th place finish at 113lbs. The team ended up in 5th place for the tournament overall. On behalf of the coaches, I would like to thank all the fans that made the trip to the tournament and endured a long day in Sumter. You fans have made our season great with all of your support! I can't say enough, what a great and enjoyable season it has been. I am fortunate to have such good guys on the team and great assistant coaches. Thank you again parents and wrestlers on this historic season!

Have a great three-day weekend y'all.



President

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