



VOLUME IV ISSUE XXXIV

May 12, 2023

It's Time to Vote JPIL as the BEST School in the Lowcountry

Voting in the Beaufort Gazette and Island Packet's Best in the Lowcountry competition is about to begin. Last year JPIL swept all three categories; best middle school, best high school, and best private school for the first time. Now it's time to do it again. We are already nominated but we will require all staff, students, parents, and friends of JPIL to cast their vote between June 12 and June 30 at www.lowcountry.com. Please mark your calendars as a reminder to vote in June.

ESA - What Does this Mean for my Catholic School?

On May 4, Gov. Henry McMaster signed S. 39: the Educational Scholarship Trust Fund (ESAs) into law. ESAs give qualifying families the funding to select the best learning environment for their children. Qualifying participants for ESAs include active military families and families whose incomes are less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Eligibility for the program expands to 300 percent of FPL in year two and to 400 percent of FPL in year three. For the first three years, the program is capped at 5,000 participants. For subsequent years, the program will be limited to 15,000 scholarship students, depending on review from the S.C. General Assembly. This program is set to start during the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications are not yet available to the public.

This is a major step in school choice for South Carolina, essentially enabling countless low income families the opportunity for their children to attend a Catholic or independent school of their choice. While initially the program will have minimal impact on enrollment at JPIL, we do expect in future years a significant number of students being able to take advantage of this opportunity. The amount of the grants will be capped and will require families to financially contribute to their child's education, however we do see this as a way to supplement our already generous tuition assistance program and increase our school's diversity.

Thank You to the PTO

As we conclude teacher appreciation week, I would like to thank our PTO for the fabulous food and treats provided to our faculty and staff throughout the week. While we all gained a few extra pounds, it was well worth it. Not only is JPII the BEST school, we have the BEST parents!

From Student Activities

May

- 15-19 Senior Mission Trip
- 22 Sports Banquet
- 25 Baccalaureate Mass
- 26 Senior Breakfast/Graduation Practice and Underclassmen Awards
- 27 Class of 2023 Graduation
- 29 **No School**-Memorial Day
- 30 Exams/New Family BBQ
- 31 Exams

June

- 1 Exams/Last Day of school

Underclassmen Exam Schedule

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

- 8:25-9:35 Block A and Period 1
- 9:40-10:45 Block B and Period 3
- 10:50-11:55 Block C and Period 5
- **12:00 Dismissal**

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

- 8:25-9:35 Block E and Period 2
- 9:40-10:45 Block F and Period 4
- 10:50-11:55 Block G and Period 6
- **12:00 Dismissal**

Thursday, June 1, 2023

- 8:25-9:35 Block D and Period 7
- 9:40-10:45 Block H and Period 8
- **10:50 Dismissal**

From the Sports Desk

As spring sports come to a conclusion this weekend, I would like to take a moment to recap what has been an amazing season. While no championships have been won yet (softball is still playing), we probably had the most successful spring season in the history of the school when you look at overall success, middle school through high school. We should also keep in mind that due to enrollment growth, JP II has moved into the more competitive SCISA 3A.

Track and Field sent its most athletes to the states, including a couple of 2nd place finishes. With a very young team and with most returning next year, we expect to remain very competitive.

Softball qualified for the state tournament for the first time ever and will compete this weekend in Sumter! With a 10 – 4 varsity record, and an undefeated JV team consisting of middle schoolers, the future looks bright for the Lady Warriors. Both the **boys and girls soccer teams** made it to the 3A semi-finals, losing to very tough teams. The boys, while graduating a solid senior class, expect to be very strong again next year with several talented returning players as well as rising middle schoolers. The girls team will return the bulk of its roster and with four 8th graders playing significant minutes and a talented group of middle schoolers coming up, the team should be very competitive for several years. We look forward to both teams playing on our new soccer game field next year. **Baseball** had a very successful year highlighted by an impressive win over crosstown rival HHCA. With a very young team, including talented middle school players, look for the Warriors to compete for region and state titles in the near future. Our **boys golf team**, consisting of almost all middle schoolers, finished in the middle of the pack at the state championships. Not a bad showing for such a young group. Finally, the inaugural season for **boys tennis** was a smashing success. All but one will be back.

I would like to thank our student-athletes for the outstanding way they represented JP II, both on and off the field, the coaches for their mentoring and encouragement that made for successful and enjoyable seasons, and our parents for all your support behind the scenes and cheering on our athletes in competition. We look forward to next year when our new fields come online. As the school grows, we also look to increase our already strong athletic offerings by possibly adding girl's golf in the fall, boys and girls lacrosse, and clay skeet shooting. The addition of these sports are TBD based on sufficient interest, availability of fields, and budget.

See you at the athletic banquet on May 22nd.



President

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