



# President

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



# JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

PLANO, TEXAS

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

START DATE – JULY 2024



## SCHOOL'S UNITY STATEMENT

### ***One Body. Many Parts***

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, we believe that our diversity is an inherent gift that unifies and strengthens our community. True to our Mission, we remain committed to fostering a welcoming, equitable, and inclusive space for all members for the Cardinal Family.*



## SCHOOL HISTORY

John Paul II High School was founded in 2005 to offer a high quality, faith-based education to the Catholic community and others in the region surrounding Dallas-Fort Worth. In its first year, JPII welcomed 300 students in grades 9-11 occupying half of the repurposed facility. Since then, the student population has grown steadily to over 700 students. Thomas Poore served as JPII's founding President until his retirement in the summer of 2017. During his time, Poore helped to develop the school's academic, athletic, and extracurricular programming and strengthen its standing in the community. True to the inaugural pillars of the school, the two succeeding presidents continued to advance and grow the school. For the 2023-24, Mr. Karl Ertle, is serving as Interim President after a successful 13-year tenure as President of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Principal Kayla Brown is in her second year at John Paul II after serving Ursuline Academy of Dallas for 15 years in various leadership capacities.

Click [here](#) for a video overview of John Paul II High School.

## MISSION

To develop leaders who are critical thinkers and effective communicators, committed to service and rooted in faith

## VISION

To make a difference in the world by walking in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II



## FAST FACTS



**2005**

Founded



**738**

Total Students



**72%**

Catholic Students

## THE SCHOOL

John Paul II High School represents the next generation of Catholic schools — one that believes the integral formation students receive from a Catholic school engenders a lifelong responsibility to God and fellow man. Recipients of a JPII education are equipped with the tools, knowledge, and skills not only to thrive in college but also to become morally grounded, critically minded, and socially responsible leaders in society.

Along with challenging academic courses, the school provides a nurturing environment for young people as they grapple with ideas and explore new possibilities in preparation for lifelong service and contribution to the world. Students are taught to be knowledgeable and ethical; utilize technological innovations effectively and responsibly; communicate and collaborate effectively; think critically and creatively; and possess the organizational skills necessary to solve problems and achieve goals.

JPII also offers exceptional extracurricular programs in athletics, the arts, and community outreach, which further enable students to uncover their talents and interests and develop a strong sense of self and community engagement.

With a firm belief in the imperative to provide a strong Catholic education, the school strives for a diverse student body and understands the sacrifices many families make to better the future for their children through the promise of Catholic education.

John Paul II High School operates as part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas and is a member of the National Catholic Education Association.





## VALUES

### ***The Five R's:***

***Respect***

***Responsibility***

***Role Model***

***Reverence***

***Resilient***

## ACADEMICS

John Paul II High School's curriculum is an engaging four-year program designed to foster the highest level of readiness for their next step in the continuous education process. Overall, JPII offers more than 47 Honors and Advanced Placement courses and encourages all students to experience the AP model as an opportunity to gain exposure to college-level courses and requirements. Courses are also offered at the college-preparatory level.

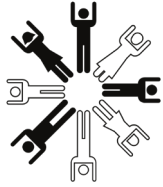
The minimum graduation requirements include four years of English, mathematics, science, social studies; and theology; two years of world languages; and one year of physical education, the visual and performing arts, and computer science. Students are also required to take a range of elective courses along with required classes in health, physical education, and speech.

The extensive elective program provides courses designed for students to explore specific interests ranging from engineering and technology to sports medicine, journalism to finance, the performing arts to psychology. A signature program is The Social Innovation Lab — a blended course designed to offer students the opportunity to examine and understand social, economic, and environmental challenges and their impacts while taking a collaborative approach in research and strategy building to develop sustainable solutions.

The school's STEAM center utilizes project-based learning and a multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. The center also focuses on the EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) human-centered design process taught at major research universities.



## FAST FACTS



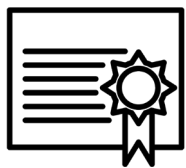
**48%**

Students of Color



**72**

Total Faculty



**72%**

Faculty with Advanced Degrees



## ARTS

John Paul II High School has a comprehensive Fine Arts Department that encompasses art, band, choir, dance, drama, musical theater, and orchestra. The department offers students a broad spectrum of opportunities that allow them to explore many avenues of artistic expression. In all, the program offers 27 fine arts courses.

The visual arts offerings provide students with a dynamic opportunity to explore and develop their creative talents in a studio setting. Students can study drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics, with opportunities to expand their skills in areas of deep interest.

The music program offers students a strong foundation in music history and in the knowledge and technical skills of musical performance. Students can take part in the school band and orchestra or study piano and other instruments in depth.

The aim of the performing arts program is to elicit creative self-expression, critical thinking, and artistry through the theater course offerings and stage productions. Students of all grade levels have opportunities to grow in the study of acting, singing, dancing, and musical and technical theater.

## ATHLETICS

John Paul II High School has a young but growing tradition of athletic excellence — with a focus on competition, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and skill development. Student-athletes compete in 18 sports at the highest levels. Varsity sports include baseball, basketball (boys/girls), cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse (boys/girls), powerlifting, soccer (boys/girls), softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and water polo.



## FAST FACTS



**17:1**

Student/Teacher Ratio



**27**

Fine Arts Offerings

**AP**

**25**

AP Courses Offered

Over the years, teams have won five state championships, with student athletes winning individual state titles in golf, tennis, and track as well. Numerous athletes go on to play at the collegiate level each year.

## SCHOOL LIFE

JPII's robust extracurricular program offers a venue for all students to engage in the life of the school and develop their leadership skills. Students are encouraged to take part in existing clubs or start new clubs within their interest areas. Current clubs range from the Academic Decathlon to aviation, PingPong to robotics, the National French Honor Society to the National Arts Honor Society, and more.

In addition to clubs and other extracurricular activities, John Paul II High School students regularly take part in community service, partnering with more than 80 nonprofits in the local area. Campus ministry is also integral to the school's mission to educate the heart and mind, with students participating in daily Mass, prayer services, class retreats, and mission trips.

JPII is one of four U.S. schools to participate in at a recent global innovation summit in Rome. Students presented innovative ways to deal with food insecurity among teens in Collin County, Texas, in partnership with the North Texas Food Bank.

## CAMPUS

The JPII campus is located five miles from downtown Plano, Texas, and 20 miles north of downtown Dallas. The school sits on 48.5 acres and boasts 317,000 square feet of state-of-the-art educational space. The classrooms are all wired with advanced technology — including AI-based advanced motion tracking — for both in-person and remote learning.



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The school added an athletic complex for football, soccer, and track in 2008. In 2011, through the generosity of the Templeton family, the school's state-of-the-art East Sports Complex was opened, which includes softball and baseball fields, as well as eight championship tennis courts.



MOTTO

***"Seek to  
Serve"***

## ABOUT THE POSITION

The school operates in the President and Principal model in which the President serves as the chief executive officer of the school. As such, the President is responsible for the operational vitality for the school, including advancement, enrollment, marketing, finances, and capital projects. The President leads and articulates the school's mission and vision, creates, and implements strategic plans, and builds and nurtures constituent and stakeholder relationships on and off campus. The President also bears ultimate responsibility for the school's Catholic identity and is supported by a robust senior leadership team in carrying out these responsibilities.

The key responsibilities of the President of John Paul II include the following:

- Maintain Catholic identity and steward the mission and vision of the school
- Maintain respectful and productive relationships with all Diocesan Offices and Officials, The Board of Directors, The Board of Trustees, the Cardinal Women's Auxiliary (CWA) and the Parent Teacher School Organization (PTSO)
- Establish and maintain relationships with pastors, presidents and principals of Catholic, private and public schools (High, Middle and Elementary)
- Establish and maintain relationships with alumni of the school
- Support the Deans' Offices to insure the success of the academic and extra-curricular programs



## FAST FACTS



**118**

AP Scholars



**\$2.7M**

Financial Aid Awarded This Year



**45%**

Students Receiving Aid



- Direct, manage and support the efforts of various administrative departments to ensure the success of their missions
- Observe and evaluate the executive staff and the staff of the president's office
- Meet regularly with administration to identify needs and initiatives, foster communication, and address needs and requirements to ensure effective operation of the school
- Maintains oversight of the PTSO and the CWA
- Report to, seek the advice of, and act upon the agreed direction of the Board of Trustees to ensure the continued, successful operation of the school now and in the future
- Serve as chief spokesperson for the school and communicates with various public and private stakeholders with properly prepared published materials, website content, social media and verbal communication
- Implement and monitor a strategic plan for campus facilities as required for growth and modernization to meet the needs of the academic and extra-curricular programs

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

John Paul II High School is a young and exciting diocesan school that is competing effectively in an education environment filled with high-performing legacy institutions, both public and private. JP II is poised to become one of the nation's preeminent Catholic preparatory schools. The next President will be expected to capitalize on the school's excellent resources and the area demographics to actualize the institution's full potential while remaining true to its Catholic values.



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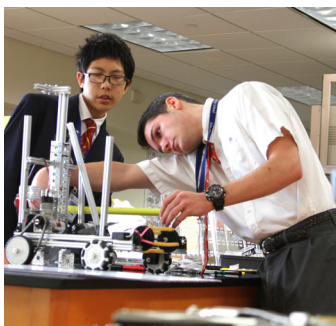
Following recent turnover in the leadership team, the next President must bring a sense of stability and confidence in directing the mission and vision of the school. The community would benefit from a pastoral, “ministry-of-presence” approach in its next school leader.

In addition, the growth of the north Dallas area has created demand for a regional Catholic elementary school. This school, once formed, will become a principal feeder to John Paul II. This development will call upon the next President to be an innovative and strategic leader as various opportunities for K-12 alignment will abound.

Some of the challenges for the new President will likely include the following:

- Maintain the outstanding academic reputation of the school while continuing to foster equally impressive outcomes for athletics, the arts, and other co-curricular activities.
- Develop a consistent admission policy that supports the inclusive mission of the school while holding the line on expected academic standards.
- Work closely with the board, develop a bold, credible, near-term vision and plan for the school and execute the plan with rigor and discipline.
- Carefully cultivate and demonstrate the distinct advantages of the President/Principal Model for the benefit of the school.
- Grow the donor base to enrich the financial condition of the school and begin building a culture of philanthropy that will expand access for students and sustain the important mission of the school as a welcoming and inclusive Catholic institution.
- Continue raising the profile and value proposition of the school's Catholic and diocesan identity and model those core values in one's leadership of the school.





## DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

As mentioned earlier in this document, the school operates in the President/Principal Model. In this increasingly popular and powerful leadership structure, the Principal reports to the President/CEO and is responsible for overseeing day-to-day academic operations, which frees up the President to be the more outward facing “institution builder” – the fundraiser, friend raiser, vision-setter, and overall face of the school to the community. This key role will require a leader with exceptional poise, presence, energy, and communications skills. It will also require an effective team builder who will work in partnership with the Principal and senior leadership team in driving the agenda and achieving the board and the Diocese’s great ambitions for the school.

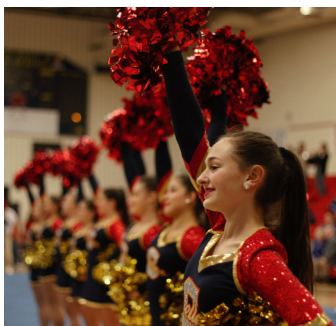
To qualify for this extraordinary opportunity, you will need to be a practicing Catholic and accomplished servant leader with passion for the vital mission of Catholic schools. The board and diocese welcome candidates from other Catholic or independent schools as well as accomplished executives from other mission-critical career venues such as higher education; non-profit foundations, associations, charities, and the like; or the corporate, civic, and professional services arenas. While knowledge of education and school operations is preferred, other qualities and experiences are also greatly valued, especially visionary, entrepreneurial leadership and the ability to inspire, lead a high performing team, and create demand for the extraordinary gifts of a Catholic education.

This is a rare and timely opportunity to take a high performing diocesan school to the next level while championing the critical role of Catholic schools for children, families, and communities.

## ABOUT THE AREA

Plano is an economically thriving community in the north end of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The current population is around 289,000. Combined with surrounding Collin County cities the population surpasses 1.1 million. John Paul II High School is the only Catholic high school in the county.

Plano is named for the flat plains of this region. But the city is more varied and vibrant than its name suggests. It boasts great neighborhoods, strong education, high employment rates, iconic and authentic cuisine, and plenty of opportunities for the arts and entertainment. The introduction of a light rail system has helped improve the overall quality of life, as well. The city boasts a number of attractive tree-lined parks, recreation areas, and natural preserves. Top employers include Bank of America, Capital One Finance, Toyota Motor North America, Frito Lay, and JCPenney.



Given its economic health and range of services, the city ranks high on national lists of best places to live. The weather is hot in summer, with the potential for strong thunderstorms, but pleasant throughout much of the rest of the year. The cost of living is slightly above the nation's average.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the next President. All inquiries and applications will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality and with the greatest respect.

The successful candidate will be expected to assume the responsibilities of the position in July 2024. Do not delay. Connect with us today!

To apply, please submit the following four documents, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments.

- Letter of Interest that aligns your experiences and skill sets with the current needs of the school as you understand them.
- Statement of Catholic educational leadership philosophy.
- Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
- List of five references with names, relationships, phone numbers, and email addresses. References will not be contacted without your knowledge and approval.
- Please include "John Paul II High School - President" in the subject field



### ***Assemble all of the application materials in one email to:***

Kyle Pietrantonio, Partner  
kpietrantonio@partnersinmission.com  
Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC  
8 Nicklaus Way | Mashpee, MA 02649  
202-390-0230 (Cell)  
www.partnersinmissionslss.com





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