



VOLUME V ISSUE XX

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Changes in Staff for Second Semester

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, we will be saying good-bye to three valued JP II staff members and welcoming three new ones as we begin the 2nd Semester on January 8. While change is inevitable, it's never easy, particularly in the middle of the school year. We are fortunate to be able to find qualified replacements.

Mrs. Kathy Tucker, part-time instrumental music teacher, will be leaving to take care of some personal family matters out of state. We thank Mrs. Tucker for her service to JP II and for getting our instrumental music program off the ground. She has laid a strong foundation upon which the music program can grow.

Welcome **Mr. Victor Ney** to carry the music program forward. Mr. Ney comes to JP II with over three decades of experience in the music industry. Most recently, he served as Bandmaster of the Parris Island Marine Band from 2020 – 2023. A percussionist, he has been conducting and/or playing in Marine bands for close to a quarter century across the United States. He began his career as the Director of Music in the Woodland (OK) School District. He is a 1998 graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's of Music Education. Mr. Ney is also a member of the Beaufort County School Board.

Mr. Micah Heinz, middle school physical science and high school chemistry teacher, has been called to duty in the United States Army. We knew when we hired Mr. Heinz that he could be called to duty at any time, we just didn't know that time would come so soon. We thank him for his service to JP II and his country. We remain confident Mr. Heinz will return to teach at JP II sometime in the future.

Welcome **Mr. Lucas Schatzle** to replace Mr. Heinz. Mr. Schatzle comes to us most recently from Carolina Charter School in Charleston where he taught middle school science and pre-algebra. Prior to that he was a science teacher at Bridges Prep in Beaufort. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and served in the U.S. Navy and a career in law enforcement before entering the education field.

Mrs. Serena Chandler, Director of Finance, will be moving on to take a position with the Department of Defense. She began her JP II career in April 2016 as a receptionist and bookkeeper and was appointed to the newly created position of Director of Finance in 2019 as the school started to grow. Most of you have come to know Serena through your tuition payments and financial aid applications. She leaves big shoes to fill.

The search for the next Director of Finance is currently underway and we have received more than a dozen applications in less than a week. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit for this position, please encourage them to apply quickly. The position is open until filled. Resumes and cover letters should be emailed directly to john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org. Please be patient with us through this transition as it's likely the Finance Office will be vacant for at least a couple of weeks in January.

From the Sports Desk

Girls Varsity Basketball came up a little short on the comeback, but we put up a great fight against a very good St. Joseph's Catholic School team, losing 45-42. We had to fight for every point and rebound we got. Gracie Henderson led the time in points with 16 and knocked down some big 3s when we needed them. Brady Mahoney had 10 points and 8 rebounds. Cayce Graves had 10 points and 5 steals. Lily Termini had 6 points and 11 rebounds.

Girls JV Basketball defeated Hilton Head High School JV 30-9 last Friday night. What a tremendous team win!! The girls were led in scoring by Ellie Heathcott with 14 points, including 6-8 from the free throw line. Rachael Breneman, Gabby Heathcott and Hollis Melnick each scored 4 points, and Bella Del Mazo and Megan Fox each had 2 points. Tremendous team defense for the Golden Warriors once again, with everyone contributing!! Great job ladies!!

Boys Varsity Basketball were powered by 17 second-half points by senior co-captain James Keefer and a game-high 18 from freshman point guard Daniel Godsun, the Golden Warriors came storming back Saturday afternoon to snuff out the Blazers from Bethesda Academy 66-54. The tide began to turn midway through the second quarter when JP2 was down 30-17. Aiding the comeback was sophomore Logan Cotter, who made timely shots and drew multiple offense fouls on the aggressive visitors. It was the sixth win on the season versus five losses, sending the home team into a much-needed break in the schedule before action resumes Friday night at home vs. Patrick Henry Academy. The Warriors improved to 6-5 on the season.

Sixteen points from senior co-captain Christian Tilton and an outstanding first quarter effort of 16-3 was not enough to hold off the undefeated Knights of St. Joseph's Catholic School, whose physical play and timely shooting resulted in a 40-36 road win for the visitors from Greenville. The loss drops the Golden Warriors record to 5-5.

Boys Middle School Basketball defeated a very game and talented Bethesda Middle School 47-38 on Saturday in a back-and-forth affair. The Golden Warriors were again led in the scoring column by Leiland Fripp who scored 16, while Chase Cotter chipped in with 10. Russell Spencer controlled the boards with a team high 11 rebounds. Zachary Moulton had another outstanding all-around game to help lead his team to victory. The game was very close throughout with 10 different lead changes. The Golden Warriors pulled away in the last 2 minutes to close out the win.

Wrestling traveled to Bridges Preparatory School for a varsity meet against the host team, Bamberg and Thomas Heyward Academy/Colleton Preparatory School. The JP2 squad won all 3 team dual matches. In the opening team dual match, the Warriors started out the night with a thrilling victory over their local rivals and a solid Bridges Prep team by a score of 45 to 36. 120-pound wrestler Jude Witkowski led off the dual with a pin to put the Warriors up 6-0. Sophomore 126 lb. wrestler Hayes Keefer earned the walk-over forfeit win to bring the 12-0. 132 lb. wrestler Daniel Snyder followed it up with a pin over his opponent, extending the lead to 18-

0. Freshman Jackson Reilley came out aggressive and continued the pin chain with a 1st period fall over his opponent, giving the Warriors a 24-0 lead. Bridges Prep won by pin at 144 to cut the lead to 24-6. At the 150-pound weight class, Jack Hannagan grinded out a hard fought 9-4 win to put the Warriors ahead 27-6. Bridges Prep followed it up with 2 pins at the 157- and 165-pound weight classes to cut the lead to 27-18. Then Brandyn Horton was electric in his match & secured a much-needed pinfall to increase the lead to 33-18. Bridges came back with 3 consecutive pins at the 190-, 215- and 285-pound weight classes to give Bridges a 36-33 lead with 2 individual matches to go. At 106, Jase Reynolds earned 6 team points for the Warriors squad with a forfeit. With the Warriors up 39 to 36 going into the last match of the dual, it came down to freshman 113-pound wrestler Bailey Homer to decide the team results. Homer would not be denied the victory as he scored 2 takedowns and came out on top with a bow and arrow cradle for the pin. In the 2nd team dual match, the Warriors squad defeated Bamberg by a score of 54-30. The team had six pins and three forfeits. Earning falls and donning the pin chain were Reynolds, Snyder, Reilley, Hannagan, Horton, and Chris Orta. Winning with a forfeit were Witkowski, Bailey Homer, and Alex Mercer. The JP2 wrestling team finished off the night with a 60-18 win over the Thomas Heyward/Colleton Prep combined team. Starting off the dual, the 1-2 combo of Snyder & Reilley earned their 3rd pins of the night. Witkowski secured his 2nd pin of the night while Gavin Byrne came back from a 8-0 deficit to pin his opponent after having fought off his back twice in the match. 3-0 on the night were Jase Reynolds, Bailey Homer, Jude Witkowski, Daniel Snyder, Jackson Reilley, Brandyn Horton. 2-1 on the night was Jack Hannagan. 1-0 was Gavin Byrne. Finishing at 1-2 were Hayes Keefer, Sullivan Homer, Renzo Cedeno, and Jonathan Dominguez. Hammers of the Night were Bailey Homer, Jackson Reilley, Brandyn Horton, Daniel Snyder & Jude Witkowski, who had pins in all of their matches. While wrestlers compete individually, this group of young men have embraced the concept of teamwork, being aggressive, and looking to score bonus points. The team dual meet record is now 8-3. All three JP2 wrestling squads are back in action this weekend at the Lowcountry Wrestling Championship Tournaments being held at Hilton Head High School. Junior Varsity wrestles on Friday night. Varsity & Middle School competition will take place on Saturday.

Last Saturday the varsity wrestling team competed in the Northwood Academy Tournament where the Warrior squad earned a Runner-up finish in the 13-team event. JP2 scored 179 points, finishing 13 points behind the champion, North Central High School. Individually, 11 JP2 wrestlers placed in the top 4. Bringing home championships were Chase LaFountain (2-0, 2 pins) at 88 lbs., Daniel Snyder (3-0, 2 pins & a decision) at 132 lbs., and Renzo Cedeno (3-0, 3 pins) at 190 lbs. Finishing as runners-up were Hayes Keefer (1-1, 1 pin) at 126 lbs. and Brandyn Horton (2-1, 2 pins) at 175 lbs. Winning their 3rd place matches were Jase Reynolds (2-1, 1 pin & a decision) at 106 lbs., Alex Mercer (2-1, 2 pins) at 165 lbs., Chris Orta (4-1, 4 pins) at 175 . Finishing 4th were Brian Orta (4-2, 4 pins) at 144 lbs., Jack Hannagan (3-2, 2 pins & a decision) at 150 lbs. and Gavin Byrne (2-2, 2 pins) at 190. The team came out ready to wrestle from the whistle and had one of their best performances of the year. Several wrestlers came from behind to score last second takedowns, reversals, and pins. The wrestlers did a great job all day of being on the attack and always looking to score. Wrestlers of the week are Chase LaFountain, 5-0 for the week with 4 pins, Daniel Snyder 4-0 with 3 pins this week, and Renzo Cedeno, 4-0 with 3 pins this week.

First Semester Exam Schedule

We've had a couple of questions regarding exam days, so to ensure that everyone has the same information, please review the information below.

- Remember that all students in grades 9-11 are required to take first semester exams. Because of their senior project requirement, first and second semester exams will be optional for all seniors. A senior may choose to take an exam if s/he feels it could help to raise her/his semester grade.
- If a student misses an exam due to illness, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher so that a date can be chosen for making up the exam. There is the possibility that it will not be made up until after the break. In that case, the student will receive an "Incomplete" for her/his semester grade until the exam is made up.
- High school students who are taking an AP class are required to report to her/his AP class during their regularly scheduled AP block. If a student receives an Unexcused Absence for a missed AP exam block, she/he earns a zero for all missed work that day.
- Middle school students are ONLY taking exams for high school credit classes. This includes PreAP English I, PreAP Algebra I, PreAP Geometry & Statistics, and Spanish I/Mandarin I.
- Middle school teachers will be using their exam period to administer an end of unit test, have students give a presentation, or complete instruction prior to break. Middle school attendance is expected through Wednesday, December 20th, as well.
- The daily "regular" uniform will be the uniform of the day for Monday through Wednesday of next week.

2023 1st Semester Exam Schedule

Monday, December 18

8:25-9:45am	Block A
9:50-11:05am	Block B
11:10-12:25am	Block C
12:30pm	Dismissal

Tuesday, December 19

8:25-9:45am	Block E
9:50-11:05am	Block F
11:10-12:25am	Block G
12:30pm	Dismissal

Wednesday, December 20

8:25-9:45am	Block D
9:50-11:05am	Block H
11:15am	Dismissal



Important Enrollment Reminders

All current 6th – 11th graders must re-enroll each year by March 1 to secure their spot for the 2024-25 school year. We expect to be at capacity, meaning paying attention to deadlines is very important. We will employ strict class size limits in all grades. Admission cannot be guaranteed after March 1.

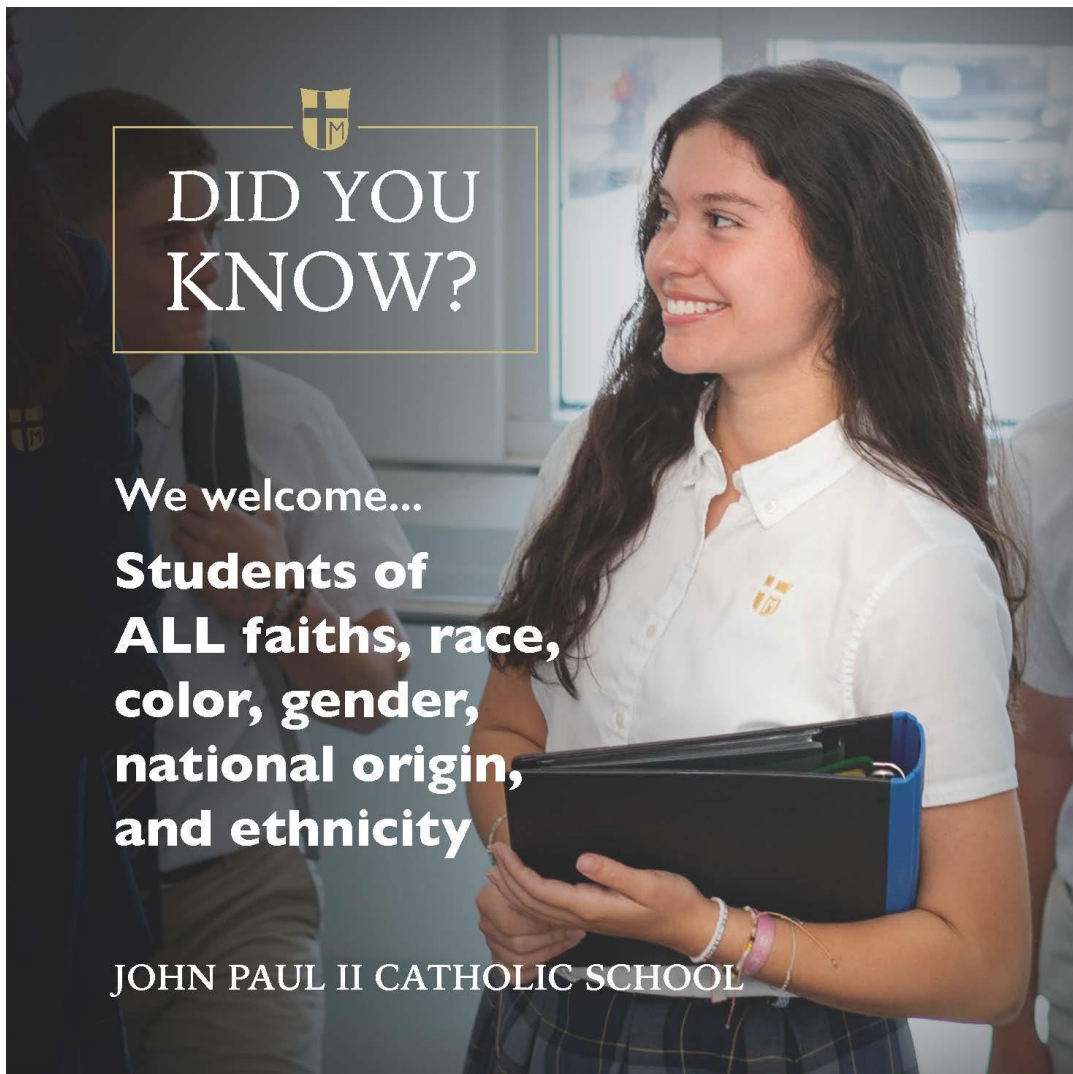
January 15 – Early Admission Deadline for Incoming Students

January 15 – Tuition Assistance Deadline for All Families

February 15 – Early Admission Deposit Due for Incoming Students

March 1 – Deposit Due for All Returning Students

March 1 – Regular Admissions Deadline for New Students



Choir Performs Lessons and Carols

The JP II Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Emily Brown, performed Lessons and Carols on Thursday evening. For those who missed it, you missed a beautiful reminder of the reason we celebrate the season of Christmas. Our choir has come so far in such a short period of time, and it will not be long now when students are choosing JP II not just for the faith-based environment, or excellent academic program, or athletics, but for being one of the best performing arts schools in the Lowcountry. Thank you, Mrs. Brown, and the entire choir for putting on such an emotionally moving performance.

This is the last Weekly Warrior for 2023. The next Weekly Warrior will come your way on January 5, 2024. School resumes for students on Monday, January 8. It will be a Blue day.

I would take this opportunity to wish our entire JP II Family, students, staff, parents, and supporters a very Blessed and Joyful Christmas Season. For without each of you, we are not the same school we are today. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us pause to be grateful for what has been created here. Just as the Magi brought gifts to the infant Jesus, so too are we thankful for the gift of a quality Catholic secondary education that exists in the Lowcountry today because so many believed in the possibility. I know I speak for each of our faculty and staff, we are grateful for this opportunity, and we look forward to a New Year filled with much promise and joy.

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him.

Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11)

In His Purpose,



President

