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What's the Senior Capstone Project at JP II?

A long-standing academic requirement for all graduating seniors is to complete a capstone project. This project is designed to capture the culmination of their learning at JP II, spiritually, academically, and socially. Students are required to take a semester course called Senior Capstone, or alternatively take the AP Research class as part of the two-year AP Capstone Diploma. During the Senior Capstone course, students are asked to identify a mission they are passionate about that is then translated into a service project connected to our Catholic social justice teachings. They also must write a traditional research paper and then present their project to a faculty review panel in a TEDx style format. This requirement must be completed to graduate and those students who excel in their project are recognized at graduation. The senior project is not just a culmination of the JP II academic experience but prepares students for the rigors of college and reinforces our SHIELD values they will carry with them the rest of their lives. I would like to highlight two service projects recently completed.

Brad Campbell

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." -Romans 12:10. Serving others is one of the greatest things a person can do, and the John Paul II community has done just this. Back in September of 2023, Brad created JP II Wish, the first school-based charity in the state of South Carolina that donates to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. After months of organizing and participating in fundraisers, last week, our community's efforts culminated when JP II presented a check for \$8,500 to a young five-year-old cancer patient and her family. This could not have been possible without the help of everyone who donated their time, money, and efforts to the cause. A Wish is an incredibly impactful experience for a critically ill child and their family. A Wish provides the child with the childhood that they deserve and replaces fear with hope. As a community, we have demonstrated that we have the power to change lives through JP II Wish, and it is my sincere hope that this was the first of many Wishes that we will grant for children in need. Thank you to the JP II community!

The check presentation was held after last Wednesday's Mass. Brad introduced the Suddeth family from Bluffton as well as the Make-A-Wish representative, Erika Spracher. "It is my pleasure to present this \$8,500

check to Make- A-Wish from the JPII community. We are so glad that Lily is here and doing so well," said Brad. Three years ago, at the age of one, Lily was diagnosed with B-ALL, a form of leukemia. Just recently, Lily, along with her parents, Allison and Jason, and her three siblings, went on an unforgettable family vacation to St. John, one of the US Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. "It was Lily's first plane ride," commented mom, Allison. "She got to snorkel which was awesome." Jason, Lily's father, expressed his gratitude and enthusiasm to the JPII student body, faculty, staff, and visitors. He spoke of their decision to wait until Lily turned four before taking this remarkable trip, emphasizing how it would be a memory she would carry with her throughout her life. "There is not much I remember when I was young, but I promise you she will remember this trip! We are so grateful for your support and kindness." The collective support of the JPII community not only contributed to this incredible family vacation but would ensure that her first plane ride and snorkeling adventure would be remembered forever.



William Rooney

William Rooney selected A Father's Place as his project. A Father's Place is an organization committed to involving and empowering fathers in providing positive support for their children through programs that help them find steady jobs, learn how to be good parents, and feel optimistic about their family's future. With the help of our generous community, William has thus far collected 55 suits along with over 30 dress shirts, pants, shoes, belts, and ties. If you wish to be part of contributing to the success of A Father's Place, please drop off clean clothes (on hangers where needed) and other items at the school's front office. Thank you!



Important Enrollment Information

Acceptance letters for new students applying to JP2 have been mailed. If you applied for tuition assistance, both new and returning students, your letter was mailed this week. Please note that we have changed the letter slightly to reflect the total award per family. Keep in mind the award does not include the Catholic or sibling discount, or scholarships from non-JP2 sources, so your actual discount might be greater than what's shown.

All students, new and returning, must complete enrollment no later than March 1 to secure your spot. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required for each returning student and \$1,000 for any new student. This is a deposit, not a fee, and reduces your overall tuition charge. All families must enroll and set up a FACTS account. Tuition statements will be mailed in early March with monthly payments beginning in July 2024. For those paying monthly, we use an 11-month calendar with no payment due in June. If a family wishes to pay in full prior to July there is a 3% discount applied.

We will begin the scheduling process for all enrolled returning students in March. Scheduling for enrolled new students will take place after placement tests have been administered and all records received from sending schools. It's extremely important for families to meet the March 1 deadline. This allows us to build our schedule, meet the budget timeline, and offer teacher contracts for the 2024-25 school year.

If you have any questions regarding enrollment, please contact either Anne McClure at anne.mcclure@johnpaul2school.org or Jill Heathcott at Finance@johnpaul2school.org.

From the Sports Desk

Congratulations Varsity Wrestling – State Runner-Up

The John Paul II Golden Warrior Wrestling Team made history this weekend, finishing as State Runner-Up at the SCISA State Team Dual Tourney. In the semi-finals against the Hammond Skyhawks, the Golden Warriors came out victorious 39-37 in an exciting dual that came down to the final match. The dual started at 175 where senior Chris Orta led it off with a 1st period pin to give JP2 a 6-0 lead. At 190, junior Gavin Byrne lost by a 1st period pin to knot it up at 6-6. Senior Renzo lost by a 3rd period pin to returning state runner-up Kirby Johns to give the Skyhawks a 12-6 lead. Then at 285, Jonathan Domiguez earned a huge pin over his opponent in a momentum shifting match to tie it up at 12. 106 pounder Jase Reynolds earned a walk-over forfeit. Then at 113 Bailey Homer had a back-and-forth match where he fought off his back 3 times and then secured a reversal with less than 15 seconds left and came away with a come from behind pin with only 7 seconds left in the match to give the Warriors a 24-12 lead. At 120 Jude Witkowski fought off his back twice against returning state champ Angsom Ladd and lost by a margin of 11-0, cutting the lead to 24 to 16. The Skyhawks had a forfeit win at 126 to make the score 24-22 in favor of JP2. At 132 Daniel Snyder, who has overcome injury & being sick in recent weeks, battled hard, but lost 7-2 to returning state place winner and projected champ Jaden Kline to give Hammond a 25-24 lead. Brian Orta responded with a 1st period pin to put the Warriors on top 30-25. At 144 Jack Hannagan won a tight 4-1 match over state runner-up Blaze Barnes to give JP2 a 33-25 lead. At 150 Matei Porcelli fell by a 1st period fall to 3-time state champ Luke Martin and was followed by Alex Mercer losing by pin to 2-time state champ Cobin Rabon, giving the Skyhawks a 37 to 33 lead going into the final match of the night. Senior Brandyn Horton came out on the attack, let it fly and pinned his 4th

ranked opponent to give the John Paul 2 Golden Warriors a 39 to 37 win over the host Hammond Skyhawks. With the win, the Warriors squad earned their 1st ever appearance in the state finals of the SCISA Duals Tourney.

In the finals, the Warriors fought hard, but ultimately fell to Cardinal Newman by a score 67 to 10 with individual victories coming from Daniel Snyder & Jack Hannagan. Snyder earning a 2nd period pin over # 1 ranked Decha Dawson, who he had lost to earlier in the season. Jack Hannagan finished off the scoring for the Warriors with an 11 - 2 major decision win. This gives the wrestling program their first team banner in the gym. SCISA does not divide schools into classes for wrestling, so a runner-up finish is a huge accomplishment. The Warriors are back in action this Saturday at the SCISA Individual State Tourney being held at Cardinal Newman High School in Columbia.



Girls Varsity Basketball defeated Thomas Heyward 62-13 on Tuesday night. The girls played great defense and passed well. Brady Mahoney had another big night with 28 points and 13 rebounds. Lauren Majorkiewicz had 10 points and 3 steals. Cayce Graves and Lily Termini each had 6.

On Monday night Girls Varsity Basketball beat Andrew Jackson 63-17. It was a great night honoring our seniors and congratulating them for all they have accomplished. Gracie Henderson is now the JPII record holder for career 3-pointers, passing Tkai Devore. Cayce Graves kept the energy high tonight and added 8 points, 6

assists, 9 rebounds, and 4 steals. Brady Mahoney had a career high 31 points and added 11 rebounds and 4 steals.

Girls Varsity fought their way to victory against a very gritty Prep team, 62-53. Our younger players (Evelyn Melnick and Lauren Majorkiewicz) stepped up and showed they can handle the pressure and knock down shots, while our seasoned players hit important free throws and came up with must have rebounds down the stretch. Lily Termini was awesome with 17 points, 6 assists, and 12 rebounds. Despite having to sit for nearly half a game, Brady Mahoney still had 16 points with 8 rebounds. Savannah Trott was also big for us with great help defense, and 8 points with 7 rebounds.

Girls Middle School Basketball fell to Thomas Heyward Tuesday night with a score of 17-20. The score does not reflect how hard the girls fought both offensively and defensively. The last time these two teams met, the Warriors lost 16-32, Heyward's high scorer scored 19 points in that game. Tonight, the Warriors held her to 6 only points. Alivia Ogden led the team in scoring with 16 points, Emma Karrh added 1 point. The girls play their last home game this Friday at 4:00 vs Hilton Head Christian Academy.

Boys Varsity Basketball on the second night of back-to-back games JP II's depth proved to be the determining factor as reserves Garrett Heathcott and Sebastian Slusne led the Golden Warriors to a 49-36 victory at Thomas Heyward Academy. Heathcott sparked the offense with 8 second-half points (10 total) and Slusne's defense and hustle helped hold the Rebels without a field goal for most of the fourth quarter. The win moved the season record to 13-9 and assured the team of a winning season. Next up for the boys is a road game versus rival Hilton Head Christian on Friday evening.

John Paul II's Boys Varsity Basketball team notched their 12th win of the year Monday evening on Senior Night by the score of 69-62 over Andrew Jackson Academy. Co-captains Christian Tilton and James Keefer made key defensive plays and clutch free throws down the stretch, but it was freshman Sean Phelan's season-high 25 points that led the way for the Golden Warriors.

Boys Middle School Basketball defeated Thomas Heyward Academy by a score of 54-8. JP II led at halftime 38-4 and cruised to victory. All 10 players hit the scoring column in a wire-to-wire victory. Josh Rivera led the team with 9 rebounds, while Matt Termini led the team with 6 steals. JP II Boys Middle School Basketball set their sights on their upcoming home game against Hilton Head Christian Academy Friday night.

Boys Middle School Basketball defeated Hilton Head Prep Middle School by a score of 47-23. JP II began the game on a 23-3 run to put the game away early. Leiland Fripp, Zachary Moulton, Dominic Aiken, and Russell Spencer each contributed 5 or more rebounds. Sam Marcinkoski, Braden Frickel, Leiland Fripp, Zachary Moulton, Chase Cotter, Dominic Aiken, and Josh Rivera all contributed in the scoring column for the Warriors. All 11 available players saw a significant amount of playing time.

Boys Middle School Basketball defeated Riverview Middle School by a score of 48-10. JP II led at halftime by a score of 30-3 and cruised to victory. Braden Frickel, Leiland Fripp, Zachary Moulton, Chase Cotter, Dominic Aiken, Josh Rivera, and Russell Spencer all contributed in the scoring column for the Warriors. All 10 players saw an abundance of playing time.

New Academic Eligibility Policy Released

The JPII Leadership Team has spent time reevaluating the current Academic Eligibility Policy as it appears in our 2023-2024 Parent Student Handbook. In an effort to support our students' academic growth and also allow them opportunities to use academic success as a motivating factor when it comes to participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, we have revised the existing policy and have put it in place for semester 2 of the 2023-2024 school year. Please find the updated policy attached. This policy has been shared with our faculty, staff, and athletic department. It will be shared again with parents/students at the Spring Parent Meetings as we begin the spring season. As always, if you have any questions after reviewing the policy change, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Rembold.

Academic Eligibility Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is an important part of the JPII educational experience. However, participation is a privilege that must be earned by meeting the school's academic and behavioral standards. We hold students accountable for their actions, while providing the support and motivation for students to earn the privilege of participating. For students to participate in athletic practices and games/extracurricular activities they must fail no more than one core course. A core course is defined as a course that is earning credit towards meeting the JPII graduation requirements. Eligibility for the fall season will be based on the second term grades of the previous academic year. Interim grade reports will be calculated on the 4th Friday of September. Any student failing two or more core courses at that time will be placed on academic probation for ten school days. The student will be removed following the 10-day academic probation if they are failing no more than one class. A student ineligible at the start of the year can regain eligibility failing no more than one course on this date (the 4th Friday of September). Students on academic probation will be prohibited from playing fall sports (to include practices) until such time as they are removed from the ineligibility list. Grades will be pulled a second time within the first term on the first Friday of November, as well. Any student failing two or more core courses at that time will be placed on academic probation for ten school days. The student will be removed following the 10-day academic probation if they are failing no more than one class. If a student does not regain eligibility at this time, they will remain ineligible until the end of the first semester when grades will be recalculated. Eligibility in extracurricular activities to include theatre performances and club activities will be handled in a similar way as athletic eligibility. Because these events do not have distinct seasons, fall eligibility may impact a student's participation in spring performances and club activities. Eligibility for the continued winter season and spring season will be based on first semester grades. Any student failing two or more core courses will be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the winter season upon return in January. Interim grade reports will be calculated on the 4th Friday of February. Any student failing two or more core courses at that time will be placed on academic probation for ten school days. A student ineligible at the start of the second term can regain eligibility by failing no more than one course on this date (the 4th Friday in February). Students on academic probation will be prohibited from playing winter or spring sports (to include practices) until such time as they are removed. Grades will be pulled a second time within the second term on the first Friday in April, as well. Any student failing two or more core classes at that time will be placed on academic probation for ten school days. The student will be removed following the 10-day academic probation if they are failing no more than one class. If a student does not regain eligibility at this time, they will remain ineligible for the remainder of the spring semester. If deemed ineligible at the time of the grade pull, students may still try out for teams and clubs. However, they will not be able to participate in games and performances until they regain

eligibility at the subsequent grade pull/new semester. It will be at the coach's discretion whether they participate in practices.

The Latest Rendering of the Innovation Center



If you are still considering your pledge to the ***Where Faith and Innovation Meet Campaign***, we are in the process of soliciting donations of any amount. If you would like to make a leadership gift (\$25,000 or more) or a naming opportunity (\$100,000 or more), please contact Brian Quinty or John McCarthy. For more information or to donate go to www.iohnpaul2school.org/support-jpii/where-faith-innovation-meet . It will take the entire community to help our **VISION** become a **REALITY**. Thank you for supporting JPPII.

In His Purpose,

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

President

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Stop by Heaven's Treasure Thrift Store tomorrow from 10AM to 2PM for their outdoor art sale! Discover unique and affordable artworks that will add character to your home. Don't miss out on an opportunity to support our mission of aiding Catholic education and find hidden treasures! The store is located at 4371 Bluffton Parkway, Bluffton. Brian Quinty, Director of Development, Phone 843-645-3838, ext. 149