



VOLUME V ISSUE XXXVI

May 3, 2024

Project Lead the Way School of Distinction

We are proud to announce that for the second year in a row JPIL has been recognized as a 2023-24 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. It is one of just a few hundred high schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW [Computer Science, Biomedical Science, Engineering]. PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 schools across the U.S, aiming to make every student in every grade STEM successful. JPIL is one of 9 middle schools in SC and one of 218 middle schools in the U.S., and one of 11 high schools in SC and one of 291 high schools across the United States to be recognized with this honor.

Credit for this recognition must go to our well-trained and dedicated PLTW faculty led by Mrs. Cadra Rooney who has helped grow the program from just a few courses at the middle and high school level to a highly recognized program. Thank you to PLTW teachers Mrs. Andi Shaw, Mrs. Alice Wood, Mr. Luke Schatzle, and Mr. Anthony Rossillo. A special thank you must go to Mr. John Cooney and the residents of Spring Island who raised over \$300,000 five years ago to jump start the program. We would not be where we are without you.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, JPIL had to meet multiple criteria in the 2022-23 school year such as the number of PLTW courses available to students, percent of students enrolled in PLTW, percentage of students taking more than one PLTW course, and efforts to ensure equitable access to PLTW courses.

"We are honored to recognize John Paul II Catholic School for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "We congratulate them on this achievement and celebrate their dedication to empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, not only in STEM subjects, but also preparing them for future careers and life outside of the classroom."

PLTW high school programs prepare today's students for the careers of tomorrow, by not only incorporating STEM skills into their learning but building students' collaboration, teamwork and communication skills so they can be ready for whatever path they take.

JPII is part of a community comprised of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a commitment to providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's Distinguished Program Recognition, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

About PLTW at JPII

PLTW Gateway (Grades 6 – 8)

Through explorations of coding and robotics, flight and space, human body systems, and more, PLTW Gateway fuels students' passion for discovery. As they engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges, students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. All the while, students step into roles spanning the career landscape – a crucial experience during this transitional time in their lives.

PLTW Computer Science

The PLTW Computer Science interdisciplinary courses engage students in compelling, real-world computer science challenges. As students work together to design solutions, they learn more than just how to code, developing computational thinking and communication skills for our increasingly technology-based economy.

PLTW Biomedical Science

PLTW Biomedical Science introduces high school students to medicine and human body systems, as well as the wide array of biomedical science careers. Throughout the program, students take on the same real-world challenges as biomedical science professionals, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields.

PLTW Engineering

PLTW Engineering empowers high school students to step into the role of an engineer and adopt a problem-solving mindset. Students engage in collaborative, real-life activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices or robotic arms, and exploring algae as a biofuel source.

About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) equips PreK-12 students for a STEM-driven world with teacher-empowered curriculum in computer science, engineering, biomedical science, and more. For over 25 years, PLTW's curriculum coupled with its best-in-class professional development has supported teachers in creating an environment to make every student STEM successful. As a national nonprofit organization, PLTW is proud to reach 2.5 million students in elementary, middle and high schools in all 50 states. With over 100,000 trained teachers nationwide, PLTW brings relevant, hands-on learning to classrooms across the country. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.



Warrior Olympics is Just a Few Weeks Away

Warrior Olympics, formerly known as House Olympics, is scheduled for **Friday, May 17th**. This is a mandatory school day where attendance will be taken. Students can expect a fun-filled day whether they enjoy playing outside for hours, relaxing with arts and crafts, and/or jamming out to their favorite music. The activities available to students this year reflect the diversity of our student body and their interests. Talk to your child about which activities they are excited to participate in and what specific supplies, if any, they will need to bring with them on that day. All students are encouraged to bring a drawstring style bag with the following items: a refillable water bottle, a towel, sunscreen, and bug spray. Dress of the day is house shirt with appropriate sporty bottoms and tennis shoes. Yearbooks will be available for purchase, charged through FACTS. Students will not need to have any cash with them as access to vending machines will be closed for the day. Water will be available all day. Boxed lunches and Kona Ice will be provided to students (one lunch and one Kona Ice per student). Activities will end by 12:00 and buses will leave campus at 12:15. When arriving to pick up your child(ren) please drive carefully as many students will be outside on the grounds. Please pray for a fabulous weather day as we are so excited to get outside and celebrate the 23-24 school year and the last day for our senior class!

A Few Yearbooks Remain for Purchase

Yearbooks are selling fast! Buy yours now before they are all gone. The link to purchase books is below and there will be a few books available for purchase during Warrior Olympics, when the books will be deployed to our students that have already purchased.

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK: https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/2421070/John-Paul-II-Catholic-School/2024-Yearbook/2023070604184203079/CATALOG_SHOP

Dress Code Reminders

"We, at John Paul II Catholic School, believe that student dress and overall appearance should foster a positive and productive environment and should reflect pride in oneself as well as in our school. We further believe that student dress and appearance is a shared responsibility of the home and the school. It is our sincere desire to provide adequate leeway for individuality, but at the same time to maintain a standard of good grooming and personal modesty. All clothing should be neat, clean and in good repair. Our dress code does not only apply between 7:45-3:25, during athletic events as well as after school activities, our students should represent our school values in all aspects. As warmer weather approaches students may feel inclined to loosen their moral compass. Please help us by discussing modesty with your children and making sure that WE FINISH THE YEAR STRONG! Go Warriors!"

Thanks! Mr. Robert Collar

What's Happening on Campus – A Project Update

By now you should all be aware of the construction going on behind the athletic center. This is the new parking lot. We have outgrown our parking capacity during the school day, and for anyone who has attended an event on campus, parking is at a premium. The new lot, scheduled for completion by August, will accommodate up to 140 vehicles. The lot will feature gravel parking areas, much to the chagrin of seniors who wished to paint their spaces, and paved travel lanes. The gravel is being used both for environmental reasons as well as cost savings. Once the lot is completed, vehicular traffic will not be permitted adjacent to the baseball and soccer fields except for handicapped accessibility. The lot will also provide much needed cueing space for afterschool pickup.

A large maintenance storage facility will be constructed on the north side of the new parking lot. This metal building will not only provide much-needed campus storage, but a workshop for our growing campus repair needs.

By the end of June, we expect two more modular classrooms to arrive. These classrooms will be located behind the current 8-classroom pod and will be science specific, with fully equipped labs, storage, and a prep room. Furniture for the new innovation center will be purchased in advance providing a glimpse of the future. Most, if not all, high school science classes will be located in the modulares.

We have begun clearing for a second athletic field to the east of the new soccer field. This will be the site of the future multi-sport stadium, but for now will provide extra practice and game space for football, soccer, and lacrosse. It will be big enough to accommodate a future 8-lane running track. We expect the field will be ready sometime this fall.

In early June we hope to start construction on the renovation of the existing dining commons. This is pending diocesan approval and Jasper County permitting. The current catering kitchen and Mary's Market will be gutted and transformed into a full service kitchen to provide a grab-n-go style food program at JPII. We will no longer need to bring in food from the outside (sorry Door Dash) or use vending machines. We are working with Sysco and Fresh Point to provide a nutritious and healthy breakfast and lunch menu at a reasonable price. There will be a point-of-sale system whereby students will use a card to charge to their FACTS account. No cash allowed, which is labor intensive. We have recently posted the position of food service manager so if you know of anyone interested, please have them contact me.

The innovation center is still in the permitting process, but we expect to secure the green light before August. From there it's a waiting game for diocesan financing, a complicated process, and for additional funds to be raised. We are currently at \$6.2 million raised, a phenomenal amount considering we have no alumni base; however, we still have a ways to go. The campaign goal is \$15 million pledged requiring us to borrow approximately \$10 million to reach the \$25 million price tag. We are still hoping to begin construction in 2024 with an opening sometime in 2026.

This will be the final project update of the school year. We trust when school reopens in August you will find the improvements continue to enhance the JPII experience for our students and families.

From the Sports Desk

SCISA Soccer Tournament Schedule

Girls Soccer will be home Monday vs Spartanburg Day @ 5:00pm

Boys Soccer will be at Wilson Hall on Tuesday @ 6:30pm

Varsity Baseball traveled to Northside Christian Academy for the second round of SCISA playoffs. We got on the board in the top of the first inning after Stewart Misko walked, Bryant Jolley hit into a fielder's choice, and Spencer Murphy singled, each scoring one run. We then added to our early lead in the top of the second inning after Logan Cotter doubled, and Archer Dewig grounded out, each scoring one run. Misko earned his first win on the mound. The righty went three and one one-third innings, striking out three and only walking one. Garrett Heathcott pitched two and two-third innings of no-run ball for JP II. Dewig, Cotter, and Murphy each drove in three runs. This is the first ever playoff win in the program's history! We are back on the road Friday to play Florence Christian in the third round of playoffs.

JV Baseball defeated Patrick Henry Academy 9-3. The team had solid pitching from Chase Cotter striking out 5 in 4 innings, and Jack Hannigan who struck out all 4 batters he faced. Offensively, JP II had a very balanced attack with 11 different players reaching base, 8 different players scoring runs, and 6 different players recording RBI's.

JP II JV Baseball had a tremendous victory over Class 4A public school Hilton Head by a score of 6-3. Once again, a balanced offensive attack got the job done with 7 different players recording hits. Dylan Gehm and Aiden Michaud each contributed 2 RBI's to lead the attack. Russ Spencer and Dylan Gehm pitched solid baseball, striking out 7 and allowing only one earned run. The victory increased the Golden Warriors record to 11-2 on the season.

JP II JV Baseball lost their final game of the season to a very talented May River JV team by a score of 7-1. Nick Feltner, Dylan Gehm, and Griffin Spencer each picked up hits for the Golden Warriors. Zachary Moulton pitched 2 innings of scoreless relief during the game. Overall, both teams played very solid baseball with each team only committing one error. The team finished with a very solid 11-3 record.

Varsity Softball was victorious over Patrick Henry with a final score of 9-1. JP II accumulated 10 hits in the game. Racheal Brenneman and Shelby Pinski were a force together in the line up, each collecting two hits for the Lady Warriors while hitting back-to-back. Gracie Henderson and Rachael Brenneman each drove in two runs. Shelby Pinski stole 3 of the team's 7 bases. Tevi Mullen was dominant in the circle with 13 strikeouts. She allowed eight hits and one run, with zero walks.

Girls Middle School Soccer showed determination and grit to pull out a 2-1 win over region opponent, Palmetto Christian. The girls were down 1-0 until Abby Brock converted a pk and Evelyn Melnick scored the winning goal lofting it over the keepers head that was assisted by Isabella Perez. Lauren Weniger led the defense with Abby, Brady Mahoney, and Lily Termini. Trinity Grace Maxwell played her best game of the year in goal collecting 16 saves. The girls finished the season 2nd in region, 9-4 overall, and will be at home in the 1st round of the SCISA 3A Tournament on Monday at 5:00pm.

Boys Tennis fell to Hilton Head Prep in the State Playoff Semi Final match 8-1 on Wednesday, May 1st. Singles: JPPI's Angelo Iskandar was defeated by HHP's Wyatt Harmer; 6-0, 6-0. JPPI's Leo Iskandar was defeated by HHP's Alex Zhu; 6-0, 6-3. JPPI's Landon Low was defeated by HHP's Jack Nail; 6-2, 6-1. JPPI's Sullivan Homer was defeated by HHP's J.W. Moody; 6-0, 6-0. JPPI's Isaiah Hahn was defeated by HHP's Christian Arnold; 6-0, 6-1. JPPI's Bailey Homer was defeated by HHP's Zander Fink; 6-0, 6-0. Doubles: JPPI's Angelo Iskandar and Landon Low defeated HHP's Thomas Dowe and Hooper Hull; 8-5. (Great win for JPPI!) JPPI's Sullivan Homer and Nathan Lyle were defeated by HHP's Jack Cozza and Cole Mustard; 8-2. JPPI's Isaiah Hahn and Bailey Homer were defeated by HHP's Alfred Caminos and August Dollenberg; 8-3. The JPPI Boy's tennis season has come to an end. We wish HHP good luck as they enter into the Finals on Friday.

Save the Date – New Student and Family BBQ

On **Tuesday, May 28 from 4:00 – 6:00pm** we will have our annual new student and family barbeque. We began this tradition a few years ago when our new student enrollment started to rapidly increase. Many of our students were coming from outside our Catholic school community and we felt an orientation and community gathering would best serve to welcome our new families to the JPPI family. So please plan to join us on the 28th. We will begin in the athletic center with a brief presentation followed by a barbeque dinner catered by the acclaimed Cherry Point BBQ.

Have a great weekend.

John E McCarthy

President