



VOLUME VI ISSUE II

August 9, 2024

Opening Day is Next Week!

Ready or not, it's game time! While Debby put a damper on our progress for three days, it has not stopped the preparation to be ready to open next week. We are grateful for our maintenance staff for readying the buildings and classrooms, Ms. Pina for building schedules for all the late enrollees, Mrs. McNab for planning orientation and House activities for next week, for our Campus Ministry Team who is super excited for the first mass and retreat of the school year, and for all the teachers and staff who have planned around the storm to be ready to welcome students back. There's only one thing missing, and that is our students. For it is our students who give us purpose.

This edition of the Weekly Warrior will be focused exclusively on next week and all the information you need as we welcome back our students.

Next Week's Schedule

- **Monday August 12** – Middle School Orientation in the Athletic Center (park in new parking lot behind AC). New students and their parents are invited at 8:00am for a 30-minute orientation meeting. Returning middle school students should plan to be dropped off in front of the Athletic Center by 8:45. The day will end at 12:00pm. Please note there's no bus transportation and students staying for sports after school should pack a lunch. Students should wear house shirts if they have them.
- **Tuesday August 13** – High School Orientation will begin with a 30-minute orientation meeting for new students and their parents in the Commons (main school building) starting at 8:00am. Returning students should report to the Athletic Center starting at 8:45am. The program will begin promptly at 9:00. The day will end at 12:00pm. Please note there's no bus transportation and students staying for sports after school should pack a lunch. Students should wear house shirts if they have them.
- **Wednesday August 14** – First official day of school for everyone. Schedules have changed so pay careful attention to the new start and end times. Bus transportation begins today. See the new schedule and routes in this newsletter. Regular school uniform.

- **Thursday August 15** – First mass of the school year. While Wednesday is the typical first mass of the school year, however Thursday is a Catholic holy day, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It's also school picture day. Mass uniform please. Parents and community members are welcome to attend mass. It starts at 11:00am in the Athletic Center.
- **Friday August 16** – First late start Friday. School starts at 8:55 for both middle and high school. If you need to drop off earlier than 8:45, please do so at the modular classrooms. Please note, we cannot accommodate students on campus prior to 8:00am. This is also the first office "House Day". Students wear their house shirt and appropriate bottoms. While it's relaxed dress, it does not mean anything goes. Please consult the Student Parent Handbook for guidance.

Bus Routes for the 2024-25 School Year

Bus Routes have changed so please review carefully. There are now four routes with Hilton Head/Moss Creek now separate from Bluffton/SGG. Limited space is available so please contact Mrs. Jill Heathcott if you would like to sign up for the bus. There is a fee to ride the bus.

Beaufort Route

St. Peter's, 70 Lady's Island Dr. Pickup and drop off in the church parking lot

Monday – Thursday Pickup time is 7:00am (depart for Food Lion at 7:10am)

Friday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for Food Lion at 7:40am)

Shell Point (Food Lion), 12 Savannah Hwy. Pickup and drop off in the parking lot (note new stop)

Monday – Thursday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for JPll at 7:40)

Friday – Pickup time 8:00am (depart for JPll at 8:10)

Hardeeville Route

Publix, 2501 May River Xing. Pickup and drop off in the parking lot

Monday – Thursday – Pickup time is 7:00am (depart for St. Anthony's at 7:10)

Friday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for St. Anthony's at 7:40)

St. Anthony's, 24110 Whyte Hardee Blvd. Pickup and drop off in parking lot

Monday – Thursday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for JPll at 7:40am)

Friday – Pickup time is 8:00am (depart for JPll at 8:10am)

Hilton Head Island Route

St. Francis, 45 Beach City Rd. Pickup and drop off by the gym

Monday – Thursday – Pick up time is 7:00am (depart for Moss Creek at 7:10)

Friday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for Moss Creek at 7:40)

Moss Creek – Pickup at empty parking lot in Moss Creek

Monday – Thursday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for JPll at 7:40)

Friday – Pickup time is 8:00am (depart for JPll at 8:10)

Bluffton Route,

St. Gregory the Great, 38 St. Gregory Dr. Pickup & drop off in the parking lot

Monday – Thursday – Pickup time is 7:30am (depart for JP II at 7:40)

Friday – Pickup time 8:00am (depart for JP II at 8:10)

Afternoon Routes – Buses leave JP II 10 minutes after the last bell of the day. Please be prompt in picking up your child at their stop.

Bus Drivers Needed

As our school population and routes increase, as well as athletic travel, our need for bus drivers increases. If you, or someone you know, would like to drive for us please contact Mr. Alan Lewis, Student Transportation, at alan.lewis@johnpaul2school.org. To be qualified, a driver must possess a valid SC CDL with passenger endorsement and pass a rigorous background screen, including a drug test. Day routes and athletic trips are both available. Pay is \$25 per hour for school routes and \$20 per hour for athletic trips.

What's Happening in Student Life

Welcome, new and returning families, for what I'm sure will be a wonderful school year! I am Kim McNab our Director of Student Life, and I'm thrilled to be a part of a team of dedicated administrators, fellow teachers, and amazing student leaders planning all of the fun we are going to have this year. First, I'd like to say that our community has been in my prayers as we have been enduring the flooding and uncertainty of Tropical Storm Debby. I am eternally grateful that I am typing this with the sun shining behind me through the window. Please feel the extra hope and warmth coming from me, my family, and JP II if you and your loved ones have been affected.

New families, I remain hopeful that your new student will receive their sorting box before Orientation on Monday. If your student enrolled post July 24th, your student will be greeted on Orientation day with their House swag and t-shirt! If your student enrolled prior to July 24th and has not yet received their House sorting box, **please** reach out to me as soon as possible so I can (1) track the package and (2) make sure your student has a shirt to wear for Monday or Tuesday. I am trying really hard to make sure no one feels left out for our orientation as its main purpose is to serve as a warm welcome for everyone.

From Homecoming and service projects to powderpuff games and SCISA/club events, I am your direct line for questions and concerns. Expect to hear more about all of the fun through this space on Weekly Warrior, emails from me, and from your student. As the head of our House System, I work closely with House Deans (Annie Chen- Lisieux House, Shayne Milligan- Savio House, Tracy Sklarin- Sebastian House, and Kefrin Woodham- Kolbe House) and House Leaders (more on those amazing students to come!) to plan the activities we do on Fridays, around holidays, and to boost up House and JP II Spirit! We are all great resources for information regarding all that is going on. Utilizing our SHIELD values and The Warrior Way, our team is tasked with bringing the fun while continuing to meaningfully shape our students into scholars with souls. Joseph Rivera, our new Campus Minister, is going to be an integral part of this journey and I am so excited to introduce him and to work with him this year. To that end, let me list a few of our upcoming activities so we can all get excited and prepare. My email inbox is always open and ready to accept questions and concerns (kim.mcnab@johnpaul2school.org is preferred). Welcome back and Go Warriors! Nolite Timere.

Weekly Schedule

- Aug. 12th- MS Orientation (New Families Arrive ~7:45 / Returning students at 8:45 / Dismiss 12:00)
- Aug. 13th- HS Orientation (New Families Arrive ~7:45 / Returning students at 8:45 / Dismiss 12:00)
- Aug. 14th- First Day of School and Senior Picture Day (Normal operating schedule)
- Aug. 15th- Underclassman Picture Day, Mass (Solemnity of the Assumption)
- Aug. 17th- 6th Grade Retreat, 9:00am-12:00pm @JPII Athletic Center with Campus Ministry
- Aug. 21st- Back to School Night

The New Bell Schedule

We have adjusted our bell schedules for two primary reasons. One, to move closer to a true middle school model, we will now have a 7-period schedule for grades 6 – 8. We find that having middle schoolers meet every day, as opposed to every day other as the high school does, provides a more effective use of time and improves the consistency of instruction. The only reason we were not able to do this before was due to the number of crossover teachers between middle and high school. That still exists, but in smaller numbers. Middle school periods will be 48 minutes. This actually increases the total amount of instructional time. Another middle school change is the location of Advisory (DOCS) within the day. We have moved it from the end of the day to the beginning as Homeroom/Advisory. **Middle School will still start at 8:25 and end at 3:25**, however the structure will be slightly different. No Advisory at the end of the day. We believe this will make Advisory more productive. When the bell rings at 3:25 students will either leave or head to sports and activities.

The other substantial change is for high school. We have created something called HS Zero (Z) Block. It will occur daily from 8:00 – 8:50am, with the exception of Friday. The purpose of Z Block is to eliminate conflicts for chorus and band allowing those two critical programs the ability to grow. Z block will also be where high school DOCS will be scheduled. High school students in need of extra help or making up a test will now do this before school as opposed to after. **The actual high school day, not counting Z Block, will begin at 8:55 and end at 3:20.** This will also help to create a bit of a staggered start and dismissal to aid with traffic congestion.

Friday will begin at 8:55 for both schools to allow for teacher meetings and professional development. Fridays will end at 3:20 for both schools as well. We will explain more about these changes during orientation.

The new bell schedule begins on Wednesday, August 14

- **Middle School** – 8:25 – 3:25 Monday-Thursday and 8:55 – 3:20pm on Friday
- **High School** – 8:00 – 8:50 Monday-Thursday (Z block only) and Monday to Friday 8:55 – 3:20 (A-H)

Construction Update

TS Debby set us back a bit so expect to see some construction continuing on campus next week. Please drive cautiously as always. Our three big challenges remain (1) completing the modulars and getting a certificate of occupancy, (2) finishing the Commons renovation, and (3) completing the parking lot and frontage road paving. While all was expected to be completed by today, we lost three days so not everything will be finished when you arrive on campus. Keep the faith...it will be worth the wait.

Enrollment has continued to grow over the past two weeks, and we expect a record number of students on campus. We will provide a full update on enrollment in next week's edition. Meanwhile, waiting lists are starting to form and space is at a premium. As we look forward to next year, it's not too early to start planning, there are no plans to expand modular space until the Innovation Center opens, so expect to see new student enrollment reduced and waiting lists forming much earlier in 2025.

Have a great weekend and see you Monday.

In His Purpose,



John E McCarthy
President