



VOLUME VI ISSUE XIII

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Coming Attraction: State of the School Address

Monday, November 4 is the date for the annual State of the School Address. This will be my sixth and final time addressing the JPII community on the current state of the school and plans for the future. We will announce tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year, provide an update on the president search, and give an overview of the campus improvement plan and next steps.

Why should you tune in? From the day I arrived, it was critical to provide our JPII community with an honest appraisal of where the school is, both academically and operationally. In those early days, the appraisal was quite sobering as the school tried to climb out of a large operational deficit. However, in making decisions around tuition increases we did so with a clear purpose and explanation. The best way to understand the school's rapid ascension and plans for the future is to participate in the state of the school. With enrollment continuing to soar, and space becoming a premium until the new building opens, parents will want to know the process for re-enrolling their children for next year and how we plan to admit new students.

The address will take place virtually on Facebook Live beginning at 6:30pm. There is an opportunity for audience participation. Please mark your calendars.

Intramurals are Coming this Winter

The winter sports season is right around the corner as tryouts begin next week (please see information about tryouts in the Sports Desk section). As JPII has grown, and our level of competition increased significantly, it's become impossible to provide an opportunity for every student to participate on one of the school's 6 basketball teams. A high number of students will try out for basketball, but unfortunately only a small number will make the team. While being "cut", particularly for the first time, is not a pleasant experience, it is not the end of the world. Many know the story of Michael Jordan being cut his sophomore year in high school only to

go on to become one of the greatest basketball players of all time. At a skinny 5'9", he was just not big enough nor good enough to make the team, though that did not deter him.

Next week will be disappointing to countless male and female students when they don't make the team. We have already received requests from parents to consider middle school "B" teams to give younger students the opportunity to play. While we successfully did this with volleyball, the number of basketball teams already (6) and the lack of available gym space, make it logistically impossible to field "B" basketball teams at this time. It is not a question of funding. Someday, when a second gym is available, "B" teams can happen, but for now we must come up with an alternative.

There are still opportunities for students who are cut from basketball. For boys, wrestling is a strong program with excellent coaching. Even if one has never wrestled, it's a sport easy to learn. For boys and girls interested in learning how to play lacrosse, we will have clinics this winter in preparation for our inaugural season in the spring. Finally, with the addition of the outside basketball court, we plan to offer intramurals for the first time. We are putting together a middle school intramural basketball program for those students who want to continue playing, albeit not on an interscholastic level. This should start up sometime in November. We are also looking at the possibility of offering intramural pickleball and perhaps even beach volleyball at the high school level depending on interest. Because all of these intramural sports will be outdoors, they will be weather dependent. Our goal remains to involve as many students in extracurricular activities as possible. Getting involved is part of the JPII experience of educating the whole child, mind, body, and soul.

Afterschool Pickup Line Essential Safety Information

When in the pick-up line, drive as far ahead as possible as guided by our staff, before loading or unloading your child(ren). This helps to get as many cars as possible into the safe zone to move students in and out of cars. And please load and unload students only in the safe zone next to our front sidewalk.

- Please stay in your car - if you need to get out of your car for any reason, please park in the visitor spaces.
- Your children should load and unload on the right-hand side of your vehicle next to the safe sidewalk. It is not safe to have students enter/exit on the left as they are then exposed to moving vehicles!
- When you can safely do so, please merge into the left "passing" lane to exit from the queue. And please, do this slowly and safely in conjunction with the other parent drivers.
- At all times, please wear smiles and have patience! We are doing the best we can to keep our kids safe—and you should assume all other parents have only the best intentions in mind when they, too, are on our campus.
- Stop at crosswalks to allow students to pass.
- Stay 100% attentive - please no cell phones while you drive, especially on our campus; little bodies can dart fast from one place to another, and they can be hard to see from the driver's seat. And ... remember those smiles!

The Possibility of a Traffic Signal at our Front Entrance

I am asked from time to time whether a traffic signal can be added to our school's front entrance to make exiting and entering the campus much safer. The answer to that question is maybe. When we began our campus expansion planning four years ago, we conducted a traffic study. One of the goals of the study was to add a traffic signal at our front entrance. This was well before there was one at the intersection of 462 and now one at Oldfield. The request was submitted to SCDOT and was denied due to not meeting their 8-hour

warrant for traffic flow. We met the warrant for only 2 out of 8 hours and you must meet the full 8-hour requirement. The study projected enrollment for when the Innovation Center would open but was still denied. We appealed and were denied again. Not to be deterred, we have been partnering with local politicians and Beaufort County. A meeting a few months ago provided a glimmer of hope. With the bond referendum coming on November 5th to add a 1% sales tax for future road improvements, we have been promised that a temporary traffic signal might be approved if this project goes forward. The funding calls for the relocation of Rt. 462 closer to our entrance. This could dramatically alter the way people enter and exit the campus. We have been brought into the preliminary planning of this potential major construction project and have been provided with the hope of a traffic signal at our front entrance, even if it's only temporary until the project is completed.

In a couple of weeks you will receive the Light Magazine Annual Report edition. In it you will see the revised campus masterplan that shows the relocation of Rt. 462, the acquisition of an 8-acre parcel of land in the process of being donated to JPII by Dick and Sharon Stewart, a temporary traffic signal at our front entrance, and a permanent traffic signal at our East entrance once the Warrior Way frontage road is complete. JPII's campus will continue to grow as our area grows. The goal is to make travel to and from campus as safe as possible.

Campus Masterplan and Capital Campaign Update

I'm excited to share an important update on our expansion project and capital campaign! The Phase I portion, which encompasses a \$4 million investment, is nearing completion. This phase, launched last summer, includes upgrades like a new front entrance and guardhouse, enhanced security with new cameras, a soccer field, expanded parking, improved traffic flow and landscaping, a storage building, new signage, and an outdoor basketball court. We anticipate wrapping this up by the end of the calendar year!

We've also kicked off Phase II—the construction of the \$26 million Innovation Center. Preliminary work is already underway, including transforming the Commons into a grab-n-go cafeteria, expanding the outdoor dining patio with sunshade protection (to be finalized soon), and constructing an additional playing field. This new field will be ready for action by next Spring, providing essential space for our teams.

To break ground on the Innovation Center, we still need to ramp up our fundraising efforts. Our capital campaign is entering its final phase, with a goal of raising \$16.5 million, half of which must be secured before construction begins. While we've made significant strides, we urgently need new donors to help us reach this milestone. Once we have enough cash on hand, we'll secure an \$18 million construction loan.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our families and community that has brought us this far. However, achieving our goal will require us to double down on our efforts. A new mailing has just been sent to select potential donors who may be able to contribute a leadership gift. Remember, every donation counts—no matter the size—and brings us closer to realizing this vision.

Now is the time to unite as a community and finish this campaign strong. The end is in sight, and together, we can make this dream a reality!

Student Activities

Today in House, students came together as a whole House and whole school to pray and reflect on the service that we all embarked upon on Monday in celebration of our Patron Saint John Paul II. It was a wonderful day and a wonderful way to kick off our call to be servants. I'm so grateful to everyone who made that day possible. We did it!

We will be collecting food for Mercy Mission over the next four weeks as a way to wrap up our collective reflection and call to action to Serve as a SHIELD Value. The best thing about our call to service is that it should remain in us throughout the year! We will continue to serve through December and term two. How can you impact your community as an individual? Sister Marybeth Kubera led us in our reflection and sent us off on our mission to stock the shelves at Mercy Mission- the food pantry run by the Daughters of Charity, her religious order, which serves over 150 FAMILIES per week. Our goals are as follows to bring in THOUSANDS of cans to feed the folks in need in our community. Let's go WARRIORS!

- **Week One: 10/30** - 5 cans of veggies per person. Bring these cans on House day. House mentors are responsible for checking off numbers of cans per person. Leave the cans. A student leader will come and collect them to be brought over to Mercy Mission DURING HOUSE or immediately following House. These procedure may be slightly modified depending on each students' house. Once the routine is established, it will be the same for each subsequent drive collection day.
- **Week Two: 11/18** - 3 cans of fruit per person. Follow the procedure as decided upon by your House from the previous week.
- **Week Three: 11/15** - 2, 2-lb bags of WHITE rice per person. Follow the procedure as decided upon by your House from the previous week.
- **Week Four: 11/22** - 1 glass jar of spaghetti sauce (I know, glass, but it's what they need). Follow the procedure as decided upon by your House from the previous week.

Cans are being counted to serve two purposes: 1) increased accountability for participation and 2) to have a friendly competition for every House to have an opportunity to earn House points. Reach out with questions or concerns to kim.mcnaab@johnpaul2school.org We are excited to make a difference with this crucial community group.

Upcoming Events

- October 30th: HOUSE DAY and Powderpuff practice. 5 cans of veggies per person
- November 1st: All Saints Day Mass (FRIDAY) and Senior Honoring @ Football game
- November 8th: 3 cans of canned fruit due/per student. Powderpuff semifinals during House.
- November 11th: Teacher in-service- NO SCHOOL- Happy Veteran's Day
- November 13th: Veteran's Day Mass
- November 15th: 2, 2lb bags of white rice due/per student. Extra day for Powderpuff practice or semi rain delay date.
- November 17th: Open House
- November 22nd: Friendsgiving, final day of Mercy Mission Food Drive, 1 jar of spaghetti sauce due/per student and Powderpuff final.

JPII Career Fair will be October 29

On **Tuesday, October 29**, we are planning a mini-Career Fair for our juniors and seniors. We will use B Block (10:25-11:50) for students to hear about one career in which they have expressed interest. Since our space is limited, we will be using the 10 modular classrooms, as well as a few smaller spaces, to host this event. We are hoping that you will share your expertise in one of the following areas as a presenter (see our needs below).

- Business, Finance, Marketing, Real Estate (20 minutes each, 4 presenters)
- Computer Programming, Cyber Security (40 minutes each, 2 presenters)
- Forensic Science, Law Enforcement, FBI, K9 Officer (25 minutes each, 3 presenters)

- Engineering (Mechanical and Civil), Architecture, Landscaping (20 minutes each, 4 presenters)
- Journalism, Broadcasting (40 minutes each, 2 presenters)
- Law (40 minutes each, 2 presenters)
- Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry (25 minutes each, 3 presenters)
- Oncology, Radiology, Ultrasound, Dermatology (20 minutes each, 4 presenters)
- Pilot, Flight Attendant (40 minutes each, 2 presenters)
- Physical Therapy, Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, Sports Management (20 minutes each, 40 presenters)
- Psychology, Psychiatry, Neuroscience, Counseling (20 minutes each, 4 presenters)
- Electricity, Plumbing, Auto Mechanics, Welding, Construction Management (15 minutes each, 5 presenters)

If you work in any of these areas and are willing to make a 20 minute presentation including the preparation needed for your career, why you chose it, what a typical day looks like, and salary and benefits, please contact me Sister Mary Beth via email at marybeth.kubera@johnpaul2school.org before October 15.

From the Sports Desk

Varsity Volleyball competed last weekend at the 2024 SCISA State Tournament in Myrtle Beach. The girls had an amazing showing for their first year competing at the 4A level. They won their opening match defeating First Baptist 2-0. Their next match was against perennial powerhouse Ben Lippen. They dropped their first set then won the next two to defeat the Falcons 2-1. Their third match of the day was then set as the Warriors were to face Porter Gaud. The girls fell to the Cyclones 0-2 but were still in good shape moving into day two of the tournament. As the bracket gods would have it, the Warriors were set to face off against cross town rival Hilton Head Christian in a loser go home match. The team hot off a win not too long ago were up for the challenge. Play was intense and the Warriors arguably played their finest volleyball of the season defeating the Eagles 25-14, 25-14 to move into the final four!! The Warriors next opponent was #1 ranked Cardinal Newman. Despite strong play by the Warriors the Cardinals were on top of their game, defeating JP II 2-0. Our Warriors ended their season in third place out of seventeen teams in 4A, and outstanding finish coupled with a Region Championship for their first time ever! Thanks to so many for supporting us all season!!

Middle School Football took on Hilton Head Christian Academy (HHCA) and pulled off a hard-fought 24-8 victory. This marks the second time this season the Warriors have beaten the Eagles. The game started tight, with both teams battling to an 8-8 tie at halftime. But the second half belonged to the Warriors, whose defense and playmakers took control, lifting JP II to their sixth straight victory and keeping their undefeated season alive. The Warriors' defense was nothing short of spectacular, delivering two crucial goal-line stands that prevented HHCA from scoring. In two separate red-zone trips, the Eagles were turned away empty-handed, as JP II's defense rose to the challenge, forcing not one but two turnovers near the goal line. These pivotal moments kept the momentum in the Warriors' favor and proved to be game changers. Nose tackle Ryan Fox capped the defensive performance with a fourth-quarter interception, sealing the win for the Warriors. Leiland Fripp also picked off a pass earlier in the game, ensuring HHCA had little chance to mount a comeback. Throughout the game, Jadon Inabinett and Russell Spencer dominated the line of scrimmage from the defensive tackle positions, consistently pushing HHCA's quarterback out of the pocket and into hurried

throws. Carter Whiteside had an outstanding night at outside linebacker, delivering multiple key tackles and helping contain HHCA's offense. On the offensive side, the Warriors came to life in the second half, led by Jadon Inabinett's explosive 183-yard rushing performance on fourteen carries. Inabinett found the end zone twice on the ground and added a jaw-dropping 70-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, electrifying the Warriors' sideline. Russell Spencer was flawless in converting two point plays, going 3 for 3, with two rushing conversions and one passing connection to his favorite target, Matt Termini, with two rushing conversions and one passing connection to his favorite target, Matt Termini. Spencer also delivered a crucial 2-yard first down run late in the game, powering through the defense from midfield to keep the Warriors' offense moving. Watching Spencer's powerful running was a highlight of the night! When the final whistle blew, the Warriors secured a well-earned 24-8 victory, proving once again that their defense and determination could carry them through the toughest battles. Now standing at 6-0, they look ahead to their season finale next week, Wednesday 10/30 at 4pm, against Hilton Head Prep at the Sea Pines Campus. With one more win, JP II is on the brink of an undefeated season.

Middle School Cross Country had a great finish to their season at the regional championships in Habersham. Our boys team placed ninth in the field with 204 points. Our leader of that group was Cameron O'Rourke, with a time of 17:05, followed closely by Francisco Donjuan. On the girls side, our three girls-Palmer Shelton, Serena Wilson, and Victoria Mouhalis, placed 15th, 16th, and 42nd. We are proud of our team and their amazing races this season!

Winter Sports Tryout Information

The Winter sports season will begin next **Monday 10/28**. The following teams will begin Tryouts/Practice:

- MS Girls & MS Boys Basketball - 3:30-5:00 (Gym)
- JV Boys & Varsity Boys Basketball - 5:00-6:30 (Gym) JV Girls & Varsity Girls Basketball - 6:30-8:00 (Gym)
- All Wrestling - 3:30-6:00 (Commons)

Please make sure all physicals are submitted and updated to the FamilyID portal on our athletic website. All current SCISA documents also found on the site must be Docu signed and submitted for approval. Please feel free to reach out to our trainer Devin Palmer with any questions: Devon.Palmer@johnpaul2school.org

We look forward to an exciting season!!!

From Your Athletic Boosters

The JP II Booster Board is excited to announce that DECA, along with the baseball and middle school football, and volleyball teams, will be helping to service the gym concession stand this winter sports season!

- DECA will be applying their business skills by scheduling, budgeting, inventory, customer service, and cash handling at all of the JP II Middle School basketball games while raising funds for their DECA convention.
- Baseball, MS Football, and Volleyball teams will also take over the concession stand on designated JV and Varsity basketball and Wrestling events. This will help grow awareness of their programs, bring much-needed funds back to support their teams, and contribute to providing a great service at school events.

Get Involved! If you are part of another club or sport and would like to participate in a concession takeover to raise funds for your group, now is your chance! Up to 50% of sales can go directly to your team or club. Contact Case Spencer at case.spencer@hotmail.com to see what spots are still available. This is a great opportunity to grow your program, fundraise, and learn valuable skills while supporting our school community!

Sincerely,

Case Spencer – President

Randy Brown – Vice President

Joe Hubik – Treasurer

Lisa Cotter - Secretary

Upcoming Admissions Events

Our Admission Season for the 2025-26 school year has begun and applications are rolling in. With JPII expected to hit capacity quickly, we are encouraging all those interested to apply no later than January 31. With that in mind, if you know of a family that's considering enrolling, please give them a heads up to attend one of our Fall Admissions events listed below.

- October 26 at Holy Family Catholic Church @ 5:00pm. The JPII Choir will be featured.
- October 27 at St. Peter's Catholic Church @ 9:00am and 11:00am
- November 2 and 3 at St. Gregory the Great Church @ 4:00pm and 6:00pm (Sat) and 9:00am and 11:00am (Sun)
- November 10 at St. Francis By the Sea Catholic Church @ 9:00am and 10:30am
- November 17 Open House @ 1:00 – 3:00pm
- November 20 – Feeder Schools Visit JPII @ 9:00am (SGG/St. Peters 6th grades & St. Francis 8th grade)

In His Purpose,



John E McCarthy
President