



VOLUME VI ISSUE XIX

December 13, 2024

Come to our Advent Family Mass on August 15

We sincerely hope you can join us for our Advent Family Mass this Sunday at 11:00am. As a community we seldom have the opportunity to gather together as one. This Sunday is that opportunity. It does not matter what religious denomination you are; we WELCOME ALL FAITHS. The JP II Choir will be singing, both at mass and before, and we will have a social opportunity following mass with treats and refreshments. Looking forward to seeing everyone. The more the merrier!

Thank you to our Music Department

Last night our growing bands and choirs, under the direction of Mrs. Brown and Mr. Ney, provided us with a beautiful concert as we prepare for the coming of Christmas. One side of the gym was packed with standing room only, so if you missed the concert this time, you missed a treat. However, this spring you will get another opportunity. Our music program has grown by leaps and bounds in terms of quantity and quality. A shout out to all our musicians and singers for the effort you put in. It's really starting to show.

Uniform Dress Code Reminders

Everyone knows that JP II has a uniform dress code. While we appreciate that it's not always a students' favorite topic to talk about, there are times when the Administration must strongly remind our students and parents that adherence to the dress code is an absolute necessity to ensure our students meet the high expectations we set for them. Mrs. Rembold, with the help of our student artist Caylin Gecy, have sent this email to encourage our community to refocus on dress code as you return from Christmas break.

At John Paul II Catholic School, maintaining and upholding the integrity of our uniform policy is an important reflection of our shared values and commitment to excellence. It reflects our shared commitment to fostering

a sense of unity, discipline, and respect within our school community. Wearing the uniform properly not only instills pride in our school but also prepares students for the structure and expectations of life beyond our campus. It is an outward expression of the high standards we hold for our students as they grow in faith and excellence.

In recent weeks, we have seen a considerable increase in uniform violations among our students. Despite implementing lunch detentions, this approach has not been effective in deterring violations. The most frequent issues include:

- Not wearing belts as required.
- Wearing improper polo shirts under sweatshirts.
- Skirt length not meeting school guidelines because the skirt has been rolled.
- Shirts not being tucked in.
- Wearing non-approved shorts or pants.

The President of our Student Leadership Council, Caylin Gecy, in cooperation with the Leadership Team, has created a series of flyers that highlight all our uniform “Do’s and Don’ts” so that you and your child can visually review the expectations we have. Please find them below this message.

Outerwear has not been addressed in our visual aids. JP II outerwear (in our school colors navy, grey, white, or gold OR House sweatshirts) is approved to be worn in the classroom. Other outerwear can certainly be worn when moving around campus, but once they enter the school, students will be asked to remove it if it is not an official JP II sweatshirt, etc.

We have decided to institute a uniform change following the break. On Friday’s, students will continue to wear their House t-shirts. However, they will be worn with uniform bottoms—shorts, pants, or skirts. Unfortunately, students have been wearing inappropriate bottoms on Friday, and as a means of getting us all on the same page, we will move to this change on Fridays until further notice.

Moving forward we have also decided to make a change in uniform companies. We will no longer use Global School Wear, and effective Friday, December 6th, uniforms can be purchased through Lands’ End. If you need to order any new uniform pieces for your child for the 2nd semester, please begin to transition to Lands’ End. We do intend to meet with a group of students this spring to get their input on different uniform pieces that can be purchased for the next school year. This change will be fully instituted as we begin in August 2025. One advantage to making the change to Lands’ End is their sizing. Lands’ End offers children and adult sizes. They also have the “True Fit” option which allows a parent the opportunity to indicate the student’s age, as well as what size they wear in other brands, and it will give a size recommendation. Another one of the benefits of using Lands’ End as a uniform supplier is that they offer multiple length skirts. If your daughter is taller, there are different options to meet your child’s needs. At the beginning of August 2025, all shorts and pants must be purchased from Lands’ End, as well.

We ask for your partnership in ensuring that your child is dressed in accordance with the uniform guidelines each day before they leave for school. By working together, we can maintain the high standards that define our Catholic school community.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any questions or need clarification about the uniform policy, please do not hesitate to reach out.



2024/2025 1st Semester Exam Schedule

Wednesday, December 18

8:25-9:45 am - A block & Period 1
9:50-11:05 am - B block & Period 2
11:10-12:25 pm - C block & Period 3
12:30 Dismissal

Thursday, December 19

8:25-9:45 am - E block & Period 4
9:50-11:05 am - F block & Period 5
11:10-12:25 pm - G block & Period 6
12:30pm Dismissal

Friday, December 20

8:25-9:45 am - D block & Period 7
9:50-11:05 am - H block & MS Holiday Cheer
11:15am Dismissal



All students in grades 9-11 are required to take first semester exams. Students may not reschedule exams simply because they do not want to attend school on December 18th-20th. All exams will be administered on the scheduled exam day.

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.

High school students who are taking an AP class are required to report to her/his AP class during their regularly scheduled AP block unless other directions have been given by the teacher. 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. However, 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. On Friday, December 20th, our MS students will complete all academic

responsibilities by 9:45 am. Some middle school students have inquired about an early dismissal following the end of the period 7 class block. We are in the process of planning Holiday Cheer activities for our MS students to include dodge ball, a holiday craft, or a Christmas movie. However, if parents want to pick up their MS student early due to holiday plans, parents are welcome to do so.

From the Sports Desk

Varsity Boys Basketball received 15 points from sophomore Sean Phelan and a gritty defensive effort not enough on the road Tuesday evening to overcome 21 turnovers as the Golden Warriors fell for the second straight time 45-43 to the Sharks from May River High School. The loss drops the season record to 4-2.

JV Boys Basketball traveled to May River High School looking to keep their unbeaten streak alive. The game was back and forth to start, but a run by May River left the Warriors down seven at the break. After regrouping at half, the Warriors came out playing great defense and shared the ball on offense. Leiland Fripp led the way with 14 points and set up his teammates for open looks all game. Chase Cotter chipped in with 10 points, including a pair of clutch threes late in the fourth quarter. Deuce Kerschbaum controlled the glass all night and finished with nine points. In the end, the Warriors came away with a tough 40-27 win and improved to 6-0 on the season. They return to action tonight at Bridges Prep at 5:00pm.

Middle School Boys Basketball traveled to Estill on Tuesday to take on Patrick Henry and came away with a 54-18 victory. Fortunately, everyone had an opportunity to play. Patrick Henry is a very young team, but they gave tremendous effort. Our Warriors also gave tremendous effort but more importantly they showed great sportsmanship. We look forward to continuing to improve as a team. The boys are now 6 – 1.

The Middle School Boys were victorious Monday over HHP by a score of 30 - 15.

Varsity Girls Basketball pulled out a gritty win over May River 48-41. It was a back-and-forth game for 4 quarters, but with a minor adjustment to our press, aggressive play, and knocking down free throws, we built a small cushion and were able to hold the ball for the win. Emma McKamey was a workhorse leading the team in assists, rebounds, and steals. Lily Termini led the team in scoring with 9, followed by Dominique Jones and Lauren Majorkiewicz with 8 apiece. Your Warriors are now 6-1 and travel to Bridges Prep tonight.

Our girls came out strong playing intense defense and swinging the ball well against St. Vincent. We took an early 18-7 lead and never looked back, winning 53-40. Junior Lily Termini once again showed her versatility with 16 hard earned points, and Emma McKamey was all hustle with 8 boards and 7 points. This was a great team effort with all players contributing both with points and rebounds.

JV Girls Basketball lost at May River High School Monday night 15-7. May River jumped out to a very quick 9-0 lead in the 1st quarter, which ended up being the game. JPII held them scoreless in the 2nd quarter but failed to score themselves. The Warriors played great defense throughout the game but struggled offensively. Offensively, the Warriors were led by Ellie Morris with 3 points, and Sofie Hannigan and Grace Buckland each scored 2. Though it was a loss, the girls hung in there and played their game against a much bigger public school.

The Golden Warriors fell to St. Vincent from Savannah on Saturday afternoon in a hard fought battle. St. Vincent led 16-10 at halftime, but JPII came out strong in the second half. Once again, the girls played great

defense and executed their half-court trap. Just came up a tad short! Final score was 22-20 St. Vincent with the win. Offensively, JPII was led by Sofie Hannigan with 6 points, Gia Sakowicz and Grace Buckland with 5 points and Alivia Ogden and Ellie Morris each with 2 points.

Middle School Girls Basketball put on a bit of a basketball clinic at Patrick Henry, beating them by a score of 51-4. This was an all-around defensive and offensive onslaught as the Patrick Henry girls couldn't find any rhythm against our Warriors. This makes it 5 games in a row and an overall record of 6-1 to begin the season. Annie Rose led the team with 12 points, Destiny Godsun followed with 9 points, and 8 from Palmer Shelton. A big shoutout to the following girls for their first points of the season; Palmer Shelton 8, Ella Asbrey 2, Gracie Cotter 4, and Joya Iskandar 4. Way to go Warriors!

Tis' the season to be jolly! And these girls were with their 4th straight victory! Your Middle School Warriors displayed a relentless and suffocating defense holding Hilton Head Prep to only 2 points the entire 2nd half. They got off to a slow start, trailing at half time by a score of 7-2, but from there they didn't panic, and their aggressiveness kicked in, going on a 10-2 run to win this game by a final score of 12-9. The defense was an all-around team effort, and the offense was led by Destiny Godsun with 9 of the 12 points.

Wrestling competed against Thomas Heyward Academy, Colleton County & Bluffton in a home quad on December 10 and had a solid performance on the mat. As a team, the Warriors won 2 of the 3 duals with a 66-6 victory over THA and a 53-25 win over Colleton County. In the last match of the night, the Warriors fell to Bluffton by a score of 53-25. For the season, the Warriors team dual record is 7 -5. Individually, several wrestlers were undefeated for the night: Daniel Snyder 3-0 with 3 pins in his return to the mat, Brian Orta 3-0 with 3 pins, Jude Witkowski 3-0 with 2 pins & a forfeit, Jack Hannagan 3-0 with 1 pin, 1 technical fall, and 1 major decision, Archer Dewig 3-0 with 1 pin and 2 forfeits, Jack Duncan 1-0 with a pin, Brody Farris 1-0 with a pin, Aiden Winslow, Dominic Grassi and James Del Mazo all 1-0 with forfeit wins. Alex Mercer and Tripp Thiesen were 2-1, with Mercer winning by a pin fall and forfeit and Thiesen picking up walk-over wins. Also winning a match were Jase Reynolds with a pin and Chase LaFountain with a forfeit win. The Warriors are back in action this Saturday at the Northwood Academy Individual Tourney in Summerville.

The John Paul II Warrior Wrestling team competed this weekend at the Hammond Holiday Hustle Duals Tourney in Columbia. As a team the Warriors went 2-3 in their dual matches with wins over Augusta Christian (48-24) and Greenwood Christian (50-17) while losing to defending team state champions Cardinal Newman (57-19), Hammond (52-24), and Ben Lippen (41-40). Individually, all 16 wrestlers who competed on Saturday won at least one match on the day! Leading the team in victories and finishing at 5-0 were Brian Orta and Alex Mercer while Aiden Winslow also finished with an undefeated record at 3-0 as did Lathan Nichols (2-0)! Other wrestlers with winning records for the day were: Bailey Homer (2-1), Archer Dewig (2-1), Nick Kessinger (2-1), Jack Hannagan (2-2), Taylor Murphy (2-2). Jack Duncan (3-2), Tripp Thiesen (2-2), and Brody Farris (1-1).

From Your Athletic Boosters

As we reflect on 2024, the Booster Club extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to our concessions this year. Together, we staffed 28 home events across Middle School and Varsity Football, Volleyball, Basketball, and Wrestling. These efforts not only enhanced the JPII game-day experience but also strengthened our sense of community.

We want to give a special shoutout to the incredible groups that took part in our “Concession Stand Takeovers.” Thanks to the support of DECA, Baseball, Volleyball, and Middle School Football, a portion of the proceeds from these events directly benefited their programs. This collaboration exemplifies the spirit of teamwork that makes our school community so special.

Our deepest thanks also go to several local restaurants for elevating our concession offerings. Frankie Bones delighted us with their world-famous meatballs, Poseidon warmed us on a chilly night with their Lowcountry Perloo, and Ralphie’s Pizza brought the crowd-favorite garlic knots and pizza. It’s partnerships like these that truly set our events apart.

Looking ahead, we have 14 more home events in January and February, and we’d love for you to join the fun! Volunteering is a fantastic way to meet new friends, support our school, and make a meaningful impact. Upcoming opportunities are. JV/Varsity basketball concessions 24/25: JV/Varsity and Wrestling Concession 24/25.

In November, the Booster Club was thrilled to sponsor the entire Fall Athletic Banquet. This event made possible by the hard work of Coach Sanders, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Brock, Coach Jennings, and many others, received glowing feedback. We are already excited to sponsor the Winter/Spring Banquet, tentatively scheduled for May 17th, and are committed to making it even more memorable.

We are also proud to announce the purchase and installation of a new washer and dryer in the gym. This much-needed upgrade replaces the original machines, which had served since the school’s founding. These new appliances, complete with a five-year warranty, will handle team uniforms, banquet linens, sports towels, and more ensuring no additional strain on the school budget for repairs.

On behalf of the entire Booster Club, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our school community.

What’s New at JPII

After several weeks of interviews and candidates, we have hired Mrs. Sarah Litchfield as JPII’s new high school Spanish Teacher. Mrs. Litchfield comes to us from a career in health care management. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration and Spanish from Western Kentucky University. She is the mother of current JPII students Annalise and Audrey Litchfield, as well as a few more future Warriors at SGG. She will join our faculty on January 6 for 2nd Semester. Bienvenido Senora Litchfield.

To make room for our new Innovation Center, we needed to add an additional sports field. After several months of construction I am pleased to say we are now ready to unveil the latest addition to the JPII Athletic Complex. This field will be ready for play by Spring and will provide valuable practice space for our soccer and new lacrosse programs. In the Fall, it will become our practice football field and perhaps be able to host some middle school/JV football games. The future plans for this field include a full stadium with synthetic turf and a track. Onward and upwards JPII Golden Warriors.



Admissions Update

With the calendar year winding down, and my departure right around the corner, I want to remind our current families of the importance of reenrolling and applying for tuition assistance by January 31. JPIL is expected to reach capacity, and we do not want any of our current families shut out. New applications are running ahead of last year at this time by 19 (a 35% increase), and space will be limited. We begin accepting new students on February 1 and at that point it is first come first served. We are encouraged that 27% of current students have reenrolled. Don't delay...enroll today!

Today we hosted the Riverview Charter School 8th Grade for their annual visit. Each year the number of Riverview students enrolling at JPIL has increased. We can't wait to welcome some of these students next year.



Sincerely in His Purpose,

John C. McCarthy