SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Winter 2026

Laetare

2024-25 Impact Report Inside



REJOICE in John Paul!

Welcome to *Laetare*, Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's annual magazine, where we REJOICE in all the wonderful things at John Paul that give us HOPE and JOY for the future!

Saint John Paul the Great is a high school of the Diocese of Arlington founded under the leadership of now-retired Bishop Paul S. Loverde. We prepare each student for a life of faith, service, and integrity.

"God made us for joy. God is joy, & the joy of living reflects the original joy that God felt in creating us"

—Pope Saint John Paul II

OUR MISSION

In accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church and in the Dominican tradition of prayer, study, community, and service, Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School is a college preparatory school committed to the ethical formation of youth in the pursuit of *Veritas (Truth)*.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

In order to carry out our Mission and pursue *Veritas (Truth)*, we:

Center all we do on Jesus Christ,
"the way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Pray together as a school community and deepen our personal relationship to Jesus Christ and his Church.

Study with academic rigor, preparing our students for college and life, discovering the beauty, goodness, and truth in God's creation. In particular, through the study of Bioethics, we teach the implications of the fundamental truth of the dignity of each human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

Based on these truths, we build community and serve one another in imitation of Christ.



Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School
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From Our JP Family Association

At Saint John Paul the Great, we believe that education is most impactful when it includes the entire family. By virtue of the fact that your sons, daughters, grandchildren, or other loved ones attend JP, **you are already a member** of the **Family Association**—no sign-up required!

The mission of the Family Association is to help foster a strong sense of **community among JP families** and to encourage a spirit of **servant leadership** in support of our students, faculty, and staff. Rooted in the **Dominican pillar of community,** our goal is to reflect that same commitment by building meaningful connections and encouraging active involvement from all families.

Whether it's volunteering at events, helping with faculty appreciation efforts, or simply showing up in support of school initiatives, **your presence and participation matter.** We invite you to take an active role in shaping the vibrant, faith-filled environment that makes JP so special.

Keep an eye on the **Weekly Update and our website** to discover upcoming opportunities and ways you can contribute to the life of our school.

Together, we can continue to make John Paul not just a school—but a family.

Warmly,

Heather Escamilla,
President, JP Family Association

JP FAMILY ASSOCIATION

As we reestablish our Family Association, we are excited to have this enthusiastic group of officers working with us to build our school community!

Heather Escamilla
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TO THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS!



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Greetings from the Head of School

Dear Friends of John Paul,

At Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, our mission is to form young men and women who know the Truth, embrace it, and live in the freedom it brings. Our theme for this year—"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32)—captures both the vision of Catholic education and the daily reality we strive to provide for our students.

This mission is only possible because of you. Your generosity and prayers help to shape graduates who embody our Profile of a JP Graduate: individuals who speak the truth with charity, think critically, act with courage, lead in service, and walk as disciples of Christ.

This past year brought much to celebrate: strong academic achievements and college scholarships, our first student to graduate with an associate degree through our DE program, spectacular productions of *A Man for All Seasons* and *Peter Pan*, deeper spiritual formation through liturgies, retreats, and service, and vibrant community and leadership opportunities through our House System. We celebrated the election of our Holy Father Leo XIV and traveled with twenty seven students on pilgrimage to Rome to experience the graces of the Jubilee Year of Hope. All of this is rooted in the Dominican tradition of prayer, study, community, and service and reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff, and the essential role of your support.



Looking ahead, we are filled with hope. With your continued generosity, we will expand opportunities for families, strengthen our athletic and extracurricular programs, and deepen the Catholic culture that makes Saint John Paul the Great a place that enables students to be joyful in truth, fearless in faith, and formed to lead.

On behalf of our administrators, faculty, staff, and most importantly, our students, thank you. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission and for the ways you continue to make this school a place where young people encounter the Truth and are set free to be saints!

With gratitude in Christ,

Sister Mary Grace Watson, OP

"John Paul the Great gives hope through the deep charism of the Dominican Sisters, which fills every corner of the school and influences every student who walks in the door."

*—**Mr. Charles Smith,** Friend of John Paul*



JP Accepted into the Cardinal Newman Society

Our school celebrated with special joy when we were accepted into the Cardinal Newman Society as an "exemplar of faithful Catholic education for other schools nationwide." The Newman Society publishes the Newman Guide, which lists Catholic schools that are academically "strong and sound" and meet the Society's stringent standards. "We are grateful for this recognition of our efforts to remain faithful to the mission of Catholic education," says Sister Mary Grace Watson. "It is a testimony to the daily efforts of our entire faculty, staff, and administration, who work tirelessly to bring the truth of Jesus Christ to young people so that they, in turn, will go forth into our world as courageous and joyful disciples." Sister Ann Dominic Mahowald spearheaded JP's application efforts. "We are proud of our Catholic mission and want others to know our faith is central to educating our youth," she said, "John Paul is honored to be ranked with other prestigious, faithful Catholic institutions of education."

More can be read on this article at https://tinyurl.com/y8a9a7xh

JP Family Comes to the Faith

A JP family's extraordinary faith journey made the national news this year! When **Kelly McCoppin** (JP '25) started at JP, her love of the school and our community inspired her to learn more about the Catholic faith. She says that the Bioethics program, in particular, opened her eyes to the Truth and the reasoning behind the Church teachings. As she progressed in her journey, her family began to attend Sunday Mass regularly, then enrolled in RCIA and ultimately entered the Church together as a family! There clearly was a plan that led them to John Paul, says Kelly's mother Courtney. JP was a "beacon of light" that brought them to the Church.

If you would like to read more on the McCoppin Family you can see the article at https://tinyurl.com/2w2tbcjt





Deepening Our Bioethics and STEM Opportunities

JP launched a new Dual Enrollment anatomy and physiology course this year. The course teaches students the major body systems—including the nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, and immune systems—and foundational nursing assessment skills. The course is designed to give students both a strong academic foundation and early exposure to clinical thinking and healthcare practices.

The goal, says Dr. Clare Donohoe Kuisell (JP Class of 2013), is to prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals to approach their calling with the proper ethical training as well as the necessary technical training. "We need nurses, aides, and all healthcare professionals to be armed with the knowledge of the ethical reasonings behind medical decisions in order to protect the patients and provide compassionate, faith-driven care," says Dr. Kuisell. JP's Bioethics curriculum, the example of the Dominican Sisters and faculty, and the school's mission to form its students in the Truth (*Veritas*) make John Paul uniquely qualified to form the next generation of healthcare professionals. Looking ahead, Dr. Kuisell hopes to expand the program by partnering with local nursing home facilities. With planning and support, the ultimate objective is to offer a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) track for JP students to give them the opportunity to graduate with hands-on experience and a career-ready certification, a potential "game-changer for our students and the broader community," says Dr. Kuisell.

Read the article at https://tinyurl.com/4xp7pzj7

"JP gives me hope because every time I interact with a JP student, I am overwhelmed with a feeling that everything is going to be ok—these amazing young people are the future of our Nation, our world, and our Church"

*–**Mr. John Daly**, John Paul Parent*

JOHN PAUL STUDENTS GIVE HOPE!

2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Valedictorian for the Class of 2025 is **Giovanni Talavera.** Gio is a member of the House of Dominic and is attending Carnegie Mellon University, studying Computer Science. He also was named as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship program. The Salutatorian for the Class of 2025 is **Sophia Karako**. Sophia is a member of the House of More and is attending Georgia Tech University, where she is studying Aerospace Engineering. Sr. Mary Grace noted both students have demonstrated excellence in all areas of school life. Academically, they are at the top of their class, have received Advanced Placement Scholarship recognition, and repeatedly earned places on the Principal's Honor Roll. They have also demonstrated leadership and participation in extracurricular activities, faith and service opportunities, and community building at Saint John Paul the Great.

In their graduation speeches, the students noted their JP education prepared them to meet the challenges of the modern world with a firm moral compass and knowledge of the Truth. Sophia addressed the struggle of facing the "real world" and noted that, like Humpty Dumpty, everyone needs to be prepared that at some point, there will be a fall. However, if she's taken ". . . one lesson from [her] time at John Paul, it's that greatness does not demand perfection." Rather, "true greatness is found in God . . . . it is His eternal love [that] can put back together what all the king's horses and all the king's men never could." True success, Sophia says, is learning "to reflect His love to others like so many of you have done for me." That is the way to greatness, and the foundation was laid at John Paul.



Giovanni Talavera



Sophia Karako

The Future is Bright: *JP Seniors Shine*

JP Students Receive National Recognition!

The following JP Seniors were recognized for their amazing academic achievements:



Giovanni Talavera–Finalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program



Chase Hochstein, Sophia Karako, Aurey Pham, Demyan Chappel, Emilie Kemp–Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program



Julianna Algeier, Declan Martinez, Jesus Santos, Sophia Rebholz–College Board National Hispanic Recognition Awardees



Kayla-Symone Kattah, Nabayit Daniel, Katherine Rose Lohier–College Board National African American Recognition Awardees



Bryan Barker–College Board National African American Recognition Awardee as well as a National First-Generation Recognition Awardee



Monica Zeballos–College Board National Indigenous Awardee as well as a National Hispanic Recognition Awardee



Erynn Spiegeler–College Board Awardee

AQUINO



Bryan Barker



Mary Jones

MORE



Bernadette Rao



Joshua Nartey

CASTELLO



Helena Fry



Sengsavath (Logan) Inthavong

DOMINIC



John Rusnak



Maeve Williams

Seniors in the Spotlight

On House feast days, we have begun to highlight two seniors who exemplify the charism of their patrons. These students exemplify the best of John Paul!

DIEGO



Jesus Santos



Melissa Petras

MARTIN



Alexander Miller



Magdalene Moore

GIANNA



Faith Young



Elijah Thompson

RUIZ



Gabriel Xantus



Keera Northrup

Saint Thomas More and St. Gianna Molla Award Winners Make JP Proud

Every year John Paul honors two seniors who exemplify the best of JP. The Saint Gianna Molla Award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated virtuous leadership, moral courage, and promotes the culture of life. The Class of 2025 recipient is **Bernadette Rao.**

The St. Thomas More Award is given to the senior who has demonstrated extraordinary academic scholarship, moral courage and personal integrity. The 2025 recipient is **Anthony Morales.**



John Paul Senior Is Running Toward a Bright Future

Chinenye (Chichi) Obasi (JP '25) is excited for her future but says that leaving JP is "bittersweet," like leaving home. Coming to John Paul, she said, grounded her and allowed her to grow in her faith. "They show you the scientific reasoning" and allow students to grow in their ability to use logic to defend their beliefs. A star athlete and solid member of the school community, Chichi was a medal winner on the track and captain of the school's Varsity Volleyball team. She also served as a sacristan, President of the school's Think, Hear, Express Club, and a member of the Ethnic Diversity Council. She is moving on, but not giving up the lessons of service she learned at JP—she is attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She credits her JP teachers for helping her attain her goal of attending the Academy. They "care about every single one of their students."

For more, see: https://tinyurl.com/bddkhu9p

First JP Student Graduates with an Associate Degree Thanks to DE Program

John Paul's Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment programs provide a comprehensive college-prep curriculum for our students. JP offers 21 Advanced Placement courses, for a potential 134 college credits, including AP Chemistry, French, Calculus, and Studio Art, and was recognized as a 2024 AP School Honor Roll at the Gold Level. John Paul partners with Marymount, Franciscan University, the Catholic University of America, and Northern Virginia Community College, among other institutions, to offer 15 DE courses, for a total of 57 college credits. These courses include DE Personal Finance, Foundations of Catholicism, Multivariable Calculus, and Introduction to Nursing: Human Anatomy.

These courses place our students at a significant advantage. **Emilie Kemp** (JP '25), a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, became the first JP student to graduate with an Associate Degree thanks to her DE courses at John Paul. Emilie is continuing her education at William and Mary. We look forward to the future as more and more students are able to take advantage of the DE and AP opportunities.



For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/ys8r32yf

"The teachers at JP walk the walk and talk the talk! They live the faith."

*—**Victoria Salley**, JP '25 graduate*

Learning to Lead Through Serving Others

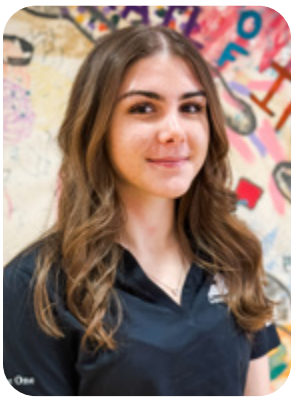
Seniors **Victoria Salley** and **Jesus Santos** led JP's Servant Leader Association this year, creating a sense of community and showing respect for their fellow students. The SLA "improved my ability to work with others. . . . It required me to not only reach out to others often but to do so in a manner that respected their time," says Jesus, SLA Vice President. Victoria, this year's SLA President, said she learned to communicate her ideas and inspire others to help her execute them. Both students credit JP faculty and staff, particularly Sr. Ann Dominic, Ms. Bubolz, Mr. Florio, Mr. Jimenez, and Fr. Tipton, for helping them grow in their roles by setting an example of faithful leadership. They "walked the walk and talked the talk," said Victoria. Jesus noted that "at times there were decisions to be made that I wasn't sure how to handle, but [Sr. Ann Dominic and Ms. Bubolz said] we should try to do what's right and go from there."



Victoria and Jesus will carry these lessons with them as they leave JP. Victoria now attends the University of Florida and is in the Honors Program, majoring in International Studies. Jesus is at William and Mary, majoring in Human Health & Physiology, with plans to attend medical school. "It is hard to leave," says Salley, "but JP has prepared us well–both spiritually and academically—and we are ready for the next step!"

JP Options Peer Mentor Honored for Her Dedication

Our Options students serve as examples of the dignity of every human being. Each day, our Options students spend half their time in small-group Options classes (Math, Language Arts, Religion, Life Skills) and half their day in general education classes. Because of our school-wide commitment to welcoming students with special needs into the social life of our community, all of our students benefit from an inclusive environment in which the profound dignity of all human beings is affirmed and celebrated. Through our Peer Mentor program, JP students also have the opportunity to learn alongside and provide support to their peers in our Options classroom.



This year, we were delighted to have one of our Peer Mentors recognized for her outstanding work and dedication. Porto Charities awarded **Zoe Wallace** (JP '25) with its Outstanding Peer Mentor award at its Annual Dinner. Zoe served as a Peer Mentor for three full years in order to dedicate herself to the Options students. She is president of the Best Buddies Club Chapter at JP and "was very instrumental in our Inclusion Week. She's not only somebody that they look up to but she's their friend," says JP Options teacher Mrs. Emilia Foster.

Peer Mentoring benefits not just the Options students but the mentors too. It changed the trajectory of Zoe's future, she says, "I never thought I was going to pursue Special Education as a career, but it became clear to me my Junior year that I will be." "She's going to be a rock star," says Mrs. Foster.

For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/yjr6thh5

"The ability to navigate the moral issues of the day and explain our beliefs to others breeds confidence and a sense of well-being in JP's graduates, along with the ability to share Christ's love with others in a broken world greatly in need of hope."

—JP Alumni Parents

JOHN PAUL STUDENTS GIVE JOY!

JP Students Are Letting Their Talents Shine!

JP Student Athletes Excel

Student Athletes Sign to Play in College

As we celebrate our recent Class of 2025 graduates, we are proud of all those athletes who have signed to play in college! Congratulations, Wolves!



Brady Brennan will run indoor and outdoor track at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va.



Aaron Brown will play football at University of Mary in Bismark, ND.



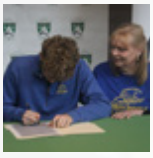
Austin Colvin will run indoor and outdoor track at Sewanee: University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.



Gianna Davis will swim at Loyola University in Baltimore, Md.



Armaan Dhillon will run indoor and outdoor track at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.



Matthew Hawkins will play lacrosse at Embry Riddle in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Killian McNulty will play football at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio.



Therese Muskett will play field hockey at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C.



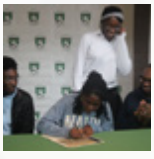
Chinuorumogu Nnamani will play football at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va.



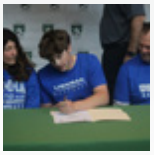
Meghan Norko will play lacrosse at Wagner University in Staten Island, N.Y.



Chinenye Obasi will run track at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



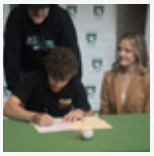
Catalina O'Connor will play lacrosse at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.



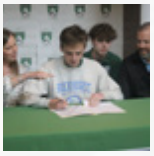
Levi Reale will play baseball at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.



Joseph Schiller will play football at The Catholic University of America in Washington.



Charlie Skala will play baseball at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, Md.



Elijah Thompson will run indoor and outdoor track at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.



August Welsh will play soccer at Immaculata University in East Whiteland Township, Pa.

Not pictured: **Nicholas Bouril** will run cross country at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.

For more information, please see: https://tinyurl.com/59a7xdkd

Softball Players Are All-Conference!

Congratulations to our softball players who were named to the VCAC all-conference teams!

1st team - **Nicole Lopez** and **Molly Daly**

2nd team - **Jadeyn Winmil**l and **Madisyn Winmill**



Swim and Dive Team Dedication Pays Off

At the National Catholic Meet, Swim Team leader and Senior **Gianna Davis** came in second in the 50 Free and third in the 100 Free. Gianna, alongside her relay teammates, **Maeve Williams** (senior), **Isabella Koler** (junior), and **Isa Willis** (sophomore) also made finals in the 200 Free Relay and the 4x100 Free Relay and qualified for States. In addition, junior **Eric Koler**, who made the finals in the 100 Breast with a time of 58.6 seconds, qualified for States along with JP swimmers **Izzy Frederick, Emily Mills, Amy Voith** and **Alice Angarag.**

On the Dive team sophomore **Teagen Rauschelbach** placed third and freshman **Emily Mills** placed 10th in the Cardinal Classic Invitational and qualified to compete at the VISAA State Championship meet. Rounding out the young Dive Team is new diver **Sandra Kay** (JP '26), who is becoming an "asset to the team," says Coach Rauschelbach.

Wrestling Champ for JP

Senior Wrestler **Killian McNulty** won in a sudden victory overtime period by a score of 8-5 to become the first champion from John Paul in East Coast Catholic Classic history. McNulty's win "is an excellent testament to all the hard work and commitment he has made," said John Paul wrestling coach Jacob Kingett.



Lacrosse Team Champs

The Varsity Girls Lacrosse team won the Virginia Christian Athletic Conference (VCAC) Championship on May 9th for the third straight year! The team also went undefeated in regular season conference play.

Several players received all conference accolades. senior **Meghan Norko**, who has signed to play at Wagner University, was named VCAC co-player of the year. Players named to VCAC first team all conference include: Senior **Catalina O'Connor,** who will be playing at Benedictine College; junior **Julia Foster,** who has verbally committed to UNC Charlotte; and sophomore **Deirdre Sanchez**. Second team all conference include seniors **Libby Mignati** and **Maya Spell**.



Basketball Champs

The JP Varsity boys basketball team were named Champions at the Southern Maryland MLK Basketball Showcase. **Timothy Allen Crank** was tournament MVP and **Gavin Enriquez** and **Declan Quinn** made all-tournament.

Golf Team

The Golf team finished 2nd in the VCAC tournament and these golfers were named all conference this season.

Second team:

- **Andrew David**
- **Nicholas Spadafore**
- **Joseph Spadafore**



Soccer Accolades

Junior **Valentina Barrera** was named to the VISSA Girls Soccer All State Second Team and our Varsity Girls Soccer team made round 1 of the VISAA state play-offs.

In Boys Soccer **Gabriel Xantus** earned a spot on the VISAA All-State Second team.

Impressive Finishes for Indoor Track and Field

The Indoor Track and Field team competed in the 90th Eastern States Championships at the historic Armory Track and Field Center in New York City on Tuesday, March 4.

Highlights for the Men include:

- The boys 4x800m relay team of **Jacob Thompson, Alex Everson, Nick Bouril,** and **Elijah Thompson** won in a new school record time of 7:59.26.
- **Armaan Dhillon, Gabe Xantus, Toby Obasi,** and **Nick Bouril** ran 3:21.09 in the boys 4x400 relay to finish second in a new school record time.
- **Alyssa McCoppin** medaled in the Girls 2 mile run

Both relay teams qualified for the New Balance Indoor National Championships!

Earlier this year, the team competed at the VISAA State Indoor Track and Field Championships in Richmond and came home with several State Champions.

- In the Boys 500 meter race, **Nick Bouril** ran a school record time of 1:06.30 to become State Champion. He was runner up in the 300 meter Dash in a time of 36:07–another school record
- In the Boys 1600 meters, **Elijah Thompson** was able to push through the last 300m to win and become State Champion. He also was runner up in the Boys 1000 finishing only 0.01 of a second behind the win
- The Boys 4x400m relay team of **Toby Obasi, Armaan Dhillon, Gabe Xantus,** and **Nick Bouril** finished first with a time of 3:28.18 to defend their state title
- Senior **Brady Brennan** took second in the Boys 3200m
- Senior **Austin Colvin** finished fourth in the Boys 3200m
- The Boys 4x8 relay team of **Ethan Garcia, Austin Colvin, Jacob Thompson,** and **Alex Everson** finished third
- Other medal winners included the Boys 4x200 meter Relay team of **Gabe Xantus, Toby Obasi, Izaiah Wingfield,** and **Armaan Dhillon**, who finished in fourth place

Overall the Boys Team finished third – which was the highest finish ever at the VISAA Indoor Championships in our school history. For his win in the 500m, second place finish in the 300m, and his anchoring of the winning 4x400m Relay Team, **Nick Bouril** was awarded the Running Events MVP for the meet.

The Women's team excelled at VISAA this year as well, with **Chichi Obasi** finishing runner up in the long jump, third in the 500 meters, and third in the 300 meters to lead the girls team to a 7th place finish. Other women's medal winners included the fourth place 4x800 Meter Relay Team of **Tegan Bechtel, Alyssa McCoppin, Missy Petras, Catherine Stoeter**, and the fourth place finish of **Alyssa McCoppin** in the 3200 meters.

Cross Country Update

The following Fall Varsity Cross Country athletes earned spots on VISAA All-State teams

- Boys Cross Country - **Brady Brennan, Austin Colvin, Elijah Thompson**
- Girls Cross Country - **Catherine Stoeter, Erynn Spiegeler, Alyssa McCoppin**

Track and Field Champs

The Track and Field Boys team took home the Championship at the Virginia State Catholic Track and Field Championships at Paul VI High School and our Women's team finished 2nd. The boys were led by—

- **Luke Kovac** with a throw of 135-0 in Discus
- **Chino Nnamani** with a school record throw of 44-11.5 in Shot Put
- **Elijah Thompson** with a school record time of 4:23.57 in the 1600m
- **Brady Brennan** in the 3200m
- **Izaiah Wingfield, Brogan Jordan, Nick Bouril,** and **Gabe Xantus** in the 4x400 Relay

In addition, second place finishes by **Jonah Berkey** in the Long Jump, **Armaan Dhillon** with a school record time of 47.85 in the 400m, **Elijah Thompson** in the 800m, and **Austin Colvin** in the 3200m pushed the team to victory. Other medal winners for the boys included **Armaan Dhillon** in the 100m and 200m, **Toby Obasi** in the Shot Put, **Caleb Klaye** in the Long Jump, **Chino Nnamani** in the Discus, the 4x100m relay team of **Logan Inthavong, Izaiah Wingfield, Caleb Klaye,** and **Toby Obasi,** and the 4x800m relay team of **Ethan Garcia, Beimnet Derege, Nick Bouril,** and **Andrew Bouril.**

The women were led by first place finishers

- **Angelina Kovac** in the Discus and the Shot Put
- **Margaret Dake, Erynn Spiegeler, Gianna Albanese, Melissa Petras** in the 4x800 relay
- **Chichi Obasi** in the 400m and 200m

Second place finishers were

- **Chichi Obasi** in the 100m, Long Jump, and Shot Put
- **Alyssa McCoppin** in the 3200m

Third place finishers were

- **Erynn Spiegeler** in the 3200m
- **Missy Petras** in the 800m
- **Audrey Pham** in the Long Jump



Senior **Chichi Obasi** was named "Female Athlete of the Meet for Running Events" based on her two victories and second place finishes, **Angelina Kovac** was named "Female Athlete of the Meet for Field Events" for her two victories, and **Chino Nnamani** was named "Male Athlete of the Meet for Field Events" for his first and third place finishes.



John Paul Students Participate in West Point Leadership and Academics Conference

Students **Isabelle Fannin, Gianna Albanese, Ciara Marcy, Stephen Orloski** and **Louis Dobson** participated in the West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference, meeting leaders from West Point to discuss leadership and ethical dilemmas and formulate solutions. The experience, says **Isabelle Fannin**, was a true opportunity to put what she's learned about Bioethics into practice: "The West Point Conference showed me that our morally gray society is still home to many people who strive towards an ultimate good."



Ethics Bowl: Putting Knowledge into Action

Led by teachers Faith Newbold, JP Class of 2020, and Tibor Basky, students **Trenton Peters, Kelly McCoppin, Jesus Santos, Andy Kern, Katelyn Gorak,** and **Sophi Arib** competed in the DC Area High School Ethics Bowl at American University, winning one of the three rounds in their first time competing, an excellent showing at a difficult event. "The students articulated their arguments clearly, and it was an awesome opportunity for them to apply their knowledge of the JP Bioethics curriculum," said Ms. Newbold.

Performing Arts Give True Joy

Flying High in Peter Pan

The JP theater was transformed into Neverland for the school's Spring musical production of Peter Pan, directed by Mr. Paul Hope, who expressed gratitude to all of the students, faculty, and parent volunteers, who literally helped the actors fly across the stage. "They [came] together for a common artistic goal and [made] it seem easy—when all along it was challenging both physically and mentally," said Mr. Hope. Their efforts received excellent reviews from the Cappies, a writing and awards program that trains high school theater and journalism students. Singled out for their efforts were **Maeve Williams** (JP '25) as Peter Pan, **Grace Hall** (JP '25) as Wendy, **Emma Ramer** (JP '26) as leader of the Brave Girls, and **Declan Martinez** (JP '25) as Captain Hook. Praise also was given to **Hannah Malinowski** (JP '26), **Patrick Kurrus** (JP '27), **Alex Everson** (JP '26), and **Evelyn Wiederholt** (JP '26) for the storybook sets and to **Robert Lindsey** (JP '26) and **Sam Castle** (JP '28) of the sound team. Finally, the John Paul student pit band, led by Music Director Mr. Cameron Tefft, was lauded for how they "gave life" to the performance.

For more information, see: *https://tinyurl.com/mr2c2534*







Celebrating the Diocesan Jubilee with "A Man for All Seasons"

John Paul was one of the schools selected by the Diocese to perform "A Man for All Seasons" in honor of the Arlington Diocesan 50th Jubilee Celebration! **Luke Williams** (JP '26) played the part of Thomas More. Lady Alice More was played by **Grace Hall** (JP '25) and Lady Margaret More, by **Emma Ramer** (JP '26). Rounding out the cast were **Leif Angove** (JP '25) as the Common Man, **Patrick Kurrus** (JP '27) as King Henry VIII, **Andrew Mills** (JP '27) as the Duke of Norfolk, and **Anthony Morales** (JP '25) as the Spanish Ambassador.

The entire cast and crew were honored to have Bishop Burbidge attend the Saturday evening performance and pray with them prior to the show.



CHOIR





Emma Coleman (JP ’25) was selected to the VCDA All-VA Honors Chorus for the second year in a row. She was selected first overall Alto out of 29 auditionees from District IX and represented John Paul at the VMEA All State event in April. **Leif Angove** (JP ’25) had the honor to be selected as an All State alternate.

Pictured below, students selected to participate in the VCDA District IX All District Chorus.



BAND



JP students **Alyssa McCoppin** (JP ’27) and **Andrew McGill** (JP ’27) were selected for the VBODA District IX Honor Band.

“Any sacrifice required to send our children to John Paul is nothing compared to the benefits the school gives our children. Any effort is worth it, as all good things in life are.”

—JP Parents

JP Houses Build Community



The JP House System continues to successfully foster school community—and some healthy competition.







“No one is lost at John Paul because everyone is accepted and welcome.”

—JP Parents



Congratulations to the 2024-2025 House of the Year . . .

The House of Ruiz!

HOPE IN FAITH

John Paul Faculty Lead the Way, Find Their Vocations



Mr. Wyatt Parks



Mr Tibor Baksy (center) with Father Christopher Tipton and Sister Mary Grace Watson

Sowing the Seeds of Faith at John Paul

Two John Paul Teachers Leave the Pack to Pursue Vocations

Two John Paul teachers are leaving the Wolf Pack to pursue vocations to the priesthood. The first seeds of his vocation began in his senior year, when **Mr. Wyatt Parks** (JP '20) took Christian Vocations with Sister Ann Dominic, now Assistant Principal of Student Life. Mr. Parks began to "see the beauty in denying yourself for the sake of others." When Mr. Parks became a Bioethics teacher at JP and began to sow the seeds of faith in his own students, he discerned a calling to the Dominican life. Brother Wyatt Mary entered the Eastern Province of the Dominican Friars on July 22 and is currently a novice at St. Gertrude's in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Tibor Baksy, a JP Social Studies teacher and JP Ethics Bowl adviser, also answered the call to enter the seminary and start his vocation journey. "As I began to teach, coach, and go to the various activities JP had to offer," he said, "it awakened in me a deeper love and appreciation of the gospel. Being a witness to how the faculty carried out the gospel [and] how the students performed it to each other [gave me] . . . a fuller understanding of the scriptures, the heart of Christ, and the beauty of sacrifice." Mr. Baksy is now in his propaedeutic year for the Diocese of Arlington, studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

Both men credit our Sisters and the faith life at JP for their vocation journeys. "Seeing the Sisters live fulfilling and happy lives outside of this world" was the key, says Mr. Parks.

Please keep these two young men in your prayers as they continue to discern God's will for their lives!

https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/archived-pages/meet-our-seminarians/tibor-baksy/

Exciting New Faculty Additions at JP This School Year!

Over the years, John Paul has been blessed with an extraordinary and faithful faculty and staff. We are excited to announce the following additions to our school this year along with some familiar faces who are returning to support us in our mission!

Welcome to Our New Faculty!

Mr. Jeff Cleveland, *Science Department*

Mr. Jim Garster, *Math Department*

Mrs. Katie Genn, *English Department*

Ms. Lucy Hildebrand, *Bioethics Department*

Ms. Maria Hurley, *Math Department (proud JP grad!)*

Dr. Andrew Kubick, *returning to John Paul as a Bioethics teacher*

Ms. Elizabeth Mazza, *Religion and Bioethics Departments*

Sr. Gail Morgan, O.P., *Social Studies Department*

Ms. Emily Perron, *Special Services*

Mr. Shaun Silk, *Science Department*

New Staff or New Positions!

Ms. Mary Kate Gareau, *Admissions Department Enrollment Counselor*

Mrs. Kendall Horan, *new role as Chaplain Assistant*

Mrs. Abby Kingett, *new position as school Librarian*

Mr. Charles Short, *Facilities Department*

Mr. Chris Vander Woude, *returning to John Paul as our Activities Coordinator*

Following Christ to His Vocation

This year, JP was pleased to present the Christ the Teacher award to religion teacher Mr. James Florio, who has been on the faculty for 7 years. Noting he works "in a school full of Christ the Teachers," Mr. Florio said he was proud to be numbered among them. "Christ didn't teach to inform. He taught to transform" with a goal of promoting a response of faith. The award, he concluded, was a "commissioning—a challenge I will try to live up to." "You can see Christ working through him every day," says one of Mr. Florio's students. "He truly lives out the values [JP] stands for."



"The example of the Dominican Sisters and faculty at JP teaches students that belief in the Truth matters. The teachers live this message in their actions, not just in their words, giving JP students a lasting model of the faith-filled life."

–JP Alumni Parents, *Class of 2018*

From Guidance to Spiritual Counselor



After a five-year career as a guidance counselor at JP, Reverend Ricky Malebranche was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 2025. He credits the witness of the students at John Paul with helping him discern his calling.

For more information, please see https://tinyurl.com/5ea3kkby , https://tinyurl.com/yyrzeh7w

Opportunities for JP Students to Grow in Their Faith Are Abundant!

"John Paul fights the spiritual battle for our children."

—John Paul Parents

John Paul Pilgrims Enter the Holy Doors During the Jubilee Year of Hope!



This August, 42 JP pilgrims, including 27 students, 10 parents, and 5 faculty traveled to Rome and Assisi for ten days on a unique pilgrimage. Just months into his pontificate, the pilgrims were blessed by Pope Leo XIV at both the Wednesday Audience and Sunday Angelus Address. "The pilgrimage was a unique opportunity for our school to encounter the universal Church, to pray amidst awe-inspiring beauty, and to carry the intentions of our school community through all four Holy Doors," says Sister Mary Grace. "We were able to pray at the tombs of many saints through the ages, from St. Peter to St. Carlo Acutis. The way our students responded to these graces was an inspiration and I believe we each returned home deeply grateful and renewed in hope."

For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/z6sknv78









Evenings with Jesus Shine a Light

The John Paul Evenings with Jesus allow our students to "grow in their faith together as a community," says a JP Parent. They combine fun and faith—from pizza and games to Adoration and prayer. Since they were instituted by Chaplain Father Christopher Tipton in April 2022, the Evenings have grown as students flock to join. The Evenings were "a true blessing and what every parent desires for their children."

"Hope can be defined as 'the confident expectation of a positive outcome or future.' I believe everyone who interacts with a member of the JP family feels that same sense of hope that I do."

—John Paul Parent

Student Service Projects Spread the Faith

John Paul students participated in service projects throughout the year to support the community and spread joy and faith while helping those in need. From our long-standing Penny Wars tradition, to the food drive for the St. Lucy project, to our National Honor Society students giving their time to serve as Science Fair judges, John Paul students try to live their faith through service.







Mission Trips Give the Opportunity to Live the Faith

The Navajo Mission trip takes our students to New Mexico to teach vacation bible school to Navajo children and learn about the lives and culture of the students they are serving. The opportunity to appreciate our God-given world is a significant part of the mission as well, with the missionaries hiking about a mile into the Grand Canyon and participating in Mass amid the beauty created by our Lord.





Pro-Life Advocates Margaret and David Bereit Give Hope for Life



David Bereit, author and former CEO of "40 Days for Life," and his wife Margaret, who works with Mary's Shelter in Fredericksburg, visited John Paul. In their address to the student body they emphasized the school's mission to preserve life and also discussed the issues surrounding the abortion crisis in our culture. They urged our students to reap the blessings and benefits of the Dominican education, excellent Bioethics teaching, and moral foundation they are receiving and use that knowledge to be the "life preserver" for someone in trouble. "You do not know who is watching and you do not know who is listening, so each person's actions matter," they said. Everyone is called to be a voice in the darkness, they said as they encouraged the students to pray to discern their calling and be a sign of hope to others.

"John Paul gives hope to our children by arming them with the knowledge and tools they need to live their faith well, know their faith well, and share their faith with the world"

—Proud JP Alumni Parents

Habemus Papam!

Bells rang out and the entire school celebrated the election of Pope Leo XIV!



John Paul the Great's Prayer Pack Enrollment Increases Over Sevenfold This Year!

Starting with a mere 16 members, the John Paul Prayer Pack has grown exponentially and now boasts over 120 members, forming a strong prayer network in support of our school. Among the many Prayer Pack offerings this year in support of the needs of our school community were a Rosary chain and Novenas.

jpthegreat.org/pray

Support us with your prayers! Scan here to join!

FORMED TO LEAD

The journey of our distinguished alumni



Proud Past, Bright Future

Our alumni have embarked on paths that combine passion and purpose.

Each year, our alumni continue to inspire us with the diverse ways they are shaping the world — from boardrooms to classrooms, from research labs to missionary movements. Their journeys remind us that the values and education gained at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School extend far beyond graduation.

On these pages, we highlight achievements both big and small, milestones reached, and the bonds that continue to connect us. You are our greatest legacy, and your impact continues to inspire future John Paul the Great graduates.

Alumni Assist Crew Team at USNA

John Paul Crew Team Alumni assisted with the special JP Crew clinic at the United States Naval Academy. **Sadie Mattaliano** (JP '24), who is a coxswain at Catholic University, and **Elizabeth Fuller** (JP '23), who rows at Virginia Tech, provided guidance and advice to the current JP team, which had the privilege of training at the Naval Academy's state-of-the-art training facility and using the Academy's sophisticated rowing tanks.



Giving Back

John Paul is proud of our students who have chosen to serve others by committing some of their postgraduate years to FOCUS. Two of those are Alumni **Isaac and Annaliese (Tamke) Cotnoir** (JP '19), FOCUS missionaries at colleges in Philadelphia–Isaac at Drexel and Annaliese at the University of Pennsylvania. They lead Bible studies, retreats, small groups and other outreach activities to engage the students in their faith and provide them with the foundation they need to sustain their faith. Isaac and Annaliese credit their years at John Paul for inspiring them to choose to give back through mission work. "We were blessed to have had the faithful example of the Dominican Sisters and experienced the special charism of John Paul. We wanted to share this gift with others."



John Paul Blessed with New Crucifix for the Chapel

Thanks to the generosity of alumni Devon Hoskins ('12), and Ryan ('14) and Tori Hoskins, our school chapel is now graced with a new crucifix. Specially made for JP in Italy, it stands above the tabernacle and serves "as a prominent reminder of Christ's presence among us: that He is here to make all things new," says Sister Mary Grace. "It completes our chapel wonderfully."

A Life of Service

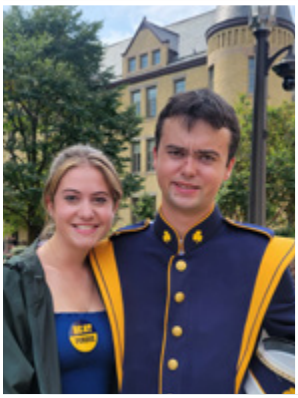
John Paul is proud of our tradition of sending our students to the military academies and to serve in our Armed Forces. To date, twenty-six JP graduates have entered a military academy and many, many more have chosen a life of military service. We want to highlight some JP '21 grads who have started their lifelong mission to serve. Among these alumni are **Patrick McCaskey**, who graduated 21st in his class of 290 from the Coast Guard Academy this past Spring; **Garret Vowinkel** who graduated from West Point on May 24; **Charlie Wahlin**, who graduated from the Merchant Marine Academy on June 23; and **Estela Ralston**, who participated in the University of Notre Dame Army ROTC program. After graduating with a degree in Neuroscience, she is now studying medicine at Georgetown University. John Paul, she says, "engaged me and taught me to think." Thank you to all our alumni who serve!





JP Alumni make their mark on the world...
















Community Events at JP

We are blessed with a large network of parents, alumni, and friends who enrich us with their presence at our 5K, Golf Outing, and Gala. Thanks to their generosity, we are able to raise $31,784 through the 5K, $44,791 through Golfing with Wolves, and a stunning $175,609 at our Gala. Thank you to all! We are so very grateful.



"John Paul creates a culture of trust. The students know they can go to the adults at the school for help and guidance and that those adults won't just take care of them—they will care for them."

—JP Parents

Be an Active Part of the JP Community!

Our volunteers are essential and enrich us with their talents. There are many opportunities to help JP. Whether you bake brownies, assist with Career Day, build a set, work a football game, or help with our Gala, you are needed! Not only will you benefit our school, you also will help keep the JP community strong and GREAT.

To volunteer, please go to jpthegreat.org/volunteer



John Paul *Legacy of Life* Gala 2026

We are grateful so many in our community could be part of the fun!





SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

St. John Paul the Great Impact Report 2024–2025

Saint John Paul the Great Fund

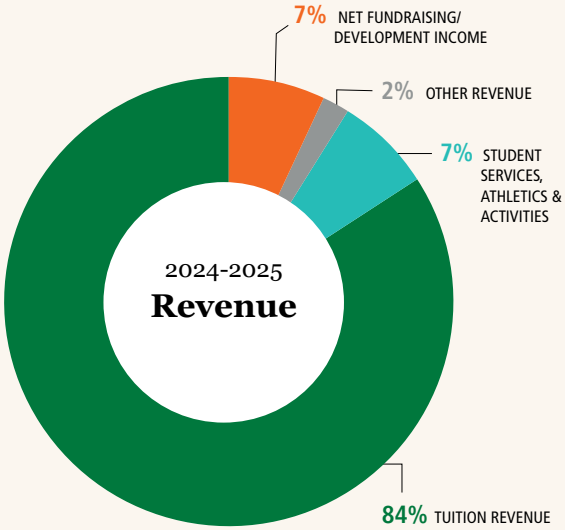
The John Paul the Great Fund raised $390,336 in unrestricted and $182,323 in restricted donations this school year! This is a 30 percent increase over last year. We are very grateful for your generosity!

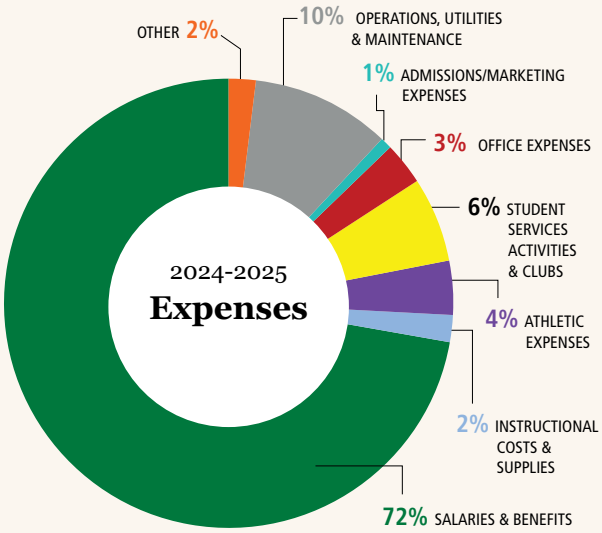
Your support of John Paul this year has facilitated many improvements, upgrades, and refreshes of our beautiful school. Our main and auxiliary gyms look brand new, with new paint and refinished floors. Our stage will soon have a refinished wood floor and will be ready for many more years of productions. New lighting graces our stairwells, improving the safety of our students and staff, and Aquinas Hall has been refurbished with new paint and new furniture, creating a lovely meeting space for our friends and students.

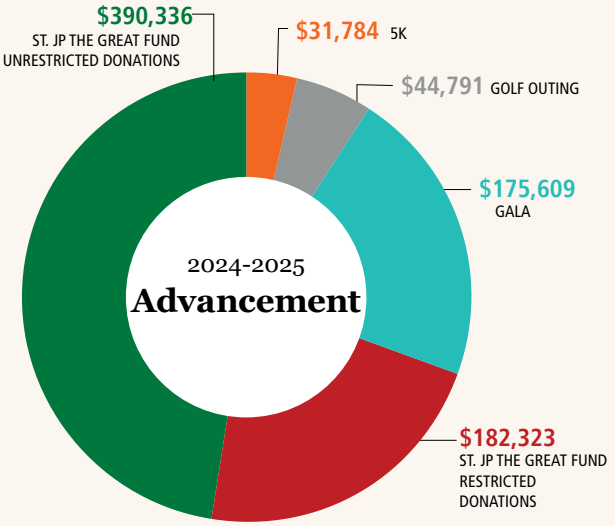
"John Paul meets [our children] where they are and loves them with God's love."

–JP Parents

When our students leave John Paul, they have the critical thinking skills needed to be the leaders of the next generation in defense of the Truth. **This is because of you!** Your gifts have directly helped put and keep students in classrooms—with financial support of students, technology and tools to enhance the learning experience, and support of our faculty and staff that allows them to enhance and expand the academic and extracurricular offerings of JP. YOUR support of the John Paul the Great Fund enables JP to continue to provide a quality JP education to any student who desires one. We REJOICE in you and your belief in our school and its mission. Thank you for being part of the JP community.







Deepest gratitude to all who pray, volunteer, and support JP financially.

Thank you for supporting JP! You are vital to our mission. We are keeping you in our prayers.

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($25,000+)

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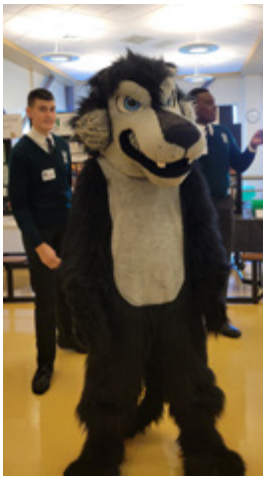
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