



Admissions events on tap

The months leading up to Christmas break are full of important dates and events for admissions. These events are conducted to enlighten prospective parents and students about the application process and the steps to enrollments at JP2HS.

The placement exam on Nov. 13 is one such step along the application course. In addition, Open House and Coffee with the Headmaster events are held for prospective parents to gather information and data as they discern the high school placement for their children.

These events are designed for parents to get an inside view of JP2HS culture, its teachers, administrators and coaches.

The Nov. 8 Coffee with the Headmaster event is open to the public from 8:30-10 a.m. This is an occasion for parents to see the school in action as well as to meet and talk with Headmaster Faustin Weber.

For parents interested in the financial aid process, Financial Aid Information night is scheduled 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

For these and all other JP2HS events, please visit the school website at jp2hs.org, email info@jp2hs.org or call (615) 822-2375.

AS STUDENT, MS. FORD WAS INSPIRED BY JP2HS TEACHERS

Jessica Ford didn't attend Pope John Paul II High School as a student, but she can certainly identify with the experience of JP2HS students sitting in the classes of math teacher Betty Mayberry, dean of studies and social studies teacher Karen Phillips, former English teacher Richard Stephenson, and science teacher Jennifer Dye. She was their student too when she attended Gallatin High School and before they all joined the staff at the brand new JP2HS.



Jessica Ford

"I had every single one of them," Ms. Ford said of the former Gallatin High teachers who ended up forming the core of the faculty at the new school. And they all helped inspire her to become a teacher herself, particularly Mrs. Dye, who is the head of the science department at JP2HS.

"She's probably the best science teacher I could have ever asked for," Ms. Ford, a physics teacher at JP2HS, said of her former teacher and now colleague. "The way she taught, she just made it enjoyable. I learned a lot and it was a lot of fun."

After graduating from Gallatin, Ms. Ford went off to the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga with plans to major in biology and the idea of eventually doing something in the medical field. But as a sophomore in college, she took a

few education classes just to see if she would like it. It didn't take long for her to get hooked on teaching. "When you're able to get the light bulb to go on, it's such an incredible experience."

After graduating from UTC with a degree in secondary education, Ms. Ford returned to Middle Tennessee to teach middle school science for two years, first in Smyrna and then in Brentwood.

She decided to go back to college to work toward a master's degree in biology at Middle Tennessee State University. She has completed her course work and has only her thesis to complete. Last year, she participated in a program that Mrs. Dye helped organize that put graduate students in high school and middle school science classrooms to help students with lab work, experiments and other projects. She found out from Mrs. Dye about an opening at JP2HS teaching freshman physics, applied and got the job.

"The kids here are much better than I ever expected," said Ms. Ford. "They have drive. They care about how well they do and what they learn. They care about other people. They care about their teachers. Overall, they're genuinely good kids."

JP2HS opened the year after Ms. Ford graduated from high school. "When it first opened all we knew about it was it was a private Catholic school with a lot of money," she said. "Now that I'm here, I realize it's a good thing for the kids. The resources the school has gives students more opportunities."

CHORAL PROGRAM SHINES IN ALL STATE COMPETITION

JP2HS had 17 sophomores, juniors and seniors qualify for the second tier audition for the Tennessee All-State Choir in early February 2011. Also, more than 80 percent of the JP2HS freshman singers were recognized for the Freshman Honors choir.

"Seeing so many JP2HS choral students qualify for one of the most competitive musical events affirms their commitment and dedication to work extremely hard to be well-prepared for this audition. To say that I am proud of them is an understatement," said Jj Ebelhar, JP2HS's choral director.

The students' next tasks are to learn new music for the Middle Tennessee Honors Festival in November and then learn all eight of their All-State pieces for the second tier audition in February in order to secure their position as an All-State member or as an alternate member of a 2011 Tennessee All-State Choir at the TMEA State Music Conference in April at the Opryland Hotel.

Honored students include: All-State Members: Erin Roberts, Second Soprano; Grace Lucas, Second Soprano; Maria Bednar, Second Soprano; Isobel Ward, Second Alto; Samantha May, Second Alto; Andrew Gilstrap, Second Bass (top ranking).

All-State Alternates: Kenzie Farless, First Soprano; Krissy Eccher, First Soprano; Clare Healy, Second Alto; Olivia Drennan, Second Alto; Andrew Carr, First Tenor; John Hannah, First Tenor; Bryan Melcher, First Tenor; Foster McDaniel, Second Tenor; Brendan Melcher, First Bass; Mackenzie Mayberry, Second Bass. (All-State Members and Alternates are also automatically members of Mid-State Honors Choir.)

Mid-State Honors Choir: Jenny Cawood, First Soprano; Annalea Wilson, First Alto.

Freshman Honors Choir: Teresa Gilstrap, Hannah Gautsch, Madi Leonard, Mary Margaret Blum, Chloe Kilpatrick.



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FAITH PART OF JP2HS'S IDENTITY

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and the Christian Service Internship program. The CSI program and other service opportunities for JP2HS students are provided to give them a chance to put their faith into action, Deacon Edwards said.

Throughout its history, JP2HS has worked hard to be open to students of all faiths while holding tightly to its Catholic identity, said Deacon Edwards. "Regardless of one's church affiliation, they should experience a deepening of their own appreciation for the faith they have" while at JP2HS.

"We've walked that line very well, especially with the non-Catholic population," Deacon Edwards said. "They participate fully in all the liturgies," with the exception of receiving communion, serving as readers, prayer leaders and cantors.

RESEARCH CLASS PREPARES STUDENTS

Continued from page 1

More than 20 students are enrolled in the class this year. It is an elective class open to juniors and seniors, but Mr. Peper and Mr. Griffith weren't looking for just the top students. "We want students that can function independently, have a drive for research, and an interest in studying the humanities in college."

FALL BASEBALL CAMP DRAWS 100 PLAYERS

More than 100 youth baseball players attended the fourth annual JP2HS Baseball Fall Camp on Sunday, Oct. 31.

Players from Brentwood to Gallatin worked on the fundamentals of baseball with the JP2HS coaching staff and players as well as youth coaches from the Hendersonville Knights youth baseball program and enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers and barbecue with parents afterward.

The Knights offer a spring camp and a week long summer camp in addition to the fall camp. In the last calendar year, more than 300 players have attended the Knights instructional camps. "Our camps are a huge part of our baseball program at JP2HS" said Knights Head Coach Michael Brown. "The camps give our coaches a way to promote the game of baseball in our community and reach out to the local youth programs. It is also a great way to introduce people to our school and our baseball program. We have a great campus, and these camps bring a lot of people from all over Nashville to see it," added Brown.

The Knights baseball program offered thanks to the Hendersonville Knights youth baseball organization for all their work on these camps. The Hendersonville Knights handle promotion, registration and preparation of meals for the Knights camps. Players from the Hendersonville Knights also serve as bat boys for Knights home games in the spring.



NOVEMBER 2010

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org

FAITH IMPORTANT PART OF JP2HS'S IDENTITY

Pope John Paul II High School's Christian and Catholic character infuses every aspect of the school, right down to its name. "The goal of the campus ministry program is to develop an authentically Catholic environment that binds us together in traditional Catholic liturgies," said Deacon Brian Edwards, the director of campus ministry.

The campus ministry program strives to expose students, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, to ways of praying they might not be accustomed to, Deacon Edwards said, such as the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary, the Mass in Latin and Eucharistic adoration.

Among the activities the campus ministry program organizes each year are: a Mass for all JP2HS students every Wednesday; Sacrament of Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent; weekly Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction during Lent; Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday; praying the Liturgy of the Hours; celebrating the Feast Days of the pope-saints that the school's four houses are named after; a Rosary service in May; Communion services after school on Mondays and



Senior Mary Leonard receives Communion during a Communion service at school. Communion services are part of JP2HS's campus ministry program.

before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Mass on Friday mornings before school; the Baccalaureate Mass for the graduating seniors each spring; retreats for each class;

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NEW RESEARCH CLASS PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE

Pope John Paul II High School has a new academic offering this year – the JP2HS Scholar Research Class – designed to better prepare students for the college experience.

During the course of the academic year, the students in the class will develop a topic, research it and write a 30-page thesis-driven term paper, explained JP2HS theology teacher Brad Peper, who is teaching the course with Andrew Griffith, an English teacher at JP2HS. The research project can be in any humanities field, he said. "We run them through the process of having to research something in an academic fashion," including how to use primary and secondary sources, and how to write abstracts, Mr. Peper said. Unlike many other courses at JP2HS, this class won't have a lot of assessments or homework assignments, Mr. Peper said. "We're trying to mimic what takes place in

college."

"The class creates the structure of how you progress on a large paper, but there's a lot of freedom within that structure," Mr. Peper said.

It can be difficult for JP2HS students to fit this kind of long-term research project in their other classes, Mr. Peper said. "Other classes don't have the time to devote to that kind of project."

The benefits of the class will go with the students once they leave JP2HS, Mr. Peper said. "Once you do this, it's always easier to do this again. When the kids go to college they won't be shocked at the prospect of writing a long paper."

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JESSICA FORD

ALL STATE CHOIR

BASEBALL CAMP

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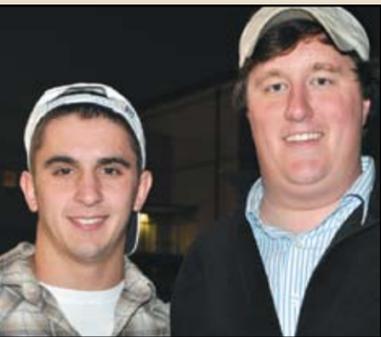
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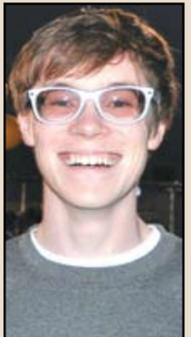
JPII alumni returned to the Shining City on the Hill for Homecoming Oct. 15. They were treated to a Knights' victory in the football game and a chance to catch up with friends and classmates. Among those on hand were several alumni cheerleaders, including: (front row, L-R) Adriana Lamb, Jessica Simmons Bolog, Courtney Pierpaoli, Dianne Sepe Tiedt, Lauren Montague, Samantha Kincaid, Jessica Gad, Erica Jackson, Victoria Vicente; (back row) Veronica Vicente, Danielle Morgan, Morgan Trent, Jordan MacConnell, Adria Gibbs and Katie Collier. Other alumni who enjoyed the festivities are pictured at right and below.



Morgan Wigger, Joey Swisher, Cole Wigger, Emily Ward and Matt Wigger



Michael Nelson and Carter Jackson



Ryan Kilpatrick



Danny Mogan and Johnny Drennan



Kelly Anderson and Ashley Hammer



Dominica Pacci



Billy Vaughn



Stephen Glass



Alek Nochowicz



Martin Strobel



Chris Neely

2010 HOMECOMING



MORGAN ROTH REIGNS AS HOMECOMING QUEEN

Homecoming week at JPII was crowned with the crowning of the 2010 Homecoming Queen, senior Morgan Roth.

Morgan was announced as this year's queen during halftime of the football game Oct. 15. Morgan, who was escorted by senior Ryan MacConnell, was crowned by last year's queen, Hillary Guinn (photo at right).



ART STUDENTS' WORK HONORED

Artwork by six JPII students has been selected for the third annual Middle Tennessee Student Art Exhibition Nov. 12-Dec. 17. There will be an awards ceremony and opening reception at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in the Performance Hall of the Renaissance Center in Dickson. The students selected for the exhibition include: juniors Carianne Steffan and Cassidy Johnson and freshman Stephanie Simpson for drawing; sophomore Maddie Bologa for ceramics; senior Morgan Roth and junior Maggie Finaly for sculpture. Pictured are (L-R) Morgan Roth, Maddie Bologa, Stephanie Simpson, Maggie Finaly and Cassidy Johnson. Missing is Carianne Steffan.

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

Summer Academy

When Danielle Smith and Cole Burwell moved from Summer Academy to JPII this fall, they found some familiar faces. Each year, the bulk of Summer Academy's eighth grade class moves on to JPII and this year was no exception with 11 of 18 now Knights.



Danielle Smith

Having friends at JPII played a big role in Cole's decision to enroll, he said. He wanted to go to a school where he would know people, he said. "At Summer everybody was like everybody's brother. Everybody knew everybody. So I knew a bunch of kids from Summer that came to JPII."

Among them is his step-sister Savannah Davenport, a JPII sophomore. "She said it was fun. Everybody was nice. The teachers were very helpful."



Cole Burwell

Danielle heard similar things from her sister, Kelsey, a JPII junior. She also told Danielle the academic workload at JPII could be tough and to be prepared. "Some of the teachers have been harder than others,"

Danielle said. "It has been fun and difficult at the same time."

The transition from a small school to a much bigger high school has gone smoothly for Cole and Danielle. "It feels just like my old school," Cole said. "It's become home pretty quickly."

Danielle and Cole advised future JPII students to be prepared to work hard and keep up with their homework assignments. But it's not all work, Cole said. "I'd tell them it's a lot of fun. ... The people are real nice and the teachers will help you with whatever you need."

JPII People ... Danielle Smith and Cole Burwell!

View Points

Model UN team brings home more awards

JPII's College Model UN Team won a total of 11 awards in its first two conferences of the year.

Twenty-five of the team's 80 members traveled to St. Louis for the Washington University Model UN Conference, which attracted more than 120 students from eight high schools from Missouri, Illinois and Tennessee, including the University School of Nashville (USN) and White Station High School from Memphis.

JPII students wrote and sponsored 15, or 58 percent, of the resolutions and directives that were passed by their respective committees. The team received four awards, the third highest amount among the participating schools. Ashlyn Keightley was selected by the college conference staff to receive the top individual honor with a Best Delegate Award. Tommy Joe Bednar, Maggie Musacchio, and Devin Patel each received Honorable Mention Delegate Awards

Next, the team headed to downtown Nashville for the Vanderbilt University Model UN Conference, after a seven-year absence. At the Vanderbilt conference, JPII took home seven awards.

Twenty four JPII students attended the Vanderbilt Conference, which included more than 240 students from 10 high schools from Tennessee, Illinois, Florida, Alabama and North Carolina. Nashville was represented by such debating powerhouses as Ensworth, the University School of Nashville and Harpeth Hall.

The JPII students were rewarded for their efforts with seven awards. Tommy Joe Bednar, Maggie Musacchio and Rob Wieber were selected by the college conference staff to receive the top individual honor with a Best Delegate Award for their respective committees. Avery Story received an Outstanding Delegate Award while Andrew Jefferies, Schyler Cox and Wilhelm Bunjor each received Honorable Mention Delegate Awards. In addition, Will Vanderslice, Bryan Melcher and Ben Guth were recognized with Verbal Commendations for their contributions to their committees' discussion.

In November, more than 50 JPII team members are scheduled to head to Conway, Ark., for the 45th Annual Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN) Conference to face off against more than 350 delegates from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLACEMENT EXAMS

DEC. 11
JAN. 29

8 A.M.-NOON

CALL
(615) 822-2375
FOR DETAILS

JPII hockey wins tournament

The JPII Knights hockey team is off to a fast start this season. They started by winning the Big Bear Tournament at Centennial Sportsplex, clinching it with a 3-1 win over Marquette Mustangs from the St. Louis area. Teams from North Mississippi and St. Louis joined teams from Brentwood High School, Father Ryan High School, Independence/Page High Schools and JPII for the tournament.

In their first four games of the regular season, the Knights went 3-0-1 with wins over defending state champion Ravenwood, Father Ryan and Independence/Page and a 4-4 tie against Brentwood.

For information about the Knights schedule, visit <http://gnashockey.com>.