



Students at Pope John Paul II High School return to school for the start of the 2013-14 academic year on Monday, Aug. 5. Abby Sturgill greets a friend on the first day back at school.

SCHOOL YEAR OFF TO A SMOOTH START

The new school year at Pope John Paul II High School has gotten off to a smooth start, said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "The year has begun remarkably well, very smooth," he said. "It's probably the smoothest in my 25 years" as the head of a school.

There are 10 new members of the faculty this year. "They're adjusting well," Mr. Weber said. Among them is Father Terry McGowan, the first priest to be on staff at JPPII since 2008. "We're thrilled to have a priest on the faculty full time," Mr. Weber said. "He's a huge asset to the school."

JPPII started the year with right at 600 students. Among them are several international students who are part of a new program at JPPII, "which we're very excited about," Mr. Weber said. "They're fitting in well."

"I hope they'll have an influence on the JPPII culture, just like JPPII

will have an influence on them," he added.

School officials were excited to learn over the summer that the school's namesake, Pope John Paul II will be canonized a saint. They are planning several events to celebrate the canonization, Mr. Weber said, including the possibility of sending a delegation from the school to the canonization in Rome. Other plans include a ski trip in honor of Pope John Paul's love of the outdoors and a Mass to venerate the pope's ski jacket as a relic. The jacket was donated to the school. The school also hopes to organize a trip for 25 to 30 students to Krakow, Poland, where John Paul II was a bishop and cardinal before his election as pope.

Mr. Weber said school officials are still waiting on the date for the canonization to be set before finalizing the plans. One change that isn't planned with the canonization of Pope John Paul II is renaming the school, Mr. Weber said.



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



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UPCOMING EVENTS

COLLEGE FAIR

8:30-10:20 A.M.

**THURSDAY
SEPT. 26**

JP11 welcomes International Scholars

Nine students from Thailand, Germany, China and Korea have arrived in Middle Tennessee to begin their high school careers at Pope John Paul II High School.

All of the international students are interested in augmenting their global understanding and educational experiences through foreign exchange in America.

Dan Hodes, JP11 Director of Admissions, explains, "Our International Scholars Program is a great opportunity for students from around the globe to experience the quality of a JP11 education, as well as, and perhaps most importantly, for our students and their families to truly be impacted directly by our incredibly shrinking planet."

SENIORS OFF AND RUNNING WITH FIRST COLLEGE APPLICATION SATURDAY

JP11's College Counseling Office wasted no time helping this year's seniors start planning for their futures. On Saturday, Aug. 10, the Director of College Counseling Mike Brown and College Counselor John Dempsey hosted the first College Application Saturday. "We had about 90 kids show up out of the 152 in the senior class," Mr. Brown said.

The school started College Application Saturdays about five years ago, he said. "It's become something we feel is so important to get the students started in the process."

Before College Application Saturdays, students typically waited until the last minute to submit their college applications, Mr. Brown said. "Now 80 percent of our students have applied to at least one school by Dec. 1," Mr. Brown said. And the earlier they apply the better their chances of being accepted and being considered for scholarships and financial aid, he added.

During College Application Saturdays, the students hear an explanation of the Family Connection, which they can use to research colleges and request recommendations and transcripts, Mr. Brown said. They also go over the Common Application, which is used by more than 500 colleges and universities across the country, including many of the schools JP11 students typically apply to, he added. "It gets the ball moving and gets them thinking," Mr. Brown said.

The event lasts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and drinks and lunch are provided. Students can use one of JP11's laptops or they can bring their own, Mr. Brown said. "We had kids who were there for the whole four hours and others who came for an hour or two and left," he said. The next College Application Saturday will be held on Sept. 14.



College Counselor Mike Brown helps senior Zita Cabello (Holy Rosary Academy) on the first College Application Saturday.

JP11 STUDENTS SET SCHOOL RECORD FOR AP HONORS

Ninety-five students at Pope John Paul II High School earned honors based on their scores on Advanced Placement tests during their high school careers. For JP11, the 95 AP scholars marked a school record.

Last May, 238 students at JP11 – nearly 40 percent of the student body – took 538 AP exams. According to the College Board, only 20 percent of the 2.1 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

Five JP11 students received the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. The students were: Brennan Belew, Alexis Cook, Aly Cox, Nathan Edwards and Allie Smith.

Twenty seven JP11 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. They were: Brennan Belew, Maddie Bologa, Anna Borowek, Jenny Cawood, Alexis Cook, Aly Cox, Raina Devraj, Nathan Edwards, Susanna Edwards, Spencer Frost, Tristan Greeno, Heath Herrington, James Johnson, Paul Kirby, Dominick Massa, Bryan Melcher, Henry Moore, Randi Mysinger, Meredith Noah, Jacqui Ramos, Jake Ramsey, Carson Riley, Allie Smith, Evan Summers, Ana Volz, Kristen Wieber and Clare Zanger.

Twenty two JP11 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. They were: Christopher Baker, Nicholas Baker, Bobby Faust, Megan Gerstner, Chelsea Gettelfinger, Holly Gibbens, Regan Givens, Brian Griffin, Edrian Gutierrez, Joseph Lascara, Audrey Manners, Josh McConnell, Greg Mills, John Pelka, Caleb Pracht, Luke Price, Lucas Pulliza, Taylor Tieche, Malachi Walker, Daniel Weber, Annalea Wilson and Adam Wood.

Forty one JP11 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. They were: Leon Bendix, Mary Margaret Blum, Collin Bryant, Natalie Cannella, Robert Davis, Andy Druffel, Jack Duffin, Margaret Duzane, Paul Fogolin, Zach Frank, Logan Frost, Claudia Garcia, Ben Geist, Elizabeth Griggs, Matthew Hager, Jessica Herrera, Stefanie Hinesley, Quincy Huff, Rebecca Kaiser, Alex Koeberlein, Jeffrey LeCave, Jordan Lee, Aidan Leonard, Madi Leonard, Bethany Loven, Matt Lucas, Alex Matheny, Connor McCarthy, Emily McRen, Julia Meyer, Dylan Pederson, James Puryear, Helen Shaw, Jenna Singer, Katharine Smith, Katie Swaringen, Krystal Tran, Caroline Vaughn, Taylor Wallace, Daniel Ward and Sara Williston.

In the last three years, JP11 students have received a total of 278 AP Scholar Awards. Many of this year's recipients were just juniors in May and will have the opportunity to add to their honors during the 2013-14 school year.

JPII STUDENTS BECOME GLOBE TROTTERS DURING SUMMER

Pope John Paul II High School's engagement with the world led students halfway across the globe over the summer as part of exchange programs to England, France and Germany.

The Loughlin Scholars program, an exchange with St. Edmund's College, the oldest Catholic school in England, is JPII's oldest international exchange program. From May 23 to June 11, 12 JPII students visited England, staying with host families. Their English counterparts visited JPII and Hendersonville July 25 to Aug 14.

For the first 10 days or so of the visit to England, the host families were on holiday, said Mike Brown, the faculty advisor for the Loughlin Scholars program. Some of the host families took their JPII students with them on trips around England and Europe, he said. "They participated in the lives of those families."

Once classes resumed at St. Edmund's, the JPII students accompanied their English hosts during the school day. The JPII delegation also visited several places, including Cambridge, the River Walk on the New River, and the site of the 2012 London Olympics, which is being converted to Queen Elizabeth Park, Mr. Brown said. The students learned about English culture and life, he said, "learning it from a very personal level," Mr. Brown said.

"The English kids did the same things in reverse" during their stay in the United States, Mr. Brown said. Some traveled with their American host families to Chicago, Chattanooga, Gatlinburg and Cincinnati. Locally, they visited the Parthenon, the Frist Center for the Arts, the State Capitol, Opryland Hotel and Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Mr. Brown said. They all spent three days in classes at JPII, Mr. Brown said. "They saw how our system worked."

Loughlin Scholars is open to rising sophomores. They must have at least a 3.2 grade point average during the first semester of their freshman year, Mr. Brown said, and they must go through an application and interview process. The application process begins in October each year.



The JPII Loughlin Scholars and their English counterparts take a break from the school day in the courtyard.



Mike Brown, faculty advisor for the Loughlin Scholars program, talks with JPII sophomore Morgan Batson and Grace Crossley, the English student she hosted.

JPII students who participated this year were: Indigo Barnett (Ellis Middle School), Izabelle Barnett (Ellis Middle), Morgan Batson (Station Camp Middle School), Greg Cannella (St. Joseph School), Haley Cline (Ellis Middle), Lucy Cook (Sumner Academy), Sam Garretson (Station Camp Middle), Grant Gonzalez (Station Camp Middle), Wyatt Kaiser (St. Joseph), Sarah Klein (Ellis Middle), John Michael Pate (Aaron Academy) and Kari Sears (Rucker Stewart Middle School). Their English counterparts were: Amy Braun, Grace Crossley, Deniz Matur, Roberta Chapman, Hannah Gornall, Christopher Larkin Collins, Alex James, Joshua Greeves, Holly Wise, Michael Gallagher and Harriet Frenzel.

A group of 10 students and two teacher chaperones participated in the first exchange with students at St. Riquier School in Amiens, France, from May 24 to June 8. While living with host families, students practiced their language skills and also noticed and discussed cultural differences including lengthy French family dinners. The trip was open to students who had studied three or more years of French at JPII.

The group also visited Paris, Omaha Beach in Normandy, and Versailles. "On this trip I gained a deeper appreciation for different cultures," said senior Ally Jenkins. "We had the opportunity to go to Omaha Beach on the 69th anniversary of D-Day. Shaking the hands of the men who fought so many years ago was something I will never forget."

St. Riquier students visited JPII from April 14 through April 27.

From May 28 to June 14, 13 students and two faculty chaperones participated in an annual exchange with Mauritz School in Muenster, Germany. Since Muenster is the Cycling Capital of the World, students enjoyed riding bikes with their host families around town. They also visited Cologne, Munich and Heidelberg, Germany, as well as Enshede, Netherlands, and Salsburg, Austria. Mauritz students enjoyed visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame and other Middle Tennessee hot spots from March 25 through April 5.

KNIGHTS FOOTBALL OFF AND RUNNING



JPII's senior football players, above photo, lead the Knights onto the field for the 2013 season's first game against the Stratford Spartans. The Knights got the season off to a great start with a come from behind win. Trailing 20-10 at the half, the Knights stormed back to win 24-20. Senior Hunter Williams led the defense with three interceptions. Senior quarterback Jacob Polman threw for 183 yards and two touchdowns. After the JPII Drum Line led the team into the Jim Carell Athletic Complex for its second game against visiting Lincoln County, photo at right, the Knights took their second victory of the young season. Again the Knights fell behind at the half, but stormed back in the second half to win 24-14. Sophomore Quar'Derius Hunter led the Knights' offense with 132 yards rushing. The win gave the Knights a 2-0 record for the first time since 2005. The next home game will be Friday, Sept. 27, in a Homecoming tilt against Battle Ground Academy.

Photos courtesy of Rick Musacchio



FUND FOR EXCELLENCE KICKS OFF AT FOOTBALL GAME

This year's Fund For Excellence (FFE) was launched with a bang at this season's opening football game. A fantastic crowd came out to support our Knights football team as they drove to a hard fought 24-20 victory over the Stratford Spartans.

During halftime, as tee-shirts were launched into the crowd from a giant sling shot by our Knights cheerleaders and FFE footballs were passed around the bleachers, this year's FFE Co-Chair, Shannon Cook, accompanied by many of the 70 volunteers helping with the school's most important fundraising element, took the field to announce the launch of the FFE.

The FFE is JPII's primary fundraiser to bridge the almost \$2,500 per student gap between tuition and the real cost of a JPII education. A gift to the FFE is tax-deductible. Tuition is not.

JPII seeks support from more than 3,000 individuals, including trustees, parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, and faculty

and staff. This year volunteers will be hand-delivering materials to JPII parents encouraging them to support the fund. Shannon asked everyone to "be nice to the volunteers and make it as easy as possible for them to connect."

Our volunteers will not be soliciting donations directly. The "Present and Deliver" program is intended to help every member of the JPII family understand that it takes a united effort to bridge the gap.

Every aspect of our school is touched by FFE dollars, including: academics, performing and visual arts, athletics, community service, spiritual formation, financial aid, the library, technology, faculty salaries, professional growth and campus maintenance. We ask our community members to support the FFE to the best of their ability. In the past, gifts have ranged from \$10 to more than \$25,000. Gifts of any size make a difference. To make a pledge today call the advancement office at (615) 590-6005, or you can pledge online at <http://www.jp2hs.org/donate>.

JARREAU, SMITH NAMED PLAYER OF YEAR IN BASEBALL, SOFTBALL

Two JP II athletes were recently recognized for their accomplishments on the baseball and softball diamonds. Brad Jarreau, a 2013 graduate, was named the Sumner County Baseball Player of the Year, and senior Chelsey Smith was named the Sumner County Softball Player of the Year.

Jarreau's award capped off a stellar senior season, after which he signed a scholarship offer to continue playing baseball at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. The son of Sandra and Sid Jarreau and a graduate of St. Joseph School in Madison, Jarreau helped the Knights to their best season in school history, finishing at 24-10 with a state finals berth. He hit .448 for the season while playing center field and pitching. He was named All-County and All-Region first team for three consecutive years. He also was named All-State as a junior. This year he was a finalist for the Division II Player of the Year.

Joining Jarreau on the All Region first team were Paul Kirby and Caleb Holton. Named to the second team was Ryan Robertson. Other Knights named to the All-County team were: first team, Kirby and Robertson; second team, Braxton Brinkley and Holton; honorable mention, Brett Burke and Logan Taylor.

Chelsey Smith led the Knights to a runner-up finish in the Division II-AA state tournament while hitting .434 with 15 doubles, five triples, six homers, 28 runs batted in and 15 steals during her junior season.

Joining her on the All-County softball team were: first team, Chelsea Fair and Taylor Williams; second team, Annabel Yates, Chelsy Stephenson and Alley McDonald; honorable mention, Anna Buchanan and Savannah Lewis.

Andy Druffel, who graduated last spring, was named the Sumner County Co-Player of the Year in tennis. He qualified for the Division II-AA state tournament as both a junior and senior, the first Knight to accomplish that feat. Other Knights named to the All-County tennis team were: girls first team, Raina Devrai and Ellie Rivera; boys first team, Heath Herrington.

Recent graduate Griffin Smith was named to the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association Division II-AA All-State team in soccer. Smith led the Knights from his position as a forward.

Several members of the JP II track team last spring also were honored. Named to the All Sumner County Boys Track Team were Jalen Thompson, class of 2013, in the 400 meters, and Michael Koen in the triple jump. Named to the All Sumner County Girls Track Team was Shelby Taylor in the triple jump.

The honors for JP II student athletes continued in the summer as Paul Kirby signed a scholarship offer to play baseball at Columbia State Community College and Matt Hanson signed a scholarship offer to play football at Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Ala. Both were members of the class of 2013.

JP II INTRODUCES COMPETITIVE DANCE TEAM

Pope John Paul II High School is proud to announce its first competitive dance team. Under the direction of Coach Jamie Jordan, the team began its inaugural season by attending the UDA dance camp at UT Knoxville. They were awarded a Superior trophy qualifying them for the National Dance Team Championship in Orlando, Fla. They were also awarded the prestigious Leadership Award voted on by all teams in attendance. Seniors Caroline Graves and Ashley Wertenberger were named as UDA All Americans. The team includes: (first row) Morgan Locke, Ashley Wertenberger, Mary Margaret Blum, Co-Captain Caroline Graves, Captain Taylor Wallace, Co-Captain Victoria Brasili, Mikaila O'Neal, Macayla Dowdy; (second row) Ashley Hayes, Alyssa Rentuza, Amanda Kuban, Taryn Wallace, Caroline Leonard, Caroline Johnson, Alexis Williams, Lauren Newman, Abby Sturgill; (third row) Allie Page, Mallory Davenport, Tally Bevis, Lauren Gierla and Ava Evans. Not pictured is Jesse Tarbuck.



JPII WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Only here a short time, the new faculty feel right at home. This talented group started their JPII journey in late July for orientation and were joined by returning faculty and staff days later for faculty/staff in-service. They hit the ground running and have already experienced their first pep rally and home football game. Welcome new faculty!

■ Ms. Shara Bellamy joins the science department and will teach Biology and Anatomy & Physiology. She has a B.S. in Biology and Society from Cornell University and a M.Ed. from Vanderbilt.

■ Mr. John Cooper joins the math department and will teach Algebra II and Advanced Algebra II. He has a B.A. in Economics from Saint Joseph's University. Mr. Cooper will also be the assistant varsity coach for boy's lacrosse.

■ Mr. Mark Crowley joins the English department and will teach Advanced English to freshmen and Latin 3. He has a B.A. in Latin & Classical Culture and a M.A. in Latin from the University of Georgia.

■ Mrs. Laura Davis joins the foreign language department and will teach Spanish II and III and Advanced Spanish II. She has a M.A. in Latin American and Iberian Studies emphasis in Spanish and Latin American Literature from the University of Notre Dame and a B.A. in Political Science and Political Culture from Whittier College.

■ Ms. Julie Libardi joins the English department and will teach English and Advanced English to sophomores as well as Yearbook. She has a B.A. in English and Anthropology and a M.Ed. in English from the University of Notre Dame.

■ Ms. Marjorie Lloyd joins the English department and will teach Advanced English to sophomores and seniors. She has a B.A. in English Literature and Philosophy from Vanderbilt University and a M.A. in English from Middle Tennessee State University.

■ Mrs. Jeanette MacCallum joins the fine arts department as the Fine Arts Assistant and will teach in the choral program. She has a B.M. and M.M. from Belmont University.

■ Father Terry McGowan joins JPII as the school's Chaplain and will teach theology. Father McGowan has a B.A. in Philosophy and a M.Div. from Pontifical College Josephinum.

■ Mr. Michael Patton joins the English department and will teach English to freshmen and seniors. Mr. Patton has a B.A. in English from Southern Mississippi.

■ Ms. Ellen Walsh joins the social studies department and will teach World History to freshmen. Ms. Walsh will also coach the Forensics Team. She has a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and a M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University.

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