



Photo by Rick Musacchio/Tennessee Register

JPII senior Ryan Duffin reacts to seeing the total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21. JPII school nurse Kelly Delmotte captured the moment in the photo below.

## COSMOS WOWS JPII STUDENTS WITH TOTAL ECLIPSE

On Aug. 21, JPII students were among the millions of people across the country to witness one of the truly spectacular events in the cosmos: a total eclipse of the sun.

"It was awesome. It was great," said Jennifer Dye, science department chair at JPII. "I'm not sure what was better, the eclipse or our students' reaction to the eclipse. It was amazing to watch."

Students were cheering, crying and jumping around, Mrs. Dye said. "Kids I would never ever really expect to be so excited

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### SOCIAL MEDIA:



POPE JOHN PAUL II  
HIGH SCHOOL



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



@JPIIKNIGHTS

Headmaster  
Mike Deely  
615-822-2375  
www.jp2hs.org



## Admissions Office events

The Admissions Office is hosting several upcoming events for students and their families interested in coming to JPII.

Eighth grade students can spend a “Shadow Day” at JPII and experience what it means to be a Knight. To schedule a Shadow Day, contact Mary Leonard at 615-590-6014 or [mary.leonard@jp2hs.org](mailto:mary.leonard@jp2hs.org).

Parents can get a glimpse of what JPII has to offer by attending a Taste and See. Enjoy lunch with Headmaster Mike Deely, the administrative staff, department chairs and coaches, take a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities, and visit with students and faculty. Upcoming dates are Tuesday, Oct. 17 and Wednesday, Nov. 8. The time is 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Mary Leonard at [mary.leonard@jp2hs.org](mailto:mary.leonard@jp2hs.org).

Aspiring JPII students and their families are invited to the Parochial/Community Knight at the Sept. 29 football game. Enjoy a tailgate and Homecoming festivities while cheering on the Knights. The event begins at 6 p.m. and kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars now to join us for the Open House at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5.

## FUN TIMES KICK OFF FFE

The Fund for Excellence, JPII’s primary fundraising effort, kicked off for the 2017-18 academic year at the Knights’ first home football game on Aug. 25. Parent representatives of each of the school’s Houses set up booths in a friendly competition to see who could get the highest number of their families to visit their House tent during the tailgate.

“Once again this year the FFE Kick-Off proved to be a crowd pleaser!” said Dean of Admissions and Advancement Michelle Barber. “Our parents showed up in force to support the House Competition before heading to the stadium to cheer on the Knights.”

JPII, like most private schools, relies on income beyond tuition to fully support its faculty and programs. One of the key sources of this additional income comes from unrestricted gifts to operations through the FFE. Tuition provides 70 percent of the school’s operating budget every year. The FFE is the primary fundraising effort relied upon each year to fill the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating each child at JPII. Since these gifts are used during the year in which they are received, JPII depends on donors to support the FFE every year.

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. While JPII’s community will find numerous opportunities to contribute to the school, JPII’s Board of Trustees has set FFE as its top fund-raising priority because of the critical role it plays in supporting the school’s operations.

“JPII is blessed with parents who join our alumni, alumni



The House of John decorated its booth for the Fund for Excellence Kick-Off before the first home football game of the season on Friday, Aug. 25. The FFE is a primary fundraising effort for the school each year and helps to fund every aspect of JPII.

parents, grandparents and friends in support of the FFE annually,” Mrs. Barber said. “Each gift, no matter the amount, is needed and appreciated.”

For more information about how to support JPII through the FFE, contact Mrs. Barber at [michelle.barber@jp2hs.org](mailto:michelle.barber@jp2hs.org).

## COSMOS WOWS JPII STUDENTS WITH TOTAL ECLIPSE

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about the experience were just thrilled.”

“I think there had been so much hype they just thought it couldn’t really be that great, so their expectations weren’t that high,” she added.

The eclipse was visible along a path about 60 miles wide that stretched from the coast of Oregon to the coast of South Carolina. JPII was located near the center of the band where the total eclipse was visible and had one of the longest views of it. “It was a great educational opportunity,” Mrs. Dye said. “I’m really glad we had school that day.”

JPII students gathered for an assembly on the morning of the eclipse to talk about the event, including its historical

significance. “In Hendersonville we haven’t had one in 500 years and we won’t have another one for 500 years. So it’s incredibly rare,” Mrs. Dye said.

After the assembly, the students headed to the football field to watch, many stretched out on their backs, scanning the sky. The day started with some clouds, but they cleared just in time for everyone to get a clear view of the total eclipse, Mrs. Dye said.

At the moment of the total eclipse, “it went black,” Dye said. “The temperature dropped, the cicadas started chirping. Your brain is thinking it shouldn’t be dark right now.

“It’s just powerful and magnificent,” she said. “It just makes you feel small, and you realize what a great creation we live in.”

## NEW KNIGHTS CHARGE! INTO HIGH SCHOOL

The newest Knights charged into the next four years at Pope John Paul II High School on Aug. 3-4 at the annual freshman orientation, renamed this year CHARGE!

The name reflects the introduction of this year's freshman class to some of the most important characteristics and goals of JP II: Community; Happy, Healthy and Holy (the school's goal for each of its students); Academics, Art and Athletics; Resources and support available to all JP II students; God-given gifts of every student; and Engaging in the community.

This year, CHARGE! was under the direction of Dean of Admissions and Advancement Michelle Barber, Director of Admissions John Cooper, School Counselor and Director of the Wellness Program Kelsey Wilson, and Director of Houses Veronica Del Valle. "We reframed the orientation this year with the combined efforts of the Admissions Office, Counseling, and House Leadership to better orient new students to the JP II experience and to encourage all new students to take charge of their high school experience," said Michelle Barber, Dean of Admissions and Advancement.

"It makes them feel a little less stressed because they get that bonding experience," Mr. Cooper said. "You're building that pride in the community as well."

As has been the case for the last few years, the incoming freshman stayed overnight at the school for two days of fun activities, getting to know the school and each other, Mr. Cooper said. "It kind of has a college feel to it," he said. "This is a journey for them. ... We made sure they were bonding."

JP II welcomed "one our largest freshmen classes as well as a diverse

### ADMISSIONS OFFICE LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE PORTAL

The JP II Admissions Office has launched a new Pre-Application and Admissions Portal to make it easier to navigate the admissions process and to help the families of younger students connect to the JP II community sooner. "That's appealing to families," said Director of Admissions John Cooper.

Whether it's an eighth grader looking to come to JP II next year or the family of a student in kindergarten through seventh grade who wants to get connected to the JP II community early, the process begins by filling out a pre-application online, Mr. Cooper said. The pre-application is available on the Admissions Office page on the JP II website, [www.jp2hs.org/admissions/](http://www.jp2hs.org/admissions/). From there click on the link "How to Apply."

For eighth graders, once they've filled out the pre-application, they are provided an Admissions Portal Checklist to help them through the process in an orderly and timely fashion, Mr. Cooper said. As they complete each step along the way, including turning in teacher recommendations, completing the student questionnaire, and taking the placement exam, they can check those items off the list, Mr. Cooper explained. The checklist also helps families keep track of where they are in the process, he said.

Once the checklist is complete, "they'll be invited for an interview," he



Members of the Class of 2021 enjoy their first House Games during the CHARGE! freshman orientation.

group of transfer students," Barber said. On hand were 167 freshmen and 17 transfer students.

"Members of the school's student leadership group, the JP II Ambassadors, and members of the House Council played a big hand in organizing the event and making sure it was a big success, Mr. Cooper said. "We were able to come up with a super fun event for the freshmen."

"Our closing ceremony was very special this year," Mrs. Barber said. "All of our new families joined together in prayer for a blessed upcoming year. Father Austin Gilstrap, JP II's chaplain, spoke to our newest Knights echoing Pope John Paul II's call to all youth to be the light of Christ and closed by blessing our new students, their families and our faculty."

added. The Admissions Portal Checklist can be accessed on the final page of the pre-application or through a link in the automatic email sent after submitting the pre-application.

Our future Knights - Squires - (students in kindergarten through seventh grade who are interested in becoming a Knight) can take the next step by completing the pre-application. With that, they'll become part of the JP II community and receive JP II news regarding upcoming athletic and fine arts events, and campus life.

The portal is already paying off, Mr. Cooper said. This year's freshman class of 167 students is "the biggest in a long time," he said. "We're looking to be even bigger next year." Last year, JP II received 33 applications during the month of August. This year, the school had 85 applications by Aug. 25, Mr. Cooper said.

JP II students' success is making an impact in the community and driving more interest, Mr. Cooper said. "People are seeing the benefits of coming here," he said. "Our students are happy, our alumni are successful, and it's becoming apparent to this community that JP II provides its students with an experience that cannot be replicated elsewhere. It's an exciting time of growth for the school."

## SONGWriters SHINE UNDER THE STARS

Pope John Paul II High School held its third annual "Songwriters Knight Under the Stars" fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 16. Singer-songwriters of several top hits performed during the evening, including:

■ Frank Myers, a parishioner at St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin. Myers has written several number one hits during his career and received a Grammy for co-writing the song "I Swear."

■ Eddy Raven is a singer-songwriter who has written and recorded several number one hits, including "I Got Mexico" and "Thank God for Kids."

■ Jimmy Nichols has written songs for Carrie Underwood, Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw and others. He toured for four years with Reba McEntire as her music director.

■ Danny Wells has several hits for a variety of country artists including a number one song for George Strait, "Check Yes or No."

■ Randy Albright, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, served as the emcee. He has recorded the CD "A Musical Celebration of Mary," which includes his song "Mary Said Yes," and has written and co-written several songs recorded by country artists, including Vince Gill. He and his wife Laurie have been instrumental in these early shows at JPII.

JPII parents Kim Becker, Jodi Maniello and Nanci Williams helped to

put together the stellar lineup of artists. Mrs. Becker knows Frank Myers' wife, Belinda, who is a pastoral care coordinator at St. Joseph Church. She knew that Frank had participated in several fundraisers for area schools, including St. Joseph, St. John Vianney and St. Pius X Classical Academy. "I had seen one of the shows," Mrs. Becker said. "It was fantastic."

"I reached out to Belinda, and she connected me to Frank," Mrs. Becker said. "He was happy to perform and helped contact the other performers."

This is the third year of the Songwriters Knight Under the Stars. "It was a great event. Everyone had so much fun," Mrs. Becker said. This year's presenting sponsor was Physician Partners Group. Their lead gift, coupled with ticket sales raised close to \$15,000 to support the new Fine Arts Booster (FAB) Club as well as to support need-based tuition assistance for students with a special interest in studying the fine arts at JPII.

"Each year the event grows in scope, attendance and talent," said Dean of Admissions and Advancement Michelle Barber. "We were blessed by the talent of these performers and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed every minute. It was one of those special performances where you find yourself tapping your foot to the beat and humming along because you knew every song."

Contact Michelle Barber at [michelle.barber@jpp2hs.org](mailto:michelle.barber@jpp2hs.org) should you like to make a gift to the Fine Arts program at JPII. Contact Brandi Locke through the school for more information on the Fine Arts Booster (FAB) Club.

## JPII STUDENTS ONCE AGAIN SHINE ON AP EXAMS

JPII students once again excelled on the Advanced Placement Exams in the 2016-17 school year with 107 students earning an AP Scholar designation, including eight who earned the highest honor of National AP Scholar.

Advance Placement courses are an important part of the curriculum at JPII and students who score high enough on the exams can earn college credit. Last year, 259 students at JPII took at least one AP Exam and a total of 585 exams, said JPII Director of College Counseling Mike Brown. Of that number, 45 percent scored a 4 or 5 on the exams, "which is considered a high pass," he said. Seventy-eight percent passed with a 3 or better, Mr. Brown added.

The students who earned an AP Scholar designation include:

AP Scholar, granted to students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams: Kieran F. Altenbern, Anna L. Bass, Lauren L. Baugh, James A. Bledsoe, Natalie G. Boone, William G. Cannella, Lara E. Case, Christina T. Celia, Haley C. Cline, Lucy M. Cook, Macey J. Crow, Baylie A. Fadool, Alexandra L. Galley, Mikey P. Gifford, Grant R. Gonzalez, Sarah G. Gould, Zhuoqi He, Miles Herbst, Gregory A. Herzer, Emma J. Horton, Brett J. Houdeshell, Holly Houdeshell, Wyatt A. Kaiser, Jon F. Knox, Danna M. Latiolais, Jonathan P. Layne, Brennon D. Lecave, Caroline V. Leonard, Savannah R. Lewis, Michael C. Locke, Kathryn E. McCracken, Henry O. McLeod, Cassandra J. Mendoza, Perry A. Minichan, Abby M. Mysinger, Jacob T. Nguyen, Christopher S. Odom, Samuel Onate, Niyanta K. Patel, Charlsi J. Patterson, John T. Pepper, William S. Peter, James C. Peyton, William D. Ransom, Katherine E. Ray, Hunter C. Ricketts, Allie L. Riley, Ella I. Roche, William B. Sanford, Grace A. Singer, Daniel J. Smith,

Riley B. Southard, Christopher J. Stinnett, Pearce A. Sullivant, Rachel L. Tidwell, Taryn B. Wallace, Helen A. Whitaker.

AP Scholar with Honor, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more AP Exams: Izabelle C. Barnett, Kathleen C. Doman, Grace L. Eatman, Allison P. Fowler, Emily P. Galluzzi, Carly N. Holton, Justin A. Humphries, Arthur T. Janes, Maria G. Leonard, Elizabeth A. McAllister, Daniel C. McRen, Andrew M. Motz, Noah R. Reamy, Ellis M. Rivera, Jack W. Schumacher, Kari L. Sears.

AP Scholar with Distinction, granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP Exams: Grace E. Adcox, Ian M. Atkins, Madison P. Baechle, Phillip J. Baker, Indigo M. Barnett, Robert C. Brown, Christopher W. Byrne, Devpaul S. Chani, Jenna T. Derivera, Robert C. Ficarro, Sam Garretson, Ryan C. Helbig, Sarah K. Kelly, Samuel Kniery, David B. Krause, Dylan A. Lanas, Peiyao Li, Miranda M. MacNaughton, Tyler W. McCormick, Mary C. Meyer, Nisha M. Monteiro, Kevin M. Nguyen, Alyssa R. Rentuza, Benjamin K. Silverman, Brennan J. Smith, Zarina M. Tan, Skyler M. Voisin, Natalie Wieber, Jordan R. Wirth, Hayden E. Yates.

National AP Scholar, granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams: Grace E. Adcox, Phillip J. Baker, Devpaul S. Chani, Robert C. Ficarro, Sam Garretson, Peiyao Li, Alyssa R. Rentuza, Benjamin K. Silverman.

# JPII ALUM PURSUES CAREER SOLVING COMPLEX SOCIAL

Tanner Taddeo, a 2010 graduate of JPII, is combining his interests in entrepreneurship and addressing complex social issues to build a career in the new field of impact investing.

“It’s essentially a venture capital company that invests in companies that sell products and services to the bottom of the economic pyramid,” said Tanner, who recently visited JPII before heading to London, England, where he will pursue a master’s degree in social innovation at Cambridge University while working for Alleran Group, an impact investing consulting firm.

“It’s a rarity to be in an industry at its outset,” Tanner said. “The industry is only 10 years old. It’s still trying to define itself.”

Tanner’s move to England isn’t the first time he’s done some globetrotting since graduating from JPII. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2014 with a degree in philosophy and sociology. Next, he earned a master’s degree in international affairs and law at Florida State University. While in graduate school, “I researched how to integrate health care technology in West Africa,” he said. “This was at the time of the ebola outbreak.”

That project prompted his professors to suggest he pursue a career working with international humanitarian agencies. So he moved to New York City on a whim without a job. He landed a job with ACF International, one of the largest non-governmental organizations addressing malnutrition around the world, soliciting corporate partnerships.

Later he worked for the Comic Relief’s Red Nose Day campaign, which raised \$36 million. “It involves the biggest names in music and comedy



Tanner Taddeo

working on the underlying issues of child poverty in the U.S. and internationally,” Tanner said.

After two years, Tanner wanted to get out of the office. “I wanted to see the issues I had been fundraising for,” he said. “I wanted to see how the private sector could be a catalyst. I’ve always wanted to start my own company or run my own organization” looking at how to use entrepreneurship and business solutions to address complex issues abroad, Tanner explained.

So he spent six months in India on a global fellowship in impact investing, studying various investment opportunities in rural areas. One project involved a company that used a cold chain process that allows them to keep milk bought from rural farmers cold while they transport it to larger markets where the prices are better, Tanner explained. Another company provided cataract surgeries in rural areas. The common thread was companies that were creating markets where there were no markets, Tanner said.

Much of his work was looking at the returns of such investments and comparing them to private equity and venture capital investments. “It’s a new industry so they’re still trying to set the benchmarks to show the potential returns,” Tanner said. Early results showed impact investing compares well, he said. “These are people who can find solutions, they just need the resources.”

Tanner’s experience at JPII helped set him on his present course, he said. “The teachers you get exposed to here and the ideas and levels of thought you are exposed to, along with the Catholic teachings at JPII about being part of the community and service influenced where I wanted to go,” Tanner said. “I always think of the saying, to whom much has been given, much is expected. If you’re fortunate to go to JPII, you’ve been given a lot already.”



## WELCOME BACK

Deacon Brian Edwards welcomes back the senior class on the first day of school and their last year of high school by blessing them. At right, senior Owen McGrath ties a balloon onto the backpack of fellow senior Garrett Wencil.



## MR. BOLES FINDS SPOT AS ART TEACHER 'JUST WHAT I WANTED'

Chip Boles, a new fine arts teacher at JPPII, found his direction in life when he was a young boy. "I had a book when I was a little kid called the 'Creature Catalogue' by Michael Berenstain," the son of Stan and Jan Berrenstain, the authors of the 'Berenstein Bears' series of children's books, Mr. Boles said. "It changed my life."

The book featured black and white drawings of creatures from all over the world, Mr. Boles explained. It sparked in him a love of drawing as well as an interest in strange characters. "I love monsters, I love mythology."

Mr. Boles combined his two interests when he illustrated and designed a book about Japanese mythological characters. It featured his drawings of a variety of monsters and mythological characters. "What I like to make is realistic looking things with lots of details," he explained. Working on the book, which was published in 2015 and was covered in the *New York Times*, "was really fun," Mr. Boles said.

The book project was just one stop along an interesting journey that eventually led Mr. Boles to JPPII. He grew up in Gallatin and graduated from Gallatin High School, where JPPII Dean of Studies Karen Phillips was one of his teachers. "She was an influential, wonderful person," he said.

After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art with a focus on drawing at Austin Peay State University, "I kind of moved around for 12 years," Mr. Boles said. He lived in Asheville, North Carolina, and managed a gourmet chocolate store for a while and then spent three and half months at a Zen monastery in California. "It was there that exactly what I planned actually happened," Mr. Boles said. "It was wonderful." While there, he pursued his interest in meditation, which was part of the daily routine. "I still do that," he said.

His interest in meditation eventually led him to teaching workshops on Drawing as Meditation. There is a connection between drawing and meditation, said Mr. Boles, who taught observational drawing in his



Chip Boles

workshops. "You only draw exactly what you're seeing," he explained. "That kind of being present is the same as meditation encourages. It's an anchoring activity."

After two years studying illustration in graduate school at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Mr. Boles went to Japan as part of the Japanese Exchange in Teaching program, teaching English and art in a Japanese high school. The program brings English speakers from around the world to Japan to teach the students there to speak English. "I met people from nearly every English language country" through the program, Mr. Boles said. "I've still never met an uncool Irish person."

After four years in Japan, Mr. Boles returned to the Nashville area where he taught graphic design, drawing, upper level illustration, art appreciation and 2-D design at Austin Peay and Volunteer State Community College.

"I teach drawing like it's a martial art," Mr. Boles said. "You learn karate as a discipline. You live through it. It's physical. It's mental. It's practical. Drawing is the same way."

"Since 2013, I've been doing murals and scene painting for theater and television shows," including *Nashville* for two seasons, a Taylor Swift video, at Nashville Children's Theater, and at a theater near Atlanta, Mr. Boles said.

This summer, he decided to get back into teaching. "I like teaching," Mr. Boles said. "I like communicating these practices that I get a lot out of."

When he learned about the opening at JPPII, he quickly applied. "Karen Phillips called back about an hour after I sent my resume in," Mr. Boles said. "I was interviewed on Wednesday and hired on Thursday," he said. "It was perfect how it all worked out. It's just what I wanted."

Mr. Boles, who is teaching Studio Art, has been fitting in at JPPII. "The teachers seem like a real family. I get the idea that they really care for their students. They've been very welcoming to me and offering a lot of help," he said. "The students are genuinely kind to one another."

JPPII is a school where the arts are an important part of the curriculum, Mr. Boles said. "Art is important much more than I would have hoped. It's not just encouraged, it's required," he said. "Everybody needs their place, and art is that for some students."



### WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

JPPII is welcoming 10 new teachers to the faculty. They include: from left, Mike Zimmerman, a theology teacher; Sam Hutton, a science teacher and women's soccer assistant coach; Bryan Melcher, a history and theology teacher and the Youth In Government advisor; Hadley Judson, a history teacher and head swim coach; Cassidy Johnson, a visual art/photography teacher; Emma Gillcrist, a math teacher and head competition cheerleading coach; Jim Elfers, a Spanish teacher; Matt Hanson, an English teacher and assistant football and lacrosse coach; Matt Clemens, a math teacher and assistant football and basketball coach; and Chip Boles, a visual art teacher.