



# Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School





# Building the Future

Established in 2008, Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School is the newest addition to a prestigious group of Catholic high schools in Northern Virginia.

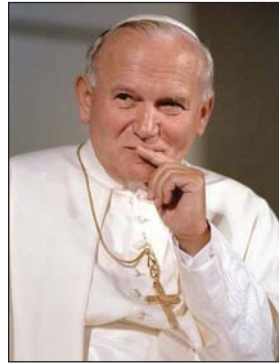
Proudly, we are the first high school in the country to be named Pope John Paul the Great, invoking the title “Great” as given to our patron, Pope John Paul II, by proclamation of the people during his funeral Mass in St. Peter’s Square on April 8, 2005.

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, popularly known as the “Nashville Dominicans” accepted the invitation of Bishop Paul S. Loverde to administer and teach at John Paul the Great, bringing with them the core Dominican traditions of prayer, study, community, and service. Rooted in this tradition, we are committed to the formation of youth, with special emphasis on the ethical development of our students.

Our fully accredited college preparatory curriculum offers the only 4 year Bioethics



program in the United States, preparing students to think clearly about the serious medical and ethical issues of our day.



*“...a new generation of builders is needed. ...Allow me, dear young people, to consign this hope of mine to you: You must be those ‘builders’! You are the men and women of tomorrow. The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love.”*

*~ Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day, 2002*

We strive to provide an environment where students are inspired and encouraged to grow in the image of Jesus Christ while developing the important intellectual, theological, and moral virtues that will last a life time.

All of this, combined with an exceptional faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, impressive athletic program, fun extra-curricular activities, enriching community service opportunities, and more means Pope John Paul the Great students have a meaningful and productive high school experience while being prepared for higher education and for life.

## WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:

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“The John Paul the Great experience is a venture of hope, and I find so much hope in my students and in me. We are all striving to be better than we have been wherever we were before. Optime est! ”

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~ Sister Mary Brigid Burnham, O.P.  
Chair of the Religion and English Departments



## Acclaimed Spiritual and Academic Leadership of Dominican Sisters

As we build our own unique traditions and legacy, we draw from the accomplished foundation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. Their vast experience in education, and long association with the Diocese of Arlington, prompted Bishop Paul S. Loverde to extend the invitation of leadership to the Sisters. We are privileged to be among the 34 schools presently served by this vibrant, growing religious congregation.

## Accomplished Faculty and Staff

Our carefully selected faculty and staff enthusiastically embrace the mission to serve Christ by serving our students. These exceptional men and women bring to their profession impressive academic credentials, vast professional experience, a love of teaching, and a passionate commitment to the Catholic faith.

They offer quality educational instruction and unparalleled commitment to students in a nurturing environment where what you learn is as important as who you are and who you will become.



## Bringing Christ to the World in the Spirit of Truth and Love

Over the past 150 years, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia have given the fruits of their contemplation in the apostolate of Catholic education. With a love of Truth and a dedication to the Church, the sisters have brought the message of Christ to generations of young people.

The Congregation is presently in 34 schools across 17 dioceses, teaching children and young adults from pre-school through college level in schools both suburban and inner city, private and diocesan.

The sisters identify their mission with the following goals:

- To enlighten minds and inspire hearts with a love of the Truth and, most especially, with the person of Christ, the source of all truth.
- To encourage reverence for the Eucharist, devotion to Mary and fidelity to the Church.
- To promote a greater awareness of the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person.



- To provide students with the freedom of a liberal arts education so that with the development of skills and a strong academic foundation they may fulfill their God-given vocation.
- To encourage the promotion of an authentic Catholic culture and thereby enable students to appreciate all that is good, true and beautiful.
- To strengthen family life by offering support, guidance and instruction to parents in their role as the primary educators of their children.



### WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:

“I think our patron, Pope John Paul II, would be encouraged by the efforts and actions at this school. We are striving to develop a culture that will transmit the full truth about the human person, created in the image of God and called to life with Christ. Each day I am inspired by the unity within our faculty and the desire to inspire the minds and hearts of youth. We are actively engaging in what JPII called the ‘new evangelization.’”

~ Sister Mary Jordan Hoover, O.P., Principal

## FOCUS ON The Options Program

### Special Education With A Special Purpose

Our faith calls us to recognize the beauty and potential inherent within each human being, and it is with great joy that we embrace the challenge to provide a loving, supportive, educational opportunity for the students in our Options Program. In addition to the benefits to the individual student with special needs, are the many blessings bestowed upon the greater community.

Weaving together the daily interactions of our Options Students with the entire student body and faculty, allows us all to better understand what makes us different, better appreciate the many ways we are the same, and better experience the unconditional love God has for each of his children.



*"Our prayers were answered when we enrolled our son in the Options Program at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School. He is challenged academically every day and we can see the progress he is making—it shows in his speech, his demeanor, and his social interactions. The staff and faculty have opened their arms and embraced the Options Program and are committed to our son's total education—academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. He is a student of John Paul the Great first and an Options student second. He is included in every aspect of school life. He eats with different students every day, takes part in extra-curricular activities and loves going to school every day."*

~ John and Mary Jo Reidt,  
Parents of Sean Reidt, Class of 2012

#### WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:

*"Teaching at Pope John Paul the Great is never dull. We challenge our students to expect more from themselves, and all are richly rewarded in the experience."*

~ Karen Mahowald, French Teacher

#### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

*"The bar is set high at JP. We are challenged to reach our highest goals, to be our best selves, and to make a difference."*

~ Elizabeth Shofi, Class of 2013

### Stimulating Academic Environment

Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School is committed to providing a comprehensive and challenging academic program. The accredited college-preparatory curriculum is a rigorous course of study in the required fields of Religion, English, Math, Science, History, World Languages, Fine Arts, Business, Technology, and Health/Physical Education.

**Three levels of study**—Academic, Advanced, and Honors/AP—are offered in each of the core disciplines, challenging students at the appropriate level in various subjects.

**The Office of Guidance and Counseling** offers academic and personal support to students, and provides essential services and programs to assist with college and career planning. Opportunities include: PSAT exam on campus for grades 9 -11, JP College Night, college campus visits, the Naviance software system, SAT and ACT preparatory workshops, and more. Additionally, an **Academic Support Program** exists for students with specialized learning plans.

We also offer the **Options Program** for students with intellectual disabilities. The Options Program serves students with mild to moderate cognitive impairments in a modified inclusive setting. A primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community.







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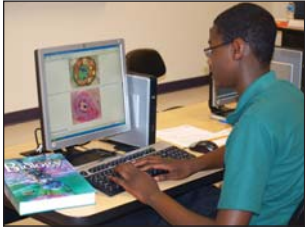
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ST. JOHN PAUL  
THE BLESSING  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WORLD HISTORY

## Only at Pope John Paul the Great: Our Flagship Bioethics Curriculum

Pope John Paul the Great is the only Catholic high school in the United States to offer a four-year Bioethics curriculum. Written specifically for this school, the flagship Bioethics program is designed to provide students



with the ethical foundation needed to address the serious medical and biological issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. With this ethical foundation, Pope John Paul the Great students learn how to

make wise personal decisions for themselves as well as how to responsibly promote and defend ethical policies

### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

“We live in a world that has seriously mixed up priorities. The bioethics program is like a light in the dark.”

~ Angelica Babauta, Class of 2012

and practices which advance the common good and bring greater respect for the dignity of the human person. This philosophical and scientific course of study gives Pope John Paul the Great students distinct and unique advantages needed to excel in living a good life and in pursuing advanced studies.

### FOCUS ON The Bioethics Curriculum®

## Faith and Reason in Service of the Human Person

### What do we mean by the term “bioethics”?

The word puts together two different ideas: *ethics*, the science that studies human acts in order to determine whether they are good or evil, and *bio*, a prefix which literally means “life.” “Bioethics,” then, is the science which determines whether our practices in life sciences and health care are in keeping with the dignity of the human person. In other words, bioethics tries to figure out whether our use of scientific knowledge dealing with the physical life of human beings is morally good or evil.

### What topics are included in the bioethics classes at Pope John Paul the Great?

The subject matter of bioethics explores issues we encounter at the beginning of human life such as artificial human reproduction (in vitro fertilization and cloning), abortion, stem cell research, contraception, genetic manipulation, and embryo adoption. The course of study also explores issues concerning human life in its final stages, including pain management, redemptive suffering, end-of-life medical care, organ donation, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, among others.

### In what manner are these bioethical issues explored?

Our bioethics program examines issues through a careful integration of faith and reason, relying on scientific fact and natural law. Students begin with a philosophical study of the human person, and come to understand –among other things– the relationship of body and soul, as well as the distinguishing powers of the human soul.

After coming to understand the nature of the human person, students are introduced to the foundational ethical principles which enable them to correctly evaluate specific bioethical issues. Students learn the criteria used to judge good and evil acts. They come to see that such judgments are not arbitrary,

that is, not based merely on a personal view; rather, they are based on an objective standard that all reasonable people should be able to acknowledge. Once this foundation has been laid, the students are ready to delve into the issues themselves.

### How does this bioethics curriculum fit into the overall course of study at Pope John Paul the Great?

Our standard college-prep curriculum is enhanced by the two and a half credit requirement of our bioethics program. Concepts taught in bioethics are integrated and reinforced in other areas of study, enabling students to see that the same truth evident in one class manifests itself in the next. For example, understanding the basis for the dignity of the human person is pivotal not only to understanding bioethics but also to rightly viewing the atrocities of the Nazi Holocaust they study in history class. And, in reading Nathaniel Hawthorne’s short story, “The Birthmark,” in English class, students find a clear example of the dangers of eugenics they discuss in bioethics class. In order to maximize this integration, the faculty and staff of Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School are instructed in the foundational principles of bioethics. Seminars in bioethics are also made available to parents throughout the year.

### Does the name of the new high school have anything to do with the Bioethics Curriculum®

Yes. Pope John Paul II, a witness to the horrors of Nazism and Communism, saw first-hand man’s inhumane treatment of his fellowman. He also observed the destructive impulses in the West through the steady increase of abortion, contraception, amorality, and secularism. His response was to spend his life and his pontificate in defense of the worth and dignity of every human person and to challenge us all to do our part in building a civilization of love.

## New State-of-the-Art Facilities

Our beautiful, modern, and technologically advanced campus sits on 40 acres of tree-lined property just minutes from Route 1 in Dumfries, Virginia.

The architecture of the remarkable building speaks in a unique way to our Catholic mission and culture, beginning with the chapel which serves as the physical and spiritual heart of our school. Vaulted arches at the entrance of the school lead the way to the tabernacle which was publicly blessed by Pope Benedict XVI on April 17, 2008 during Mass at Nationals Stadium in Washington, DC, in the presence of nearly 50,000 people, and a world-wide television audience of millions. Other impressive school distinctions include:

- Eight modern science labs, with separate lecture and lab work space
- Collegiate-style library and research center
- Interactive electronic notepads and projectors in each classroom
- Video-conferencing capabilities



### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

“We are the only high school in the country to offer a 4 year bioethics program. I want to study pre-med in college. Having previous knowledge in areas such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem cell research will help me reach my goal of becoming an ethical doctor.”

~ Alexis Grasso, Class of 2011



- Monitored wireless internet access throughout the building
  - A 500-seat theater with professional stage, lighting, and sound systems.
  - Picturesque cafeteria with bistro seating
  - Guidance office for academic and personal support, and college planning
  - Three athletic fields with electronic score boards: football/field hockey/8 lane track, soccer/lacrosse, and baseball.
  - A main gym that seats nearly 1,000 fans, equipped with 6 drop-down basketball hoops, built-in volleyball nets, and an electronic score board
  - Auxiliary gym for extra practice and competition space
  - Athletic Training Clinic
  - Fully stocked weight and wrestling rooms
- And so much more!

## Competitive Athletic Program

The athletic program at Pope John Paul the Great currently includes 17 different competitive sports at both JV and Varsity levels.

Team sports include such fan-favorites as football, soccer, field hockey, baseball, softball, lacrosse, swimming, cross-country, cheerleading, volleyball, wrestling, track and field, and basketball. As student interest in new sports increases, our programs grow in both competitive and club level teams.

As with all of our facilities, our fields and other sports equipment are new and first-rate. In addition to our track and three fields, Prince William County plans to build a sports park adjacent to our campus, which we have been granted access to upon completion.

These extra fields will allow us to offer more sports during the same season free of scheduling conflicts. A full-time Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, and seasoned coaching staff ensure a professional, safe, and meaningful sports experience for our students.

**FOCUS ON** Athletics at JP the Great

## Educating the Whole Person—Body, Mind, and Spirit

The Athletic program at Pope John Paul the Great helps to fulfill the school's mission to strengthen our students in mind, body, and spirit. Athletic classes and competitions are viewed as an extension of the academic day, and teach students skills for life-long fitness and health. Participation in athletic competi-



tion develops character, discipline, and leadership. It encourages confidence, sportsmanship, and teamwork, while reaffirming the values of courage, effort, and sacrifice. When students are active in athletics,

they learn lessons about life they might not learn any other way. Positive competition can help emphasize the qualities of humility, patience, and concern for others, which is the strongest possible foundation for a winning team.



### WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:

“Our hallways are filled with smiling people. Staying true to our mission by educating the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—brings joy, and builds the kind of community we all want to be a part of.”

~ Carl Patton, Assistant Principal for Academics and Head Football Coach





## Enriching Extra-Curricular Activities and Community Service

As our student body grows, so does our list of extra-curricular clubs and activities. Current Student Life activities and clubs include: Spirit Week, formal and semi-formal dances, Pro-Life Club, Service Club, Spanish Club, Chess Club, Literary Club, Forensics Club, Legion of Mary, Pier Giorgio Outdoors and Environmental Club, Latin Club, Dance Club, Drama Club, Military Family Support Group, French Club, Robotics Club, Student Ambassador Program, The Mission Coalition, and more! The opportunities for leadership and participation are endless at Pope John Paul the Great, and students are encouraged to bring their ideas and energy to start new clubs, and build new traditions.

### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

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*“I love my school! I transferred from out of state and I’ve made the best friends of my life at JP. Everyone is really generous and caring. I also love the faithfulness here. Christ is at the center of everything we do.”*

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~ Larson Gore, Class of 2013

## Faith-Life

A rich and joyful faith-life is central to the Pope John Paul the Great experience. Prayer is integrated throughout the day, including before and after classes, sporting events, and trips or meetings. Mass is celebrated as a school community each Wednesday, and is offered by our full-time chaplain the other days of the week either before or after school. The opportunity for Confession is also offered a number of times each week. Special assemblies, retreats, days of recollection, and other prayer opportunities are also incorporated throughout the year.





## Transportation Options

Pope John Paul the Great serves students from Prince William County and beyond. We have bus service available from Fredericksburg, Manassas, Gainesville, Springfield, Alexandria, and points in between. Additional bus lines and stops are added as interest grows. Car pools are also a popular transportation option, and a directory of those interested in car pooling is published each year.

## Admission to Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School

To apply for admission to Pope John Paul the Great, please visit the Admissions page of our web site: [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org). There you will find detailed instructions, the on-line application, necessary supporting forms, and testing dates. Academic scholarships and a limited amount of need-based financial aid is also available each year. More information on tuition assistance may also be found at [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org)

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

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*“...I was very interested in finding a school that would put some emphasis on sciences and sports, and one that would have a challenging religious curriculum. At the same time, I was looking for a place with a friendly environment that would encourage students to share ideas. I found it. Pope John Paul the Great is the perfect fit for me.”*

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~ Chris Afcha, Class of 2012

## POPE JOHN PAUL THE GREAT Catholic High School Curriculum

Courses in bold print are required; the others are electives. Course selection subject to change.

### Religion 4 credits required

- Grade 9 • Sacred Scripture I/Christology
- Grade 10 • The Mission of Jesus/The Church
- Grade 11 • The Sacraments / Morality
- Grade 12 • History of the Catholic Church\*  
• Catholic Social Teaching  
• Christian Vocations

### Bioethics 2½ credits required

- Grade 9 • The Human Person (½ credit)
- Grades 9-10 • Health: An Ethical Approach\*\* (½ credit)
- Grade 10 • Principles of Ethics (½ credit)
- Grade 11 • Bioethical Issues at the  
• Beginning-of-Life (½ credit)
- Grade 12 • Bioethical Issues at the  
• End-of-Life (½ credit)
- Grades 11-12 Electives • The Human Person in a  
Biotech Age (½ credit)  
• Case Studies & Applications  
in Bioethics (½ credit)

### English 4 credits required

- Grade 9 • English I (3 levels)
- Grade 10 • English II (3 levels)
- Grade 11 • English Language and Composition (2 levels)  
or  
• AP English Language and Composition
- Grades 10-12 • Public Speaking  
• Journalism I
- Grades 11-12 • Yearbook I  
• Journalism II
- Grade 12 • English Literature (2 levels)  
or  
• AP English Literature and Composition  
• Yearbook II

\*Cross-listed with Social Studies elective course

\*\* Cross-listed with a required health course

### Math 3 credits required

- Grade 9 • Algebra I (3 levels)
- Grades 9-10 • Geometry (3 levels)
- Grades 10-11 • Algebra II (3 levels)
- Grades 11-12 • Pre-Calculus (3 levels)  
• Honors Calculus  
• AP Statistics  
• AP Calculus

### Science 3 credits required

- Grade 9 • Physics I / Chemistry I (3 levels)
- Grade 10 • Biology (3 levels)
- Grade 11 • Chemistry II / Physics II (3 levels)
- Grades 11-12 • Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2\*  
• Environmental Science  
• Genetics / Molecular Genetics  
• Microbiology  
• Epidemiology  
• AP Chemistry

\* Cross-listed with PE./Health elective course



## Social Studies *4 credits required*

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- Grade 9 • **World History** (3 levels)
- Grade 10 • **U.S. and Virginia History** (2 levels)  
• AP U.S. History
- Grade 11 • **European History** (2 levels)  
• AP European History
- Grade 12 • **U.S. and Virginia Government** (2 levels)  
• AP U.S. Government and Politics
- Grades 10-12 • Psychology  
• AP Human Geography  
• History of the Catholic Church\*

## World Language *2 credits required*

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- All Grades • Introductory French I & II  
• French I, II, III, IVH  
• AP French Language  
• Spanish I, II, III, IVH  
• AP Spanish Language  
• Latin I, II, III, IIIH  
• AP Latin: Virgil

## Fine Arts *1 credit required between Fine Arts & Computer*

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- Grades 10-12 • Public Speaking\*\*  
• Dance\*\*\*  
• Digital Photography I  
• Drawing II  
• Studio Art II  
• Clayworks  
• Acting I
- Grades 11-12 • Graphic Design  
• Acting II  
• Digital Photography II  
• Jazz Ensemble  
• AP Music Theory
- Grade 12 • AP Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio
- All Grades • Concert Chorus  
• Studio Art I  
• Concert Band  
• Drawing I

\*Cross-listed with Religion elective course

\*\*Cross-listed with an elective English course

\*\*\*Cross-listed with a Physical Education course

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

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“At JP the Great I have found that the teachers truly care about you and will do everything they can to help you succeed. It makes learning more of an adventure.”

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~ Drew Colclough, Class of 2012



## Business/Technology *1 credit required between Computer & Fine Arts*

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- Grades 9-12 • Computer Applications
- Grades 10-12 • Desktop Publishing
- Grades 11-12 • Personal Finance  
• Introduction to Business  
• Business Ethics & Social Responsibility  
• Principles of Business  
• Introduction to Java Programming  
• Web Design

## Physical Education & Health *2½ credits required*

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- Grade 9 • Physical Education I
- Grades 9-10 • **Health: An Ethical Approach\***
- Grades 10-11 • Physical Education II/ Drivers' Education  
• Weight Training
- Grades 9-12 • Personal Fitness for Athletes
- Grades 10-12 • Lifetime and Individual Sports  
• Dance\*\*  
• Advanced Weight Training

\*Cross-listed with a required Bioethics course

\*\*Cross-listed with a Fine Arts elective course





Photo by: Roger W. Snyder



To learn more about Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School or to apply for admission, please visit our web site: [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org)

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Thank you to the following photographers for use of their photos in this brochure:  
CNS/Paul Haring, Jennifer Cole, Lorraine Judy, Jim Kelly, Roger W. Snyder, Diana Tillotson, and Cynthia Trax.