

POPE JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



“There is a place in the world for children with special needs. We all are differently-abled, with flaws and gifts. These children are teachers of our souls, and society desperately needs the lessons and blessings they bring.” ~ Mary Kellett, 2007

Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School is proud to offer the *Options Program*. The Options Program provides the opportunity for students with cognitive impairments and/or significant learning disabilities who cannot access the general curriculum to grow socially, spiritually, and academically alongside their peers in a Catholic environment.

The program focuses on academic as well as vocational skills, with each student’s education plan being highly individualized. In his address to the Congress on Integrations of Disabled Children, Pope John Paul II said, “If the disadvantaged child lives in a welcoming and open environment, he does not feel alone but in the heart of the community, and can thus learn that life is always worth living.” In keeping with Pope John Paul II’s message, a primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community.

Goals of the Options Program:

1. For each student to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community.
2. To inspire the school community to increase acceptance of people with disabilities, and promote respect for human life by helping all to more fully realize the value and gifts inherent in each of God’s children.

Admission to the Options Program:

1. Students who apply for the Options Program should already possess the social and behavioral skills necessary to thrive at Pope John Paul the Great, including that the student may not exhibit any violent/dangerous behaviors towards oneself or others.
2. The student must have the ability to independently perform all activities of daily living such as toileting, dressing, washing hands, etc...
3. The student must have the ability to work in group situations with a minimum amount of distraction to others.
4. Students must be open to fully participating in the spiritual life of the school, though are not required to be Catholic.

“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, Parent of Sean, JP Options, Class of 2012.

For more information please contact Megan Battle, Director of Special Services at (703) 445-0235 or megan.battle@jpthegreat.org