“The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being...”

SAINT JOHN PAUL II
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“… 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.” - Saint John Paul II

WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:
“I like to think that our students are incarnations of hope. In them we can see our hope promised by Christ for a bright future of freedom in virtue and beatitude.”

- Dr. Richard Gildersleeve, Bioethics Teacher, House of More
INTRODUCTION
Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School opened in 2008 and served 200 students in our inaugural year. Since then, our patron and namesake was officially beatified, then canonized. To celebrate these extraordinary events, Bishop Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, gave his formal permission in 2014 for the name of our school to become Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School.

Before we opened, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia – popularly known as the “Nashville Dominicans” – accepted the invitation of Bishop Loverde to govern 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.

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 lifetime.

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

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:
“The moment you become part of our school, you become part of our family. We are held to high standards and challenged to reach beyond the classroom to leave our mark on the world and on the people around us.”

- Lawson Herold, Class of 2017, House of Gianna
WE ARE JOHN PAUL!

ACCLAIMED SPIRITUAL AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP OF DOMINICAN SISTERS
As we continue to build our own unique traditions and legacy, we draw from the accomplished foundation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. We are privileged to be among the 43 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 boast impressive academic credentials, notable professional experience, and a commitment to the vocation of teaching. They offer quality educational instruction and unparalleled dedication to students in a challenging, nurturing, environment.

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL
“St. John Paul II was a great scholar, athlete, poet, philosopher, actor, leader, and Saint. He was a defender of life and witness to the dignity of each human person. The academic and extracurricular life of our school reflects our patron, with all that we do centered on a culture of respect for the human person and love of Christ. John Paul is a place where young people flourish and can become the saints of the new millennium!”

- Sister Mary Veronica Keller, O.P., Principal, House of More
FRIENDLY STUDENTS AND SUPPORTIVE FAMILIES
Collectively, John Paul students are happy, hardworking, and eager to make the most of their high school experience by participating in activities, building meaningful friendships, and making positive contributions to our school and the community. Many are leaders and builders. Others play hard on the fields while working hard in the classrooms. They maintain an atmosphere of welcome toward new students, respect for their peers and teachers, and strive to live their faith.

Most of our young men and women are Catholic, though students of all faith backgrounds are welcome at John Paul. Students come to us from Catholic middle schools, public schools, home schools, and other private schools. The cultural diversity of our student body reflects the richness of the Northern Virginia area, while our international students bring unique perspectives and traditions from their home countries. The special needs students in our Options Program remind us daily that all people – regardless of ability – have equal value and dignity as children of God.

JP parents and families play an important role in helping to grow our school, establish new traditions, and create more opportunities for students. Participation in the Ambassador programs and The Family Association are some ways for parents to contribute, while also building relationships with others. Volunteering with concessions, planning events, and welcoming new families are just some of the ways JP parents, siblings, and grandparents show their pride and commitment to our school community.

STIMULATING ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT
Saint 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 Bioethics, English, Fine Arts and Communication/Media Arts, Math, Religion, Science (all labs), Social Studies, World Languages, and Physical Education/Health.

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.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:
“The best part about being a JP student is knowing I have a full community of teachers and students supporting me as I learn and grow, both as a student and as a follower of Christ.”
- Isabella Rofrano, Class of 2017, House of Aquino
THE FRESHMAN ADVANTAGE AND COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAM

At Saint John Paul the Great, we believe that helping students gain acceptance to a good college is the last step of a 4-year process aimed at ensuring they’ll be successful in higher education. This is accomplished by strategically implementing a multi-level plan for achievement, beginning before the first day of 9th grade, and ending at graduation.

Freshmen are a unique population, and giving these young students a strong start will better ensure a strong finish. Those who teach ninth grade students at John Paul are part of the Freshman Team. These teachers work together to form students in the John Paul culture of academic achievement. When possible, teachers use common vocabulary and common techniques to ease the students’ transition into the JP academic environment. Teachers collaboratively identify the strengths and weaknesses of their students and establish common expectations that are challenging and steadily increase student responsibility.

The path to success continues with the College Readiness Program, implemented over four years of high school at John Paul the Great.

Highlights of the College Readiness Program include:
- Introduction to High School Summer Workshops
- 1:1 meetings with academic advisors
- PSAT and ACT (Aspire) tests given each year
- College readiness and search presentations for parents
- College representative visits to our campus
- Naviance college and career planning tools
- Academic support and study skills workshops
- Summer enrichment programs
- SAT and ACT test prep courses
- Military academy and ROTC presentations
- College admission and financial aid workshops

Many of these programs, and others, are directed by The Guidance Office, offering academic and personal support to students while providing essential services to assist with college planning. An Academic Support Program exists for students with documented learning difficulties who, with support, can succeed with our competitive college-prep curriculum.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Saint John Paul the Great offers one diploma reflecting successful completion of our rigorous college prep curriculum. Individual transcripts reflect Advanced, Honors and AP achievements. A minimum of 28 credits across academic disciplines is required for graduation; **however, most John Paul students will earn 32 credits over four years.** This makes the John Paul diploma worth up to 5 credits more than advanced diplomas from schools with similar academic goals, demonstrating to colleges and universities an uncommon level of preparation for higher studies.

CREDITS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

- Bioethics: 2.5
- English: 4
- Fine Arts, Communication/Media Arts: 1
- Mathematics: 3
- Physical Education/Health: 2
- Religion: 4
- Science (all labs): 3
- Social Studies: 4
- World Language: 2
- Other Electives: 3

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

"The Dominican education prepares students spiritually and academically for life after high school. We are pushed to be our best."

- Bridget Woods, Class of 2020, House of More
Though John Paul the Great is still a relatively new school, our results speak for themselves: student SAT scores are consistently higher than national and state averages, and on par with other college prep schools in the nation.

Our students have earned recognitions from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in the finalist, semi-finalist, and commended categories. We have a 100% graduation rate and 100% college acceptance rate. Our graduates attend the finest colleges and universities in the nation, including Ivy League schools, Catholic institutions, all top Virginia schools, and military academies. They have earned millions in academic scholarships.

**WHAT ALUMNI ARE SAYING:**

“JP has excellent AP classes. Teachers don’t just teach to the test, they help you to think critically and get excited about what you are learning.”

- Zach Hoopes, Class of 2012, House of Aquino, Virginia Tech graduate

“Having great teachers was the norm at JP. Now that I am in college I see how spoiled I was in high school!”

- Stephanie Saadeh, Valedictorian, Class of 2011, B.S, Neuroscience, Vanderbilt University graduate. Boston University School of Medicine.

“John Paul prepared me so well for college that as my classmates were struggling to keep up with expectations from our professors, I was on top of our syllabi and had no trouble fulfilling their requests.”

- Elizabeth Kestermann, Class of 2012, House of Castello, George Mason University
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 the 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 Curriculum© at Saint 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, embryo adoption, and the proper use of our human sexuality. 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 in which they come to understand – among other things – the relationship of body and soul, the various powers of the human soul, and the reasons why human persons have such an exalted dignity. After coming to understand the nature of the human person, students are introduced to the foundational ethical principles which will enable them to make correct moral judgments in their lives as well as to evaluate correctly 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 objective standards. Once this foundation has been laid, the students are ready to delve into the bioethical issues themselves.

How does the Bioethics Curriculum© fit into the overall course of study at Saint 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 into and reinforced in other areas of study, enabling students to see that the same truth evident in one class manifests itself in another. For example, understanding the dignity of the human person is pivotal not only to understanding the ethical evaluation of a bioethical topic such as in-vitro fertilization but also to grasping 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 their bioethics class. In order to maximize this integration, the faculty and staff of Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School are instructed in the foundational principles of bioethics.

“We live in a world that has seriously mixed up priorities. The JP bioethics program is like a light in the dark.”
In addition to the standard curriculum, John Paul the Great offers the Options Program, an innovative, inclusive special education program for students with moderate intellectual impairments. A primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community. On graduation day, students receive a special Options Program Certificate of Completion.

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 opportunity to provide a loving, supportive, education to 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 larger community. Weaving together the daily interactions of our Options students with the entire community 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.

SPOTLIGHT:

“If we had to use only one word to describe Sean’s time at JP, it would be ‘included.’ The culmination of his four years occurred at Baccalaureate when Sean received the longest ovation of any student when he walked across the stage – we were brought to tears. That moment reinforced what we had known for four years – we made the right choice.”

- John and Mary Jo Reidt, Parents of Sean Reidt, Class of 2012, House of Diego. George Mason University Life Program.
Our beautiful, technologically-advanced campus sits on 43 acres of tree-lined property just minutes from Route 1 and the Potomac River in the heart of the new Potomac Shores neighborhood. This new development boasts family homes, a Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course and club, and plans for a town center, restaurants, 5-star hotel, new VRE station, and more.

The architecture of our 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 the school. Vaulted arches at the entrance lead the way to the tabernacle which was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI – in the presence of nearly 50,000 people and a world-wide television audience of millions – at the conclusion of Mass at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. on April 17, 2008.

OTHER IMPRESSIVE SCHOOL DISTINCTIONS INCLUDE:
• Eight modern science labs, with separate lecture and lab work space
• Two computer labs, and a MAC lab for digital media
• Photo and Media Studio
• Radio station: 106.3 WJPN
• Collegiate-style library and research center
• 500-seat theater with professional stage, lighting, and sound systems
• Picturesque cafeteria with bistro-style seating and a popular catering service
• Three athletic fields with electronic score boards including: football/field hockey/ 8 lane rubberized track; soccer/lacrosse; and, baseball
• Main gym seats nearly 1,000 fans; Auxiliary gym for extra practice space
• Athletic Training Clinic; Fully equipped weight and wrestling rooms... and much more!
COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC PROGRAM
The athletic program at Saint John Paul the Great currently includes 18 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 as club and then competitive teams. In addition to our 8-lane rubberized track, three fields, and two gyms, we will have access to the new Prince William County sports park which is being built adjacent to our campus. A full-time athletic director, athletic trainer, and seasoned coaching staff ensure a professional, safe, and meaningful athletic experience for our students.

Spotlight:
"One of the best things about being a JP student is the chance to be part of an awesome sports team. The coaches are very constructive and it is a great way to meet and make new friends."
- Mason Notz, Class of 2018, House of Dominic

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON—BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT
The Athletic program at Saint 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 school day, and teach students skills for life-long fitness and health. Participation in athletic competition 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.

Safe Sports School Award by the National Athletic Trainers Association.
A rich and joyful faith life is central to the John Paul experience. Prayer is integrated throughout the day. Mass is celebrated as a school community once each week, and is offered daily by our full-time chaplain. Special assemblies, retreats, days of recollection, confession, adoration, and other prayer opportunities are also incorporated throughout the year.

High school is meant to be a happy time, and Saint John Paul the Great students have endless opportunities to participate in social activities, form meaningful friendships, and share their blessings through service to others. John Paul is proud to be the first high school in the area with The House System. Houses are like teams where everyone belongs, everyone participates. Houses work together and compete against each other in academics, athletics, school spirit, and community service activities, earning rewards along the way while striving for the ultimate title, House of the Year. Houses mean friendships are strengthened, faith is lived, and high school is more fun!

Clubs and service activities are driven primarily by student interest, and include activities such as Spirit Week, dances, Junior Ring Ceremony, Senior Prom, the March for Life, support to military families, and more. Clubs include: Service, International, Drama, Improv, Model UN, Video Production, Life-Savers, Esto Vir for guys, Math, French, Spanish, Legion of Mary, Student Ambassadors, ping-pong, and others! The opportunities for leadership and participation are endless, and students are encouraged to bring their ideas and energy to start new clubs and build new traditions.

**WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:**

“JP has given me the opportunity to grow as a Catholic, mature as a student, has instilled in me a love for learning, and enabled me to be of service to others.”

- Rose Dennis, Class of 2018, House of Castello
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
Saint 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 SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT
To apply for admission please visit the Admissions page of our web site: www.jpthegreat.org. There you will find a link to our online application, detailed instructions, entrance exam information, and important dates. Transcripts, recommendations, and, in some cases, other documentation is required. Academic scholarships and a limited amount of need-based financial aid is also available each year. More information about scholarships and tuition assistance may also be found at jpthegreat.org

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:
“The best part about being a JP student is the community. Walking down the hall and seeing bright and cheery faces makes JP different than most schools. It is truly and unique and amazing place. It is a privilege to be a Wolf.”
- Aidan Gelbach, Class of 2017, House of Ruiz

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