

THE STEWARD

SPRING UPDATE | MARCH 2022



The Lights are Back On for JP II's Annual Gala

This year's Light & Truth Gala takes place April 29, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Martin's University Worthington Conference Center. JP II's senior class is hard at work preparing for an entertaining and inspirational return to our in-person Light & Truth Gala.

Each year our community gathers to celebrate the amazing young men and women of Pope John Paul II High School, while raising support for student financial assistance and operations. Thanks to matching donors Dr. Jay & Carla Rudd and Mike & Sharon Rushing, every new donation to the Light & Truth Gala will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$60,000. This has the power to catapult us toward our goal of \$230,000.

To reserve your place, you may return the response card enclosed in your invitation, call JP II at 360-438-7600, or register online at popejp2hs.org under the "Support JP II" menu. The deadline for RSVPs is April 15.

Dr. Heynderickx (Left), who will be retiring after 14 years as President of Saint Martin's University, will be the Gala's keynote speaker. An avid supporter from our early beginnings, Heynderickx understands value-centered education with 28 years' experience in Catholic higher education.

Thank You, Gala Sponsors!

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The JP II Choir and Jazz Band will be performing at the Gala. Pictured above are junior choir members Nora Antles, Catherine Burnett, Natalie Fassnacht and Daniel Bohlig performing at the Take Flight Breakfast.

Two JP II Seniors Receive Statewide Recognition



Dear Friends,

At JP II, we strive to provide our students with an exceptional learning environment that challenges them to realize their full potential – academically, spiritually, and personally. Their academic success is regularly demonstrated with 62% of the student body graduating with honors.

It can be hard to measure achievements in other areas of growth. But we recently received news that tells us we are successfully carrying out our mission.

In February, seniors Clare (Vivi) Kondrat and Connor Johnson were selected by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal as state finalists for the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This is remarkable, especially when you realize that each of the state's 1,000+ high schools can nominate two students. Nominees are evaluated based on academic scholarship as well as commitment to learning, engagement in activities and service, leadership, resiliency in overcoming challenges, and potential for a productive future. Only 20 students advance to the national level.

Both of JP II's nominees were chosen to advance.

We are so proud of Vivi and Connor. They are both outstanding students and exceptional leaders who beautifully represent our JP II community and what we strive for in all our students.

We can all take pride in this recognition.

Blessings,



Therese Allin,
Principal and Head of School



Winning With Class

In February, the Girls basketball team won its first round SeaTac League tournament road game. Though they lost in the second round, they left it all on the court. "I walked with these young women as they experienced a season like no other," Coach Caiti Schmitz explained. "The integrity of character and deep love for one another is what made this team special."

Eagle Boys Sportsmanship Stands Out

Another basketball season highlight was a note from an opposing team mom that read, "You guys were such class opponents! It was awesome watching the sportsmanship of all your players! Nicely done, PJP HS!" The warm accolade was accompanied by a donation to JP II.

Recent Eagle Highlights:

- Our **Knowledge Bowl** team placed third in the **state championship**.
- 27 of our Eagles placed in their **FBLA** events qualifying them for the **state conference**.
- Three of our four **StellarXplorers** teams, participating in the National Astronautics Competition sponsored by the Air Force Association, qualified for the **semi-final round**.
- Fr. Clement Piruwa of Sacred Heart Parish celebrated Mass and distributed ashes to the JP II community on Ash Wednesday. Each day throughout Lent, **students are leading special Lenten prayers**.

Junior Class Shines at Take Flight Breakfast



The members of the junior class were shining examples for the JPII community at our Take Flight Scholarship Breakfast at Saint Martin's University in February.

Some students served breakfast to guests, others led prayer and song while others like Luke Christensen and Lillian Hamilton gave personal witness to the JPII advantage.

We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity of our sponsors, in-person guests and others who made contributions to support financial assistance for our students.

Thank You, Take Flight Sponsors!

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"I know this firsthand, that a community no matter how small, can have a life-changing impact... I now know our experiences help build us, which is what JPII is all about."

– Lillian Hamilton Class of 2023, keynote speaker

In February, JPII's Multicultural Club Hosted Guest Speakers to Honor Black History Month

In addition to sharing with the Club, our guests spoke to, and answered questions for, 9th and 10th graders. We were immensely honored by the vulnerability and gift of time shared by Miss Dell, Tyrone and Jean. Making the event even more special was that Dell Meinhardt is also JPII's Cheer Coach and mother of senior Karena Meinhardt.



New Director Of Advancement

John Grossman joined JPII in October 2021. With 34 years' experience in parish ministry and Catholic education, he is excited to be part of the success story of JPII. His #1 priority is building relationships and empowering us all toward bringing the vision for JPII High School to fruition. He is also excited to have added Heather Salvador as Development Associate to the staff.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Truth • Virtue • Community

Spring Update Inside!

Every day, JP II connects bright, curious students with opportunities to become who God intends them to be.

Applications are still being accepted for the 2022-23 school year. Visit our website or contact John Grossman to find out how you can become part of our family.



Alumni Leadership Council Making Plans

The newly organized JP II Alumni Leadership Council is meeting regularly to plan the Senior Induction Ceremony into the Alumni Association and to begin the discussion of an all-school reunion. Participating in a recent meeting were (left to right from top corner) PJ Virk '14, Director of Advancement John Grossman, Katie Sellars '17 (president), Megan Christensen '16, Carlo Vidallon '15, Marissa Allin Bohlig '14, Lauryn Johnson '20, Radric Marapao '14 (former president), Carla Granville '14 and Matthew Ramos '14.



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