Pope John Paul II High School

The Steward

Spring Update | April 2023

JPII Students Shine at the Archdiocese

Seniors from the Class of 2023 proudly represented JPII at Seattle Archdiocesan events twice within a span of two weeks. First, in late January, senior representatives attended the Archbishop's special dinner where they mingled with other high school seniors from around the Archdiocese. As part of the event, students honored the good work of the St. James Cathedral Kitchen by collecting items to be distributed to marginalized communities. JPII's contribution of hats and scarves was facilitated by JPII's chapter of FBLA.

A week later, the Eagle bus ventured to Seattle with the JPII choir. The choir gave a powerful performance at the annual Catholic High Schools Choir Festival at Benaroya Hall. In addition to a solo performance, JPII choir members joined their voices with other Catholic high school choirs from the Archdiocese to make truly beautiful music.

(Left to right) Seniors Catelin King, Moriah Steinbrecher, Nathan Miller and Luke Christensen, along with Assistant Principal Ann Ashe, pose with Bishop Frank Schuster. Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

(Left) JPII choir members and choir teacher Mr. Leland Brungardt pose before taking the stage. (Right) Over 100 Archdiocesan high school choir members at Benaroya Hall.

Eagles Take Flight Over a Field of Faith

JPII's annual Take Flight Breakfast raised over $53,000, but, more importantly, provided students the opportunity to step up and spread their wings through leadership. The keynote speaker, junior Joe Schumacher, captured the imagination of the more than 120 guests when he spoke about praying during baseball games and the impact JPII had on his faith. "Being on a field of faith truly lets you connect and be open, not only with your teammates, but God as well." The entire morning really was a showcase of this faith-filled community represented by the Class of 2024 who led most of the program. Donors, sponsors and parents were moved by the voices of the JPII choir and poise of the other juniors who greeted and conversed with guests, led prayer, sold raffle tickets, emceed the program and served breakfast.

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>
> *-Joe Schumacher*

Junior Joe Schumacher delivers his heartfelt keynote at the 2023 Take Flight Breakfast.

Junior Isabelle Larson and Sophomore Sisi Siu show their love to captain Nora Antles on Senior Night at Saint Martin's Marcus Pavilion. Photo by JPII student Luc Kondrat.

Girls Basketball Wins Through Love

Basketball is just a game, unless those playing it can lift it to a higher plane as JPII girls basketball did this season. As SeaTac League Tournament play approached, the team discovered that their captain, Nora Antles, would miss an integral game. This game was loser out and would mean either an end to their season or a school history-making trip to Districts.

When game day rolled around, junior Taylor Ames said, "I want us to play for Nora." Soon the team huddled and in reverberating unison shouted "for Nora!" She became their rallying cry. Their heartfelt cheer turned into passionate game play and they defeated their opponent by 43 points, earning a spot in the District tournament for the first time in school history.

This overwhelming commitment to their captain, Nora, spoke to her impact on the team. Her leadership of love moved the team to demonstrate a reciprocal love by sacrificing their bodies in an intense physical effort so that she could have another chance to play.

Freshmen Show Courage on the Varsity Court

When seniors Connor Marapao, Anthony Dizon and Daniel Bohlig looked forward to their final basketball season, they must have also had a nagging fear that this long-awaited senior season may not come to fruition. Losing four of their five starters to graduation in 2022, the first team meeting for the 2022-23 season consisted of five players. All it would take was injury or illness to wipe out their hopes.

Yet, despite a grim start, the roster grew, in large part thanks to six freshmen. Reflecting on the season, head coach Tom Frey lauded them saying, "It was not lost on me the courage required of an incoming freshman to try out for the high school basketball team, let alone a freshman who had never had the experience of playing organized basketball. Without these brave young men, our season would have been nearly impossible to carry out."

Freshmen Callan Resendez #17 and Andrew Loper #15 advance the ball up the court. Photo by JPII student Luc Kondrat.

Faculty Members Chosen for Notre Dame Seminar

JPII science teacher and StellarXplorer moderator, Dr. Tracy Russell; theology teacher Gwen Bowen; and mathematics teachers Megan Davis and Kim Viall were chosen to attend Notre Dame's highly regarded seminar on science and religion this summer. The program is limited to 45 participants from around the country who will receive a deeper understanding of the task of Catholic education to create "a synthesis of culture and faith."

Seniors Receive Full ROTC College Scholarships

Nathan Miller and Catelin King have both received the prestigious four-year Air Force ROTC College Scholarship which can cover up to $250,000 in tuition. Catelin remembers randomly opening her email and seeing "Congratulations" under the Air Force email heading. She said, "I'm grateful to the help that JPII provided in preparing me for my interview and organizing my fitness test."

Nathan was equally excited about the scholarship which he sees as a gateway to an amazing future. "This would not have been possible without the JPII environment: personalized physical training in cross country and track, friendly academic competition, and support in my co-curricular efforts such as the Lacey Youth Council."

Luke Christensen was awarded the coveted $180,000 NROTC Marine Scholarship. Of the more than 100 competitive applicants that applied 20 were selected and Luke was the number one overall selection. He also received the Army ROTC Scholarship. "I am extremely proud to have received these scholarships. To me, it shows that everything I've worked at in high school has paid off. Of course, this doesn't just include my work, but the work of my family and JPII as well," Luke said.

That's Checkmate

When JPII staff decided that an area in the newly renovated Commons be designated for a chess table, little did they know that a team would be formed so quickly or that our Eagles would win trophies and medals in their first tournament. Out of 104 contestants, freshman Caleb Abbott placed 8th, sophomore John McMurray placed 55th and junior Josh Haelle placed 5th!

Josh Haelle receives his trophy.

Josh explained "There's something about the thrill of strategizing and outmaneuvering my opponent that I find incredibly satisfying. Of course, winning is always a great feeling, but it's not just about being better than other people. It's more about the mental challenge and the sense of accomplishment that comes with playing a good game. Chess requires focus, patience, and critical thinking, and I find it incredibly rewarding to push myself to improve in those areas."

Spotlight on our College Advisor

Laura Dietz, JPII College Advisor
Pacific Lutheran University, B.A., Saint Martin's University M.Ed

While fall is the busiest time of year for JPII's College Advisor, assisting seniors gathering documents to submit to colleges, Mrs. Dietz has been plenty busy this spring getting students registered for next year's classes. "Making sure their class selections lead them on a path of success when it comes to their long-term goals is a big part of my job." Mrs. Dietz says she genuinely enjoys getting to know JPII students. "There is something pretty special about adolescence and I feel excited about young lives fulfilling potential!"

Sample of colleges JPII students have been accepted to: Boston College, Georgetown, Gonzaga's Honors College, Notre Dame and Whitman University.

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Truth ◆ Virtue ◆ Community

Spring Update Inside!

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

Applications are still being accepted for the 2023-24 school year! Scan the QR code below or contact our Admissions Office to schedule a personal tour and find out how to become part of the Eagle family!

ADMISSIONS@POPEJP2HSEAGLES.ORG

WWW.POPEJP2HS.ORG

Go, Eagles!

Meet our new Eagle logo, designed by JPII student Catelin King.

See the Eagles in Action...

Follow us on social!

@ADVANCEJPII

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