



Volume IV – September 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The 2010 – 2011 school year is well underway and it is my pleasure to welcome you back and share our plans for this year. First and foremost, my most sincere thanks to the many parents that attended our Back-to-School nights. It was a very positive experience for us and I certainly hope it was a worthwhile experience for you as well. Your attendance ensures your child that you value their education and the progress they will make this year.

As you may have noticed, there are some changes to our schedule. First of all, JP II Academy's weekly Mass has been changed to Thursdays at 8:30 AM to better accommodate both Father Dan's and Father Mike's schedules. This change also means that our quarterly honors' awards will be given on Thursdays after Mass rather than on Fridays. I'll make sure that information about that goes out in a timely manner.

In the textbook area, NEW LANGUAGE ARTS BOOKS are now in the hands of students in grades 1 through 5. These books provide a comprehensive and up-to-date approach to reading, grammar, writing, spelling, and phonics in one coherent and balanced program. Our teachers received their first in-service in using the textbooks on September 9th and further in-service presentations are planned for later in the year as they become more familiar with the textbooks.

Although we have only one kindergarten and fourteen students in that class, our overall enrollment is 266 students. Last year we enrolled 277 students. When I did the math just to see what the enrollment would have been if we had the 40 kindergarteners we had last year, I discovered that our total would be 292 students. As you can see, enrollment in our Preschool and other grade levels remains strong!

Please know that I will be reviewing student work on a regular basis – when you see or read comments written / printed in “purple ink”, those are mine. This activity helps me to know how every student is doing in his or her class work and indicates where our curriculum needs to be adjusted.

EdLine

One of the best monitoring tools we have at JP II Academy is EdLine, a computerized program that allows you to view your child's grades and progress throughout the year. Information about how to use EdLine will be sent home to you in the next week.

It took us a bit to get everything running smoothly and to enter our new students. We wanted to make sure that everything was working perfectly before we send you on the site to monitor your child's achievement and progress in classes. EdLine will give you access to current grades AND any missing assignments. Please be advised that Pre-school and Kindergarten do not use EdLine at all, but do communicate with you on a regular basis. Beginning in the second term of the year (November onward), grade one will begin using EdLine. Right now the review and initial work is difficult to record as a simple grade. Nevertheless, your child's teacher will be sending home graded papers and will contact you if there are any concerns.

In many schools, EdLine replaces parent conferences. That will NOT happen at the Academy. It is important that you and your child's teacher communicate about your child and his or her strengths and needs. Together you are a very powerful team in addressing the growth and success of your child.

IMPACT OF Senate Bill 210 – The Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act for JPPII Academy

Senate Bill 210 – The Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act was passed this summer and became effective for the 2010 – 2011 school year. In part it states that “all city, exempted village, local, chartered non-public schools (us), community schools, and district owned and operated STEM schools must begin conducting Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings each year for all students in Kindergarten, third, fifth, and ninth grade. Schools must also report aggregate BMI data to the Ohio Department of Health by June 1 of each year.”

Body Mass Index (BMI) a number calculated from a child’s weight and height. It is a way of checking to see if your child has a healthy weight by calculating a percentile and comparing it to the height and weight of other children of your child’s age and gender. In general, the higher the BMI, the more fat there is in the body.

By the end of September you will be receiving a letter from the school addressing this testing. There are strict guidelines for this screening that protect your child’s privacy during this test. Except for the person doing the test, no other child or school staff member is allowed to be present. The results of your child’s test will be mailed to you.

As in all health matters, you will have the ability to say no to this testing and that “No” will not affect John Paul II Academy adversely.

Once I know more details about this initiative I let you know. However, I thought is important to let you know that this law exists and what it impact is upon schools in case you hear about the law on TV or read about it in the newspaper.

Important Dates to Ink In

SEPTEMBER

- 17 Mid point for Term 1 (Interims go home on the 25th)
- 19 PTU Mass – 11:00 AM Saints Peter and Paul
- 21 School Pictures (begin at 7:30 AM with Faculty)
- 24 Interims go home
- 25 PTU Pasta Party at ST Hall after 4:30 Mass
- 29 High School Night – 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM JPPII Academy

Parents with students in grade 7 are MOST welcome – this will help you to plan ahead for high school.

OCTOBER

- 1 Trinity Shadow Day (Gr. 8)
- 7 PTU Cookie Sale
- 13 General PTU Meeting – 7:00 / JPPII Gym
Meet the Pastors and Board of Trustees
- 15 In-Service Day (No school for students)
- 26 End of Term 1
Picture retakes and candid
- 29 Halloween Bingo

Prayer Group at John Paul II Academy

Every morning at about 7:50 AM, a group of teachers and staff members meet in the JPPII faculty room to pray together before the day begins. For us, this time is both special and important because without the help of Jesus, who is our Master Teacher, we could not be who we need to be for your children – Witnesses to the Faith and to the Lord Who works along with us in the Academy.

You are most welcome to join us (especially if you bring your child to school and wait until the first bell rings.)

A Parent’s Prayer

Most loving Father, you are our example of parenthood. Help me to remember that I am a parent first and a friend second (if at all).

Please teach me what to give to my child and what to withhold. Let me remember that love is often more important than things.

Show me when to praise and when to scold. Make me gentle and considerate, yet firm and watchful. Keep me from weak indulgence, or from great severity.

Give me the courage to be disliked sometimes by my child – especially when I must take the necessary action that is displeasing in his or her eyes.

Let me always remember what it was like to be a child.

Give me the imagination to enter into his or her world in order to understand and guide.

Give me all the virtues I need to lead by word and example.

Amen.