



Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

Pope John Paul II High School Weekly Newsletter

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR](#)

A Welcome From the Chair of the Board

Dear PJP Families,

As Chairman of the Board at Pope John Paul II High School, and on behalf of the entire Board, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our new students as well as returning students and their families back to PJP. The Board of Directors is very thankful that you have chosen PJP.

For the last several years the Board of Directors has worked alongside the Administration to develop initiatives to help differentiate PJP from other AOP and Public Schools. These initiatives include the Panthers' Learning Center and PAWS program, the STEAM Lab, and the Anatomage (virtual dissection) Table. This year will be no exception as we continue to support the PJP Administration to enhance the teaching and learning experience for all of our students.

For those of you who would like an opportunity to get to know members of the PJP Board of Directors, we will be attending multiple events throughout the coming year. This includes sporting events, student recruitment events, and special events. One great opportunity to join us is coming up on October 10th at the SpringFord Country Club. If you are a golfer, I encourage you to sign up for a foursome. For those non golfers, register for the dinner where you will have a chance to meet those board members who are in attendance. If you can't join us, please consider supporting the event as a sponsor. More information can be found at [Heritage Golf Outing – Support PJP – Pope John Paul II High School \(pjphs.org\)](#).

Thank you again for choosing PJP, and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and sharing with you some of the ways we plan to continue to differentiate PJP.

Sincerely,

Robert (Bob) Getts, PhD.
Chairman PJP Board of Directors

President's Office

Parent Networking Opportunity

This week is "Hello Week," where PJP hosts activities to help students make connections. Parents, especially those of the Class of 2027, have the opportunity to connect on their level by participating in the PJP Heritage Golf Outing on October 10th. To register, click here: bit.ly/pjggolf

For those parents who are not golfers, and still want to network with fellow PJP parents, you can do so by registering for the dinner portion of the event. To register, click here: bit.ly/pjggolf

Principal's Office

Thank you to all the parents who came to meet the teachers on Thursday night. Special thanks to those parents who contributed to the dinner for the teachers prior to Back to School Night. It was delicious and very much appreciated!

Friday we celebrated our Opening School Liturgy celebrated by Rev. Frank Chambers. Father Frank assisted Fr. Bill Atkinson during his time in the seminary and at Villanova. He spoke to us about embracing our differences and accepting others. We will continue to pray throughout the year for Father Bill's canonization.

Congratulations to the Volleyball Team who are undefeated and have a winning streak of 33 games! Congratulations also to the Football Team who are currently undefeated and are ranked #5 in the state in the 4A category. This weekend they dedicated their game and showed their support to Rylee Monaghan. Money collected at the game was donated to Pediatric Cancer Research at CHOP.

The week of September 18 - 22 is Start with Hello Week at PJP. Please encourage your student to embrace this initiative by taking the time to smile and say hello to someone they don't know yet. This is one simple thing they can do to brighten someone's day.

We are very proud of our Golden Panthers!!

Student Services

Required Forms for 2023-2024 PASSED DUE

All forms were to be completed and returned by Friday, September 15, 2023. Any forms not already submitted are now passed due, and must be submitted ASAP.

All students have received a packet of forms requiring completion for the 2022-2023 academic year. **Additional Archdiocesan forms requiring your e-signature are on the Power School Portal. PowerSchool forms are not accessible on the phone app; you must complete them using a desktop or laptop.**

Paper forms should be returned to your student's homeroom teacher. Returning these forms in a timely manner will assist us in updating our records. Information provided on these forms may be utilized in the event of an emergency, please provide all information legibly. We ask that these forms remain attached together, we will separate them when they are returned.

Additional copies of these forms can be found on our website under the parents tab.

Academic Affairs



Schoolology account access information was sent to the parents of all NEW students this week.

REMINDER

Students should be sure that they charge their chromebooks each evening, and bring chargers with them each day as well. In October, the PSAT will be taken electronically for all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students so it is very important that all students are in the habit of keeping their ChromeBooks charged and their chargers on hand!

Please remember.



Student Affairs

Start With Hello Week

During the week of September 17, will focus on including peers who may be isolated or left out of day-to-day school activities. It's as easy as starting with "hello"! More information will follow.



Senior Portrait Proofs/Retakes

Some senior students have received their senior portrait proofs. If you have not, please let me know. Please follow the instructions provided regarding the choice of yearbook photo. You are required to choose a pose for the yearbook by October 23. If you do not choose one, the default pose will be used in the yearbook. If you would like retakes, they will take place on Monday, September 25 and Please let me know ASAP if you require retakes so that I may schedule a time.

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association is composed of parents and guardians of our students with the goal of supporting both the educational and spiritual mission of our school. We provide volunteer opportunities throughout the year supporting our students and faculty and it is a great way to feel part of our PJP family.

If you are interested in learning more about our Parents' Association please join our informational Zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 26th at 7pm. Link will be emailed next week.

Alumni

We're less than a month out from PJP's 10TH ANNUAL HERITAGE GOLF OUTING!

On October 10th, Pope John Paul II High School formally invites all legacy alumni, PJP alumni, past and current families and friends to participate in the 10th Annual Heritage Golf Outing.

11:00 AM - Registration & Lunch

12:00 PM - Shotgun Start - Scramble

Cocktail Reception, Dinner & Awards Follow

For more information, click the link below! Continue to share!! We can't wait to see you out on the links!!!

https://www.pjphs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=556438&type=d&pREC_ID=2491004&fbclid=IwAR2u8bpxXqUKJWKR70wj6FkQ4sV4kBa-QHbl2bypCP3NnOCfA1LL2TRQ6P8

Health Suite

Welcome back to the 23-24 School Year! Friendly reminders as we settle in:

First Day Packets

We require **the green health form** to efficiently care for your student at school. **Please complete and return promptly!**

Allergies/Asthma

If your student requires an inhaler or epipen at school, please turn in updated doctor orders - even if your student is permitted to carry emergency meds in his/her backpack.

Seizures

Please turn in an updated Seizure Action Plan with rescue medications as soon as possible.

Juniors

11th Grade Physicals are due by the end of the month. Please contact us (if you haven't already done so) if your junior's physical exam with vaccinations will be late.

COVID

11th Grade Physicals are due by the end of the month. Please contact us (if you haven't already done so) if your junior's physical exam with vaccinations will be late.

Thank You

We are looking forward to a safe and healthy year!

School Ministry

We joyfully celebrated our School Opening Liturgy on Friday, and it was heartwarming to witness your students actively participating in the Mass.

Eucharistic Congress

Join us and other Youth from around the area as we come together to celebrate the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We will travel to Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Doylestown, PA. We will have the opportunity to hear from the Mother of Blessed Carlo Accutis who could become the First Millennial Saint. Please RSVP to Mr. Koz at kkozeniewski@pjphs.org

Guidance Office

Introduction and Welcome Message-PJP's New Mental Health & Wellness Coordinator

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Kelly O'Shura and I am the new full-time Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator at PJP. I am available to support students Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:30pm. I will also be developing parent/guardian virtual programming, so if you have a topic of interest, please let me know. I am honored to be part of the PJP family!

Outside of the school building, you may find me at the YMCA going for a run or working out, but most of my free time is spent with my husband, Shane, supporting our two children, Cadence (12) and Reid (9) pursuing their own goals. I am both a baseball and dance Mom! We live in Colledgeville and look forward to cheering on PJP athletics and activities as the year develops, to encourage your student as well!

Please know that my office is always open and student wellbeing is at the heart of my focus. Please contact me any time, and I look forward to a wonderful year ahead! Thank you.

In partnership,
Mrs. Kelly O'Shura, M.A.
Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator
Kelly.oshura@pjphs.org
484-975-6500 x3043

Guidance Classroom Presentation to Seniors-The College Application Process

Last week, Ms. Shoemaker and the senior counselors presented information to seniors during their theology classes about the college application process. Counselors are currently scheduling individual meetings with each senior to talk about their plans and provide guidance.

SENIOR PARENTS-COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELORS VISITING PJP

Over 60 college and university admission counselors will be visiting PJP through mid-November. If your senior student is applying to any of the colleges listed or would like to find out about a particular school, this is an excellent opportunity to meet with the college admissions representatives who will read your child's application. Below is a list of colleges visiting PJP during the next two weeks. To sign-up to attend, your senior needs to just log into their Naviance account and register for the visit. If you have any

questions, please contact Ms. Shoemaker (kshoemaker@pjphs.org).

University of Notre Dame	9/18/23 11:00 AM
Delaware College of Art and Design	9/18/23 11:15 AM
University of Delaware	9/19/23 11:15 AM
University of Scranton	9/19/23 12:00 PM
St. John's University-New York	9/20/23 9:45 AM
King's College	9/20/23 10:30 AM
Seton Hall University	9/20/23 12:00 PM
Pennsylvania College of Technology	9/21/23 9:45 AM
Mount St. Mary's University	9/21/23 10:30 AM
Marywood University	9/21/23 11:45 AM
Widener University	9/22/23 12:00 PM
Drew University	9/25/23 10:30 AM
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	9/25/23 12:30 PM
Holy Family University	9/26/23 10:30 AM
Quinnipiac University	9/26/23 11:15 AM
The Catholic University of America	9/26/23 12:30 PM
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus	9/28/23 9:45 AM
Dickinson College	9/28/23 12:00 AM

A Welcome Message From Your PJP School Counselors

Over 60 college and university admission counselors will be visiting PJP through mid-November. If your senior student is applying to any of the colleges listed or would like to find out about a particular school, this is an excellent opportunity to meet with the college admissions representatives who will read your child's application. Below is a list of colleges visiting PJP during the next two weeks. To sign-up to attend, your senior needs to just log into their Naviance account and register for the visit. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Shoemaker (kshoemaker@pjphs.org).

Upcoming College Standardized Test Registrations

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration

SAT	October 7th	September 7th	September 26th
ACT	October 28th	September 22nd	October 6th

To Register:

SAT Registration - <https://mysat.collegeboard.org>

ACT Registration - www.act.org

**REGISTRATION FOR SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE APPLICATION NIGHT-
Tuesday, September 19th (Zoom)**

Ms. Shoemaker, PJP’s College and Academic Resources Specialist, will be leading a virtual Senior Parent College Application Night on Tuesday, September 19th, at 6:30 PM. During this virtual event, parents will receive an overview of the college application process, discussing current admissions trends and the application process for PJP students. To register for this presentation, click the link below/

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/BWdSN6ACb2sC3H9>

Please contact Ms. Shoemaker at kshoemaker@pjphs.org with any questions.

PHEAA Financial Aid Webinars

Great topics to start out the season for new seniors and upcoming classmates

Searching for Scholarships and Affording the Balance

9/12 Tuesday Noon; 9/28 Thursday 6:30pm

There are many ways to pay for education, and one important step is to search and apply for Scholarships. More free money equals less borrowing. This presentation will review the types of options available, along with tips on applying. It will also offer samples of fun scholarship options to get you started. We’ll then review what to do about the balances that might be left over in order to make affordable higher education decisions. Join Linda Pacewicz and Daniel Wray from Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for an hour of detailed information on this topic.

Financial Aid Timeline – Know What to Do When

9/14 Thursday Noon; 9/26 Tuesday 6:30pm

Follow Linda Pacewicz and Dan Wray of Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) as they guide you along the exciting (and sometimes bumpy) road to an affordable higher education. The journey will begin before high school and end in the land of education loan repayment – or maybe even education loan forgiveness. One thing is for certain: it’s never too early to start preparing for a successful higher education experience. This 1 hour presentation will provide the starting points and web resources - for effective research before, during and after your student makes postsecondary decisions. Knowing what to expect and to plan for it is the key. Failing to plan, is planning to fail!

PA 529 and PHEAA Discuss Options to Cover the Gap

9/14 Thursday 6:30pm

Please join Linda Pacewicz and Dan Wray of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and special guest Ryan Buxton of the Pennsylvania Treasury (PA529.com) for this extremely informative webinar. Learn how to plan for financial success as you seek a postsecondary education, with an extra emphasis on saving via a 529 plan. This webinar also briefly covers best practices (such as seeking grants and scholarships first), the primary methods of keeping school related debt to a minimum, and additional resources (such as school-based tuition payment plans). The webinar discusses private/ alternative loans as a last resort. Lots of info here. Don’t miss it!

[Register Here](https://pheaa.org/virtual) or here: pheaa.org/virtual

**** Please note – these are not PJP sponsor events ****

SENIOR PARENTS- Class of 2024 PARENT BRAG SHEET

During the college application process, many colleges and/or scholarships require a Counselor Letter of

Recommendation. The PJP School Counselors would love to hear from you about your senior student! Just complete the Parent Brag Sheet by Sunday, September 10th, if you have not so already. The Parent Brag Sheet is optional, but a parent/guardian's insight can provide invaluable information that is worth including in a Counselor Recommendation, conveying your child's unique qualities. This information will aid counselors in writing the individualized counselor letter of recommendation.

Please use the link below for Parent Brag Sheet and additional details:

<https://forms.gle/PSWbeZK16aHUWvGr7>

Athletics

Girls Golf

History was made at PJP on Wednesday, September 13th when our Girls JV Golf team made their debut against Perkiomen Valley. Not only was it the first ever time a girls golf team competed at PJP, they also won 218-224. Congratulations to Coach Torres and Coach Miles, as well as Olivia McQuarrie, Olivia Smith, Anna Pond, and Rylee Monahan.

Christian Service Opportunity

There are two athletic options for Service hours through athletics. The first is being a ball runner at boys and girls soccer games. Students would receive two hours of service for each game. To sign up follow this link; [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DAAA2AA2F94-game#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4DAAA2AA2F94-game#/)

The second opportunity is on Saturday, October 21st from 12-4 at the Spring Valley YMCA. The Special Olympics will be holding a competition and need students to help change plates on barbells for the athletes. There will be food provided after. If interested please reach out to Mark Brittingham at mark.brittingham@gmail.com for more information.

Concession Sign Ups

The PJPAC is looking for parents and student volunteers to help staff the concession stand during football and volleyball games. A student can use concession stand time towards their service hours requirements. To sign up follow the following links;
Football: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AADA62AA7FF2-20231#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AADA62AA7FF2-20231#/)
Volleyball: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AADA62AA7FF2-20232#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AADA62AA7FF2-20232#/)

Home Events

Monday, 9/18/2023

Girls Soccer vs Spring-Ford- 3:45 PM

Tuesday, 9/19/2023

JV Golf vs Spring-Ford- 3:00 PM

Wednesday, 9/20/2023

JV Golf vs Boyertown- 3:00 PM

Tennis vs Norristown- 3:30 PM

Girls Soccer vs Upper Merion- 3:45 PM

Thursday, 9/21/2023

Field Hockey vs Dock- 5:00 PM

Volleyball vs Upper Perkiomen- 6:45 PM

Friday, 9/22/2023

JV Golf vs Pottsgrove- 3:00 PM

Boys Soccer vs Pottsgrove- 3:45 PM



Panthers Versus Cancer

PJP Volleyball's annual Panthers vs Cancer game will be held on Thursday, October 10th against Springfield. T-shirts for the event are on sale now through September 26th at Noon. Students who purchase this year's shirt are allowed to wear it to school on the day of the game. All proceeds from the t-shirts will go to the Bott Cancer Center at Holy Redeemer and Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania. Last year we donated over 12 thousand dollars. Purchase your shirt here; <https://secure.aceptiva.com/?cst=9zJhuN>.

Fundraisers

Football-The Football parents are selling mums again this year. Mums are \$10 dollars and are purchased from Ott's. Mums will be delivered to PJP on Friday, 9/29. To order a mum, please contact Karen Owens at k_owens@comcast.net.

The football parents are collecting used sneakers for Got Sneakers. Contact Mrs. Bass for more information at debbass0801@gmail.com.

The football team is selling \$10 discount cards for local restaurants. See any football player or coach for yours.

Boys Basketball- PJP fan blankets. These are not sport specific and can be personalized. Follow the link to get yours. https://shop.shirtandink.com/pope_john_paul_II/shop/home. For questions, please contact Jenn Zavertnik at jenn.zavertnik@gmail.com.

Athletic Department- Free burger certificates for sale in the athletic office. Buy a certificate for \$10 good for a free burger and fries at Applebees from their handcrafted burger section (\$13+ value). Contact Tracey to get yours.

Transportation

PJP provides transportation to and from all competitions. All student athletes are required to ride the bus both ways. This small thing helps our student athletes create some of their best memories as well as create a team culture. There are exceptions to this, but must be approved by the athletic director and coach.

Have a great week!

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