



St. John Paul II School

September 19, 2023

Dear 7th and 8th Grade Parents,

I hope and pray that this letter finds you and your family well! I am writing to you (and your 7th and 8th grade child) about an exciting opportunity that we are now ready to offer as a school. For the first time in our history, we are going to offer enrollment in our high school Concert Choir to 7th and 8th grade students. For those of you who are not aware, our Concert Choir has a national, indeed, international reputation for excellence over its twelve-year history. We remain committed to excellence as our choir performs as “the face of the school,” joyfully and faithfully!

We are taking this step now because it is clear to us that this model works in the realm of Athletics and Drama, so it can work for the Concert Choir. Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, I recognize (as a licensed Music Educator of 28 years) that we can and should do more for our 7th and 8th grade students to help form their voices as they grow and change. While we do have a 7th and 8th Grade Chorus, there are clearly students who desire more, and should receive the challenging instruction in four-part singing that we exemplify in our Concert Choir. These “middle years” are critical for the development of the human voice that can yield joyfully fruitful results for a lifetime!

How will this work? The one area that will not change for us is our pursuit of excellence. Excellence is the fruit of consistent and well-focused effort. Our Concert Choir is a graded class that appears on report cards and transcripts. It meets on Days 3 & 6 for both lunch and X block (11:28-12:24) on stage and in the Music Room (this means that it does not conflict with athletics). Each member of the choir must also attend a weekly Sectional (Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass, depending upon individual voice part). I offer two sessions for each section, both before and after school (2:22-3:25 PM or 7:30-8:00 AM), but only *one* is required. This is done to accommodate the varying schedules of our students and families. Again, we want to make it possible to sing in our choir, and participate in athletics, like so many of our students have done over the years. Please let me be clear: in order to be in the Concert Choir, students must attend these rehearsals, just as our high school students do.

How do I enroll my child? Please email me directly, at my address, below. I will help in any way possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at rfish@jpiihyannis.org. I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Deacon Richard V. Fish, Jr., Mus.B., S.T.B., M.Div., M.S.Ed.
Director of Performing Arts
St. John Paul II School