



July 31, 2021

Feast of Blessed Solanus Casey

Dear JPPII Families and Friends,

Last summer, at this time, we were formulating our “Return-to School” plans amidst uncertainty and with trepidation. Gratefully, the Lord’s hand saw us through the COVID-challenged year. As we approach the 2021-2022 school year, we expect students learning each day in person, families coming to school to attend events and contests, and the restoration of the full, positive, affirming experience that marks St. John Paul II School. DESE and Mass. DPH released Fall 2021 COVID-related guidance yesterday and we will communicate school plans with you following consultation with the Catholic Schools Office and local health officials. At first read, I am encouraged that we can accomplish all that we want this year within these guidelines.

I am pleased to report that **we have made good progress on major projects** undertaken in 2020-2021.

- First, the renaming and rebranding process has been completed. We have communicated our new name and look widely and are making proper changes to reflect the new name/brand, including a new website and campus signage.
- Second, renovations to the school’s re-designed Fitness Center and Academic Resource Center continue on target for summer completion. We look forward to showing you these new spaces in early Fall.
- Third, the Leadership Sequence, a comprehensive Grades 10-12 leadership development program, is in development and will begin this Fall for Grade 10 students.

In addition to these new initiatives, you will experience positive physical plant changes such as new flooring, improved safety systems, and complete lighting replacement. It has been a busy summer.

I consider the 2021-2022 school year to be an especially important one. Because sixteen months transpired under the COVID-cloud, some students, families, and even staff members do not know JPPII at full throttle. Therefore, we intend to restore with vigor the traditions,



relationships, activities, and events that make the JPII experience special. Additionally, this year, the entire school community will be engaged in reflection and planning leading to a comprehensive self-study document given to NEASC accreditation visitors in 2022 (You will see a series of half-days [“NEASC Work Days”] in the school calendar given to this task). Put together, the renaming/rebranding initiative, accreditation process, and the slack tide created by the COVID-year all point toward the importance of restoring and re-charting the direction St. John Paul II School is taking. You will be a part of this process.

One of the positive gains from the past year is the convenience of Zoom virtual meetings for parent sessions. Again this year, **you are invited to an August Town Hall meeting** where administrators will introduce a few key topics and then give you the floor to pose questions, seek clarification, or make comments. Good communication will help everyone feel ready for the new year. Please join us for your Town hall session according to the following schedule:

Grades Five and Six: Thursday, August 19 at 5 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583718732?pwd=RzhIR0E1QnBGU0tEV3ZHdU9ZbzFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 558 371 8732

Passcode: 974441

Grades Seven and Eight: Thursday, August 19 at 6 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583718732?pwd=RzhIR0E1QnBGU0tEV3ZHdU9ZbzFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 558 371 8732

Passcode: 974441

Grades Nine and Ten: Monday, August 23 at 5 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583718732?pwd=RzhIR0E1QnBGU0tEV3ZHdU9ZbzFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 558 371 8732

Passcode: 974441



Grades Eleven and Twelve: Monday, August 23 at 6 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5583718732?pwd=RzhlR0E1OnBGU0tEV3ZHdU9ZbzFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 558 371 8732

Passcode: 974441

Some longtime staff members will not be returning to JPII for the 2021-2022 school year, including Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Cardey, Mrs. Hatton, and several others. However, **we have been fortunate this hiring season** to secure talented, committed Catholic educators to join our faculty and staff. Joining St. John Paul II School this year:

- Mr. Joe Bentley will serve as Assistant Athletic Director with specific focus on Preparatory Division athletics. Mr. Bentley works in Barnstable Public Schools and is married to former SFXP Religion teacher Laura Bentley.
- Mrs. Susan Bivona, a recipient of the National Elementary Art Educator of the Year award, will teach art at the Preparatory Division. Mrs. Bivona earned her B.S. and her M.Ed. in Art Education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.
- Mrs. Katherine Duvall takes the reins of the reconstituted Academic Resource Center as well as dedicating time as a Student Services Teacher. Mrs. Duvall comes to us after many years at St. Pius X School (South Yarmouth).
- Miss Alexis Hire will be serving as our grade five geography teacher and our grade six social studies teacher. In addition, Miss Hire will serve as a sixth grade homeroom teacher. Miss Hire earned her B.A. in History and Secondary Education from Merrimack College. She holds a Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Educator's license in History with a Sheltered English Instruction Endorsement.
- Mrs. Karen Hoffmeister is a veteran Physical Education teacher, who worked at St. Margaret Regional School for 20+ years. Mrs. Hoffmeister will teach Preparatory Division physical education. Additionally, her daughter Ashlinn is a 2019 graduate of St. John Paul II High School and her son Matthew is currently in grade six in the Preparatory Division.
- Miss Regina Ledwell joins us as our grade seven U.S. History teacher. Miss Ledwell earned her B.A. in History with a minor concentration in Anthropology.
- Mrs. Carolyn Peters joins us as our grade five English teacher and a grade five homeroom teacher. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Mrs. Peters will coach soccer. Mrs. Peters earned her Bachelor's degree at Stonehill College and her M.Ed. at Fitchburg State College.



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- Mrs. Meaghan Wile, who previously served as Assistant Principal and AP Biology teacher in the High School Division, returns to St. John Paul II School as our grades seven and eight science teacher and seventh grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Wile earned her B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies at Stonehill College, and she earned her M.Ed. at Providence College.

There are two open positions; High School Division Mathematics and High School Division Spanish. Please encourage anyone you know to be a good fit to apply.

Mrs. Kelley and Ms. Valentino will write to you soon with more specific information and details about the year ahead. For now, suffice it to say that we're eager to get back going and look forward to a year of growth, school spirit, holiness, and learning.

Best regards,

Christopher W. Keavy
President