JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL
Plano, Texas

PRESIDENT
Start Date: July 1, 2022
johnpauliihs.org
OVERVIEW

An exceptional place of learning, John Paul II High School (JPII) is a progressive, coeducational, Catholic college preparatory school in Plano, Texas. Founded in 2005, JPII develops leaders who are critical thinkers, effective communicators, committed to service, and rooted in faith. The school’s formative education is based on the belief that educating the whole person — academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical — leads to personal transformation. Together, the JPII community makes a difference in the world by walking in the footsteps of St. John Paul II.

Throughout a student’s time at the school, JPII aims to rouse the minds and hearts of students, stir their faith, and empower them to create a future based on hope and love. This diverse community of students and educators strives for personal and academic excellence, values individuality, fosters a passion for learning, encourages a lifelong commitment to community service and instills respect for others.

John Paul II High School seeks a dynamic leader as its next President starting July 1, 2022. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school’s mission and programs. The President is responsible for the overall vision, leadership, and management of the school. The next President will have the primary responsibility of directing the strategic and long-range planning for JPII and for providing the leadership that will enable the school to achieve the fullest attainment of its mission. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead an impressive secondary school with deep ties to its community and an unwavering commitment to its forward-thinking Catholic education.
SCHOOL HISTORY

John Paul II High School was founded in 2005 to offer a high quality, faith-based education to the Catholic community and others in the region surrounding Dallas-Fort Worth. In its first year, JPII welcomed 300 students in grades 9-11 occupying half of the brand-new facility. Since then, the student population has grown steadily to near 700 students. Thomas Poore served as JPII’s President from its founding to his retirement in the summer of 2017. During his time, Poore helped develop the school’s academic, athletic, and extracurricular programing and strengthen its standing in the community. Jake Schroepfer joined JPII as Interim President in 2017 and was quickly promoted to President. He will step down from his post at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

THE SCHOOL

John Paul II High School represents the next generation of Catholic schools — one that believes the integral formation students receive from a Catholic school engenders a lifelong responsibility to God and fellow man. Recipients of a JPII education are equipped with the tools, knowledge, and skills not only to thrive in college but also to become morally grounded, critically minded, and socially responsible leaders in society.
Along with challenging academic courses, the school provides a nurturing environment for young people as they grapple with ideas and explore new possibilities in preparation for lifelong service and contribution to the world. Students are taught to be knowledgeable and ethical; utilize technological innovations effectively and responsibly; communicate and collaborate effectively; think critically and creatively; and possess the organizational skills necessary to solve problems and achieve goals.

JPII also offers exceptional extracurricular programs in athletics, the arts, and community outreach, which further enable students to uncover their talents and interests and develop a strong sense of self and community engagement.

With a firm belief in the imperative to provide a strong Catholic education, the school strives for a diverse student body and understands the sacrifices many families make to better the future for their children through the promise of Catholic education.

John Paul II High School operates as part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas and is a member of the National Catholic Education Association.
ACADEMICS

John Paul II High School’s curriculum is an engaging four-year program designed to foster the highest level of readiness for their next step in the continuous education process. Overall, JP II offers more than 47 Honors and Advanced Placement courses and encourages all students to experience the AP model as an opportunity to gain exposure to college-level courses and requirements. Courses are also offered at the college-preparatory level.

The minimum graduation requirements include four years of English mathematics, science, social studies; and theology; two years of world languages; and one year of physical education, the visual and performing arts, and computer science. Students are also required to take a range of elective courses along with required classes in health, physical education, and speech.

The extensive elective program provides courses designed for students to explore specific interests ranging from engineering and technology to sports medicine, journalism to finance, the performing arts to psychology. A signature program is The Social Innovation Lab — a blended course designed to offer students the opportunity to examine and understand social, economic, and environmental challenges and their impacts while taking a collaborative approach in research and strategy building to develop sustainable solutions.
The school's STEAM center utilizes project-based learning and a multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. The center also focuses on the EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) human-centered design process taught at major research universities.

**THE ARTS**

John Paul II High School has a comprehensive Fine Arts Department that encompasses art, band, choir, dance, drama, musical theater, and orchestra. The department offers students a broad spectrum of opportunities that allow them to explore many avenues of artistic expression. In all, the program offers 27 fine arts courses.

The visual arts offerings provide students with a dynamic opportunity to explore and develop their creative talents in a studio setting. Students can study drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics, with opportunities to expand their skills in areas of deep interest.
The music program offers students a strong foundation in music history and in the knowledge and technical skills of musical performance. Students can take part in the school band and orchestra or study piano and other instruments in depth.

The aim of the performing arts program is to elicit creative self-expression, critical thinking, and artistry through the theater course offerings and stage productions. Students of all grade levels have opportunities to grow in the study of acting, singing, dancing, and musical and technical theater.

ATHLETICS

John Paul II High School has a young but growing tradition of athletic excellence — with a focus on competition, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and skill development. Student-athletes compete in 18 sports at the highest levels. Varsity sports include baseball, basketball (boys/girls), cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse (boys/girls), powerlifting, soccer (boys/girls), softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and water polo.

Over the years, teams have won five state championships, with student athletes winning individual state titles in golf, tennis, and track. Numerous athletes go on to play at the collegiate level each year.
SCHOOL LIFE

JPII’s robust extracurricular program offers a venue for all students to engage in the life of the school and develop their leadership skills. Students are encouraged to take part in existing clubs or start new clubs within their interest areas. Current clubs range from the Academic Decathlon to aviation, Ping-Pong to robotics, the National French Honor Society to the National Arts Honor Society, and more.

In addition to clubs and other extracurricular activities, John Paul II High School students regularly take part in community service, partnering with more than 80 nonprofits in the local area. Campus ministry is also integral to the school’s mission to educate the heart and mind, with students participating in daily mass, prayer services, class retreats, and mission trips.

JPII is one of four U.S. schools to participate in at a recent global innovation summit in Rome. Students presented innovative ways to deal with food insecurity among teens in Collin County, Texas, in partnership with the North Texas Food Bank.

CAMPUS

The JPII campus is located five miles from downtown Plano, Texas, and 20 miles north of downtown Dallas. The school sits on 48.5 acres and boasts 317,000 square feet of state-of-the-art educational space. The classrooms are all wired with advanced technology — including AI-based advanced motion tracking — for both in-person and remote learning.
The school added an athletic complex for football, soccer, and track in 2008. In 2011, through the generosity of the Templeton family, the school’s state-of-the-art East Sports Complex was opened, which includes softball and baseball fields, as well as eight championship tennis courts.

**PLANO, TEXAS**

Plano is an economically thriving community in the north end of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The current population is around 260,000.

Plano is named for the flat plains of this region. But the city is more varied and vibrant than its name suggests. It boasts great neighborhoods, strong education, high employment rates, iconic and authentic cuisine, and plenty of opportunities for the arts and entertainment. The introduction of a light rail system has helped improved the overall quality of life, as well. The city boosts a number of attractive tree-lined parks, recreation areas, and natural preserves. Top employers include Bank of America, Capitol One Finance, Toyota Motor North America, Frito Lay, and J.C. Penny.

Given its economic health and range of services, the city ranks high on national lists of best places to live. The weather is hot in summer, with the potential for strong thunderstorms, but pleasant throughout much of rest of the year. The cost of living is slightly above the nation’s average.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

John Paul II High School is a young and exciting diocesan school that is competing effectively in an education environment filled with high performing legacy institutions, public and private. The school is rock solid in every material, financial, and spiritual sense and is rapidly developing a brand and identity as a Tier I secondary school with considerable upside potential. The school’s next President will be expected to continue this impressive momentum while remaining true to its Catholic and diocesan values.

Some of the challenges for the new President will likely include the following:

• Maintain the outstanding academic reputation of the school while continuing to foster equally impressive outcomes for athletics, the arts, and other cocurricular activities.
• Develop a consistent admission policy that supports the inclusive mission of the school while holding the line on expected academic standards.
• Working closely with the board, develop a bold, credible, near-term vision and plan for the school and execute the plan with rigor and discipline.
• Carefully cultivate and demonstrate the distinct advantages of the President/Principal Model for the benefit of the school.
• Grow the donor base to enrich the financial condition of the school and begin building a culture of philanthropy that will expand access for needy students and sustain the important mission of the school as a welcoming and inclusive Catholic institution.
• Continue raising the profile and value proposition of the school’s Catholic and diocesan identity and model those core values in one’s leadership of the school.
DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

As mentioned earlier in this document, the school operates in the President/Principal Model. In this increasingly popular and powerful leadership structure, the Principal reports to the President/CEO and is responsible for overseeing day-to-day academic operations, which frees up the President to be the more outward facing “institution builder” – the fundraiser, friend raiser, vision-setter, and overall face of the school to the community. This key role will require a leader with exceptional poise, presence, energy, and communications skills. It will also require an effective team builder who will work in partnership with the Principal and senior leadership team in driving the agenda and achieving the board and diocese’s great ambitions for the school.

To qualify for this extraordinary opportunity, you will need to be a practicing Catholic and accomplished servant leader with passion for the vital mission of Catholic schools. The board and diocese welcome candidates from other Catholic or independent schools as well as accomplished executives from other mission-critical career venues such as higher education; non-profit foundations, associations, charities, and the like; or the corporate, civic, and professional services arenas. While knowledge of education and school operations is preferred, other qualities and experiences are also greatly valued, especially visionary, entrepreneurial leadership and the ability to inspire, lead a high performing team, and create demand for the extraordinary gifts of a Catholic education.

This is a rare and timely opportunity to take a high performing diocesan school to the next level while championing the critical role of Catholic schools for children, families, and communities.
TO APPLY

Interested candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence for an exploratory conversation. Qualified applicants for the position will ultimately need to submit by email the following separate documents (preferably PDFs):

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position
- A current and comprehensive résumé
- A statement of educational philosophy and practice
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

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