



# Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

## Pope John Paul II High School Weekly Newsletter

[DOWNLOAD THE JANUARY CALENDAR HERE](#)

### President's Office



<https://youtu.be/ojgNG08NZ1U>

As we begin Catholic Schools week we are pleased to share this video with you. Please consider making a gift to PJP in honor of Catholic Schools week. Also, share it with family and friends who like you appreciate the value of Catholic education.

### Keeping the Faith with PJP

The latest episode of Keeping the Faith with PJP is out now! In the fifth episode of Season 2 of KEEPING THE FAITH, Mr. Cazzetta and Mr. Souder dive into a conversation about the faith itself and what it means to be a member of our faith with Father Eugene Wilson, School Chaplain, at Pope John Paul II High School.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

### Academic Affairs

Please note that because of the necessary adjustments to the exam schedule last week, the first day of the 3rd Quarter and 2nd Semester will now be Tuesday, January 28th. Those students enrolled in semester long classes should report to their 1st semester class on Monday for their last day of class and will report to their new 2nd semester classes on Tuesday.



1st Semester Report Cards will be issued by Friday, February 7, 2025.

### AP Information Week is Coming



As we enter the 2nd half of the 2024-2025 Academic Year, we are busy looking forward to and preparing for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. During the 1st week of February, teachers in the classroom will spend time presenting to their students about the different AP Course Opportunities in their departments, course qualifications, and how to express interest in the courses. Each department has their own metrics for acceptance into AP Courses all of which involve the student expressing interest to their classroom teacher. As we move into February and closer to the Course Selection process, we also hold class meetings where students will learn about the Course Selection process and are again reminded of how to request consideration for admission to AP Courses.

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## Student Services



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Vaping? Yes, unfortunately many high school students are engaging in this behavior and we are concerned about the effects of nicotine on the developing brain. To support our student body, Pope John Paul II High School in partnership with Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will be encouraging students to proactively quit by launching a vape buy-back. The program is simple. The student voluntarily hands in their vaping devices, completes an 8 week virtual nicotine cessation program (with signed parent/guardian permission), and will receive an incentive upon completion. Disciplinary and legal consequences will NOT be pursued if the student voluntarily turns in their vape device.

Here is how it works:

1. Students can turn in their vape device to the PJP Guidance Office January 21st – January 31st at the start of school from 7:15 a.m. – 7:50 a.m., or from 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  2. Only vapes without THC will qualify for this program.
3. Students will be given a paper copy of the parent/guardian cessation program permission form to take home. An email from PJP will also be sent to the parent/guardian with the permission form. A permission form can be returned to the Guidance Office to enroll the student in the cessation program.
  4. Parent/guardian permission is due by February 14, 2025.
5. Students attend the virtual nicotine cessation program called N.O.T. (Not On Tobacco), which is an evidence-based program created by the American Lung Association. Virtual groups will be an hour a week for eight weeks. During these sessions, students will be encouraged to explore the facts about nicotine, the reasons they started vaping, and provide education on the psychological, physical, and social benefits of quitting.
  6. N.O.T. is provided for free by Montgomery County's contracted Student Assistance Program (SAP) Provider.
  7. N.O.T. programs will be 7pm – 8pm Mondays (2/17 to 4/7) or Wednesdays (2/19 to 4/9) Students will need to select which day of the week to attend.
8. Upon completion of the 8 week nicotine cessation program, students will be given the choice of one ticket to prom, \$100 school store credit, or \$100 Amazon gift card (emailed to parent) for their participation.

Considerations:

- This program does not apply to THC vapes. If a student turns in a *THC* vape, the school policy for discipline will be followed.
- Maximum allocation is ONE incentive of the student's choosing.
- Students caught on school property with vape devices without proactively turning them in, will not be eligible to participate.
- Once vape is turned in, it will NOT be returned to the student or parent/guardian even if the N.O.T. program is incomplete.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Warm Regards,

Rebecca Houchins  
Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator  
rebecca.houchins@pjphs.org

Helpful Links:

- Risks of Vaping
- Tips for Talking about Vaping and Mental Health
- Talk to Kids about Vaping at Home Guide

**THE RISKS OF VAPING**  
VAPING CAN EXPOSE YOU TO DANGEROUS CHEMICALS AND CAN LEAD TO NICOTINE ADDICTION.

Vapes contain a battery and e-liquid.

The battery heats the liquid and produces an aerosol or vapor that you inhale.

Many e-liquids contain propylene glycol, glycerol, flavorings, and nicotine — the same highly addictive drug found in cigarettes.

Some vapes contain as much nicotine as a whole pack of cigarettes.

Nicotine addiction causes you to crave nicotine and makes it hard to stop vaping.

Teens are more vulnerable than adults to addiction because their brains are still developing.

Exposure to nicotine as a teen can cause short-term and long-term effects on attention, learning, and memory that promote addiction to nicotine.

Vape aerosol can expose you to harmful chemicals like formaldehyde, acrolein, and acetaldehyde, as well as harmful metal particles like nickel and aluminum.

FORMALDEHYDE  
ACROLEIN  
ACETALDEHYDE

To learn more about the dangers of vaping, visit [www.fda.gov/youthvapingresources](http://www.fda.gov/youthvapingresources) or scan the QR code.

CTP-249



Youth vaping remains a public health concern. In 2022, the annual National Youth Tobacco Survey found that more than 2.5 million youth use e-cigarettes. Many teens vape on a regular basis, and most choose flavored e-cigarettes. Many kids think vaping is harmless, but it can have serious health consequences. Given the right tools and information, parents, educators, and other influential adults can make a profound difference in the lives of their children and students by sharing the facts and tips to help them stay safe.

### Facts About Teen Vaping

<p>Use this guide to start an honest conversation at home about e-cigarettes and addiction.</p>		<p>Most e-cigarettes <b>CONTAIN NICOTINE</b>, the same highly addictive chemical in regular cigarettes.</p>
<p>Many e-cigarettes are shaped like <b>USB STICKS, PENS, AND WATCHES</b>, which makes them easy to hide at school.</p>	<p>The data show that kids who vape are <b>MORE LIKELY TO START SMOKING</b> cigarettes.</p>	<p>Of current middle and high school e-cigarette users, <b>APPROXIMATELY 85%</b> report using a flavored product.</p>
<p>Because their brains are still developing, teens are more <b>SUSCEPTIBLE TO NICOTINE</b> addiction than adults.</p>	<p>Vaping is not safe. In fact, some vapes contain <b>AS MUCH NICOTINE AS A WHOLE PACK</b> of cigarettes.</p>	<p>Some e-cigarette aerosols contain chemicals, <b>SUCH AS FORMALDEHYDE</b>, that can cause cancer.</p>

## HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN, TWEENS & TEENAGERS ABOUT SUBSTANCES

<p><b>2-4 YEARS OLD</b> Your child is curious about medicine bottles they see in your home.</p> 	<p><b>WHAT TO SAY</b> You only take medicine when you're sick, and only if [list your trusted adults] give it to you. Sometimes medicine looks like candy, so always ask an adult before you touch it.</p>
<p><b>5-8 YEARS OLD</b> Your child has expressed curiosity about the substances they see on a regular basis [medication, alcohol, vaping devices].</p> 	<p><b>WHAT TO SAY</b> Sometimes adults use [medication, alcohol, vaping devices]. It doesn't mean that is safe for you to use. We can always talk about questions you might have.</p>
<p><b>9-12 YEARS OLD</b> Your child is just starting middle school and you know that it's more likely that they will now be exposed to substances at school or in social environments.</p> 	<p><b>WHAT TO SAY</b> I know we talked about this when you were younger, but you're at the age now when you might be seeing or hearing about other kids vaping, smoking, drinking or using drugs. Remember, our family does not allow those under 21 to use substances because it's bad for your health and your brain. I'm here for you and the best thing you can do is talk to me if you are confused or worried.</p>
<p><b>13-18 YEARS OLD</b> You're with your child and you both notice a few kids vaping.  Your child comes home smelling of alcohol or cigarette/marijuana smoke.</p> 	<p><b>WHAT TO SAY</b> It worries me to see kids using substances. What do you think about that? I know it can feel like most kids are using.  I want you to enjoy school and being with your friends, but I also expect you not to drink or use other drugs. You can talk to me about anything, and I will always be here to support and help you.  I'm really upset that you're smoking/drinking. I love you and care about you and want to understand why you chose to do it. Your health and well-being are what's most important, and I'm asking you to be honest. Tell me more about what happened and why you were [insert concerning behavior].</p>

## Development

Summer Camp

Exciting news! Summer camp session sign-ups are now live. Don't miss the chance to give your child an unforgettable summer filled with fun, learning, and adventure. Spots are limited, so secure your place today!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Panthers' Pack Kids Club

Do you have a student entering 4th-7th grade next year? Get them involved in our Panthers' Pack! Our exclusive kids club allows young future panthers the chance to connect with the school community well before the walk through the doors as freshmen

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

## Name That Tune

We're excited to announce a fun twist for this year's annual fundraiser event! Instead of Trivia Night, we'll be hosting Name That Tune, a lively evening of music, fun, and friendly competition.

**When:** Saturday, February 8th

**Time:** Doors open at 6:30 PM, and Name That Tune kicks off at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Pope John Paul II High School Cafeteria

**Included:** Drinks provided (BYO snacks!)

**Prizes:** Lots of exciting prizes to win!

**Tickets:**

- \$35 each
- \$200 for a table of 8

Gather your friends, bring your musical knowledge, and prepare for an unforgettable night of melodies and memories. Whether you're a solo superstar or part of a harmonious team, there's something for everyone.

Tickets are limited, so secure yours now!

We can't wait to see you there and hear you Name That Tune!

[CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS](#)

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## Savor The Flavor

We are thrilled to invite you to this year's Savor the Flavor: Prom Night, an evening dedicated to fun, laughter, and reconnecting with friends. This year's event, held on Saturday, May 17th 2025, promises to be more exciting than ever with live music, dancing, and a night to remember!

Here's what you can look forward to:

- A Live Band to keep you on your feet all night long.
- Delicious Restaurant Faire paired with an open bar to enjoy throughout the evening.
- Silent and Live Auctions offering a variety of unique items and experiences.

While there will be plenty of opportunities to bid on amazing prizes, the true heart of the evening is about letting loose, enjoying great food and drinks, and having a memorable night with friends.

Mark your calendar and get ready to relive the magic of prom—with a grown-up twist! More details, including ticket information, will be shared soon.

We can't wait to see you there!

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# Athletics

## Upcoming Home Events

### Tuesday 1/28

Freshmen Basketball vs Boyertown- 3:30

Boys Basketball vs Boyertown- JV 5:30, Varsity 6:45 (Senior Night)

### Thursday 1/30

Freshmen Basketball vs Perkiomen Valley- 3:30

Boys Basketball vs Perkiomen Valley- JV 5:30, Varsity 6:45

### Friday 1/31

Swim vs Upper Merion- 7:00 (Senior Night)

Ice Hockey vs Roman Catholic- 7:15 (Senior Night)

## Bag Bingo

Bag Bingo is returning on Friday, February 21st at PJP. Doors open at 6:00 PM with Bingo starting at 7:00 PM. Join us for Bingo, bags, raffles, and socializing. Tickets are \$40 for individuals and \$375 for a table of 10. Ticket prices include ALL beverages and 20 games of Bingo. All you need to bring is snacks and apps. Raffles for baskets sponsored by the athletic teams, 50/50 tickets, extra bingo cards, dobbers, and of course the raffle for the signature bag will be available. Please remember that this event is 21+. All proceeds from this event will go directly back to the athletic department to pay for things like Senior gifts, the Senior banquet and small equipment that benefits the overall department.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## Boys Soccer Meeting

There will be a boys soccer meeting for all returning soccer players after school on Wednesday January 29th in the student commons. All players that plan on playing next year should plan on attending.

## Free Heart Screening

Simon's Heart will be hosting a free heart screening on February 1st at Norristown High School. February 1st is National Youth Heart Screening Day. Students registered for screenings will be given an EKG and follow up with Cardiologists on site if needed. Students will also learn hands only CPR, and how to use an AED. To register for this event follow the link; <https://simonsheart.org/event/nyhsd-free-protect-this-heart-screening-2/>

## Spring Sports Update

Spring sports will officially begin on Monday, March 3rd 2025. To be eligible to participate all student athletes must have the appropriate PIAA forms uploaded to BigTeams prior to the start date. Please do not wait until the last minute to upload forms. If this is your student's first sport of the school year you will need to complete all the forms including a physical signed by a doctor. If this is your student's 2nd or 3rd sport you will just need to complete Section 7. To upload forms visit this link; <https://studentcentral.bigteams.com/index.php?keyword=/user/signin>

## Coaching Vacancies

Pope John Paul II High School has the following openings for coaches. If you know anyone interested please have them send their resume and cover letter to Tracey at [trarich@pjphs.org](mailto:trarich@pjphs.org).

Girls Lacrosse Assistant Coach

Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach

Track and Field Assistants (Throws and Jumps)

Head Football Coach

## Concession Stand

Call for Volunteers!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AADA62AA7FF2-53568159-202425>

We are looking for parents and students to volunteer for shifts at the concession stand for our basketball season. Students may also sign up to help and it counts towards their volunteer hour requirements.

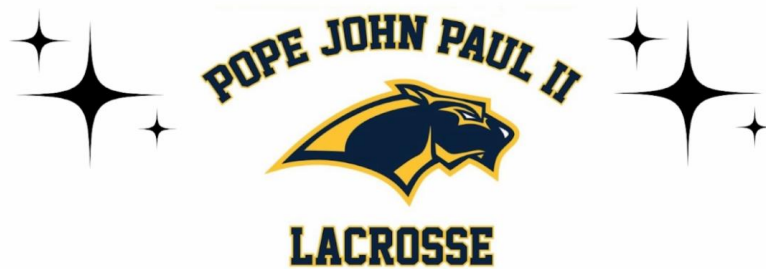
Thank you for your supporting our PJP Sports programs and Athletes!

## Fundraisers

### Boys Lacrosse

Dine and Donate

The boys lacrosse team is hosting a Dine and Donate at MaGerks in Royersford. Don't worry about cooking and support the team. It's a win win.



# Dine and Donate

Come support your  
PJP Boys Lacrosse Team!

Thursday, January 30th ALL DAY!

MaGerks is giving back 15% on dine in, carryout or online orders (drinks included) to the boys lacrosse team!



So join us, bring your family and friends, or order lunch for the office! Don't forget to bring this flyer or mention that you are there for the Dine and Donate!

We appreciate your support!  
Go Panthers!

### Ice Hockey

The PJ Patriots are selling raffle tickets. Over \$1k in prizes. You can buy 1 ticket for \$10, 3 tickets for \$20, or 10 tickets for \$50. All proceeds go to the PJ Patriots Hockey Club. To purchase tickets contact any PJ Patriots player or reach out to Angela Wentling at [angelawentling@comcast.net](mailto:angelawentling@comcast.net).

# RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Come support the PJ Patriots Ice Hockey Club.

**Over \$1,000 in Prizes!!  
Six winners will be chosen.  
Need not be present to win.**



1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, or 10 for \$50

## PRIZE 1 - Gift Card Basket (\$255 Value)

\$100 Weis Markets  
\$100 Giant Foods  
\$25 Dicks Sporting Goods  
\$30 UNO Pizzeria and Grill



## PRIZE 2 - Escape Room Basket (\$152 Value)

Qty 4 - Passes to the Escape Game at the King of Prussia Mall



## PRIZE 3 - Golf Basket (\$192 Value)

Qty 2 - Mid-Week Presidential Course 18-Holes at the Hickory Valley Golf Club  
Qty 1 - Walts Golf Packet (Qty 4 Mini-Golf Farm Course, Qty 4 Mini-Golf Castle Course, Qty 4 Par 3)



## PRIZE 4 - Winter Fun Basket (\$190 Value)

Qty 2 - Bear Creek Extended Day Ski Vouchers  
Qty 4 - Oaks Center Ice Public Ice Skating includes Skate Rentals



## PRIZE 5 - Ice Skating & YMCA Bag Basket (\$100 Value)

Qty 1 - YMCA Gym Bag containing water bottle, umbrella, fleece blanket  
Qty 4 - Oaks Center Ice Public Ice Skating includes Skate Rentals



## PRIZE 6 - The Historic State Theatre Free Rental Basket (\$300 Value)

Includes 20 small popcorn. Bring a personal DVD or BlueRay to play on the big screen. Sits up to 200 friends and family. Located in Boyertown, PA.



**RAFFLE DRAWING ON  
JANUARY 31, 2025**



Instagram: [pj\\_patriots\\_ice\\_hockey](https://www.instagram.com/pj_patriots_ice_hockey)



## Guidance Office

### Junior Parent College Information Night (Virtual Event) - Tuesday, January 28th, at 6:30 PM

Junior parents and guardians are invited to PJP's "Junior Parent College Information Night" via Zoom on Tuesday, January 28th, at 6:30 p.m. This is a virtual, information session hosted by Mrs. Mary Frances Traywick, Director of Guidance at PJP, explaining key aspects of the college admission process. Topics will include: the college search, Naviance, college application details and criteria, the Common Application, the SRAR (self-reported academic record), standardized testing, junior / senior year timeline, and upcoming events. If you have any questions, please just reach out to Mrs. Traywick at [mjtraywick@pjphs.org](mailto:mjtraywick@pjphs.org).

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE ZOOM](#)

### Seniors - Midyear Grades to Colleges

As the first semester comes to a close, some colleges may request your midyear grades. Most colleges do not require midyear grades, so they are only sent if requested. If requested, an updated academic report, which will include your first and second marking period grades, as well as first semester grades, will be sent to the colleges you indicate. Please complete the Midyear Grade Request Form (below) if your college(s) are requiring midyear grades.

If your college does not request your midyear grades but you would like to submit them, then please check



your portal first to see if grades can be uploaded (this is the quickest, most efficient way). If you cannot upload senior grades to your portal, then please complete the Midyear Grade Request Form (below). If you self-reported your initial transcript (ex. SRAR), then you need to self-report your midyear grades, as well. Please let Mrs. Bell know if you need an updated copy of your transcript for reference.

Midyear transcript requests will be processed beginning the week of February 3rd, which is when the second quarter grades, first semester grades, GPA and rank will be finalized and validated. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Bell at [dbell@pjphs.org](mailto:dbell@pjphs.org).

Please complete this form [Mid-Year Grade Request](#) if you need your grades to be sent.

## SENIORS - College Acceptance and Scholarship & Grant Awards Please Submit to the Guidance Office

As the first semester comes to a close, some colleges may request your midyear grades. Most colleges do not require midyear grades, so they are only sent if requested. If requested, an updated academic report, which will include your first and second marking period grades, as well as first semester grades, will be sent to the colleges you indicate. Please complete the Midyear Grade Request Form (below) if your college(s) are requiring midyear grades.

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Please complete this form [Mid-Year Grade Request](#) if you need your grades to be sent.

## College Standardized Test Dates & Registration Deadlines for National Test Days

SAT TESTING – Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

SAT Test Date (2024-2025 School Year)	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Late Registration
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025

*SAT School Day Testing at PJP (for Juniors only) – PJP will offer the SAT School Day Test on April 16, 2025. Registration information for this test will be supplied to students in February*

ACT TESTING - Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

ACT Test Date (2024-2025 School Year)	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Late Registration
February 8, 2025	January 3, 2025	January 20, 2025
April 5, 2025	February 28, 2025	March 16, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025

July 12, 2025

June 5, 2025

June 20, 2025

## Educational Enrichment Opportunities

Below is a Google Doc link listing programs that PJP students can engage in that are offered by organizations and universities across the country. Many of the programs are competitive and have deadlines that need to be followed. There is more detailed information on the websites listed, including application processes and associated fees. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Bell, College & Career Coordinator, at [dbell@pjpsh.org](mailto:dbell@pjpsh.org) or your child's school counselor.

[2024-2025 Educational Enrichment Opportunities - Google Docs](#)

## Scholarship Newsletter

Below is a Google Doc link listing scholarships that the PJP Guidance Department has learned of and wants to share with you. This page will be updated frequently, so please bookmark it and check back often to review and learn of any scholarships that your student may qualify for and/or have an interest in!

[Scholarship Newsletter - Google Docs](#)

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# Have a great week!

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181 Rittenhouse Road | Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468 | **PHONE:** (484) 975-6500 | **FAX:** (610) 792-3082 | [pjpsh.org](http://pjpsh.org)

Pope John Paul II High School | 181 Rittenhouse Rd. | Royersford, PA 19468 US

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