



## Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

### Pope John Paul II High School Weekly Newsletter

[DOWNLOAD THE JANUARY CALENDAR HERE](#)

#### President's Office

##### Kudos to Kairos

Today I had the pleasure and honor to speak at the Kairos retreat. The student leadership for this Kairos were JJ Carbo, Luca DiMaio, Angelina Doppel, Jimmy Kenning, Maddie Memmom, Brooke Pappa, Maddie Porter and Nick Satalin. Congratulations on a job well done.

##### Brining the PJP Community Together

The next several PJP Weekly's will have information about Savor The Flavor. This event is PJP's one school-wide event to raise money to support all students. Many of the opportunities provided for students are funded via the proceeds from Savor The Flavor. There are many ways to participate including signing up as a sponsor, purchasing tickets (which will go on sale soon) and providing an item(s) for the Silent and or Live Auctions. The event is Saturday, May 17th. Your school point of contact is Sarah Bauer ([sarah.bauer@pjphs.org](mailto:sarah.bauer@pjphs.org)).

#### Academic Affairs

We are quickly approaching the midpoint of the year which brings with it midterm assessments and the close of both the 2nd quarter and the 1st semester. Some important notes about midterms:

- These cumulative assessments cover material from the 1st semester.
- The mid term assessments for all year long courses are scored as an assessment in the 2nd quarter. (*Meaning that their impact on the final grade is no more significant than any other assessment*)
- In 12th Grade Theology, and all semester-long electives, these assessments serve as the final assessment of the course and are weighted as 10% of the final grade.
- In all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade Theology courses, these assessments serve as a mid-term assessment that is weighted as 5% of the final grade. In Theology courses, this assessment has no impact on the 2nd quarter or 1st semester grades.

Not all assessments are EXAMS. An assessment is any tool used to measure student understanding and may also be in the form of a project or report. Some teachers may utilize an alternative assessment such as these. For those classes where the assessment is test, the tests will be taken in class on the following schedule. There will be no other assessments during this week. (Though, the due dates for alternative assessments may fall during this week on no particular day)

## Mid-Term Assessment Schedule

<b>TUESDAY January 21, 2025</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY January 22, 2025</b>	<b>THURSDAY January 23, 2025</b>	<b>FRIDAY January 24, 2025</b>
Mathematics	Science	ELA	AP Sciences
Theology	Business	Social Studies	Conflicts*
Health and Physical Education	World Language	Fine Arts	Make-Ups* *By arrangement with teacher

## 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.

**STAY VAPE-FREE.** Avoid nicotine addiction. If you already vape, you can quit. It may take several tries, but you can do it. If you need help, visit [teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping](https://teen.smokefree.gov/quit-vaping).

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

CTP-244

**TALK TO KIDS**  
ABOUT THE RISKS OF VAPING  
Use this guide at home

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

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

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

### 2-4 YEARS OLD

Your child is curious about medicine bottles they see in your home.



#### WHAT TO SAY

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.

### 5-8 YEARS OLD

Your child has expressed curiosity about the substances they see on a regular basis [medication, alcohol, vaping devices].



#### WHAT TO SAY

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.

### 9-12 YEARS OLD

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.



#### WHAT TO SAY

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.

### 13-18 YEARS OLD

You're with your child and you both notice a few kids vaping.

Your child comes home smelling of alcohol or cigarette/marijuana smoke.



#### WHAT TO SAY

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].

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## Office of School Ministry

### March For Life DC

We are attending the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 24th. If your son or daughter is interested in attending, we will be leaving PJP at 5:45am and returning around 7:00pm. We will be traveling via Amtrak and the Metro. Cost of the trip is \$40, any student interested is encouraged to email Mr. Koz ([kkoz@pjphs.org](mailto:kkoz@pjphs.org)).

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29

# DAY OF SERVICE

PJP would like to practice our Catholic values by continuing an interactive day of service that began in 2019.

We will be making care packages for nursing home residents, Birthday boxes for homeless youth, Breakfast bags for elderly homebound persons, and blankets for the homeless.



We ask that each grade donates specific items in homeroom.

BRING IN ITEMS BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

# DAY OF SERVICE

SENIORS & M1: \$2 donation for materials

JUNIORS: B1 - Granola Bars, B2 - Oatmeal Packets, B3 - Gallon Size Storage Bags, B4 - Peanut Butter Crackers, B5 - Packs of Raisins, B6 - Apple Juice Boxes, B7 - Tea Bags and Hot Chocolate Packs,

SOPHOMORES: C1 - Balloons and Markers, C2 - Birthday Cups and Napkins, C3 - Birthday Paper plates and Forks, C4 - Small toys/Party favors, C5 - Coloring Books, C6 - Crayons and Colored Pencils, C7 - Streamers or decorations

FRESHMEN: D1 - Deodorant, D2 - Hand Sanitizer, D3 - Toothpaste, Toothbrushes and floss D4 - Sugar free Candy D5 - Shampoo and Hand Lotion, D6 - Packs of Socks, D7 - Body wash and Wipes





# Student Affairs



**PANTHERON  
DONUT DAY**

**WEDNESDAY  
JANURAY 15**

**\$1**

**PANTHERON**

A promotional poster for Pantheron Donut Day. It features a stack of six donuts with various toppings (chocolate, pink frosting, white frosting, green frosting, pink frosting, chocolate) and two individual donuts (one powdered, one chocolate). The background is blue with white polka dots and a white cloud. The Pantheron logo is at the bottom left.



**\$8**

**INCLUDES A WATER  
AND BAG OF CHIPS**

**January 28**

**CHICK-FIL-A  
FUNDRAISER**

for the benefit of Pantheron

**PRE-ORDER BY JANUARY 22**

- Order a Chick-fil-a Sandwich or Nuggets for lunch on January 28
- Use the link to order a Chick-fil-a sandwich or 8 piece nuggets.
- Bring in the money to the Student Affairs Office by Monday, January 27.

**PANTHERON**

**Chick-fil-A**

A promotional poster for a Chick-fil-A fundraiser. It features a Chick-fil-A sandwich, a bag of chips, and a box of nuggets. The background is grey with a white circle containing the Chick-fil-A logo. The Pantheron logo is at the top right.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER CHICK-FIL-A](#)

**Parent's Association**

On Friday, January 24th, the PJP II Parents' Association will be serving hot chocolate and cookies to the students during their lunches. This will take place during their assessments week and we hope it will be a special treat for them while they are studying. We need your help to make this a success. Please use the link sign up below to donate items for this fun day. Please remember that all cookies must be store bought, not homemade. All items can be dropped off in the main office by 8:00 am on the morning of the 24th.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

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## 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 1/21

Freshmen Basketball vs Methacton- 3:30 PM

Boys Basketball vs Methacton- JV 5:30 PM, Varsity 6:45 PM

#### Wednesday 1/22

Wrestling vs Phoenixville- 6:30 PM (Senior Night)

#### Thursday 1/23

Girls Basketball vs Pottstown- 6:00 PM (Senior Night)

#### Friday 1/24

Swim vs Norristown- 7:00 PM (Spring Valley YMCA)

### 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

### 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)



### Girls Basketball

The Girls Basketball team is selling tickets to win a Basket of Cheer. You can buy 1 ticket for \$8 or 3 tickets for \$20. All proceeds go to the girls basketball team. All participants must be over the age of 21. To purchase tickets, contact any girls basketball parent or reach out to Jen Satalin at [jenlangtry@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlangtry@yahoo.com).



**PJPGirls  
Basketball  
Fundraiser:  
"Basket of Cheer"**

**1 ticket for  
\$8  
3 tickets for  
\$20**

**Drawing on January 23rd , 2025**

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## Tuition Office

### Important Reminder From The Tuition Office

As we approach the second semester, please ensure that all tuition accounts are up to date. Accounts must be current to avoid late fees and maintain a smooth transition into the next semester.

Additionally, if you haven't yet submitted your **FACTS Financial Aid Application** for the 2025-2026 school year, please complete it as soon as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

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## Health Suite

Parents of 11th Grade Students who haven't turned in Junior Physical Exams with updated vaccines were emailed on Jan 14, 2025. Please turn in missing exams as soon as possible.

10th Grade Students can begin turning in Junior Physical Exams with age 16 well-checks to meet this requirement early!

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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 | [pjphs.org](http://pjphs.org)

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