



Pope John Paul II HIGH SCHOOL

Pope John Paul II High School Weekly Newsletter

[DOWNLOAD THE JANUARY CALENDAR HERE](#)

President's Office

Happy New Year!

I am reaching out to share some updates regarding enrollment, student financial assistance, and the school budget.

Enrollment: Enrollment for the incoming class (Class of 2029) is currently at 101. On this same date one year ago, enrollment for that incoming class (Class of 2028) was at 86. Our enrollment goal is 197 and based on enrollment trends for the last several years, we are on track to meet or exceed that goal.

Student Financial Assistance: We are thrilled that a larger number of parents are currently supporting PJP, specifically via the EITC program. This program provides much-needed student financial assistance to families who value Catholic education but need some help in making it possible. EITC also allows donors to decide where their tax dollars go while giving them up to 90% return via a tax credit. As I have said in earlier correspondences, look at line 12 of your PA State Tax Return; if that number is \$1000 or more, then let's have a conversation, as you would benefit from participating in EITC.

The Budget: The budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year (which begins on July 1, 2025) is currently being reviewed by the Office of Catholic Education. Once it is finalized, which should be in early February, I will be able to communicate the tuition and school fee for the 2025-26 school year.

Thank you for entrusting PJP with your child's education. Your choice means so much, and we truly appreciate it.

Principal's Office

Happy New Year! As we begin the new year with resolutions, why not encourage your child to be healthy! Please see our new Vape Cessation/buy back program that we are kicking off this month.

Congratulations to our very own Norah Busch, our very first Gatorade volleyball player of the year for Pennsylvania! This is a huge accomplishment as this award recognizes not just athletic achievement but also academic excellence and community involvement. We are very proud of Norah and all our Golden Panthers!

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

TUESDAY January 21, 2025	WEDNESDAY January 22, 2025	THURSDAY January 23, 2025	FRIDAY January 24, 2025
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.

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

HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN, TWEENS & TEENAGERS ABOUT SUBSTANCES

<p>2-4 YEARS OLD Your child is curious about medicine bottles they see in your home.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>5-8 YEARS OLD Your child has expressed curiosity about the substances they see on a regular basis [medication, alcohol, vaping devices].</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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].</p>

Office of School Ministry

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).

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



MLK Day Of Service

On Monday January 20th the PJP Community Service Corps will be sponsoring a service trip to St. Edmond's Home for Children. It is a home for 40 multiply physically and mentally challenged children located about 5 minutes from Villanova University. We will meet that morning in the PJP parking lot at 9 a.m., get on a bus to go to St. Edmonds where we will do activities and games with the kids alongside the staff and activities director for the home. We should be back at PJP no later than 12:45. The trip is free of charge and will provide 5 hours of community service. This trip has become a great tradition for PJP and generally is lots of fun while also being very powerful. This trip is open to the first 40 people who sign up. If you are interested or would like more info please see Mr. Dunn in room 143.

Student Affairs

NHS Tutoring

Struggling in a class? Need help with homework, test prep, or study support? NHS is here to help! We offer free tutoring in any subject, on your schedule! Whether you need help with homework, preparing for a test, or reviewing key concepts, our NHS tutors are ready to assist you. You can count on personalized, one-on-one sessions tailored to your needs.

How It Works:

- Homework Help: Struggling with assignments? Our tutors will guide you step by step.
- Test Prep: Prepare for exams with confidence! Our tutors can help you review and practice.
- Study Support: Need extra help with understanding class material? We'll make sure you're ready to succeed!

How to Request a Tutor: Simply click on this [link](#) to request a tutor or scan a QR code from the NHS tutoring flyers hung around the school building. We adapt to your schedule, so you can get the help you need at a time that works for you!

Additionally, we offer a Tutoring Help Desk every Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 PM in the Panthers' Learning Center (PLC). Drop by for any last-minute help or questions you may have and our NHS members can assist you.

Special Midterm Tutoring Week:

In preparation for midterms, NHS will be holding extra tutoring sessions every day after school in the PLC from 2:30 to 3:30 PM from January 13th to 17th. Come by for additional support as you prepare for your exams!

If you have any questions or need more information, don't hesitate to reach out to nhs@pjphs.org.

Kind regards,
NHS

New Director Of Institutional Advancement

PJP is pleased to welcome Susan Mollahan as the Director of Institutional Advancement at Pope John Paul II High School. Susan brings a wealth of experience from role as Advancement Director at Holy Cross Regional School.

Susan will be responsible for leading the fundraising efforts of Pope John Paul II High School by creating a strong awareness among various constituencies that showcases the school as the ideal choice for philanthropy, volunteerism, and most importantly education of young people to develop into their best self. Working side-by-side with the President, the Director of Institutional Advancement has the ultimate goal of significantly increasing fundraising outcomes that should ultimately have a positive effect on enrollment management and thus sustaining the future good health of the school.

Susan's dedication to Catholic education and our community makes her a wonderful addition to the Golden Panther family. Susan is a proud PJP parent to her two children, Josie and Sean. Please join us in welcoming Susan to her new role with the PJP Community. Susan can be reached at susan.mollahan@pjphs.org.

Senior Prom Transportation Committee

We are looking for a few parents and students to come together to discuss the possible need for alternate transportation for the Senior Prom in May. If interested, please email Mrs. Honyara by January 15.



A promotional graphic for Chick-fil-A. At the top left, there is an image of a sandwich and a nugget. Below them is a large red '\$8' logo. To the right is the Chick-fil-A logo in red script. Below the logo is an image of a bag of nuggets. In the top right corner, there is a small blue and white 'PANTHERON' logo. The text 'INCLUDES A WATER AND BAG OF CHIPS' is written in black below the '\$8'. The date 'January 28' is written in a grey font below the text. The main title 'CHICK-FIL-A FUNDRAISER' is in large, bold, red letters. Below it, 'for the benefit of Pantheon' is in a smaller grey font. 'PRE-ORDER BY JANUARY 22' is in bold red letters. A bulleted list of instructions follows.

\$8

INCLUDES A WATER
AND BAG OF CHIPS

January 28

**CHICK-FIL-A
FUNDRAISER**

for the benefit of Pantheon

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.

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

Office of School Ministry

Adoration

Every Friday, our students have the opportunity to sit with the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration in the Chapel. We invite our parents to join us and spend an hour with Jesus—a beautiful opportunity to pray, reflect, and be in His presence.

Please consider signing up for an hour of Adoration. Your participation not only deepens your own spiritual journey but also supports our school community's faith-filled environment. Together, let us grow in faith and trust in the Lord.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

NextTrex Recycling Challenge

Dear families:

We are excited to announce that we are halfway to our goal in the NextTrex Recycling Challenge; to date collecting 500 pounds of plastic bags and films! If we reach our goal of 1,000 pounds our school will be rewarded with a beautiful Trex bench made from recycled materials.

What is the NextTrex Recycling Challenge?

The NextTrex Recycling Challenge aims to promote the recycling of plastic films, a significant yet often overlooked component of our daily waste. Our challenge period runs until May 7, 2025.

Please continue to:

1. **Collect Eligible Plastic Film:** Most polyethylene (PE) plastic film and bags, labeled as #2 or #4 are recyclable. Please ensure all plastic is clean, dry and free of food residue. I am sure there is a lot of recyclable material left from the Christmas holiday! Please see the attached infographics for more details on what IS and IS NOT recyclable.
2. **Drop-off Locations:** You can bring your collected plastic film to PJP; collection containers are located at the school entrance, Legacy atrium, athletic department and outside the environmental science classroom, room 154.
3. **Spread the Word:** Encourage your friends, family, and community members to join us in this recycling effort. The more people involved, the greater our impact!

Thank you so much!

**DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS
IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS**

FROZEN FOOD BAGS **CANDY BAR WRAPPERS** **CHIP BAGS** **NET OR MESH PRODUCE BAGS** **PET FOOD BAGS**

OR THESE

- ✗ Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- ✗ Pre-washed salad mix bags
- ✗ Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- ✗ Six-pack rings
- ✗ PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear
- ✗ Pool covers
- ✗ Lamination film
- ✗ Silage and hay bags
- ✗ Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- ✗ Bedding or linen packaging
- ✗ Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap
- ✗ Backyard ice rinks

DON'T SEE YOUR ITEM ON THE LIST?
Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NextTrex® bin.

NW works **NextTrex** **RECYCLED IN AMERICA**

trex.com/recycling 540-542-6930

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Athletics

Upcoming Home Events

Tuesday 1/14/25

Freshmen Boys Basketball vs Pottsgrove- 3:30 PM
Boys Basketball vs Pottsgrove- JV 5:30 PM, Varsity 6:45 PM

Wednesday 1/15/25

Wrestling vs Norristown- 6:30 PM

Thursday 1/16/25

Girls Basketball vs Upper Perkiomen- JV 5:30 PM, Varsity 6:45 PM

Friday 1/17/25

Swimming vs Pottsgrove- 7:00 PM (Spring Valley YMCA)

Coaching Openings

PJP Athletics has the following coaching opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested, please send resume to Tracey at trarich@pjphs.org

Assistant Baseball Coach (JV Head Coach)
Track and Field Assistants (Throws and Jumps)

Spring Sports

Spring sports will begin on Monday, March 3rd. If your son or daughter is interested in participating in one of the sports during the season, make sure you are getting in contact with the coaches now.

Boys Lacrosse: Coach Sloat, boyslacrosse@pjphs.org
Girls Lacrosse: Coach Hughes, girlslacrosse@pjphs.org
Softball: Coach Faella, softball@pjphs.org

Baseball: Coach Deluzio, baseball@pjphs.org
Track and Field: Coach Cagliola, trackandfield@pjphs.org
Boys Tennis: Coach McDonough, Boystennis@pjphs.org
Girls Flag Football: Coach TBA, flagfootball@pjphs.org

Fundraiser

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.



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

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

Drawing on January 23rd , 2025

Concession Stand

Now that we are into Winter sports please consider signing up for the concession stand. The concession stand is run by the PJPAC which provides Senior Athletes a gift at the end of year and pays for the Senior Athlete portion of the banquet at the end of the year. Students can also work the concession stand for service hours.

Signup at the following link:

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

Bag Bingo

Save the date for Bag Bingo on February 21st, 2025. This exciting fundraiser directly benefits PJP Athletics. If you are interested in helping with the planning please reach out to Tracey at trarich@pjphs.org.

Studio 38

Mandatory Parent Meeting

There is a mandatory meeting for parents of the cast/crew/pit of Grease on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30 in the auditorium. At least one parent must attend. If you have not filled out the parent form for your cast/crew/pit member, please do so immediately. Thank you!

Panthers' Den

Physical Education Uniforms - Second Semester

If your child is enrolled in Physical Education this upcoming semester with Mr. Wilson, please complete the order form [HERE](#). In an effort to streamline the process of ordering gym uniforms, the requested uniform sizes and quantities will be distributed in class. Shirts are \$10 and shorts are \$16. The uniform costs (\$10 per shirt and \$16 per shorts) will be charged to the FACTS account.

Health Suite

JUNIORS: Still looking for [Junior physical exams](#) and updated vaccinations for age if not already turned in.

SOPHOMORES: It's not too early to send in your 10th grader's 16-year well check to satisfy the Junior physical requirement. Use the [Junior physical exam](#) link above if a form is needed.

Have a great week!

181 Rittenhouse Road | Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468 | **PHONE:** (484) 975-6500 | **FAX:** (610) 792-3082 | pjphs.org

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

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