



An Education You Can Believe In

Inspiring Achievement. Celebrating Community.
Embracing Service. Living Faith.

“St. John Paul II School not only has high academic standards but also makes the fine arts a very important part of its curriculum. Music and Band are held to high standards at this school and the children regularly perform for the student body at many school functions. The students look forward to performing for Mass, Community Meetings, Christmas Concerts, Grandparent’s Day and many other functions. We often hear about schools making budget cuts and dropping their music and art classes, so I am very happy to say that not only is this not true at St. John Paul II, but it is quite the opposite! The support for the music program here is amazing!”

—JILL HERNANDEZ
St. John Paul II School
Instrumental and Choral Music teacher

“As parents, we were tired of our children being subjected to ‘teaching to the test’ so we spent the better part of a year searching for the right place for our children. We wanted a school that would embrace individualized learning. Our family was not only looking for strong academics but also the blending of kindness and caring. We found everything we were looking for at St. John Paul II and know without a doubt that this is the best choice we (have) ever made for our children.”

—STEVE AND LISA MOTTO
Parents

Mission

The mission of St. John Paul II, a regional diocesan school, is to engage each student in the dual priorities of a challenging academic program that will promote life-long learning and a Catholic, Gospel-based faith formation, through a structured, family-centered and safe environment that values diversity and enriches the life experience of its students.

Faculty

St. John Paul II is proud of its faculty and their dedication to students. Teachers are united in a desire to see their students succeed, and their investment shows in student progress and engagement. In turn, St. John Paul II invests in and supports teachers through ongoing professional learning and coaching.

Through the Teachscape program, teachers receive data from regular classroom observations focusing on effective instruction. They reflect on the feedback, dialogue with their colleagues and the principal, and set goals to continually improve instruction. This iterative process creates a collegial community committed to excellence, with student learning front and center. Working in professional learning communities cultivates a spirit of collegiality and camaraderie at St. John Paul II.

At St. John Paul II School, teaching is more than a profession, it is a calling.

PreK–Eighth Grade

PreKindergarten Program (students 4 years old by December 31st)

PreK 4: Full-day five or three day options are available.

Kindergarten (students 5 years old by December 31st): Full day program

School hours: 7:30 a.m.–1:50 p.m.

Complimentary before school supervision begins at 7:00 a.m.

Extended Care Program for PreK–8th grade offered from 2:00–6:00 p.m.



FAQs

Why do people choose Catholic education for their children?

The most quoted reasons parents chose Catholic schools are any or all of the following: faith formation; academic rigor; value-added education; safe environment; parental involvement.

Does my child have to be Catholic to attend?

St. John Paul II School warmly welcomes children of all faiths and is respectful of each student's religious tradition. All students will study the scriptures and traditions of the Catholic faith, attend Mass and religious functions, and study religion as part of the curriculum. While non-Catholic students are expected to participate in these aspects of school life, they are not required to give assent to the Catholic faith. We believe we are greatly enriched by our relationship with those of other faiths.

Are the teachers qualified?

St. John Paul II School teachers are CT certified, or currently in the process of certification. Most have advanced degrees. Many have several years experience. Each teacher is involved in ongoing professional development to stay current with the best practices in teaching and learning in his or her subject.

What will my child study?

The course of study includes reading and writing (language arts), mathematics, social studies, science, religion, Spanish, art, music (vocal and instrumental), technology, and physical education.

What extracurricular activities are available?

Activities planned include sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf; Girl Scouts/Daisies, Boy Scouts, band, drama, Student Council, Engineering with Legos, team-building club, Praise Team, Math Counts, Service Teams, Invention Convention.

Is there a dress code?

Yes, PreK–8th grade students wear uniforms and follow the dress code described in the student handbook.

Will there be before or after school care?

Yes, before school care is available from 7:00 a.m. and after school extended care will run until 5:30 p.m. There is a nominal per hour fee for after school extended care.

Do you have a preschool program?

Yes, we offer a prekindergarten program for children turning 4 by December 31st of the school year. This is offered full-time, five days or three days. The program provides a strong foundation for kindergarten.

Is busing available?

Yes, to Middletown residents for students in grades K–8th.

Can I be involved?

Yes, we consider parents our partners and offer many ways for you to be involved. Our Home School Association is an organization of parents who promote the school by sponsoring activities and fundraising for school projects and enhancements for students. We love to have parents involved!

When can I enroll?

St. John Paul II School has a rolling admissions policy, so application can be made anytime. However, we preserve smaller class sizes to maximize learning therefore, classes may fill.

"I am very proud to be a teacher at St. John Paul II School. I believe in Catholic education because we are fortunate to have a mission that develops the whole student and is committed to providing students with faith-based teaching. My most important teaching goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to grow spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically. There is nothing more fulfilling than entering a classroom every day and be greeted by the smiling faces of children who have the enthusiasm and desire to learn something new!"

— JOAN SMITH
St. John Paul II School
PreK teacher

"We see St. John Paul II as an extension of our own family. The core values and quality of the education speak for themselves. We couldn't be happier with the complete education of the mind, body and spirit our boys are receiving."

— KEVIN AND ALLISON DONNELLY
Parents

"Teaching at a Catholic school has been an amazing experience. The staff, students, and especially the parents welcome new faculty and staff with open arms. It is such a warm and loving community to be a part of."

— TARA FALDMAN
St. John Paul II School
Science teacher

Academics

Reading/Literature/Language Arts

Learning to read is critical to a child's future learning in school. St. John Paul II is dedicated to providing instruction that develops strong, competent readers. In the early grades the focus is on phonics, reading comprehension, and oral fluency. **The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2)** is used three times per year to measure progress of K–3 readers. This helps teachers individualize students' reading instruction, and, if needed, intervene with additional support. In the middle grades, the focus shifts to enriched literature, reading comprehension, close reading and textual evidence with a strong emphasis on writing.

Spanish Immersion Program

St. John Paul II School offers a unique Spanish program that offers full language immersion in grades 1–5, focusing on conversation and vocabulary. These fast-paced, engaging classes are "Spanish only" and students love them. Students are well prepared to proceed in middle school (grades 6–8) to a high school preparation program focused on Spanish reading, writing, and grammar.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

St. John Paul II's commitment to ongoing **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** education begins early and extends throughout the student's education at JPII.

- In science, K–5 students build a foundation with the highly regarded, interactive **Nancy Larson Science Program**. In the state of the art science lab, middle school students explore earth, physical and life science. Field trips and special science programs supplement our classes.
- Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum through weekly technology classes, interactive boards, a mobile laptop lab, android tablets, and supplemental apps and online programs. Our seventh and eighth graders receive a Windows laptop as part of our 1:1 program.
- K–5 students learn coding & engineering principles in technology classes and through **Engineering with Legos** and **Invention Convention**. Middle school students may participate in **Junior Robotics & Engineering Club**.
- Mathematics is a core course in all grades, with a focus on skill fluency, problem solving and application. Middle school math is leveled so that each student has the opportunity for success at his or her own pace. Offerings progress to Algebra and Advanced Algebra.



Extracurricular Opportunities

Core Courses

- Reading/Literature
- Religion
- Language Arts/Writing
- Social Studies
- Science
- Spanish

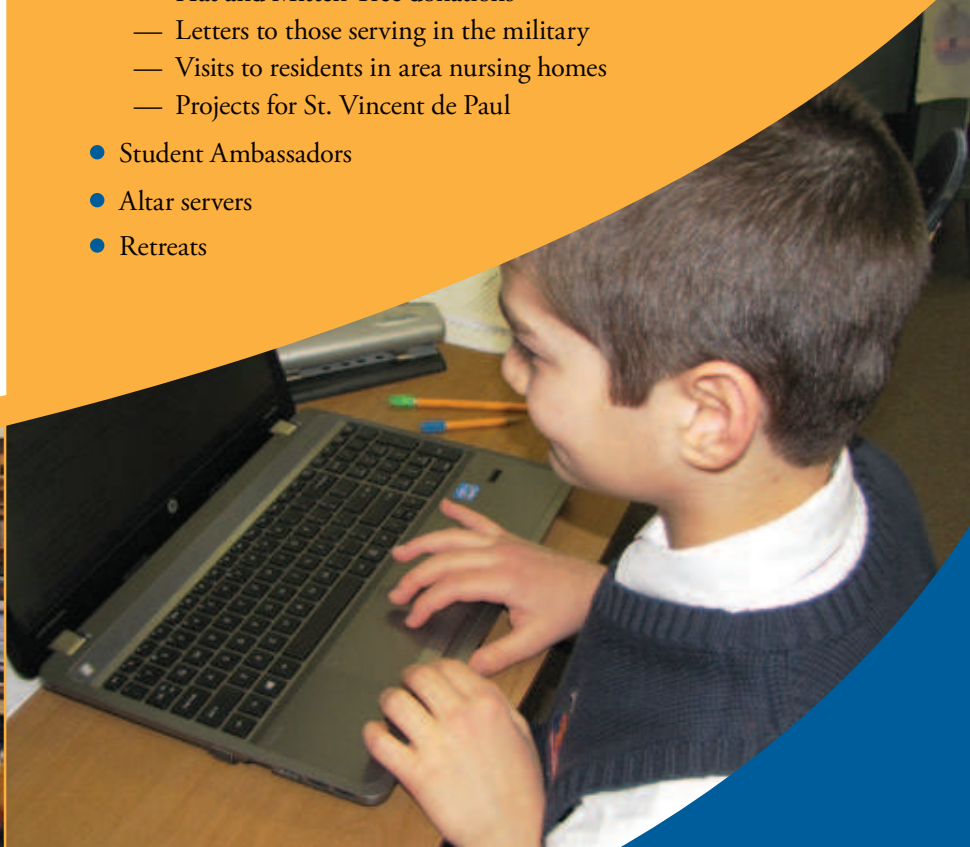
Academic Support and Enrichment

- Supplemental programs such as:
 - Razz Kids Reading (PreK–grade 3)
 - Kahn Academy (K–8)
- ETS's Criterion Writing Program (grades 6–8)
- Daily after-school homework lab (grades 3–8)
- Reading and Math intervention tutoring
- Study skills groups
- Reading "Buddies"
- High school entrance exam test prep course

Special Courses

- General Music
- Instrumental Music and Band
- Middle School Chorus
- Art
- Technology
- Physical Education
- Library
- D.A.R.E. course (grade 6)

- Sports teams:
 - Basketball (grades 3–8)
 - Cross Country (grades 6–8)
 - Soccer (grades 3–8)
- Chorus and Band
- Drama
- Praise Team band and singers
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- After school clubs and activities
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Engineering with Legos (K–grade 5)
- Junior Robotics (grades 5–8)
- Lower-Upper Grade "Buddies"
- Summer camps & summer tutoring
- Service projects such as:
 - Christmas toy drive
 - Food drives for the Amazing Grace food pantry and parish shut-ins
 - Go Pink for Breast Cancer/Middlesex Hospital
 - Hat and Mitten Tree donations
 - Letters to those serving in the military
 - Visits to residents in area nursing homes
 - Projects for St. Vincent de Paul
- Student Ambassadors
- Altar servers
- Retreats



"I enjoy teaching at St. John Paul II School because I have the opportunity to help my students grow both academically and spiritually. To me, teaching means educating not only the mind, but also the soul, and St. John Paul II enables me to do this freely and creatively."

—ULLI DZIMIAN
St. John Paul II School
3rd grade teacher

"The ambiance at St. John Paul II School is very positive, professional, and challenging; interwoven with these elements are feelings of genuine warmth and caring for each adult and child. One thing I love about teaching at St. John Paul II School is that we are a very proficient and cohesive faculty and staff who collectively share a goal of educating, stimulating, and nurturing each child entrusted to our care. Our principal has high expectations for her faculty and staff; she consistently facilitates both our individual and ongoing professional development as well as our team and collaboration skills. This motivates me in turn to have high expectations for my students, and, among other things, to have students get authentically involved in their own goal-oriented learning."

—ROSEMARY LAURIA
St. John Paul II School
5th grade teacher

Maintaining a Vibrant Catholic Identity

- First Friday Masses, Eucharistic adoration, daily religion classes, service projects, rosary prayer groups, character/virtue education, student retreats, community meetings
- Strong connections with Mercy and Xavier High Schools
- Student participation in Mass as altar servers, choir members, readers, gift-bearers
- Catholic Christian values and social justice principles integrated into all curriculum
- Special Advent and Lenten reflections and activities
- Praise team singers and band lead community meetings with contemporary Christian music
- Encouragement for students to take an active part in their parish life

Home and School Association

Parents and extended family are VIPs at St. John Paul II. Our partnership is central to our mission. Our Home and School Association (HSA) plays a vital role of support to the school, creating a welcoming atmosphere, and promoting the value of a Catholic education. They sponsor many student and family events, run our hot lunch program, and fundraise. **A sampler of HSA, School and family events include:**

- All Saints Carnival
- Awards Night
- Back to School Night
- Catholic Schools Week
- Children's Christmas Shopping Day
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas Pageant
- Curriculum Night
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Grandparent's Day
- Halloween Party
- Ice Cream Social
- Musical/Drama Production
- Mystery Guests
- Reading Day
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Spring Concert
- Talent Show
- Turkey Bingo
- VIP Day
- "Winter Blues" Family Dance



Education
for mind, heart, body,
and spirit.



Feel the
Pride!



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