



# *St. John Paul II Catholic High School* **ANNUAL REPORT** 2021-2022



### ***JPII Mission***

Inspired by our patron, St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops students in spirit, mind, and body through a Christ-centered, college preparatory education. As a welcoming community of faith, we encourage, challenge, and support our students to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly so they will improve themselves and society through their faith and vocation.

*Learn Enthusiastically, Lead Honorably, Live Responsibly*

## A message from our President, Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB

As I begin my ministry this year as President of St. John Paul II Catholic High School, I find myself reflecting on my past experiences as a student at a Catholic high school in Birmingham. During those four years, I knew that my experience was something special. I knew, even then, that God was placing special people in my life who would nurture my spiritual, academic, artistic, and athletic abilities. I also knew that my Catholic high school experience showed me through the words and actions of those around me, that we are truly called to be Alleluia People living out our faith and reason in a community of love, respect, and genuine hospitality toward others. Those experiences are not found in a textbook or a webinar; those experiences come from the heart.

At St. John Paul II, I see those same examples of love, respect, and genuine hospitality toward others radiating from our school community – administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, grandparents, alumni, pastors, benefactors, and friends. Many give their time, talent, and treasure to our school because they believe in both the tangible and intangible that impact our students for a lifetime. Christ is alive at St. John Paul II because of all of you! Although our school is only twenty-five years old, it is steeped in a solid tradition that formed our alumni in their vocation of service to the wider community. That is the mission of a Catholic school – “Go, make disciples!” as St. Matthew instructs. At St. John Paul II, through the prayer, support, and generosity of many, we do just that!

As you read the following pages of accomplishments of the past school year, I invite you to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for God’s wondrous love that is manifested through the hearts, hands, and voices of special people – YOU – that God has placed in the lives of our students. The desire for a Catholic high school in North Alabama was just a dream until people came together as one body in Christ to bring that dream to life. Out of that dream, now stands a Catholic high school that is recognized as the BEST Catholic high school in Alabama. Together, a dream came to life and our Falcons are soaring!

Together, as one community in faith, may we continue to nurture our students as they strive to be ALLELUIA People living out their faith and reason in a community of love, respect, and genuine hospitality toward others. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support St. John Paul II Catholic High School. Through your generosity, our school will continue to serve our local religious and civic communities for years to come. May God bless you now and always.



Yours in Christ,

*Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB*

Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB  
President



Boys Cross Country Team



The Hall of Faith at JPII



## A letter from our Headmaster, Dr. Jeremiah H. Russell

The past academic year was a milestone for our young, thriving Catholic school. It was a “Year for Silver Celebration”, marking the 25th anniversary of the opening of what was then Catholic High. Throughout this important year, the school hosted several events, honoring those in the past, as well as the present, who helped rank our school the best Catholic high school and the sixth best private school in the State. Three of the most significant of those events were our Fall Family Festival; our 25th Anniversary Dinner, featuring the cooking priest, Fr. Leo Patalinghug; and the veneration of a first-class relic of our patron, St. John Paul II.

Everyone knows the dedication and hardwork it takes to provide a quality, formative Catholic school, and over the years, our diocese, area parishes and priests, partner schools, benefactors, families, students, and other friends of Catholic education have shown extraordinary support for our school. As we build upon the first 25 years of our school’s existence, I am confident that, through our Lord’s blessing, our patron’s intercession, and your continued support, St. John Paul II Catholic High School will continue to encourage, challenge, and support students to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly.



In Christ,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Jeremiah H. Russell.

Jeremiah H. Russell, Ph.D.  
Headmaster



Fall Family Festival 2021



25th Anniversary Dinner



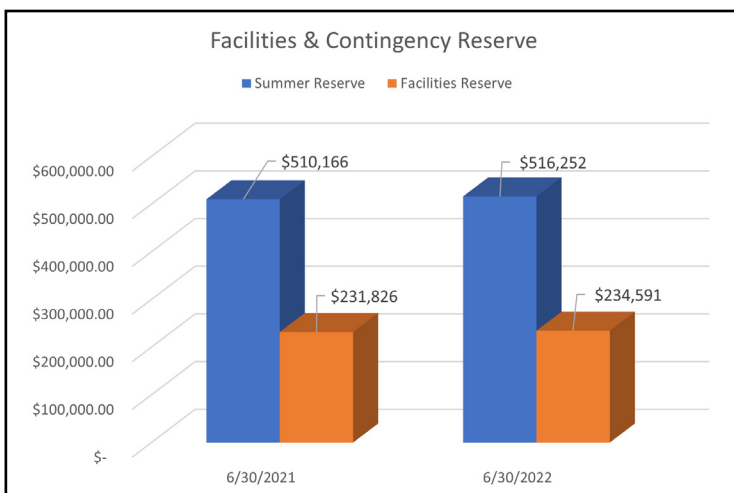
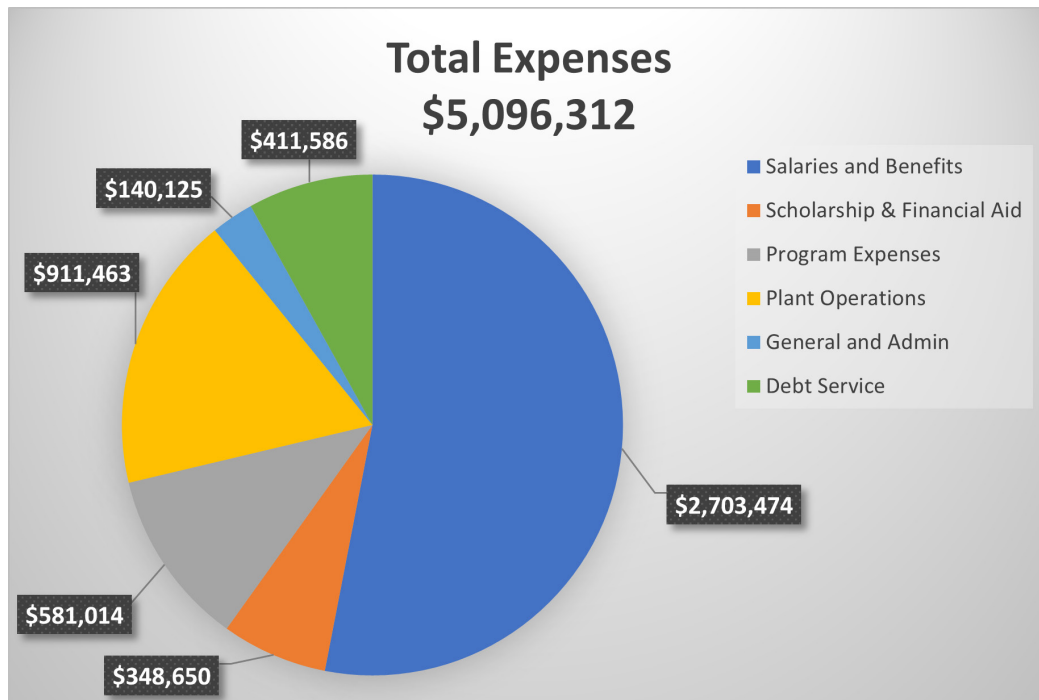
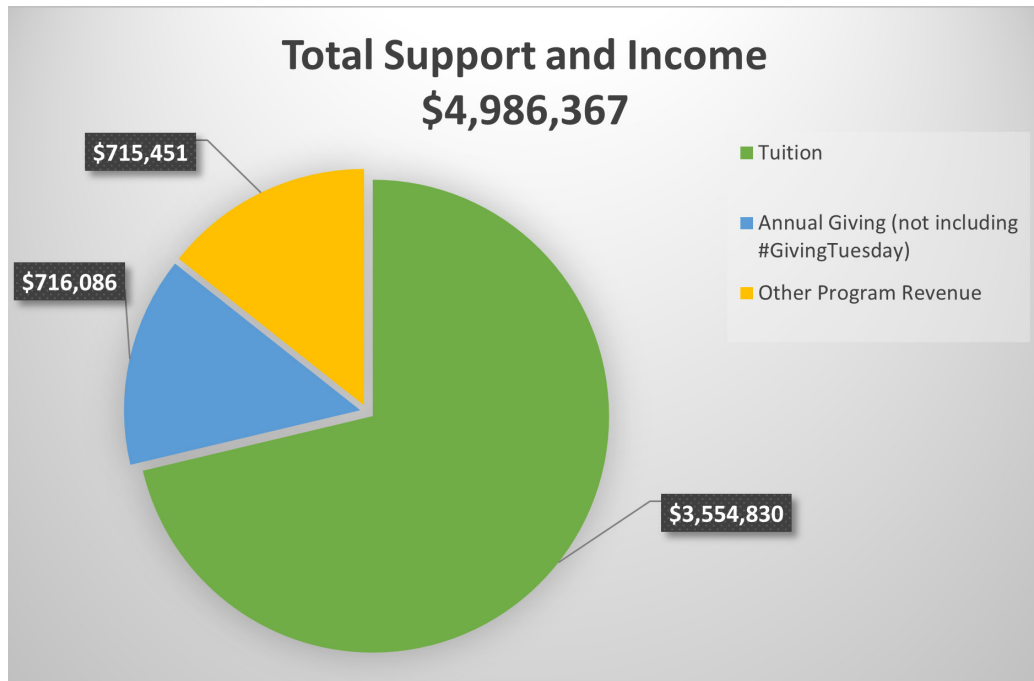
First-class relic of our patron, St. John Paul II



Fall Family Festival 2021

# St. John Paul II Catholic High School

## Statement of Activities as of June 30, 2022



### ENDOWED OR RESERVED SAVINGS

June 30, 2022

The Bishop David E. Foley Scholarship Endowment	\$168,824
Scholarship Funds	\$326,369
Future Growth (Building) Fund	\$78,893
Building Repair, Maintenance, and Contingency Reserve	\$234,591
#GivingTuesday 2021 - Scholarships for 2022-2023	\$165,639

### PARISH SUPPORT

All Parishes	\$203,278
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# *St. John Paul II Catholic High School*

## **State of the School**

### **2021-2022**

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

We are pleased to present to you the State of the School report for the 2021-2022 school year. With heedful planning, student inventiveness, and a never give up attitude, JPII students were able to have a Homecoming dance, athletic sports, Prom, a Senior Ring Blessing Mass, and in-person classes. We are pleased to convey with you the high points of getting back to a normal school year:



JPII Christmas tree Huntsville Tinsel Trail



Students enjoying class outside

#### ***MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY***

Our dedication to the Catholic faith is our foundation, it guides all the work we do as an institution. This year we supported and coordinated many faith-based projects.

- Weekly school-wide Mass in person
- Donated 2000 backpacks to the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Backpack Program
- Hired a new campus minister
- Parish luncheon involving all area parish leadership-priests, secretaries, DREs, and youth ministers
- Local March for Life with supply drive for baby-care items
- Supply drive to support a newly opened health clinic for local low-income, low-insured individuals
- Once again, supported the Angel Tree campaign for more than 50 foster children



25th Anniversary Mass

#### ***SPIRITUALITY, ACADEMICS, ARTS, and ATHLETICS***

Our faculty, staff, teachers, and administration toiled vigorously to uphold our high academic standards. Teachers were able to provide in-person instruction throughout the school year to provide the best learning and student life possible.



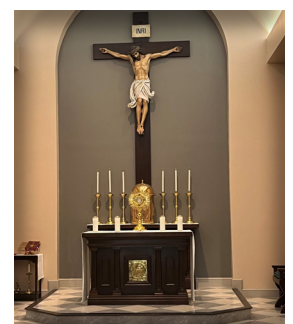
Experiments in AP Chemistry

The Class of 2022 exemplifies the outstanding results of our exceptional efforts:

- ACT average - 25.5 (state average - 18.7 / national average - 20.3)
- Over \$10.5 million in merit-based scholarships
- 5 National Merit Qualifiers / 1 National Merit Semifinalist / 1 National Merit Finalist
- 2 collegiate scholarships for athletics
- 43 Advanced Placement Scholars (11 with Honor and 13 with Distinction)
- 26 Inductees to Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society)
- 40 Inductees to the Georg von Tiesenhausen National Honor Society

Our Fine Arts programs provided a wide variety of thrilling performances:

- Sacred Arts Concert and Art Show
- Senior Favorites Concert and Art Show for our band, choir, and art students; all live shows
- Spring Musical performed live and in person
- Spring Concert and Art Show in the JPII gym
- 5 Superior ratings at instrumental Solo and Ensemble
- 1 student named to All-State Band
- Theatre students participated in District and State Trumbauer and Alabama Thespian Festival
- 20 students qualified for State Trumbauer with 13 Superior Ratings and 7 Excellent Ratings. In addition, 3 students placed in the top 3 of their category. The JPII Studio One Act Performance was given the top award, Best in Show.



Our Lady of Hope Chapel

## ***SPIRITUALITY, ACADEMICS, ARTS, and ATHLETICS (cont'd)***



JPII Band Class



Softball played their first home game at JPII

Our Athletic programs shined and accomplished many new highs:

- Boys Cross Country won the State Championship Meet for the third consecutive year
- Girls Tennis won Sectionals and finished third in the State Championships
- Girls Basketball advanced to the playoffs in back-to-back years and hosted the area tournament for the first time in school history
- Individual State Champion wrestler in the 132 pound weight class
- Girls Soccer advanced to the Elite Eight of the State Tournament
- Boys Soccer won the area for back-to-back seasons
- Softball played their first home game on campus on March 10, 2022 and doubled their win total from the year before
- Baseball made the playoffs for back-to-back years for the first time
- Numerous school records in individual and relay events were set in both indoor and outdoor track and field
- Renovated hitting facility with the construction of a concrete pad, installation of a garage door entryway, and new turf

Continuing commitment to service and fellowship with several community organizations and groups:

- 9,368 Hours of Community Service for Class of 2022
- Provided Christmas gifts for more than 50 foster children in support of Kids to Love through Advent Angel Tree Project
- Sponsored 3 children through the UNBOUND organization, raising approximately \$1,500 per year in support
- Catholic Relief Services Club had two fundraisers for CRS during the school year; Fall Fundraiser, and the Lent Rice Bowl. These events raised \$3,500 for the 2021-2022 school year
- LinkCrew and Student Ambassadors continued to host events like New Student Orientation and New Family Night. LinkCrew hosted monthly socials and academic follow-ups with the Freshmen

### **St. John Paul II Catholic High School House System Formed**

In 2021, St. John Paul II Catholic High School launched the inaugural House System. At JPII, every student, faculty, and staff member belongs to one of four houses. Each House is represented by an important aspect of St. John Paul II's life and mission. The goal of the House System is to provide an opportunity for students and faculty to interact across grade levels in healthy competition and support each other as they grow in their Catholic faith. Students learn to work hard individually for the good of their house, in addition to working as a team. The JPII House System encourages teamwork, friendship, service, and leadership. Houses compete against each other in the areas of academics, athletics, behavior, school spirit, and community service through quarterly accolades in academics and behavior, in House service projects, and House games.

### **St. John Paul II Catholic High School House System Goals**

1. Encourage our Catholic Identity as St. John Paul II Catholic High School
2. Increase community which is evident in faculty and student retention, and encourage participation in various school events
3. Provide opportunities for student leadership through student-created and led events
4. Increase student retention through all goals



JPII Boys Soccer enjoyed tremendous success in back-to-back seasons



## St. John Paul II Catholic High School Leadership Council

This program challenges student leaders and their respective councils to take on the real responsibility of serving their community and learn from the experience. It removes the hope that our students will graduate as leaders and replaces that hope with success through House events and projects that make them leaders. We move past the theoretical to introduce the practical, with real struggles and with real successes. In this way we hope to amplify our sense of community by bringing administration, faculty, and students together with energy and focus to make each year at JP II greater than the year before.

The House System placed 16 new students into key leadership positions which provided more leadership opportunities than we've ever had in the past. The Houses created, coordinated, and participated in service projects in the Huntsville community throughout the school year.

## OPERATIONAL VITALITY

Again, true to our Catholic mission, we require less in tuition dollars than it costs to educate each student at St. John Paul II. This year, we established the school's first endowed scholarship – The Bishop David E. Foley Scholarship Endowment. We plan to finalize the specifics of the program this fall and award our first scholarships for 2023.

Through hardwork and dedication, the *Helping Hands, Thankful Hearts* campaign, led by Dr. Russell, our students, the Parent Association, our alumni, and the development office, raised a wonderful \$165,639. The Falcon Booster Club held the Fr. Louis Giardino Falcon Classic Golf Tournament in the spring, raising more than \$39,000 to support the athletic programs.



JP II Falcon Theatre Troupe

Through the facilities fee, we continue to keep up with repairs and maintenance, and have a reserve to provide for any future capital needs of the current JP II building and facilities. Funds supporting the operational and program needs benefited our JP II students this year.

- Purchase of over 30 SMART Boards - \$101,172
- Tuition Assistance awarded - \$187,500
- Purchase of new textbooks - \$57,653
- Purchase of new computers - \$5,327

While during the end of the pandemic, community outreach persisted:

- JP II began offering a cybersecurity course (RING) in partnership with UAH. We are the only school in the region and the only private school in the state to offer this particular course
- JP II introduced an intersession week that provided seniors with an opportunity to job shadow. We will expand intersession week for both juniors and seniors next year
- JP II students were represented and/or spoke at every parish Mass during Catholic Schools Week

## Falcon Fund

(Annual Fund)

### \$100,000+

William Fiorentino  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Anonymous  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church

### \$5,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous  
Daniel and Nancy Archuleta β  
West and Teresa Brininger  
Frank and Carol Chapuran β  
Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama  
Andrew and Andrea Dull

Peter Finzel β  
Jason Ω and Nancy Greene  
Andrew and Jackie Johnson  
Rodney Ω and Debra Kreps β  
Virginia Leahy Ω β  
Michael and Geraldine Nobbley  
George and Barbara O'Reilly β  
Al and Kathryn Rossi β  
Henry and Nancy Smith β  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
The Cardinal Foundation  
Mary Ruth Yates Ω β

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Alabama Colon & Gastro, PC  
Anonymous  
AcqCentric, LLC  
Lynn and Elizabeth Boyer β

Stephen and Suzanne Boyer β  
Carl and Marianne Case  
COLSA Corporation  
Michael and Donna Counts  
Paul Conaway and Muriel DeSimone  
Direct, Inc.  
Michael and Lisa Durant  
Expedite Services, Inc.  
Flint River Animal Hospital  
Danny Garcia β  
Paul and Mary Lou Glosemeyer  
Alice Hession  
Anne Hession β  
William and Claudia Klus  
Terry and Mary Elizabeth Koelbl  
Fred and Lizette Kummer  
Anthony and Andrea Lavoie  
Roy and Nancy † Long



Edward and Judith Manlove β  
 McCurdy Animal Hospital  
 David and Anne McKinley  
 Kathleen Meikus β  
 Bernard and Nancy Morgan β  
 Jay and Caroline Myers β  
 National Space Club  
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 St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church  
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 Allen and Shannon Vital β  
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 Ralph and Anne Werling  
 Richard and Sharon Ω White  
 Kent and Sharon\* Wieter  
 Jackalyn Wilcox β  
 Walter '20 and Joanne† Wilson III β  
 Woods Investments  
 Ken and Peggy Wright  
 John and Regina Zierdt β

#### **\$1,000 and less**

Eugene and Kam Acupan  
 Mari Adams\*  
 Holly Allen\*  
 Bruce and Mary Ann Anderson  
 Lorraine Anderson\*  
 Paul and Eileen\* Andrzejewski  
 W.P. "Bear" and Barbara Ard  
 Jerrold and Carole Arszman  
 Joy Babcock  
 David Balwinski  
 Emile Bataille  
 Diane Benzek\*  
 Christopher Blanding\*  
 Michael and Jane Brown  
 Thomas and Christina Cantey  
 Stephanie Cashin\*  
 Joseph and Diane Chatfield  
 Paul Ciciarelli\*

William and Lori\* Cobb  
 Seneka Cothren  
 Candice Cotton  
 Daniel Craig  
 Zosia Dabrowski  
 Michael and Kim Dempsey  
 Donald and Rebecca Derivaux  
 Katherine DeSisto  
 Matt and Jane\* Dodds  
 Wendy Downing  
 Seth Ferrara  
 Brian\* and Tara Finzel  
 LeAnna Fleischman\*  
 Bonnie Flowers\*  
 Dan and Jane\* Folk β  
 Ludita Garcia  
 Niria Gautreaux  
 Richard and Jennifer Gautreaux  
 Scott and Gayle Gilley β  
 Anna Glosemeyer '12  
 Bernard and Melissa Goodly  
 Christopher Smith and Monica  
 Gorbandt-Smith  
 Charles and Lisa Grelier β  
 Glenn Hagood\*  
 William and Mary Hare  
 Billy and Tracy Harrell  
 David and Nicole Harris  
 William and Terry Hecker  
 Jayne Higginbotham  
 Weldon and Monica Hill  
 Thomas Hilpert '09  
 Leta Hix\*  
 Dylan Jedlovec\* '13  
 Bret and Charmein Johnson  
 Chaundra Jones  
 Kerri Kay\*  
 Claudia Kliesner  
 William and Angela Koons  
 Yvonne Koubek  
 Kroger  
 Karl and Christy Laue  
 Allissa Leach  
 Eugene and Kimberly\* LeChien  
 Nicholas and Margaret Leone β  
 LifeSouth Community Foundation  
 David and Kathy Linden  
 David and Anna Lugo  
 Ailish Lynch '14  
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 Michael and Kim Murdzek  
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 Mark and Laura Olin  
 Mark and Diane\* Olszewski  
 Marco and Mercedes Ortega  
 Michael Overstreet  
 Paul and Susan\* Page  
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 John Pittman '06  
 Jesse and Laurie\* Porter  
 Greg and Lorraine Pritchard  
 Karen Ripperda  
 Rocket City Pies, LLC / DBA Mellow  
 Mushroom  
 Benjamin and Nicole Rohling  
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 Charles and Margarete\* Smith  
 Joseph and Barbara Stephens  
 Josh and Jamie Stewart  
 Chris and Melanie Sturgis  
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 John and Sally Suermann  
 Michael and Kay Theodoss  
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 Thompson Gray, Inc.  
 Jeff and Patricia Thompson  
 Michael and Sarah Turbe  
 Michael and Paula Turner  
 Xioameng Wang\*  
 Malcolm and Stephanie Weathers  
 Jeanne B. Weaver  
 Daniel Wesolowski\* '15  
 Richard Wilbourn, Jr. and Bree Taylor  
 Laura Wilson  
 John and Tammy Wright  
 David and Tania Yee  
 Brian Zboril



A fun day of band practice at JP II



WITH THANKFUL HEARTS,  
WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROSITY  
OF OUR CONSIDERATE DONORS.  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU  
NOW AND ALWAYS  
FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT.

## Scholarship Funds

### ***Ginger Finzel Scholarship Fund***

Peter and Ginger † Finzel β

### ***Bishop David E. Foley Scholarship Endowment Fund***

William Fiorentino

Frank and Carol Chapuran β

Larry and Connie\* Anderson

David and Tania Yee

Allen and Shannon Vital β

Danny Garcia β

Andrew and Andrea Dull

\*Alice Hession

Jeff and Patricia Thompson

Paul and Cindy Tygielski β

Christopher Smith and Monica Gorbandt-Smith

The MEVATEC Foundation

Virginia Leahy Ω β

Daniel Craig

Daniel and Nancy Archuleta β

Jay and Caroline Myers β

Ernest and Ann Rivard

### ***General Scholarship Fund\*\****

#GivingTuesday

\$165,639

*\*\*Individual donors are listed in the Falcon Fund*

*#GivingTuesday funds are included in the Endowed or Reserved Savings*

## Memorial and Honoraria Gifts

W.P. "Bear" & Barbara Ard

In memory of Mrs. Geraldine Richards

Jerrold & Carole Arszman

In memory of Gerry Richards

Anonymous

In honor of the Class of 2013

In honor of the Class of 2020

In honor of the Class of 2023

Joy Babcock

In memory of Gerry Richards

Frank and Carol Chapuran β

In memory of Gerry Richards

Donald & Rebecca Derivaux β

In memory of Gerry Richards

Katherine DeSisto

In memory of Gerry Richards

Peter β & Virginia † Finzel

In loving memory of Ginger Finzel

Claudia Kliesner

In memory of Gerry Richards

Ailish Lynch '14

In memory of Burton Lynch

Theresa & Michael Ω Mruz

In honor of Frank and Carol Chapuran

Courtney Neil\*

In loving memory of Mary Ann Neil

Greg & Lorraine Pritchard

In memory of Mrs. Gerry Richards

Paul & Stephanie Reitmeier

In Honor of the Reitmeier children

Kathryn & Alfred † Rossi

In memory of Gerry Richards

Michael & Denise\* Schovel

In honor of all SGO families

H. Joseph & Barbara Stephens

In memory of Geraldine Richards

Jeanne Weaver

In memory of Mrs. Gerry Richards

David & Tania Yee

In honor of Dr. Lanny Hollis

During the 06/21 - 07/22 year

\* = JP II Employee

† = Deceased β = Benefactor

Year = Alumnus/a Ω = Board of Trustees

Diocese of Birmingham

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, J.C.D.

Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

Mrs. Margaret Dubose, Superintendent,  
Catholic Schools Office

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Rodney Kreps, Co-chair

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Dr. Jason Greene

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Ms. Ginny Leahy

Mrs. Marie Schneider

Mr. Paul Tygielski

Mrs. Sharon White

Dr. Mary Ruth Yates

JP II Administration

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Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB

HEADMASTER

Dr. Jeremiah Russell

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr. P. Lane Hill

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

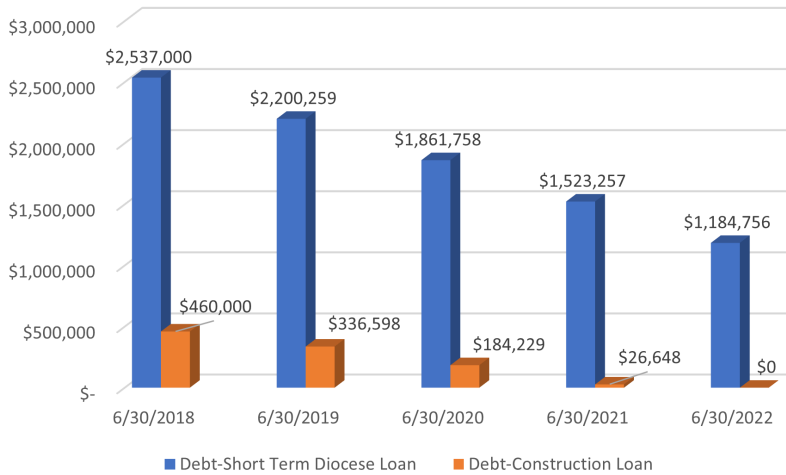
Mr. Matt McManus

CAMPUS MINISTER

Ms. Ashley Arominski



### Outstanding Debt



### Cost to educate (2021-2022) per student

\$14,516.00	Cost to educate
\$10,350.00	Tuition & fees
<b>\$4,166.00</b>	<b>Shortfall*</b>

\*Falcon Fund and Scholarship Fund drive offset per student shortfall

# 40%

Ethnic Diversity  
at JP II

St. John Paul II Catholic  
High School  
7301 Old Madison Pike NW  
Huntsville, AL 35806  
PH: 256-430-1760

[www.jp2falcons.org](http://www.jp2falcons.org)

# 5

NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLAR  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS  
for the  
CLASS of 2023

## Partners in Catholic Education



**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

Please donate to the JP II Scholarship Fund  
for tuition assistance.



[www.jp2falcons.org/onlinegiving](http://www.jp2falcons.org/onlinegiving)

November 29, 2022



ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL