

LEARN MORE ABOUT JP II

“Calling all pioneers...” The School Council has scheduled six evening presentations to present John Paul II to the parishes, schools, and broader communities in northeast Bexar County and Comal and Guadalupe Counties. The presentations will start at 7 p.m. and will be the same agenda each time, so a family can choose the day and site most convenient to them. The six locations are St. Monica’s, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. James Seguin, St. Padre Pio, and St. Pius X. (The dates and locations for each are listed below.)

“We are excited to be able to engage with parents, to share our excitement and passion for the school and its programs and mission,” explained Craig Zgabay, School Council President. “For many of us, who have been at work on this project for years, there is a great sense of pride and new energy, to be at this stage — welcoming the first class of students and families,” commented Jim Gilman, School Council Treasurer. “Many different people and many different steps have helped us to arrive at this point, all guided by the Holy Spirit.”

“In the first years, there will be incredible opportunities, that will not be there in following years. We hope to show all that will be possible for our students — the leadership opportunities, the formation in faith, the tight-knit community that will grow,” said Andrew Iliff, Principal. The events will feature a Powerpoint presentation, with a time for questions afterwards. School Council members will be in attendance at the event, to help answer questions and distribute materials. There will also be more information on upcoming events and chances for parents and students to volunteer.

There is no registration necessary to attend these events, but we do ask that families arrive on time. We will keep to our pledge of an hour, noting that this takes time away from families.

THE MEETING SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, 14 October—7:00 p.m. at St. James School
507 Camp St., Seguin, Texas (A) 830.379.2878
- Thursday, 16 October — 7:00 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul
198 W. Bridge St., New Braunfels, Texas (B) 830.625.3233
- Tuesday, 21 October — 7:00 p.m. at St. Padre Pio Parish
3843 Bulverde Parkway, San Antonio, Texas (C) 210.481.2576
- Wednesday, 22 October — 7:00 p.m. at St. Monica’s School
515 North St., San Antonio, Texas (D) 210.658.6701
- Wednesday, 29 October — 7:00 p.m. at OLPH Cafeteria
16075 North Evans Rd., Schertz, Texas (just off IH-35) (E) 210.651.1811
- Thursday, 30 October — 7:00 p.m. at St. Pius X School (F)
7734 Robin Rest, San Antonio, Texas (just off Harry Wurzbach) 210.824.6431

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

All freshman applicants to Catholic high schools are required to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT), and traditionally, all Catholic high schools have tested on a unified date, the first Saturday in December. This year, John Paul II will have a testing site for the HSPT on Saturday morning, 6 December 2008; our test will be given on the campus of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. We will use the cafeteria for testing, and have a hospitality room for parents to wait during the testing time, should they choose to do so.

Students register for the test using a form found on our web site, which is the same form used by all Catholic high schools. John Paul II also has an electronic test registration, but still needs the paper

IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS DATES

HSPT Testing Date
6 December 2008

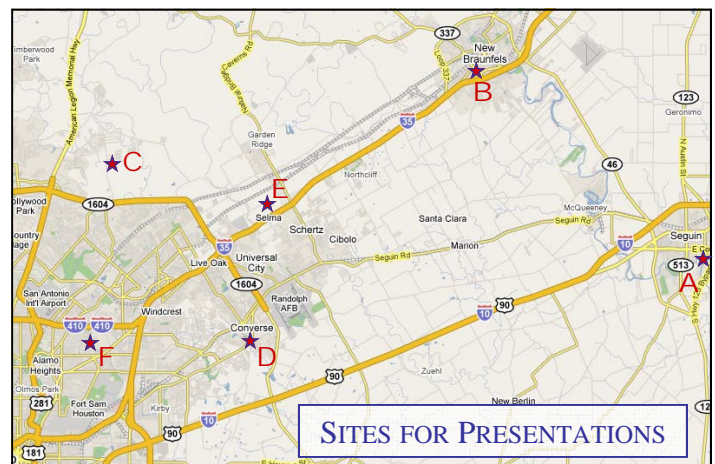
Application Due Date
(for first consideration)
16 January 2009

Admissions Decisions
(for first round)
6 February 2009

copy to be printed and sent to the school with the \$15 fee. Students can test at any of the other nine Catholic high school sites that morning, but should test at the school of first choice. That school will then consider the student’s application and test results and give an admissions decision by the first Friday in February (this year, 6 February 2009). Parents will be mailed a copy of the test results, so it is still possible to be considered by a second school, if that was desired later on in the admissions process. In general, though, it is best to test at the school you want to attend.

On the morning of 6 December, students will arrive starting at 8:30 a.m., but no later than 8:45. Once all have arrived, we will start. The test takes about three hours, and will include a 30-minute

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SITE DEVELOPMENT

As announced in the first edition of *Portas*, the school has purchased 53 acres on the southwest corner of FM 482 and Friesenhahn Lane, just north of IH-35. Though the final closing of the land occurred in August 2008, the process to begin developing the land was well underway before that. The actual contract had been on the land all summer, and during that time, the school was conducting its due diligence to be sure that the land was suitable for development and that all of the necessary public entities were ready to service the property. Currently, the school is working with its architect and engineering firm to obtain the necessary approvals and permits to develop the site.

Early in 2009, the school will begin the process of site development, readying the property for the installation of a temporary campus. The main building will be modular and will contain around 11,000 square feet. This will include a full biology science lab and a large room to be used for lunches, Masses, and school gatherings. All of the classrooms will be outfitted with the necessary technology to deliver cutting edge instruction and full technology integration, including LCD projectors, laptops, and a wireless network. At the parent meetings in October, we will be able to more concretely lay out the timetable and necessary steps, and will communicate fully and openly with families as we progress through the Spring of 2009.

EVENT IN JANUARY 2009!

Are you looking to volunteer? Would you like to help the school as it grows and readies for year one? Be on the lookout for an event in January (in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week), which will be one of the first chances to gather as a full community. The first committee meeting will be held in mid-October and will be open to all who want to serve. More information will be given out at the parent meetings in October.

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writing sample at the end. The school will provide all necessary supplies, including pencils and erasers. The best thing to bring is a fresh mind and rested body (and a sweatshirt in case the room turns cold). Dress for the test is comfortable.

Also posted on the school web site is the application for admission. This can be printed, completed, and sent at any time. The form itself has four pages, and includes an important student response to the question, "why do you want to attend John Paul II, and what kind of school will you work to found?" To complete the application paperwork, parents and students will need to select two middle school teachers, ideally a math teacher and a language arts teacher, to write letters of recommendation. Some schools will mail those letters to the school themselves, but in some cases, families will need to provide addressed, stamped envelopes.

The last piece of information is a transcript and all middle school standardized test results. Each school has a different practice for getting those results to the school. Consult your school to know their policies. For most Catholic grades schools, that information is mailed directly to the schools after the testing date. (John Paul II will mail them a list of the students that tested with us.) For public schools and all high schools, parents will need to request that information themselves and mail those to John Paul II directly.

The admissions mailing address for the school is:

John Paul II Catholic High School

Admissions Committee

P.O. Box 606

Schertz, Texas 78154-0606

Parents can contact the school at any time *via* phone or e-mail to ask questions about the admissions process. The web site has much information on the process and all the necessary paperwork. Note that the deadline is Friday, 16 January 2009, in order to give admissions decisions by Friday, 6 February. Applications will be accepted after that time period, but with no guarantee as to how long it will take to make the admissions decision.

Sophomore applications will be accepted starting on 3 November, and will be considered once all materials (application, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and standardized test results) are collected.