

## JOHN PAUL II RECEPTION

The JPII School Council is pleased to invite parents and students to a John Paul II Reception, on Thursday, 4 December in the OLPH School Cafeteria. Over the last three years, many different people have been involved in planning for the school, and over the last number of months, we have been sharing the school with more people. Now is the time to form the large team of parents, students, and teachers who will carry us into the first year of John Paul II Catholic High School.

On 4 December, we will have sandwiches and

THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2008

### JOHN PAUL II RECEPTION

— « OLPH SCHOOL CAFETERIA » —

6:30 P.M., REFRESHMENTS & SANDWICHES  
7 P.M., BRIEF PRESENTATION, FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL

ALL CURRENT OR FUTURE FAMILIES INVITED.  
GET INVOLVED!

drinks and a time to talk with the council and principal from 6:30-7:00. At 7:00 p.m., we will have a brief presentation of fifteen minutes, updating those gathered on recent developments and where people can help make their mark. Like all good Catholic school events, there will be plenty of time at the end for socializing.

*We are looking for the following attendees:*

**Prospective Sophomores:** We are welcoming all area 9th graders, who would make up the first graduating class of John Paul II. We will have a special presentation for them starting at 7:15 p.m. All of our students will have a special opportunity to found a school, but our sophomores will truly be the first class. We would like to share with them the unique

CONTINUED ON BACK

## JPII DEGREE PLAN

28 credits to graduate — seems like a lot, especially considering the number required of students just ten years ago. For our accrediting body, TCCED, and the school's vision, 28 credits is just right.

The foundation of the requirement is four credits each in the five core subjects: theology, English language arts, science, social studies, and mathematics. Regardless of the student or the school, this is a necessary and relevant requirement for college preparatory students, whether they attend MIT or UTSA.

A common argument against four credits in some core classes (as opposed to three) would be that some students may be pointed toward a science degree in college or a humanities program in university studies. The argument might follow that three credits in math would be sufficient for a humanities student. This is not true in theory or in practice.

First, exactly because a student is working toward a humanities specialization in college would mean that math in high school would be essential to the development of a well-rounded graduate. For a humanities student in college, usually there would be two courses required (6 credits), and usually those courses would be of a more general nature. The coursework in high school would be essential, almost the last, best opportunity to develop those skills.

Second, skipping a core subject in senior year makes getting back into that discipline in college difficult. Given that college preparation is a key mission of the school, our degree plan must serve to

CONTINUED ON BACK





JPII RECEPTION, continued

opportunities we have to offer.

**Volunteers:** We are in need of parents of prospective students and future parents and students to volunteer to serve on committees and to help push our school forward. This is a perfect opportunity for a parent of a 4th, 6th, or 7th grader, to get involved in the school, to help grow the school their children will attend.

**8th grade Applicants and their Families:** This is one of the last chances to register for the High School Placement Test, which will be given on Saturday, 6 December 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the OLPH School Cafeteria. Parents can join committees that are forming, learn when they will meet, and what their goals will be.

We ask that if you know you are going to attend, please let us know by sending a digital RSVP from the web site: [www.johnpaul2chs.org](http://www.johnpaul2chs.org). Even better, grab a friend or classmate and bring them along. These are exciting times — join the team!

### Committees Expanded

- Finance — *for those with business/finance experience*
- Curriculum — *for those with education experience*
- Marketing — *for those who can help share the story of the school with the broader public*

### Committees Formed

- Uniform — *for those who want to help select the uniforms of the school*
- Spring event — *for those who can help to plan and run a spring community-building event*

---

### 2008-2009 JPII School Council

- President** -- Craig Zgabay (Sts. P&P, OLPH)
- Vice Pres.** -- Deacon Robert Gorman, Ph.D. (Sts. P&P)
- Treasurer** -- Jim Gilman (Sts. P&P)
- Secretary** -- Veronica Hunt (OLPH)
- Dr. Alex Urteaga (Sts. P&P)
- Patrick Cronin (Sts. P&P)
- David Hoyt (St. James)
- Msgr. Dennis Darilek — *Pastor, St. James Parish*

*The council is in need of representation from St. Monica School. If you are interested, contact Mr. Iliff.*

DEGREE PLAN, continued

create students who excel in college. John Paul II strives to create well-rounded, accomplished graduates, at all levels. The four-by-five plan goes a long way to that goal.

After the 20 credits in core classes, the final eight credits come in foreign language (three credits in the same language) and other more specialized courses that do not vary within TCCED degree programs (speech—½, health—½, physical education—1½, fine arts—1, technology—1). In reality, our degree plan forms a very solid high school curriculum for all students.

For those looking for an honors distinction on their diploma, we have the senior thesis to offer. This allows for a student to conduct very specialized research in an area of interest, during the first semester of his/her senior year. The JPII Honors Diploma, awarded to those who complete this thesis, will carry with it a real distinction, due to the very real scholarly pursuits involved in the thesis. Additionally, students in the honors track can distinguish themselves by taking many AP courses.

We have built a degree program and curriculum that will serve all of our students well. We strive to help each of them realize their God-given abilities, to then be able to fulfill our vision: witness Christ in the modern world.

---

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The John Paul II School Council has membership from area parishes, and from a variety of professions. They serve the school administration, move the school's programs forward, and develop strategic planning. For our school, this group does much more than the usual council. They aren't just building on what was there; they are building anew. So far, they have shown incredible dedication and faith — we wouldn't be where we are today without them. Do you know who represents your parish or school on the Council? Introduce yourself at Mass or at school, and talk with them about the John Paul II. They are excited to share their passion for the school, and want to hear of yours.