

WHAT'S THE SCHOOL MASCOT?

John Paul II Catholic High School has not selected as yet the school mascot. Our council has arrived at the school colors: blue for Mary, and gold for the papacy. We would like our founders to participate in the decision of our school mascot, but we need a starting point for this discussion. That starting point is a set of worthy options from which to select or adapt.

A relevant mascot for a school is one that:

- reflects the mission and vision of the school;
- harkens to the school's founding or locale; and/or
- exemplifies the school's values.

So, what does this mean? Choosing a mascot simply to have a fear-inducing animal name for athletic teams does not seem a particularly appropriate direction for John Paul II. At the same time, the selection does not need to be overly complicated. Basically, a brief narrative should be able to explain the mascot in the light of one or all of the above criteria. The mascots for the other nine Catholic high schools follow these criteria, whether for their founding (Incarnate Word, Central), their mission (Holy Cross, St. Gerard, Atonement), their values (Providence, Antonian, St. Anthony's), or their locale (OLH). A web search of other John Paul II Catholic Schools in the U.S. finds many worthy selections.



We invite the community to submit suggestion via the e-mail link on the school home page. The mascot name followed by a brief narrative is all that is necessary.

In the early spring, a student committee will be convened from the students who have gained acceptance. They will have the chance to sit down with some of these selections to help direct this part of our school's plan.

See page two for the mascot selections of other John Paul II High Schools in the United States.

SERVICE HOURS

A few months ago, I was at an event at a non-profit agency that relies on volunteers. I happened to overhear a conversation between a parent and young person about volunteering at that agency. The student explained that a public school program in which she was enrolled required volunteering, and that these activities looked good on one's resume for college. For these reasons, she said she was going to sign up to help. While I was heartened to know that public schools are in many cases encouraging, offering, and even requiring students to perform acts of charity for their fellow citizens, the value was lost to some extent in this case. We hope to change that dynamic at John Paul II.

First, similar to most Catholic middle and high schools, we will have a service hour requirement for all students that increases each year. Students will have to document those hours, and the service cannot be performed for a family member or for pay. We will not have restrictive definitions of what can and cannot count, but the general spirit of the requirement will be service for someone in need, to help students develop the Christian habit of service for others and an attitude of thankfulness for their own blessings.

The difference for John Paul II will be the incorporation of service into the small, Catholic Christian communities within the school. Weekly, students will gather in these small groups to pray, read, reflect, and then too to plan service outreach as a team. It is our belief that our students will very quickly see service as an integral part of their faith lives, which will then flower later in parish and community service.

It is not hard within our parishes and workplaces to see those for whom service has become an integral part of their lives. We do not see this as a genetic trait; it is a learned and developed attribute, and it is essential to the future of our Church and essential to

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Question: *How many people does it take to start a high school?*

Answer: *More people than we can ever know.*

We are looking to expand the reach of our school and to broaden the participation within the planning groups of the school. This starts with the reception on 4 December, and continues with upcoming committee meetings and conversations with the administration and council members.

COMMITTEES

The following committees are expanding their membership and increasing their work levels:

Uniform — This committee will work to craft portions of and give input toward the uniform policy of the school. Some input will be given by the student committee.

Marketing — We need to share our story with parish, schools, and the broader community. We need people to help in this effort.

Spring event committee — We are planning a community-building event for the spring, to bring people together, and raise a limited amount of funds.

Curriculum — As we move toward year one, we need teachers and other curriculum experts to help direct our planning. We have many wonderfully qualified and able people working already, but can always use more.

Building — Again, we have a great committee of experienced people, but we need a wider set of participants. This would include contractors, architects, plumbers, electricians, and designers.

Finance — We have a great committee in place, but

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SERVICE HOURS, *continued*

a truly Christian life.

As with all areas of the school, we will need help in finding and developing service opportunities in the Schertz community. We ask friends of John Paul II to let us know where our students can volunteer and serve in the Schertz, Selma, New Braunfels, and Seguin areas. We want our students serving directly in their parishes and the local community. Over the first three years, we want to develop positive and fulfilling relationships with a variety of groups with the northeast part of the Archdiocese. From these first interactions, future students will then have a more direct path toward volunteering and serving the community.

VOLUNTEERS, *continued*

need more accountants, finance majors, and business reps to serve and guide our financial planning.

Technology — Our plans call for a meaningful integration of technology into the classroom, not just the school. That is expensive and requires a good measure of planning and preventative maintenance. The school needs those with experience and contacts to help the school utilize the best resources in the community and to have them at the ready when the inevitable issues arise.

EXPERTS

This is a very broad appeal, but the school needs people in a wide variety of fields to be able to help and guide the school. Let us know how you can help by contacting the school by email or phone or submitting the volunteer-“Friends of John Paul II” form on our web site. Thanks!

JOHN PAUL II MASCOTS AROUND THE COUNTRY



“Centurions”
Corpus Christi, Texas



“Panthers”
Tallahassee, Florida



“Lions”
Hyannis, Massachusetts



“Knights”
Hendersonville, Tennessee



“Eagles”
Boca Raton, Florida



“Cardinals”
Plano, Texas