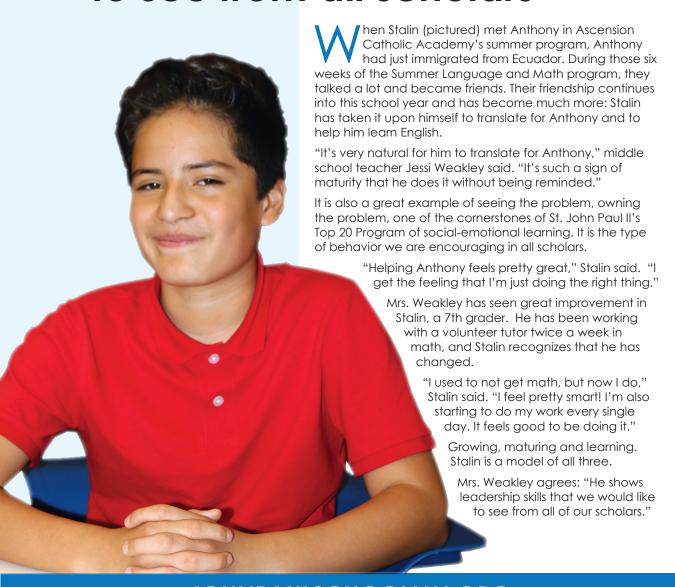
# 'Leadership skills we'd like to see from all scholars'



#### JOHNPAULSCHOOLMN.ORG

Please visit our website to keep up with our latest news and learn more about how you can support our scholars by volunteering or making a gift.

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1630 4th St. NE Minneapolis MN 55413 | 612.789.8851



## **GROWING and LEARNING**











Dear Friends,

of the importance of our community and how we are all working together to ensure that our scholars will be rooted in faith, prepared for high school academic success and possess the necessary social-emotional tools to thrive.

Our teachers are using new classroom setups to work beautifully with our new blended learning and station-based instructional models. Our scholars strive daily to meet their individual learning goals. One volunteer recently remarked how impressed she is by the constant one-on-one teaching between scholars, teachers, and volunteers — a key goal of ours. I am inspired as I see many examples of teachers, staff, and volunteers investing their hearts into fostering the potential that lies within our scholars. The Holy Spirit is at work at JPII!

Our Learner Profiles is another strategy we are using to help our scholars be successful, and it helps provide students with a strong sense of responsibility for their learning. The Learner Profile brings together all of a scholar's data, including academic goals, in one place. The profile also includes a log of behavior issues and parent touchpoints. This scholar "snapshot" helps us serve the whole child, alerting staff to any issues that may affect learning.

Improving communication with families is also a central strategy for our community this year. In addition to weekly newsletters, social media updates, and family folders, all teachers are using the ClassDojo app to let families know what is happening in class.

Thank you for the many ways you support the scholars at St. John Paul II Catholic School! Remember that you are always welcome to visit our school, join us for weekly mass or schedule a tour to learn more. It is a privilege to partner with you.

Blessings,

Julian Henduker

Tricia Menzhuber, Principal



#### **GROWING socially and emotionally**

As part of our commitment to serving the whole child, we prepare our scholars to handle their emotions and make good decisions. We have a new scholar Code of Conduct this year that builds on the principles of the Top 20 Program we introduced last year. After each monthly all-school rosary prayer, we recognize scholars who exemplify a tenet of the Top 20 Program.



## **GROWING instructional skills** through blended learning

We are thrilled to be one of five Minnesota schools chosen by The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame to implement its Higher Powered Learning program. ACE educators are working this year, the first of the three-year partnership, with middle school teachers Jessi Weakley and Christine Linsmeier. They are learning best practices for using blended learning in classrooms. Blended learning combines traditional classroom instruction with online work tailored to each scholar's individual learning goals. What makes blended learning different from just using iPads or computers in classrooms is that data is at the center. Data mined from assessments and from the online tools helps teachers bring every scholar forward in his or her learning. In years two and three of the partnership, Mrs. Weakley and Mrs. Linsmeier will help coach other teachers at JPII in use of the program.