

His short time at JP II has had a big impact in the long run

Arnold (Knox) McKesson remembers St. John Paul II Catholic School as a place of caring. “There was genuine friendliness and passion for your well-being cultivated in the community and in the curriculum,” he said. Now a student at Texas A&M, he realizes how his time at JP II transformed him and prepared him for the future.

“I learned the importance of trying my hardest on every assignment and every grade because all the little things will pay off in the long run,” Arnold said. “I also learned the benefits of being genuine and outgoing. Learning these skills at JP II has helped me obtain many opportunities and be blessed with amazing gifts.”

Arnold and his family lived in North Minneapolis, and his mother enrolled him at JP II to nurture his faith. This required her to work more hours, he said, “But she consistently told me it would be worth it. I still reap the benefits to this day.”

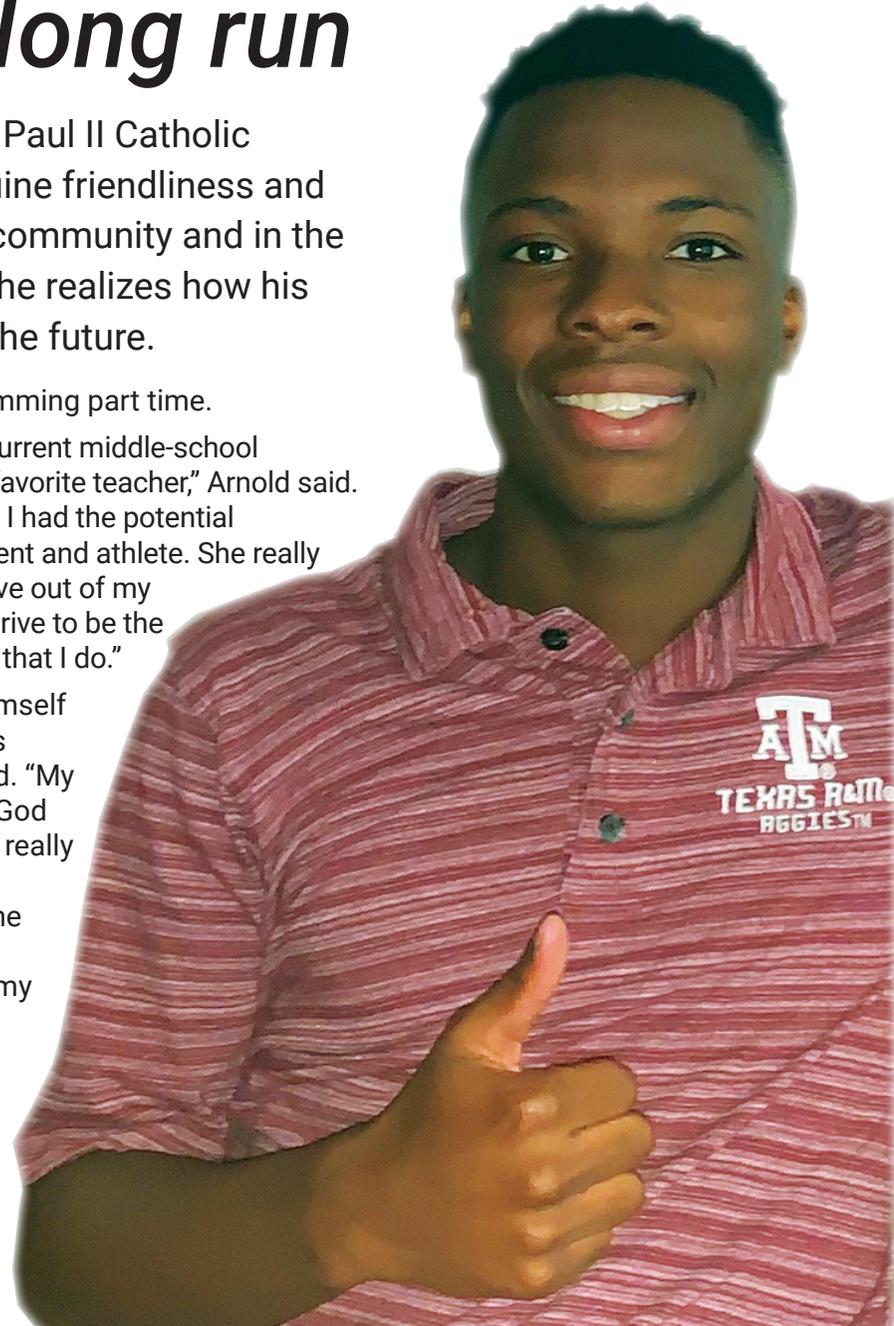
The family moved to Texas after Arnold completed 5th grade. He attended a Catholic high school in San Antonio and is studying computer science in college. He works as an IT specialist at a nearby community college

and coaches swimming part time.

“Ms. Weakley (a current middle-school teacher) was my favorite teacher,” Arnold said. “She always knew I had the potential to be a great student and athlete. She really pushed me to move out of my boundaries and strive to be the best in everything that I do.”

He also rooted himself in faith, just as his mother had hoped. “My relationship with God and with the faith really came into fruition at JP II. I gained the knowledge and wisdom to know my faith and follow it effectively.”

“JP II was a vital part of my growth as a young man and student.”



ASCENSION
CATHOLIC ACADEMY



ST. JOHN PAUL II
Catholic School

Powering up with blended learning

Our school is built upon a history of serving immigrants and all of the faithful, and we are upholding that tradition. Our mission is to provide a rigorous, faith-infused education in grades K- 8 and to care for the whole child, working to remove any barriers to education a family may face.

WE PARTNER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ON INSTRUCTION

The University of Notre Dame's Higher Powered Learning Program supersized learning in our four pilot classrooms. This year, it is being implemented schoolwide. The program uses blended learning, which combines targeted, individualized online learning with traditional classroom instruction. This allows us to individualize instruction by filling the gaps in each scholar's knowledge and challenging them with advanced skills.

- **100% of our 6th graders met grade-level proficiency or achieved their growth targets in math** last year, compared with 64% the previous year.
- **100% of our 8th graders met grade-level proficiency or achieved their growth targets in reading** last year, compared with 56% the year before.
- **Our 7th graders made more than two years' progress in reading**, growing an average of 226% vs. 127% in 2017-18.



WHO WE SERVE
128
scholars K-8

87%
qualify for free/reduced lunch *
*A family of four qualifies if annual income is less than \$33,475.

63%
English learners

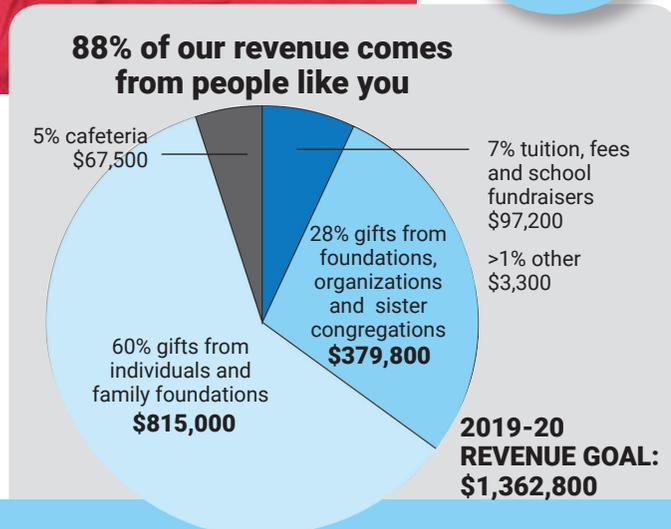
85%
Catholic

91%
children of color

TAKING AIM AT LITERACY, SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Our scholars are taking ownership of their education and collaborating with teachers to set academic and behavioral goals.

- We have adopted new curricula for reading and phonics that increase the rigor of lessons for all scholars. Our instructional staff has trained in the new resources, and we will continue to track scholar progress with assessments.
- We are growing in faith through weekly Masses, Rosary and school prayer.
- An earlier start time allows us to use our after-school program for tutoring.
- Our Social/Emotional Learning is focusing on these traits: Persistent, self-motivated, focused, and responsible.



Our mission statement: With Christ as our cornerstone, and the Catholic Faith as our Foundation, St. John Paul II Catholic School educates the whole person.

WE ARE A MEMBER OF ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY.

The Academy is a consortium of urban Catholic schools that share governance and central office resources to benefit all scholars.