



## HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US

- **Pray for our scholars!** We have prayer cards available, each picturing a specific scholar with a prayer on the back.
- We are working with teachers to determine how volunteers can best be involved this year. We hope to have many opportunities for you to **get involved directly with the schools through volunteering!**
- **Consider making a monetary gift** to our schools. Whatever you are able to give will help ensure our schools are fully funded this year and will be greatly appreciated.

## FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

- We are committed to
- providing the best academic instruction
  - ensuring equal access to learning
  - lessening exposure to the virus

We will routinely evaluate the situation and adjust our approach as needed.

**KEEP UPDATED AT**  
**JOHNPALUSCHOOLMN.ORG**

Fall 2020

What the future holds  
is not clear, and yet  
**WE TRUST**  
that our path forward is filled with  
**GOD'S GRACE.**



**ASCENSION**  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY



**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
Catholic School



**A**t Ascension Catholic Academy Schools, we believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Dear Friends,

Look at the pride in the faces of these 2020 St. John Paul II graduates!

The 12 scholars who advanced to high school celebrated their successes at a socially distanced ceremony and mass. Their faith and resiliency carried them through the upheaval following the death of George Floyd, the pandemic and the disruption of their final months of 8th Grade. We are confident the faith and resiliency instilled in them at St. John Paul II will continue to carry them through high school and into college.

As we begin another year, I invite you to join me in looking for the



good and celebrating success. The path forward is filled with God's grace.

Thank you for walking with our scholars on their journey.

*Tricia Menzhuber*  
Principal Tricia Menzhuber



## PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

- **Kindergarten, First, and Second grades** will have the option to be in the school building or to learn remotely. We are opening the building to these scholars because of the foundational learning that happens in early grades.
- **Grades 3 to 8** will be fully distanced through at least the first trimester.
- **Distance learning will be more rigorous**, with increased hours of direct instruction, more opportunities for prayer as a school community, and increased incorporation of social/emotional learning. Teachers will teach from their classrooms.
- **Academy teachers will assess scholars** before units of study so gaps in skills can be addressed and support given to scholars who need it.



## OTHER NEEDS FOR FAMILIES

- From the beginning of the pandemic, we have assisted families with access to technology, food security, and other needs. We plan to continue this effort, addressing access to meals for all scholars, providing each scholar with a Chromebook and ensuring families have Internet access.



## OUR BUDGET

- While most scholars may not be in our school buildings, the Ascension Catholic Academy budget remains the same. **Our budget for 2020-2021 is \$6.6 million. More than 80% of this comes from supporters like you.**
- Distance learning has increased expenses for items such as devices for all scholars, educational software, and streaming services that allow teachers to provide live online instruction.
- As always, **the largest portion of our budget is paying staff to teach these wonderful scholars. And, as always, we cannot do this work without you. Thank you!**

