



ST. JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL &
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PREPARATORY SCHOOL



January 8, 2018

The Baptism of the Lord

Dear JP II/SFXP Families,

I am writing to share an exciting new possible expansion of the school's mission and reach; namely, the exploration of a pilot program where students with moderate cognitive disabilities receive a Catholic education and share in the life of St. John Paul II High School (at this time, we are exploring high school only programming).

Historically, Catholic schools have felt limited in their ability to serve students with pronounced disabilities due fiscal constraints and adherence to their preparatory missions. St. John Paul II High School & St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School has been no exception. Even today, few Catholic schools educate students who are not college-bound. Earlier this year, we visited and learned from the Brother Leto Options Program at Bishop Hendricken High School (Warwick, RI). This program that has inspired us to pursue a fuller level of inclusion for students in our region.

In 2015, the Holy Father spoke to the role of inclusion in Catholic schools. He said, "I highlight the importance of promoting education in *the fullness of humanity*....I call for inclusive education which makes room for everyone and avoids elitism in selecting the beneficiaries of its commitment."

At this point, we are interested in meeting families with children appropriate for such a program but have never thought it possible in Catholic schools. Through dialogue, we will determine if this is the right time to go forward. ***Here is how you can help: Reach out to families you know, in your parish, neighborhood, and circle of friends, and share this new possibility. Ask them to contact me directly (ckeavy@jp.dfrcs.org), and I will schedule dialogue sessions where we will learn families' needs and share our thoughts and plans.***

Should the program develop, I assure you that it will only enhance the life of St. John Paul II High School & St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School for current and new students alike. Our college-preparatory mission would not be altered or diminished in any way. Also, this initiative is not driven by any desire to increase admissions. I know that our school experience is transformative and it should not be limited to college-bound students only. Plain and simple.

You may contact me with any questions, concerns, or thoughts you have, and I will keep you apprised of the results of the important dialogue sessions. Wishing you a happy new year,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher W. Keavy".

Christopher W. Keavy
Head of School

P.S.: Should you desire more information on programs in Catholic schools, visit the National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion (<http://fullinclusionforcatholicschools.org/>).