

PRESS RELEASE

John Paul the Great Academy recognized with “2014 School of Excellence” Award

The faculty and students at John Paul the Great Academy are proud to be recognized and awarded as a *2014 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE* by the Catholic Education Honor Roll and the Cardinal Newman Society.

JPG Senior Noah Delatte noted, “It’s fitting that John Paul the Great received this award again. Our school certainly tries to live out St. John Paul the Great’s vision for the New Evangelization by being Catholic in everything we do.”

One of only three schools in Louisiana to receive this distinction, John Paul the Great Academy has been known since its founding in 2007 for its academic rigor and strong integration of Catholic principles throughout the curriculum. This is not the first time the Academy has earned such national recognition, but this award does come at a pivotal moment in the ongoing debate over Catholic education and the new Common Core standards.

As many schools struggle to navigate how they will preserve their Catholic mission while adopting some or all of the Common Core Standards, the Academy claims to take a different approach. “We are a *Classical School*,” notes Headmaster Peter Fletcher, “and we intentionally integrate Catholic ideals into every part of the curriculum. Our formation is really the polar opposite of Common Core approach.

“More than just preparing our students for endless standardized tests, the faculty at JPG prepare our graduates to be leaders who can enter the public square and bring the principles of the Catholic faith into every business and every organization, into every board room and every newsroom in Acadiana and beyond,” Fletcher explained.

Mr. Fletcher came to John Paul the Great Academy a year ago from St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge, which has also been recognized by the Newman Society for honorable mention in the Catholic Identity category.

“While so many young people today seem bored or jaded about learning,” Fletcher noted, “at JPG the focus is on helping students to cultivate a deep sense of wonder and to delight in the joy of discovery, whether it be in solving a problem of physics or in penetrating the richness of a Shakespearean sonnet.”

Many schools are following the example of John Paul the Great and turning away from the Common Core standards and towards the tradition of Classical education.

Fletcher explained, “When you decide NOT to go with the latest educational fad, there comes a pivotal moment when you have to decide the direction to which you will turn. Increasingly, that direction is classical, Catholic education.”

“We are also proud that our graduates’ ACT scores are among the best in the state, but that is not our focus,” Fletcher continued. “As our students learn Latin, study sacred music, memorize poetry, and engage in discussions about the Great Books of Western civilization, they learn to think critically and creatively, to write with eloquence and persuasion, to listen with wisdom and patience, and to speak with conviction and clarity. I can’t think of another educational approach that is as effective at forming the next generation of Catholic leadership.”

Visit jpgacademy.org for more information on John Paul the Great Academy and the classical, Catholic alternative to the Common Core approach.



