



# **Executive Summary**

**Pope John Paul II Regional School**

**Diocese of Trenton**

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### Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

## **Description of the School**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Pope John Paul II Regional School, located in Willingboro, New Jersey, has an enrollment of 172 students from PreK-3 to 8th grade. The teaching staff consists of 10 full-time and 6 part-time teachers as well as one aide, one office person, one part-time business manager, one administrator, a part-time nurse, and several after school program aides. Three of the part-time teachers are male, and the remaining faculty and staff are female.

The school is unique in its diversity. Families come from 6 different cultures with many more languages spoken at home. For some, the parents are the first generation in America. Also, because the school is regional it draws students from 3 very different neighborhoods in Burlington County. Willingboro is a predominantly African-American community. Delran is a predominantly Caucasian area, and Riverside has a large Latino and Caucasian population. The majority of the students reside in Willingboro with an increasing number enrolling from neighboring communities.

Meeting the instructional needs of this diverse student population can be a challenge. ESL classes have been established to help children develop strong language skills since English is not the primary language spoken in some of the homes. Other services such as Title I, Basic Skills classes, Speech classes, and Social Skills/Character Education groups are available to help students who need additional support.

Due to recent economic conditions, some families have found it more challenging to continue meeting financial obligations. The school offers Tuition Assistance programs to help struggling families continue to provide a Catholic education for their children.

## **School's Purpose**

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

Pope John Paul II Regional School is a Christ-centered community devoted to teaching the values and beliefs inherent in the Catholic faith. The administration, faculty, and staff are committed to educating a diverse student population through a challenging academic curriculum in a safe, nurturing environment. Students are encouraged to reach their potential and share the gospel message by supporting and respecting the efforts of others.

We believe that every student needs to feel confident, capable and loved. We believe that we must encourage students to strive for self discipline, personal responsibility, accountability and personal growth. We believe that we must diligently strive to develop students who are intellectually competent, religious and committed to justice and integrity.

The school realizes its mission and affirms its beliefs by offering daily religion classes and frequent opportunities for prayer and service. Academic programs that are offered are appropriately challenging and help prepare the students for a successful future. All students are held to high standards. Students who have special needs are provided additional support services. Students who have special talents are encouraged to develop their skills through projects and/or activities.

As a Catholic educational community, Pope John Paul II Regional School envisions developing compassionate and joyful students who proclaim the kingdom of God as they strive to meet their academic potential.

## **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

PJPII's strategic plan helped the school achieve several goals over these past three years. A marketing committee was formed and a plan developed. There has been great success in establishing a positive presence in the sponsoring parishes. More work needs to continue to increase the enrollment and improve the retention rates.

The school has acquired UNOBOOK Tablets that are being used in grades 5 and 6. There is a plan to purchase Chromebook notebooks to be used in grades 7 and 8 next year. Smart Boards have been installed in three classrooms, and each teacher has received a new computer for classroom use. These technology purchases have improved the students' skills. In addition, talented 8th grade math students Skype an algebra class with a diocesan high school. In the future, the school hopes to make additional hardware and software purchases that will help strengthen the technology program.

The School Board has been established and hopes to continue to develop its roles and responsibilities to move the school forward in its mission.

The school's biggest achievement has been the academic success of its students. In the last 4 years, the students have received close to \$500,000 in high school scholarships through the SEEDS program of New Jersey, as well as scholarships from individual high schools.

In the next three years, the goal is to continue to increase enrollment through marketing, expand technology throughout the school, and develop programs for students who are talented in mathematics.

## **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

Since its establishment in 2006, Pope John Paul II Regional School has grown to be a vibrant, faith-filled community of students, faculty, and staff that lives the Gospel message, strives to achieve academic excellence, and prepares its students for the challenges of the 21st century. We are small but mighty, and truly live the Gospel message of, "Go, teach all nations."