

First Days at PJPII

The school officially opened and welcomed students to their new home on January 9, 2007 with an enrollment of 544 students. One hundred and one years after the IHM Sisters started St. Cecilia School, the Coatesville parochial schools celebrated another joyous milestone in their history. Since 1997, Sister Helen Loretta had hoped, prayed, and worked tirelessly for this day, "The school is a long time in coming, but we are finally here! Having been principal for 31 years in various schools, I could bring my years of experience to this project. All of our committees worked very hard for this day."



Faculty and students adjusted quickly to their beautiful new school. The smiles and joy on the students' faces spoke volumes. All those involved in the planning and development of the \$12 million Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School can take great pride in not only the building's aesthetics and enhanced learning environment, but in knowing that generations of current and future students would grow deeper in their faith and closer to God. On April 14, 2007, nearly 1300 attended a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cardinal Justin Rigali at the newly opened St. Peter Church. A dedication ceremony followed at the new school.

Being adjacent to the school, St. Peter Church offers many benefits to the school students. Children are able to attend Mass every first Friday of the month, on holy days, and during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Pastors from the partner parishes are invited to St. Peter to celebrate Mass throughout the school year.



PJPII Flourishes

In July 2009, Sister Anne B. McGuire, IHM succeeded Sister Helen Loretta who retired from school administration. In 2010, Sister Anne and Sister Beverly Pellegrino, Vice Principal, opened a PreK program for 4-year olds and in 2015 added a 3-year program to meet the growing need for early childhood education in the Coatesville community. Fundraising activities including the Silent Auction, Designer Bag Bingo, Beef & Bytes, Dash for Cash and Scholarship Fund Golf Outing would help support 21st century learning, tuition assistance and the costs associated with a state-of-the-art school building.

Over a 3 year period from 2011-2013, in collaboration with the Home & School Association, a new playground was installed in the field behind the school, or "meadow" as it was called by the Kindergarten children heading out to recess.

On April 24, 2014, the school community celebrated a special Mass at St. Peter Church to honor the canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II, the school's patron.



FUN FACTS ABOUT POPE JOHN PAUL II

- ▶ First non-Italian Pope in 455 years
- ▶ He visited more than 129 countries as Pope
- ▶ Named Time Magazine's 1994 Man of The Year
- ▶ The 3rd longest tenure as a Pope (26 years)

