

Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy provides children with a values-based education, one that focuses on building strong character in addition to academic success. One program recognizes leadership and a commitment to help others. That program is the Lolek Leadership Society.

Lolek Leadership Society

“Lolek” was Saint John Paul II’s childhood name. Even as a very young child, Lolek was exhibited traits of leadership and concern for others. The Academy is pleased to honor our patron saint by recognizing those traits in our students.

The Lolek Leadership Society is comprised of ten middle school students from across the four campuses of Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy. At the start of each school year, teachers and principals nominate students based on qualities of leadership (listed below).

Society Activities



Throughout the course of a school year, the Lolek students meet in the Regional Office boardroom to discuss the characteristics of leadership, practice public speaking skills, and learn professional decorum and etiquette. At least twice per year, the Society takes field trips to Boston area corporations for tours and meetings with CEOs and managers. These meetings have been held in the past in boardrooms in the Hancock Building (e.g. Adage Capital, Denham Capital), EMC, the Boston Globe

and at Harvard Business School.

Our students are proud to be selected as members of the Lolek Leadership Society. Those in their second year have commented on how the experience has significantly improved their self confidence and esteem. As one indicated, "As a Lolek, I have been able to go to places I never thought possible."

In addition to these activities, Lolek Society members are awarded a financial scholarship.



The Lolek Leadership Society students possess the following characteristics and are committed to expanding these traits:

- They are optimistic and articulate; they demonstrate interpersonal skills;
- They are “outward thinkers,” socially aware and protective of the dignity of others;
- They are problem-solvers who are ready to work and willing to persevere;
- They are reliably responsible for setting examples that reflect the Academy.

Support for the Lolek Leadership Society Program

The Society’s expenses are modest but they are entirely reliant on donor support and personal engagement. The primary expense is the financial scholarship in the form of tuition reduction awarded to each Society member. Contributions to the program allow the Academy to increase the number and amount of scholarships awarded.

Personal engagement is even more valuable. Individuals may serve as mentors to specific students or as presenters at a Society meeting. In either activity, these individuals help to raise the students’ aspirations of what is possible for themselves.

Corporations are also valued participants in the Society, providing direct contributions or serving as hosts for field trips into the “real world” of careers. Exposure to corporate offices, scientific laboratories, universities, construction sites, performance venues and other workplaces gives the students the opportunity to imagine themselves in those settings.

For more information about supporting the Lolek Leadership Society, please contact Marie Louise (“ML”) Greenidge by e-mail at mlgreenidge@pjp2ca.org.