

# St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

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## *Press Release*

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### **St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School Varsity Baseball Team Takes Time Out to Meet With Our Veterans**

West Islip, NY--- It has been a great year for the St. John the Baptist Varsity Baseball team. The Cougars finished the regular season in first place and receive a bye in the first round of the NSCHSAA Playoffs. Much of the team's success can be attributed to their work ethic, however, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Coach Ralph Dalton decided to take some time off from practice. The team met and spoke with the members of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball team. Coach Dalton stated, "It was truly an inspiring experience for all of us."

Several of the team members spoke about their experience with the team afterwards. Senior Will Shaw of Sayville, who has committed to play baseball at James Madison University, stated, "It makes you really appreciate what you have. To see that those guys are still on the field playing after all they've been through is amazing."

Senior Logan O'Hoppe of Sayville had the privilege of challenging and being defeated by one of the Wounded Warrior team members. "He destroyed me" reported O'Hoppe while laughing. When asked to comment about the experience, Logan stated "It really hit home for me because I have a few uncles who served in the armed forces. They went through some things also. Nothing on the scale of what the guys on the Softball team have been through but it really makes you stop and think. You have to live in the moment. Nothing about tomorrow or next week is promised." Logan plans on attending East Carolina University in the fall, where he has committed to play baseball.

Principal Biagio M. Arpino stated, "We are thankful to the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball team for taking time out of their schedules to meet with our students. Experiences like this help to put things in perspective. I know that our students took a lot away from it."



[http://drcvstjohnhs.ss8.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_41865/File/Press\\_Releases/SJBBaseball.jpg](http://drcvstjohnhs.ss8.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_41865/File/Press_Releases/SJBBaseball.jpg)

*About St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School: 1,550 students attend St. John the Baptist DHS, a college preparatory Catholic High School located on the south shore in West Islip. As part of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, St. John's offers a value-centered education that recognizes the unique talents and abilities of each child, while fostering a school environment that challenges students to reach their true potential. Open since 1966, St. John's offers a rigorous curriculum and extensive activity and athletic programs. Students have the opportunity to take numerous Advanced Placement classes and 99% of St. John's graduates continue on to higher education. For Mission Statement and additional information: [www.sjbdhs.org](http://www.sjbdhs.org)*