



# ST. LAURENCE

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## CATHOLIC SCHOOL

August, 30, 2017

Dear Saints Community,

I sincerely hope that you are safe with your family members at this time. The past week has been such an incredibly difficult time for our community and beyond. I cannot imagine all the stories we will have to tell one day. Whether you were evacuated, sheltered in place or had loved ones in need, all of us were greatly affected by this disaster. Today was the first time I could actually get to the school due to the high water around this complex. As I entered the building, I was amazed to notice that it all looked the same with the warmth and welcome that you always find when you enter our school. We were incredibly blessed not to have sustained any damage, unlike many of our sister schools and parishes. So many of you have been asking how you can help others, and at this time I would direct you to our St. Laurence Parish Social Concerns Ministry. They will ensure that the needs of our families, the community and others will be addressed in an organized and efficient manner. I guarantee that there will be a multitude of opportunities to support others affected by the storm in the coming weeks from physical labor and volunteer work, to supplying gift cards and necessities for those that are displaced. We will keep you informed as to ongoing relief efforts and what the archdiocese is asking of us as well.

As far as the school, we plan on resuming classes on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will recognize regular hours that day and attempt to keep things as normal as possible for our students. Getting back to a routine for children can often be the best approach to a crisis. With that, we will also allow time for reflection and prayer if needed. I'm aware that some of our families are staying with others at this time or have extra guests in need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of help. We are one family and the generosity of this community is overwhelming. In keeping with our theme this year of being "called", God is definitely calling us to "serve and love" one another. Circumstances like these are the perfect time to fulfill our true mission as a pastoral instrument of the Church. The school can also provide materials or resources for you as a family if your child or a family member is struggling emotionally with the events of this past week.

Lastly, I was amazed at the beautiful bonding that I saw taking place throughout the storm. The prayer chains, group texts, and social media posts were so reassuring and an uplifting reminder of the caring human spirit. I personally had offers from school parents asking if they could help rescue family members and I can never thank all of you enough for the beautiful examples that you set. I know you may have heard me say many times that we are blessed, but it is so true. We hope that you received our communications and alerts during the storm and I cannot thank Adriana Gutierrez enough for all the information she was able to put out via our webpage, parent email and social media avenues. We tried to do our best to connect families in need with those offering their homes, as well as provide important rescue information.

Please give your child a hug from us and tell him/her that we will see them on Tuesday. Because of their amazing Saints spirit, everyone has free dress that day! That might make it a little easier to come back. Thank you all for being such an important part of our Saints family and for staying strong. ***"It is the LORD who goes before you; He will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed."* Deuteronomy 31:8**

Abundant blessings,

Suzanne Barto  
Principal