



# ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Exemplary High Performing 2014 National Blue Ribbon School

January 26, 2016

Dear Fellow Parents,

As we prepare to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school next year, we reflect about how proud we are of St. Laurence Catholic School and the amazing work that is accomplished each day in the areas of academics, nurturing our Catholic identity, technology, community involvement, fundraising, and athletics. All of these accomplishments are due to our dedicated faculty and staff and our incredible parent volunteers.

We are proud to say that we are able to compensate our teachers at an average of 88% of the current FBISD salary scale. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston recommends having a pay scale that is 80-90% of the area public school system, and we are towards the top of that range. Our faculty also benefit from having 100% of their benefits covered, as well as 7.5% of their salary invested into a pension plan in their compensation package.

As we all work together to ensure that our school maintains its high-quality of standards, we, as a School Board, work tirelessly to maintain the most affordable tuition for all families who wish to send their children to Catholic school. The archdiocese recommends an annual tuition increase of 3-4%. For the 2016-2017 school year, SLCS will implement a 2.5 tuition increase for PK-K and Middle School (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) and a 4% tuition increase for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades. The School was able to pay for unexpected occurrences (A/C and roofing repairs) the past twelve months under our normal operating budget. We are very proud that money was not needed out of the school's capital reserve savings as that means that we are being good stewards of our funds. This summer, using some of the capital reserve, we are planning to install a new playground on the main campus, create built-in storage, renovations on the ECC campus, and do some extensive painting inside.

We are also investing in a more robust formative assessment program called STAR 360 that will help us evaluate our curriculum quarterly, of course a huge advantage. Along with that, it is also important to note that we will continue to invest in security with the acquisition of a new entry system, which includes card key access throughout the main campus.

It is important to note that the cost of educating our children is not paid for by tuition and fees alone. Annually, we are supported by the Annual Fund, the Auction, the parish, and numerous fundraisers by students, faculty and parent volunteers, as well as generous donations. God has been good to SLCS, and we are most thankful to the community for working together as a trinity to support Catholic education at SLCS!

Together in Christ,

Michael Hurtado, School Board President