



EPISCOPAL

SCHOOL OF BATON ROUGE

HEAD *of* SCHOOL

October 9, 2017

Annual Report for the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Louisiana,

As we started school this year, it would be hard to believe that a year ago we were dealing with the Flood of 2016. Through the efforts of the Episcopal community, both locally and nationally, we have emerged stronger than before. We are certainly grateful to all who supported us in so many ways as we sought to continually create a school year for our students, families, and faculty and staff that would not be defined by the flood.

Our enrollment remains strong at 973 students Pre-K3 through 12th grades. We have replaced our open houses with Test Drive Tuesdays which offer prospective families the opportunity to come in and “test drive” the school in a more intentional and purposeful way. Episcopal continues to experience less attrition than the national average while simultaneously managing to attract a diverse group of mission appropriate students from in and around the Baton Rouge area.

At the time of last year’s Diocesan Convention and last year’s report, we were planning (hoping) to be back in the Lewis Memorial Chapel of the Good Shepherd here on our campus after months of renovation. We did have our Lessons and Carols in the chapel last December and were using it all of the spring 2017 semester. We had our Baccalaureate and Commencement in the chapel last spring and Bishop Thompson joined us for a rededication of the chapel in August.

We had a dual accreditation visit with both SAES and SAIS in February, which went wonderfully thanks to the work done by Dr. Jewel Reuter and our entire faculty and staff. We received full accreditation through June 30, 2022 from both of those associations. SAES will follow SAIS’s five-year accreditation timeline with a Two-Year Interim Report.

Last year, Episcopal had an outstanding graduating class of 104 students who matriculated on to highly selective schools such as Yale, Harvard, and MIT as well as other prestigious schools around the country and here in our own state of Louisiana. We have had and continue to have a close relationship with LSU that we value greatly.

After the flood, we decided to put aside our capital campaign, which was in its “silent phase” before the flood. Now, with the *Spirit* portion done and the chapel renovation complete, the *Spirit, Mind, and Body* campaign is back on and into the *Mind* phase. We broke ground in May 2017 on our new Academic Commons building, which will house our Upper School Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math courses, as well as being a home for much of our work that focuses on innovative learning. The hope is to have that building completed for use in the 2018-2019 school year.

As the Bishop is aware, earlier this school year we received news of an allegation of sexual assault concerning an employee and a former student. Episcopal has pledged its full cooperation with the authorities. The incident is alleged to have occurred several years ago. A special committee appointed by the Board has retained independent counsel to fully investigate this matter. The Board and the school’s administration believe we have an obligation to Episcopal community members, past and present, to investigate not only the allegation received, but to reach out to all in our community. We are committed to seek the truth. We want to know. Current members of the Board and leaders of the school know of no other allegations of this type in the school’s 50-year history. Episcopal screens employees prior to hiring, utilizes fingerprint background checks, trains teachers in “Safeguarding God’s Children” and continues to be committed to the personal safety, health and well-being of each student entrusted to its care.

We continue to hold our place and part in the Diocese as one that is at the core of our identity. The Episcopal School of Baton Rouge strives to live into our role as a place where all are welcome and come to know God’s love and grace, and where all are taught to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” We are grateful for the interest of the Bishop and the Diocese in our “Mission and Ministry” and look forward to another great year.

In God’s Peace,



Hugh McIntosh

Head of School



The Rev. Kirkland “Skully” Knight

Chaplain