

October 9, 2019

Annual Report for the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Louisiana,

It has been a great start to the school year for us here at the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge. We are certainly grateful to all who have supported us in so many ways as we near the end of our *Spirit, Mind, Body* capital campaign. The first phase with the chapel renovation was a complete success, we are in our second year occupying the Academic Commons-our new innovative learning center, and hope to be in our new field house for the beginning of the spring semester.

In addition to the three phases of our original capital campaign, we are also raising funds to renovate Foster Hall. It will become the Quest Center, an innovative learning center for our Lower and Middle Schools to complement the Academic Commons. We have also purchased 24 acres of land adjacent to our property just across Jones Creek to the south for future flexibility.

Our enrollment is at about 930 students Pre-K3 through 12th grades. This is down somewhat from 972 a few years ago, but it is consistent with trends in schools such as ours. We are continuing to do private and small group tours for Lower School and are going to go back to an Open House model for our Middle and Upper School. Our enrollment is certainly something we are paying attention to, but 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. The Gaudet Scholarships through the diocese are very important in these efforts, helping 52 students this year with tuition.

Last year, Episcopal had an outstanding graduating class of 105 students who matriculated on to highly selective schools such as Princeton, Wake Forest, and Sewanee 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. The Class of 2020 has 11 National Merit Semifinalists and 3 Commended Scholars continuing the success of the previous graduating classes.

By the time of Diocesan Convention we will have likely named a new Head of School-our 5th Head of School-who will take over beginning the 2020-2021 school year. In the spring of 2018, Mr. McIntosh announced he would be stepping down at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

After that announcement the process of seeking his replacement began. His desire was work diligently up to and through the search process to leave the school in the best light for the incoming Head. The search process went smoothly with our search consultants presenting us with many qualified candidates. There is a transition team made up of board members and others who will work with the current Head of School to bring the Head of School elect into the community with a working knowledge of systems here at Episcopal. That work will take place over the spring semester and the transition will be official in the summer of 2020.

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." This is lived out in many ways which include, but are not limited to our Student Vestry groups in Middle and Upper School, the Center for Service Learning, and our affiliation with the Anti-Defamation League who recognizes us as a No Place for Hate school. 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