Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Report
Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
May 2025

Our Mission and Ministry: As a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, Episcopal School of Baton Rouge nurtures and develops the whole child -- spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically and artistically -- through challenging academic and co-curricular programs which prepare our graduates for college and for purposeful lives.

Core Values:

- *Pursue excellence*
- *Foster character*
- *Nurture spirituality*
- *Develop leadership*
- *Build community*

As we near the end of the 2024 – 2025 school year, I am pleased to share an update since my last report in the fall, and I will attempt to organize the happenings on our campus in the themes of our mission: *spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, and artistically*.

Spiritually and Morally

The spring semester has been full of community events, both sorrowful and joyous. We began the semester with a tragic death in our community when a member of the Class of 2024 was killed in the New Year's Day Bourbon Street attack, and another member of that same class was seriously injured. As a relatively small school, many faculty, staff, students, and parents were deeply affected, but we also witnessed the beauty of being an Episcopal school in many meaningful ways. The chapel served as a home for alumni to return to and mourn together, and the Episcopal Schools Commission coordinated a chapel service across our schools to pray for us and honor the victims.



Our new Head Chaplain Father Patrick Edwards has added some programming for the adults in our community (parents, teachers, neighbors) including weekly bible study and Eucharist. Here he is (pictured left) participating in our Festival of Colors. Fr. Patrick will also participate in the NAES Chaplains Retreat this summer.

Through the generosity of the deGravelles family (and our own "Chaplain Charlie"), we were able to redesign a special space on campus called the Peace Place (pictured below). Read more about the project here.



The Episcopal Schools Commission has been very active this semester. In addition to the unified prayer service I mentioned, we had a virtual meeting in February and an in-person meeting in April. AI policies and use in our schools were the focus of the virtual meeting. For the in-person meeting, held at St. Martin's Episcopal School, we included our Marketing and Communications teams to discuss plans for Episcopal Schools Week as well as some of the presidential executive orders and their potential impacts on our schools.

Intellectually

One of my favorite days on campus is LAUNCH Day, and this year we were excited to have Bishop Shannon join us. LAUNCH is a special day in the Upper School when seniors do TEDx-style presentations of their two-year research projects on a variety of topics in both the sciences and humanities. However, the upper school is not the only division doing exciting and rigorous academics. For the first time this year, we hosted a lower school Mu Alpha Theta competition, and it was also a blast! To see the lower school students so excited about solving math problems with pirate outfits on was a real treat! I had to include a picture below to illustrate.



While our seniors have been offered many notable scholarships, for the first time in Episcopal's history, one was named a Morehead-Cain Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and we have been told that he is the first ever from Baton Rouge. This year, we also had 4 seniors named Presidential Scholars candidates and 6 National Merit finalists.

This semester, our Global Travel Program has been robust with both a Madrid exchange and a spring break trip to Iceland. I was delighted to chaperone 25 students on the Iceland trip where we explored glaciers, hot springs, volcanoes, tectonic plates, a geothermal bakery, and my favorite – ice caves!



Physically and Artistically

Our athletes are finishing the spring season with district, regional, and state successes. Our Boys Powerlifting team won the state championship and had 3 individual state champs. Track, golf, and tennis teams are headed to state tournaments this week. Additionally, this is the time of year for all the spring performances of band, dance, and choir, and we recently finished an incredible run of Chicago (Teen Edition). Another of my favorite things at Episcopal is attending the "signings" of our athletes and artists who plan to continue their passions in college. This year, we have already had 10 student-athletes commit to playing at the collegiate level, and 5 artists who plan to major in an arts-related field.

Other Updates

Finally, on the business side, enrollment is strong with 946 currently enrolled and a similar projection for next year. Our retention rate is at about 96%, and we are especially proud of the work we have done to retain students at the transition points from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th grade. Our faculty retention is also strong with an attrition rate this year of 6%, and we currently have only 4 open positions for next year. Unfortunately, one of those open positions is a last-minute, out-of-state move of our Upper School Division Head, and we are working swiftly and diligently to find a strong leader for that key administrative role.

We have exceeded our annual fund goal of $700,000 and are projecting a budget excess of approximately $150,000 at the end of this year. Our endowment currently stands at almost $17M, and we are excited to launch an endowment campaign and work on a new master facilities plan as part of our strategic plan. Overall, it has been a wonderful year at Episcopal, and the school is doing exceptionally well.