



October 3, 2017

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting week! Thank you for all the congratulations on our Blue Ribbon achievement. Congratulations to you on helping make our school great! We have a dedicated school community that strives for success. We wouldn't be a Blue Ribbon School without you!

Applying for Blue Ribbon status is a lengthy process, and the award has many requirements. A Blue Ribbon School is accredited and has a strong curriculum that includes foreign language and extra-curricular activities. Some of the work CKS has done in the area of curriculum has strengthened our writing program, improved the vertical alignment of our curriculum, and focused on the examination of our assessment data.

Providing services and resources for intervention also supported our application for Blue Ribbon status. Programs that assist our students and families include the Success program, which consists of Raising the Bar and Learning Strategies. Our middle school House and Advisory systems, our gifted program, and the variety of guidance programs gave evidence of our emphasis on student support and helped us gain this honor.

A Blue Ribbon School includes teacher instruction that motivates and encourages student engagement and produces high-achieving students. Professional growth supports student success and differentiation of instruction. Our Professional Learning Teams and our use of Data Days to analyze test scores provide for both teacher and student growth. A variety of summative and formative assessments offers teachers data for meeting student needs.

Service to our community and parish is part of our school's mission and helps CKS to stand out. Community outreach engages our families through many activities, including Mass, parent nights, Grandparents Day, arts programs, guest speakers, and Career Day. These are just a few examples of how we come together as a community. We have been commended for using numerous means of communication to reach out to our parents and community, and through fundraising, our school works to keep tuition low for our families. The amount of parent involvement - especially the work of our PTO - provides family mentoring, engages families to come together, and supports student achievement.

In a Blue Ribbon School, leadership is dedicated to student growth and faculty development. Using assessment to drive change involves analysis of curriculum and creation of programs like Minds in Motion and Success. Having strong, student-centered programs is an asset of CKS and helped us to become "Blue x 2". We have worked to expand our preschool, to improve and organize school policies, and to focus on the faith formation of all whom God brings before us. CKS provides a safe, efficient learning environment, establishes relationships with the community, and strives for continuous improvement.

Thank you for all your support and have a wonderful fall break!

Many Blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.