



11/16/17

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our annual Open House and registration this week. We are all so proud of our student tour guides. They did a fantastic job, and it is evident that they are proud of their school! Even some CKS alumni attending Lexington Catholic returned to assist us on Sunday. That says a lot for how they feel about their *alma mater*!

As we approach this time of introducing new families to CKS, we appreciate the important decision parents have to make regarding where their children will go to school. As parents, we want to give our children the best education possible, and we seek characteristics that make for a strong and effective school. When families are moving, I often get the question, "What should I look for in a school?"

Being recently named a **Blue Ribbon School for the second time**, I would say that you should look for the same qualities that are required to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School. ([My October 3rd letter explained what makes us a Blue Ribbon school.](#)) The first thing I tell people is to find an accredited school. Not all private and parochial schools are accredited. Also, some accrediting agencies have more challenging requirements and accreditation processes than others.

We are accredited through AdvancEd, which implements a rigorous accreditation process. AdvancEd accreditation also serves as our accreditation with the state of Kentucky through Kentucky Non-public Schools. An AdvancED-accredited school must adhere to numerous qualifying standards and be committed to continuous improvement. It must have certified teachers and leaders, and certifications must be maintained with the state by teachers advancing their degrees in addition to earning professional development hours annually. Calendar requirements and the number of instructional and professional in-service days are also considered during accreditation.

Another element to examine when evaluating a school is how it utilizes assessments. Testing should embrace not only statewide averages, but also national norms. A school that effectively incorporates consideration of assessments shows that it emphasizes growth and continuous improvement.

Of course, a school should have a strong mission and a rigorous curriculum that supports creativity and inquiry, and provides student support. Community outreach and parent involvement strengthen a school's purpose through the building of relationships and resources, and provides opportunities for students to learn, interact, and serve. At a Catholic school, this aspect is enhanced, allowing students to live out their Catholic faith.

Thank you for choosing Christ the King School for children's education. We know you have choices, and choosing CKS provides your children great support and opportunities for their future within a faith-filled environment. Giving our children a Catholic school education is truly one of the greatest gifts we can give them.

Many blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.
Principal