

January 7, 2009

Dear St. Bernard's School Community,

Welcome back from a wonderful Christmas holiday. I would like to congratulate all of our students on their outstanding academic work which ended on December 18th. In reviewing the student report cards it is comforting to see the progress of our students and the wonderful work of our teachers.

This last fall grades 2-8 were assessed using a nationally-normed test (ITBS) in mathematics, science, reading, language, social studies and sources of information. The results are very positive and demonstrate the outstanding achievement by our students.

St. Bernard's School students annually score above the Diocese average in all curricula tested. For example, here are the national percentile rankings of our 8th grade students (2008-09). Percentile ranking can be explained by looking at the Science Total where the class average of 73 percentile means that St. Bernard's students scored better than 72 percent of the students in the United States who took the ITBS test.

<u>Class Average (8th grade, 2008-09)</u>	<u>St. Bernard's</u>	<u>Diocese</u>	<u>National</u>
Science Total	73 percentile	63 percentile	50 percentile
Math Total	72 percentile	65 percentile	50 percentile
Language Total	79 percentile	72 percentile	50 percentile
Reading Total	69 percentile	61 percentile	50 percentile
Social Studies Total	68 percentile	59 percentile	50 percentile
Sources of Information Total	70 percentile	65 percentile	50 percentile

Technology curriculum with the use of the Elementary Technology Literacy Test has shown class averages in grades 4th and 5th to be proficient using a sample size of 68,000 students (2008-09). Grades 6th, 7th and 8th class averages have also shown to be proficient with a sample size of 40,075 students (2008-09).

We all know of the economic problems which we as a country are experiencing. St. Bernard's has maintained a school facility and expanded on its curriculum for the benefit of our families and their children. With the addition of the full day Kindergarten St. Bernard's continues to improve its curriculum. The Diocese's Annual Report 2008-09 published trends have shown St. Bernard's School to be the second lowest tuition in the Diocese at \$3,425 for the 2007-08 school year. Actual cost per student for 2007-08 was \$4,863.25. The difference in the two totals has been reached through fundraisers and donations. St. Bernard's has also been able to provide need-based tuition assistance for our families totaling \$44,964 (2008-09).

Re-enrollment for the 2009-10 school year will begin shortly. We encourage all families to enroll promptly and to encourage new families to consider the excellent opportunities at St. Bernard's School.

Gary Abate, Principal