



## ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL

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A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. In addition to being honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC, where each school receives a plaque and flag signifying their status, these schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation.

Last year, we embarked on a rather extensive application process to qualify for this award based on the fact that our students are academically superior to other students in the state and across the nation. We knew that the competition would be intense, since a maximum of only 50 private schools nationally may be chosen in a given year. We knew that we were an excellent school, but that this would not be enough. Would the U.S. Department of Education consider St. Joseph School as one of the best in the country and designate it as a model for other schools?

Tuesday, September 15, Arne Duncan, the Secretary of Education, announced that St. Joseph School is indeed a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. We are all very proud, and hope that this award will not only serve as a reward for a job well done, but more importantly inspire us to work even harder at becoming the best school possible.

Second to passing on the knowledge and love of our Lord, the quality of the education and the extraordinary achievement of the students truly are accomplishments that should be celebrated.