



# *St. Jude the Apostle School*

9150 Highland Road • Baton Rouge, LA 70810 • (225) 769-2344 • FAX: (225) 769-0671 • [www.stjudebr.org](http://www.stjudebr.org)

September 24, 2020

Dear St. Jude Families,

I am so excited to share with you that this afternoon St. Jude the Apostle School was recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos as a **National Blue Ribbon School** in the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools for 2020!! An Exemplary High Performing School is among the nation's highest performing schools as measured by nationally normed tests.

Now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program has bestowed recognition on 367 public and non-public schools from across the country (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Island) for 2020. Out of the 367 schools, only **50 non-public schools** are awarded this status each year.

The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony will be held virtually November 12 and 13. While we will not be able to receive the award in person, given the current situation regarding COVID-19, the celebration of the 317 public and 50 non-public school honorees will be done virtually, and we will receive our plaque and flag via mail.

As a first time applicant, St. Jude the Apostle School has achieved this prestigious status due to the incredibly talented and dedicated faculty and staff, our supportive parents and church community, and of course, our amazing students! Additionally, we share this accomplishment with the generations of former staff members and families that helped lay the foundation of providing our students with a family-like learning environment that centers on faith, academics, and excellence.

GEAUX COUGARS!!!

Michelle Gardiner, M.ED.



*Faith, Academics, Excellence*