



CARDINAL RITTER HIGH SCHOOL

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Message from the President

There is a saying we often hear and use that “education is a journey, not a destination”. Obviously, the intent of the quote is to emphasize that we never reach a point in life where further education is unnecessary but that learning is a life long quest. In today’s world, information can be rapidly attained at the click of a few keystrokes. Having a better and comprehensive understanding of information and knowing how to apply it for the betterment of life is true wisdom and is the journey of learning that should never end. Our mission and approach to education is to provide students with the tools and skills to be successful life-long learners. Last spring, we completed a comprehensive review of our strategic plans to align and reinforce that academic direction by continuing to stress the need for high standards of excellence and developing critical thinking skills that are based on the foundation of values espoused by our Catholic faith. During the August meeting, our board recommended the acceptance of the updated five year strategic plan and have submitted it to the Archdiocese for the Archbishop’s approval. The plan, which includes St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangel Catholic Elementary School, was the collaborative effort of committee members, staff, parents and the administration. The high school portion builds on the successes achieved over the past seven years with a focus on individual student academic gains, project based learning, curriculum enhancements in science and foreign language and to become an Early College High School. For your benefit, the full strategic plan is now on our website. We encourage you to read the document and welcome your comments and questions. With a greater understanding of our goals and approach to education comes a greater chance for success in this mission.

On a separate note, there is an aspect within the recently enacted School Choice legislation that all of our families can use. It is now possible to take a \$1,000 state tax deduction for tuition paid at private elementary and secondary schools. This deduction translates for most of us into a \$40 state tax reduction. While individually, this amount will not make one rich, you may be interested in hearing how a contribution to the school that costs you half of the tax savings can be leveraged into a benefit of \$500 or greater. We will explain this and other opportunities for donors at the annual fund dinner on September 21st. I hope to see you then.

Gregory Perkins
President