



“Where Catholic tradition is combined with academic excellence.”

January 2017

Dear Parishioners of Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church,

It continues to be both a privilege and an honor to serve as Principal of Saint John the Apostle Catholic School. I know that we are so blessed having a devoted Pastor, Father Rob, a compassionate staff of educators and office personnel dedicated to the growth of the whole child and, equally as important, the endless support of parents and parishioners of the SJA community. Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment where students are loved and nurtured to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, socially, physically and emotionally. It is our goal to prepare our students to become respectful and responsible leaders in our Church and thoughtful contributors to our society.

Presently we are beginning the Annual Appeal for the 2017-2018 school year. Of course, as our school grows we face many challenges to continue to provide an academic atmosphere that empowers our students not only to be confident learners but competitive in reaching higher levels of achievement. We have worked very hard to make SJA as affordable as possible for those parishioners who would like to provide a Catholic education for their children. With the addition of the Virginia Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credits Program, we were able to provide financial assistance for 27 students to attend SJA who would not have had the opportunity otherwise.

Our building, as beautiful as it is, is getting older. Expensive maintenance costs are looming with limited resources to help to defray the costs. Additionally, we are always researching for cutting edge equipment and programs that will enhance student achievement and provide continuous school improvement. Upgrading playground equipment, extending the technology program, enhancing the music program and providing funding for teacher professional development are among the few areas of need at SJA. Your donations to the Annual Appeal will assist us in meeting the needs to enable our school to become one of the premiere Catholic schools in the Diocese of Richmond.

I thank you in advance for your financial support of Saint John the Apostle Catholic School. I ask that you pray and seek God's will as you contemplate a donation to your parish school. On behalf of Father Rob, the teachers and staff, please know that we are extremely grateful for your thoughtfulness and prayers. Above all, we are grateful for the continued blessings that God has bestowed on our beloved school.

Lovingly in Christ,
Miriam Cotton
Miriam Cotton, M.Ed.
Principal