



Dear St. Sebastian Parish School Families,

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you! Today, U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, announced St. Sebastian Parish School has received the prestigious **National Blue Ribbon Schools** award for the very first time as an **Exemplary High-Performing School**. This is a momentous achievement that reflects the dedication and excellence of our entire parish school community. Congratulations to us all on this remarkable accomplishment!

The path to this award did not happen overnight. It was a lengthy process that required tremendous time and collaboration from all of the teachers and many staff members, and the students played a major part in this as well. To qualify for an Exemplary High-Performing School, our students had to be among the highest-performing schools as measured by our NWEA MAP Growth Spring of 2022 reading and math assessments. We are so proud of our students for reaching these benchmarks.

From there, the faculty and staff took over, working collaboratively to complete the National Blue Ribbon School application, which included a plethora of written narratives, over 7,500 words in total! We were one of only 40 private schools across the country to meet all the rigorous requirements. St. Sebastian Parish School joins 9,000 public and private schools to have received this award since it started in 1982. While 9,000 sounds like a large number, when you think that there are nearly 130,000 public and non-public schools in the U.S., it shows how rare this award is.

This award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our students, teachers, staff, parents, and parishioners. It underscores our shared vision of providing an outstanding, faith-based educational experience for our children. It recognizes not only academic success but also the positive and nurturing environment we strive to create every day.

We want to express our gratitude to each of you for your support and involvement in our school. Your partnership with us plays a vital role in our success, and this achievement is a reflection of our collective efforts. As we proudly display the National Blue Ribbon, let it symbolize our commitment to providing the highest-quality education for our students as they grow in mind, body, and spirit. Together we will continue to empower our students to achieve their full potential and reach for the stars.

I look forward to celebrating this achievement in the coming days. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community!

Yours in Catholic Blue Ribbon Education,

Anthony Rohr



Congratulations!

St. Sebastian Parish School

for being recognized as a

2023 National Blue Ribbon School

by the **U.S. Department of Education!**

The [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. The coveted [National Blue Ribbon School award](#) affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

St. Sebastian Parish School has also just received [The Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research](#) for the fifth year in a row. In addition, nineteen of their teachers received individual recognition.

St. Sebastian Parish's Center for Early Learning was voted [Best of the Best](#) for 2022-2023 by an Akron Beacon Journal poll.

YOU ARE INVITED: Bishop Malesic is coming to celebrate a Mass with us on **Monday, October 2nd at 10 a.m.** The Mayor of Akron, the Honorable Daniel Horrigan will also be present to offer a proclamation. Please plan to attend if you can!

