

Episcopal



Monday, January 14, 2008

Dear Episcopal Parents,

It's that time of year. Just as anticipated—somewhere between the New Year and Mardi Gras-- you find in the mail the fat packet from Episcopal. And while it's a great temptation to skip directly to the bottom line, it's our hope that you'll take some time to better understand where we are and how that relates to the future. The packet you've received contains a piece of that future—not only Episcopal's future but, more importantly, your child's future.

By now, you've had the opportunity to read the Head of School's communication of January 4, 2008. If not, it's posted on the EHS website. The web-site also provides exciting updates on Episcopal's impressive accomplishments in academics, service, and extra-curricular activities. (Just check on the winter sports news! Move over LSU!)

But back to the future. The body of the January 4th letter contains specifics about the substantive progress the School has made in achieving its ambitious strategic goals. Those goals center on curriculum and scheduling; they speak to challenging the intellect, nourishing the body and engaging the spirit. While they do not address the fiscal responsibility inherent in running and maintaining a program of Episcopal's size and quality, that responsibility is of vital importance to Episcopal's Board of Trustees and administration. Our fiscal prudence, measured against national guidelines for independent schools, was praised by a professional school strategist. During that analysis, however, the Board realized that our teacher salaries would have to become more competitive in today's market.

While our physical plant is impressive and our working conditions are close to ideal, salaries and salary increases at Episcopal have been modest. When all is said and done, Episcopal's teachers are the yeast that makes the bread rise. And although we must take all of our operations expenses into account, it is the School's plan to apply most of the 2008-2009 increase in tuition and fees towards teacher salaries. We hope to bridge the gap between our salaries and those of EBR Parish in the next three to four years.

As you consider your child's future, please think in concrete terms about value for each dollar spent. The average tuition increase is \$555. The cafeteria fee will also increase by forty-two cents a day, from \$575 a year to \$650. This anticipates a programmatic change, based in research and best practice. Beginning in 2008-2009, all students in grades PreK-12 will be provided a healthy snack during a scheduled morning break. Enclosed are charts which show the sources of the School's revenue and where the money is spent.

As with all contracts, please examine the enrollment contract carefully. Do not commit yourself to its obligations until you are certain that Episcopal's mission is congruent with your child's needs and your family's values. In addition, I would encourage your attendance at the up-coming meetings that will introduce next year's daily schedule to Episcopal's parents. I think you'll be impressed at the increased academic time incorporated into the schedule. Additionally, please be aware that **next year's academic day will begin at 7:50 a.m. Dismissal will not change.**

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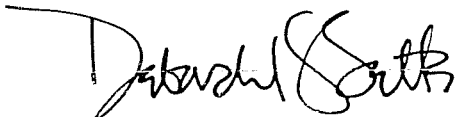
Episcopal finds itself on an exciting trajectory. Our enrollment is strong and interest in the School is high. The Admissions Office has been fielding a record number of calls and we anticipate that some grade levels will establish "wait pools" of qualified applicants. Because of this, we ask that you return your enrollment contract with the commitment fee by January 31, 2008. Please contact the Episcopal Admissions Office if meeting this deadline represents a difficulty for your family. If we have not heard from you by the 31st, the Admissions Office will begin to contact families in our admissions pool. An added benefit to the timely return of your child's enrollment contract is a discounted commitment fee (\$650, rather than \$750). For all students, the enrollment contract becomes binding on March 31st, 2008.

Please remember that Episcopal offers need-based financial assistance. Financial aid awards differ—and are proportional to demonstrated need. If you are interested in learning more about financial aid, I urge you to contact the Admissions Office as soon as possible. The deadline for the submission of materials is quickly approaching. This application process is confidential. For those families applying for financial assistance, the enrollment contract is not binding until the financial award has been offered by the School and accepted by the family.

Receipt of your child's enrollment contract and the accompanying fee will secure our commitment to one another. In turn, the School will then be able to make a commitment to Episcopal's teachers.

Once again, on behalf of all of us here at Episcopal – the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff – I thank you for your belief in our mission and your continued support. I invite all of you to attend The State of the School address on February 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. . On that evening you will have the opportunity to learn more about our plans for the future.

Sincerely yours,



Deborah Kay Betts
Head of School



Michael Ferachi
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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