

# St. E

May 12, 2016

Dear St. E Families and Friends,

I hope that this email finds you well. I am writing to you today with news of an announcement that Reverend Norm Carroll, St. Elizabeth pastor, has made to the parish community regarding a change in the schools' governance for the 2016-2017 school year.

St. Elizabeth Elementary School and St. Elizabeth High School will open the 2016-2017 school year as one school under the name St. Elizabeth School or St. E. The school has shared the best of its resources in recent years and now formalizes its endeavors with administration, admissions and marketing and through the future formation of a school board of restricted jurisdiction.

The school opened with the Benedictine Sisters in 1908; a high school was added in 1940. Today, a pre-K3 through grade 12 learning environment will be led by Shirley Bounds, Head of School; two principals will lead pre-K3-grade 6 and grades 7-12. St. Elizabeth School is building on its legacy of a strong Catholic faith-centered education, its high academic standards, a safe school environment, and a college preparatory curriculum where over 97% of our graduates attend college and return home to live and work in the Wilmington community.

Please know that St. Elizabeth is very grateful for the trust that you have placed in us with your most precious possession – your child, our student. We honor that trust and are dedicated to serving our students and community in the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, prayer, work and service. This thoughtful restructuring will add luster and refine an already rich environment of opportunity for Vikings of all ages. St. Elizabeth will be the first school to introduce junior high students to the experience of a high school rotating schedule and the possibility of college preparatory classes in junior high. The junior high students will experience the challenge of high school college preparatory expectations in curriculum and technology as the new schedule evolves. First and foremost, the students will see themselves as independent learners in student-centered environment where engagement, collaboration, innovation and creativity are encouraged. In this transitional year, the changes will be thoughtful and deliberate, ensuring that the students' interests and achievement are not compromised.

High school students will see their role expanded as student leaders in faith, academic excellence, and service. Their progression towards college admission will present the very real story of this journey to the next step in life. And what a wonderful example of hospitality they can inspire through the vision, mission and goal of this new structure in a familiar building. This is an exciting time to be a St. Elizabeth Viking as opportunities multiply through this endeavor. I am confident that you will join with me and the St. Elizabeth community as we commit to sustaining and advancing the future of our remarkable school for generations to come. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

In Benedictine Spirit,

