



January 27, 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy National Schools Week! The celebration of Catholic schools as “**Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service**” continues. Our year is going well and National Catholic Schools Week always provides an opportunity to express our gratitude to all who help make Catholic education possible in western South Dakota.

Did you know that approximately 2 million students in Catholic schools provide over 24 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation? Locally, the RCCSS employs over 125 individuals and serves approximately 550 families. Our schools are good for Rapid City and your commitment to all we do is essential in carrying out our mission of “Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition.” National Catholic Schools week is a time to share the good news of Catholic education. We hope you are able to come out and join us in this week-long celebration. A calendar of events can be found at <http://rccss.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/NCSW-District-Calendar-2017.pdf>

As we begin to plan for the 2017-18 school year, registration begins! We ask that you complete this process as soon as possible to assist us in our projections for staffing. Enrollment reached an all-time high this year and we are expecting waiting lists in several areas for the upcoming school year. It is important to us to process your registrations and get your spots secured before we open up to new families. Your timely registration is so helpful – thanks so much!

Tuition assistance for next year has increased to \$183,000. I encourage you to apply for this assistance if needed. We do not want tuition to be a barrier for any family and the people in our Business Office will work hard to help you work through the financial assistance process. Awards are based on the percentage of need calculated by Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS). TADS is a third party vendor used by the school to remove the judgment of school officials from the award process and to maintain confidentiality of the financial information provided by families. Applications must be submitted and processed by April 30th.

Please remember that it can take several weeks for the TADS application to make it through the audit process. After your initial submission, TADS will notify you of any additional documentation required to complete the process. Applications must receive a **good** or **fair** status with TADS to be considered for assistance. Please call the RCCSS Business Office at 348-1477 if you have any questions at all regarding the tuition assistance process.

I look forward to seeing you at NCSW events this week. Thank you for your partnership in the education of your children. Please continue to pray for our schools and that our work is pleasing to God. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Gratefully in Christ,

Barb Honeycutt, Superintendent