



Rapid City Catholic School System

From the Office of Development

Dear RCCSS Supporter,

Raising money is difficult, but there is a great sense of purpose when people come together to support a cause. But for our Catholic schools, it's a necessity, as tuition covers only 80% of the cost of educating our children. The good of the cause and the generosity of the benefactors inspire us to become involved in this worthy cause. This is why Smita and I have agreed to serve as parent-volunteers for the 2018-19 RCCSS Annual Fund. We enduringly believe in the cause, and look forward to making the very most of this experience.

Every school, public or private, asks parents for direct support in order to maintain the quality of education, extracurricular activities and overall school environment. These opportunities to help are blessings, as our time and attention are invested in ways that allow us to help shape the school experience of our children. We also get to see up close, the talents and dedication of our faculty and staff.

RCCSS parents have a long tradition of volunteerism. All of our families, past and present, are to be commended for this. It's an integral part of what makes our schools truly special. Smita and I understand the time and effort necessary to support our schools in this manner, which makes it difficult to ask for even more. But our schools require it.

Something Smita and I talk about is how wisely funds from all sources are spent in our schools. The successes of our students, performers and athletes are talked about a lot, and for good reason, but did you know our children accomplish all they do with about 20% less in funding than public school kids? I think this is impressive, and testament to the effectiveness of our school board and administration. It also means you can feel confident that your tuition dollars and contributions to the Annual Fund are spent effectively on our student body.

Once again our principals, Mary Helen, Colleen and Wayne, have done a great job encouraging participation by their staff in the Annual Fund. They are very proud to report that for the second year in a row, 100% participation has been achieved. And participation is the key. In addition to driving fundraising, it also cements the notion of community: we are all in this together.

Last year's Annual Fund drive enjoyed the financial support of nearly 20% of our parents, and ended up not quite reaching the \$100,000 goal. Every effort is being made this year to exceed the \$100,000 target, and as such a vibrant and resourceful community, our participating goal should always be 100%.

Like all of you, our family knows the *many* sacrifices we all make to ensure a Catholic education for our children. As our son Matthew finishes this chapter in his life and joins the alumni ranks of St. Thomas More High School, we feel a deep sense of gratitude to the school and community for making his education experience a wonderful foundation for a good and meaningful life. It's in this spirit of community that we ask you to contribute to the 2018 RCCSS Annual Fund. Please support the effort for 100% participation community-wide!

Sincerely,
Richard & Smita McGillick

RCCSS Parents

