



Dear Parents,

I thank you for considering for your children the rich Catholic education that more than 17,000 students are receiving this year in the Diocese of Arlington. The faith formation provided by a Catholic school is distinctive because it is sustained. Students not only receive daily a strong academic education, but also catechesis in their faith and an opportunity to be prepared for and regularly take part in the sacraments. For five days each week, students are immersed in academic education and faith development.

Undoubtedly, you will find your local Catholic school to be a caring, safe and academically challenging environment for your children. Recently, Pope Benedict XVI addressed educators, stating, “You form new generations not only in knowledge of the faith, but in every aspect of what it means to live as mature and responsible citizens in today’s world” (Pope Benedict XVI, 17 September 2010, Address of the Holy Father to Teachers and Religious). Echoing the Holy Father’s sentiments about the immense value of Catholic education, I urge you as parents, the primary educators of your children, to discover the gift of Catholic education. You can give your children no better gift than the ability to be formed fully as a person (mind, body and soul) so that they can live life here with true purpose and life forever after we pass over to God.

I sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome your child for the upcoming academic year. I believe in the educational mission of the Catholic Church and that your son or daughter will grow and mature through the formation he or she will receive in one of the many Catholic schools in the Diocese of Arlington.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Paul S. Loverde

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington