

January 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Probably like many of you who have followed the saga since 1977 but are not diehard fans, I made some time over the Christmas break to see *The Last Jedi*. Recall the climactic scene in which a solitary Luke Skywalker takes everything Kylo Ren and the First Order can hurl at him, so the dozen or so Resistance fighters remaining can survive. Sitting down to write my sixth annual Head of School's tuition letter at La Salle, I can empathize a bit with the burden Skywalker assumes in that moment. Each year, we increase tuition conscious of the real struggle so many families face regarding the considerable investment their sons' La Salle education requires, pained by the reality that not every family desiring a La Salle education for their sons can see their way through to providing it, even with assistance. Still, we know as well that maintaining the quality of this high school experience requires an ongoing investment in the stability and future growth of the school and its faculty.

**Tuition for the 2018-19 academic year will be \$23,050, a 2.9% increase over last year.** David Program tuition will rise similarly to \$9,400. On the reverse of this letter you will find a complete articulation of school fees and payment policies sent to your attention from La Salle's business office. I am pleased to report that for the third straight year, La Salle's increase remains under 3%, one of the lowest among independent schools in our region. In front of me as I write this letter I have what is now a 50-year history of tuition and enrollment at La Salle. The class of 2019 will be the only class recorded to graduate without a tuition increase above 4% in any given year, no class since that of 2015 having ever experienced any annual increase above 5% during their high school careers. Need-based financial aid will represent a commitment to accessibility by La Salle's Board of Trustees of over three and one-third million dollars.

Some families newer to La Salle may point to the Glaser Center opened last fall or to the enhancements planned for Flannery Field and Devine Track beginning late next spring and surmise that those facilities motivate tuition increases. I am proud of and for the La Salle community that this is not the case. Such capital projects have been entirely funded by generous donors, alumni, parents, past parents, foundations, and friends who admire and support La Salle's Mission and our work with young men. Tuition increases do ensure that existing facilities and technologies are current and well-maintained, that faculty receive compensation commensurate with their extraordinary loyalty to La Salle and exemplary dedication to our students, that cocurricular and extracurricular activities continue nonpareil, and that programming dedicated to the nurturing of Christian faith, Catholic practice, and personal spirituality is supported.

In *The Last Jedi* the death of Luke Skywalker, wistfully envisioning the double sunset of his home planet Tatooine, is not the *denouement* of the movie. A coda follows in which a young boy, a child slave at the casino, having used The Force to attract his broom and wearing a ring with the symbol of the Resistance, looks up at the sky and sees the Millennium Falcon. The boy then brandishes that broom like a lightsaber. The point is obvious: the Jedi Order will continue. My sincere thanks, on behalf of the Christian Brothers who founded La Salle College High School and the Board of Trustees who govern and sustain the school, to each family receiving this letter for your inspirational commitment to ensuring that the Mission of La Salle and its impact on thousands of individual young men likewise continues to flourish and grow both for our present students and for generations to come.

Fraternally yours,

Brother James L. Butler, FSC  
President