

4 January 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our recent return to school from Christmas break provides me with the opportunity to communicate with you for the first time in the new calendar year on an auspicious date. Today is the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born American saint and the pioneer of the model of Catholic education in the United States we practice today. Her short 46-year life, which ended on this day in 1821, was one that involved loss and sacrifice. Her mother died when she was three. Her beloved step-mother rejected Elizabeth and her sister after her own marriage to their father soured. Widowed in a foreign country before the age of 30, the attraction to Catholicism she developed in Italy led to her losing the support of her birth family and the first patrons of the school she conducted to support her family. Even once she became established as the religious and foundress we honor today, she continued to be asked for sacrifices, whether in the course of her duties or through extraordinary circumstances in her family.

While they may not be as dramatic as those asked of Mother Seton, most families attending La Salle College High School make real sacrifices to provide this opportunity for their sons. The Board of Trustees (so many of whom were once in your position) and I are always conscious of the sacrificial commitments made by parents to the education of their sons when setting tuition for the coming year. After thorough analysis of the operational needs and financial health of the school, we have determined that **tuition for the 2019-20 academic year will be \$23,850, an increase of 3.47% over the present year. David Program tuition will increase to \$9,700.** A full articulation of La Salle's tuition policies appears on the reverse of this letter.

The funds generated through necessary tuition increases allow La Salle to support and maintain a talented and dedicated faculty, cutting edge technology, first class facilities for instruction, athletics, and extracurriculars, and programming that is broad, substantial, and diverse. All these priorities directly benefit our students, your sons.

As most of you appreciate, tuition must rise annually in schools like La Salle to sustain such programmatic goals. At La Salle, though, we are careful to study patterns in such areas to make sure we are doing the best we can to manage our resources prudently. This year, I scrutinized average tuition increases over the past three eight-year periods (each representing two high school generations). This inquiry reveals a school that has been progressively more careful and successful in that effort. The average annual increase over the most recent period (2013-20 graduation years) has been 3.52%. This compares to an average increase of 7.18% in the prior period (2005-2012) and 5.53% in the one before that, beginning in the 1997 graduation year. Just as I hope you appreciate the care La Salle's governance and leadership take with the tuition-setting process, I want you to be sure to know we admire and support the sacrifice you are making by committing to a private Catholic education for your sons. La Salle's alumni, parents, and past parents share in this spirit of sacrifice and commitment as well, allowing us to provide \$3.6 million of need-based financial aid for our students in the coming year.

Thank you for the inspirational commitment you are making to the education and faith formation of your sons. La Salle's 160-year history has shown that this investment will pay rich dividends as these men both make the most of the opportunities and confront the challenges that will come throughout their adult lives.

Fraternally,

Brother James Butler, FSC  
President