



Dear Friends

This Sunday opens Catholic Schools Week. The first and most important work of Catholic Schools is to make certain that our young people are formed in faith. Without question, this is our number one priority every single day. Of course, we have to make sure that this happens in best educational setting, using the best tools of technology, and delivered by the most competent teachers as possible. However, the real task is to cultivate faith in the hearts of our students. What does this mean? Believing that Jesus died for us, has risen, and now lives for us as a Savior, and that these beliefs are felt in the atmosphere of our school. Teaching students to recognize the presence of Jesus in each person and the world around us is an important aspect of Catholic School formation. We know, at Sacred Heart, that the School needs to be kept as a valued ministry of the parish and an essential part of the parish's mission. The school and the parish's other programs should complement and reinforce each other as far as possible. The parish provides financially for the operation of a school. I thank you very much all of you for your generous contributions which supports Sacred Heart ministries which include BHCS.

To the parents of BHCS students: it is important for parishioners to see you and your children attending Mass weekly with our community, and investing yourself personally in our parish community life. This strengthens the bond between school and parish and makes the faith visible. A successful Catholic School is driven by its mission – and its mission needs to be something explicitly Christian and, in our case, Catholic. We know that *“Excellence in Academics”* is not sufficient for the mission of a Catholic School. For a Catholic school to pride itself and market itself as being academically better than the public schools is pretty sad. First of all, Catholic Schools are not in competition with public schools. Successful Catholic schools are interested in the academic excellence of public schools. We want each child to have an excellent education. *“We are different by design”* - apart from providing excellent education, we provide formation in faith.

Thank you very much for supporting our school and may God bless you all.
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis