



BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL 2010
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Saint James School Named Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education has named Saint James as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. In receiving this honor, our school becomes one of only 50 private and parochial schools and 254 public schools nationwide to be so designated.

The Blue Ribbon Program was established by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize high-performing schools, those whose students place in the top 10% of their peers nationwide in both reading and math as measured by national and state norms on standardized tests. On the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, Saint James students consistently score from one to nearly six years above grade level, and the yearly gains made by each group of students exceed expected progress. Thus, during the 2008-2009 school year, students in seventh grade at Saint James (the highest grade tested) earned scores in reading equal to those of students in the sixth month of twelfth grade. Language scores for the same group of seventh graders were on par with students beyond the high school level. Their math scores placed them on a level with students in twelfth grade.

Those of us associated with Saint James School have always known that ours is an outstanding school, but it is heartwarming to have our appraisal verified by the U.S. Department of Education. As the largest and oldest Catholic elementary school in Manchester, Saint James has proudly served the children of our community and surrounding towns for over 80 years. Currently, the school boasts an enrollment of 450 students, Pre-K through eighth grade.

Mrs. Patricia A. Kanute, Principal of Saint James School, called the award "a well-deserved honor for the students and faculty." Father Kevin P. Cavanaugh, Pastor of Saint James Church, also praised those responsible for the school's success. "Our school's excellence stems from the hard work of the students, the dedication of faculty and administration, the support of the parish community, the commitment of parents, and the important contributions of the Home and School Association, the Saint James School Board, and the Saint James School Foundation." According to Mrs. Kanute, "We are a true family here, and we work hard to make the children succeed."

Mrs. Kanute and Mrs. Ann Sarpu, Assistant Principal, traveled to Washington, D.C. in November to receive the award. Throughout the year, there will be celebrations involving students, families, alumni, and parishioners.