



## *A letter from the Saint Matthew's Fund Chairperson,*

Children are among the most precious of God's gifts to us. As parents, we have the honor of choosing their educational experience in a way that acknowledges and cultivates our priceless gifts. The way in which Saint Matthew's Episcopal School embraces all of its students and families is like no other. Saint Matthew's is much more than a school for us. Saint Matthew's is our family and our home. From our very first visit here, my husband Damon and I knew this was where we must send our children. Seven years later, our decision remains the same. Our children, Aiden, Ashton, and Austin have grown in so many ways. They have achieved amazing personal and academic successes that I can only attribute to the outstanding faculty and staff here. We had the experience of having the children attend a private Catholic school in another state for three weeks after Hurricane Ida. All three were able to easily assimilate into that school system and curriculum without any difficulty. They had already mastered most of the concepts that were being taught there, and they continued to excel academically.

Aiden has medaled two years in a row in both the regional and state Social Studies fair. We were so excited when he won both the regional and state competitions! Ashton, who was initially a quiet, shy child, has now become a social magnet who has friends at nearly every elementary school in the parish. Austin is quickly becoming a very confident hands-on learner due to Saint Matthew's comprehensive STEM program. They have all developed a strong spiritual and academic foundation here and have created what I am sure will be lifelong friendships.

Saint Matthew's Episcopal School has far exceeded its mission for our family in "nurturing mind, heart, and soul in a Christian environment." It has served as the place where I know my children are safe every day. I know they are getting a world class education in a nurturing, supportive atmosphere. Saint Matthew's encourages and celebrates every child with an individualized approach to ensure success at every level.

The Saint Matthew's Fund is an opportunity for friends and families of Saint Matthew's to become a part of the immersive Saint Matthew's experience by giving a meaningful gift to support its mission and to close the "excellence gap." This is the difference between the tuition and the actual cost of the education. This funding allows for Saint Matthew's to continue to be an academic and technological leader in elementary education. It also allows for enhanced professional development and retention of staff. Additionally, the Saint Matthew's Fund helps to facilitate campus improvement projects that directly benefit the students including newly enhanced, state-of-the-art safety features. The caliber of the education that every child receives at Saint Matthew's Episcopal School is truly priceless. Investing in our children today will enrich our community year after year. Your gift, regardless of size, will make a difference in the lives of each and every student who is blessed to call Saint Matthew's home.

Sincerely,

Elena Mann  
Parent and SMES Board of Trustees Member

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