



## ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, FULLERTON IS GRANTED PRESTIGIOUS BLUE RIBBON STATUS



Saint Joseph School – Fullerton in Perry Hall was recently named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The national award is given to public and private elementary, middle and high schools for "exemplary high performance" on state tests and in closing the achievement gap.

The U.S. Department of Education will honor St. Joseph School, a private Catholic elementary school with 461 students, at a recognition ceremony November 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC.

Principal Kenneth Pipkin called the award "an incredible honor." "Our school is not only academically strong, but we give our students the power and faith to reach their full potential in all areas of their life. Our teachers and parents are committed to this task which continues to promote our tradition of success."

Mr. Pipkin, who took over as principal this year, along with assistant principal Mrs. Christina Ashby, reminds the staff, students, and families that St. Joseph's is more than a school, it is a family. "When we think of ourselves in that way, we help each other to achieve incredible things. We want our students to learn, but we also want to help them spiritually by becoming thoughtful, caring individuals, ready to face their future seeded in Christ".

The faculty gathers to review data regularly and make a plan to help ensure the success of all students. "We make concrete goals for the following year and incorporate these goals into our school-wide curriculum". In addition to academics, students at St. Joseph's work on community service projects, including food and clothing drives, helping children and families both in their community, and beyond. Mr. Pipkin says, "We need to make sure our students see themselves as a spiritual leader that can make a difference in their community and in their world."

Saint Joseph School – Fullerton has been around since 1877 with a long Catholic tradition of strong academics, the school also has many extracurricular activities, including a Student Activities Committee which plans events such as an anti-drug parade and spirit days that raise funds for various charities. St. Joseph also has a school band, track team, and many student clubs, including a chess club, art club, robotics club, and many athletic sports teams.

*Saint Joseph School – Fullerton educates children Pre-K through eighth grade in the Catholic tradition. Their mission is to provide a positive learning, Christ centered environment in which every child is challenged to develop their potential; academically, spiritually, and morally.*