



Dear Families,

As we begin to plan for the next academic year and beyond, it has become increasingly obvious that we need to elevate our academic program and ensure more academic rigor for our students. As part of this ongoing commitment, we are excited to share several new and enhanced course offerings for the upcoming school year.

### **Exciting New Grade Level Experiences for our curriculum**

We are proud to introduce **AP Seminar (Grade 10 English)**, a required sophomore course that launches students into high-level inquiry and academic discussion. In this dynamic, discussion-based class, students explore complex real-world and academic issues, analyze multiple perspectives, evaluate sources, and communicate evidence-based ideas through writing, presentations, and collaboration. AP Seminar builds a powerful foundation for advanced coursework and college-level thinking, preparing students for future AP offerings in congruent years.

We are also excited to launch the **Senior Capstone Seminar (Grade 12)**, a new culminating experience designed to help students connect their high school journey to life beyond graduation. Through independent research and hands-on projects, students develop essential college and career readiness skills including resume writing, application preparation, financial literacy, and confident public speaking. This course empowers students to step into their next chapter with clarity and confidence.

### **Enhanced College Prep & STEM Pathways**

#### **AP Environmental Science (Grades 11–12)**

Students explore the science behind today's most pressing environmental challenges. Through an interdisciplinary approach, they analyze natural systems, evaluate human impact, and develop sustainable solutions using concepts from biology, chemistry, geology, and geography. This course mirrors a one-semester college-level environmental science experience.

#### **Introduction to Engineering (Grades 11–12)**

Students bring ideas to life through hands-on design and problem-solving. This project-based course introduces the engineering process through creative challenges that build technical skills, innovation, and real-world thinking—from simple machines to complex systems.

**AP Statistics (Grade 12)**

Students develop the skills to make sense of the world through data. In this college-level course, they explore probability, sampling, and statistical inference while learning to collect, analyze, and interpret real-world data using graphing technology.

In addition to these exciting updates, we are actively reviewing and expanding our elective program for all students. While scheduling timelines are still being finalized, we look forward to sharing new opportunities that reflect student interests, creativity, and emerging pathways.

At St. Bernard's, we are proud and excited to provide these new academic offerings to ensure students are engaged in meaningful, challenging, and future-focused learning experiences.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we prepare our students for what's next.

**God Bless STB**