



O'Hara Catholic School

## FOUNDATION 2011 ANNUAL APPEAL

*Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.*  
- Proverbs 22:6

Dear O'Hara Families & Friends,

**This past September, I walked through the front doors of O'Hara Catholic School with my daughter for her very first day of school.** It was not, however, my first time walking through those doors on the first day of a new school year: I attended O'Hara from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I went on to attend Marist and then the University of Portland where I met my husband who had traveled a similar path through Catholic education. We always knew that, when the time came, we would send our kids to a Catholic school as well. This past year, when we visited O'Hara as a family, I felt like I was coming home. I figured it was because I had spent so many of my formative years there, but when we left, my husband commented, "That school has a real...*feel*...to it. You can tell it's more than just a school". O'Hara has grown and changed since my time there, but in the most crucial ways, it has remained the same. The Catholic identity of the school is still its guiding light and the atmosphere of O'Hara's loving community is almost palpable.

**We choose to send our children to O'Hara because we want to raise them deeply rooted in our Catholic faith** with an understanding of why their faith is relevant; because we want the values we instill at home reinforced and echoed in the classroom; because we want them to grow up going to a school where they can pray and talk about God and what it means to be a good steward and servant of God; and because they can learn why serving others is truly important as a calling from the Lord, not just something to make them "feel good" or to fulfill a requirement. We want our children at O'Hara because, as adults, we know how our experience with Catholic education transformed our lives.

**As parents, we know the sacrifices that must be made to provide a Catholic education for our children.** Not all families are in a position to provide their children with a Catholic education; that is what makes the efforts of the O'Hara Catholic School Foundation so important. Giving to the Foundation through the Annual Appeal helps to grow a long-term sustainable funding source that will continue to open the doors wider to allow more children to experience the strong Catholic education that O'Hara provides.

**This Christmas season, please join me in giving thanks for the blessing of O'Hara Catholic School** by considering a donation to the O'Hara Catholic School Foundation's Endowment Fund. Your contribution will help ensure the future of O'Hara and provide a child with a priceless, lifelong gift.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Westover".

Alexandra (Edmondson) Westover ('96)

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