



INCARNATE WORD HIGH SCHOOL

Established 1881

Dear Prospective Students and Parents:

Greetings and blessings to you and your family from Shamrock Country!

With a mission closely tied to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Incarnate Word High School has provided students with an excellent academic and spiritual foundation for over 128 years. We are blessed to assist parents in nurturing all dimensions of their daughters' formation so they emerge with inquiring minds and a strong sense of self worth. Our tradition of encouraging each student to find her voice and become a leader furthers our goal of sending competent, confident, service-oriented women into the community.

For 128 years, IWHS has had the same expectation of every student—that they do their best. It is not an option...it is an expectation. As a result, our graduates are well prepared for the transition to college and the rigors of post secondary education. Each graduating class is unique in their accomplishments. I am proud to report that the class of 2009 earned \$10.98 million dollars in scholarships and grants. Our students are successful because they are determined to learn and achieve; they have tremendous support from their parents; they are taught by highly trained and dedicated faculty, and they have the opportunity to enhance their spiritual lives daily.

Research gathered over the past 40 years provides strong evidence that girls in single gender educational settings are more likely to take academic risks and seek leadership roles. They are inspired by a variety of female role models. In the classroom and open labs, they have the freedom and self confidence to explore their interests and their learning styles without the embarrassment associated with a co-educational setting. On a daily basis, I see our young women in the pursuit of excellence taking on challenge after challenge, increasing their self confidence, discovering their talents and maturing into young women of accomplishment and compassion. And while our public schools are exploring, and in some cases implementing the option of single gender classrooms, they, unfortunately, are restricted from educating the whole child because they cannot nurture the students' spiritual growth.

In spring of 2009, IWHS was re-accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our school was commended not only for our work with students and services to the community, but for our students themselves. I have enclosed a summary of the two reports in this mailing. Our full self study is available for review in the IWHS library.

A great education requires the combination of mission, discipline and focus. Incarnate Word High School offers just that, plus the opportunity for your daughter to explore a variety of interests, make lasting friendships and experience a unique spiritual and social development. We invite you to join our family and watch your daughter grow into one of our competent and confident graduates. I ask you to give your daughter the incredible gift of an Incarnate Word High School education. You will not regret it.

As you and your daughter contemplate which school to select for high school, we have enclosed our admissions literature and application for you to review. We look forward to you being part of the Incarnate Word family.

Praise be the Incarnate Word,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B.J. Nelsen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

B.J. Nelsen
Principal

Enclosure: Points of Distinction/Summary of Accreditation Reports