



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

**IN RECOGNITION OF
ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE SCHOOL
2011 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**
September 15, 2011

Congratulations on being recognized as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. This award acknowledges your efforts to ensure that every child attains high levels of academic performance and salutes your success in accordance with the Blue Ribbon Schools Program criteria. Your school is a model of excellence and student achievement from which others can take inspiration.

Your status as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School affirms the broader commitments you have made to expand the horizons of knowledge for all your students by equipping them to explore those horizons wisely. You have demonstrated that, working together, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community leaders can nurture all students to reach their full potential. You remind us that with determination and effort, anything is possible.

President Barack Obama and I believe that every child in this country deserves a world-class education. We are investing unprecedented resources to realize a vision of education that supports students from cradle to career. Our plan begins with high-quality early childhood programs, transitions to world-class K-12 systems, and culminates in accessible and affordable college and career options to give all Americans a path to fulfilling careers and engaged citizenship. As you know, in an interconnected, competitive global economy, the best way to secure our common future is through education.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with our Blue Ribbon Schools Program partners—the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Middle School Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Council of Chief State School Officers—during the national recognition events November 14-15, 2011. We invite two representatives from your school (the principal and a teacher or staff member) to attend the events, to be held at the Washington, D.C., Omni Shoreham Hotel, located at 2500 Calvert Street, N.W.

We at the U.S. Department of Education commend you for your commitment to student achievement and for inspiring your students to aim high. It is my hope that you will become a beacon for other schools in your state, working with them and sharing the practices that make your school so deserving of this national recognition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne Duncan".

Arne Duncan