

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 148

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend St. James Episcopal Day School in Baton Rouge on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, St. James Episcopal Day School was originally founded as a kindergarten school by Mrs. Doris deBessonnet in 1948; and

WHEREAS, the Day School was given official status by the St. James Episcopal Church Vestry in 1951 under the leadership of the Rector, Parson Phillip Werlein; and

WHEREAS, St. James offers a loving, personalized learning community for students ages eighteen months through fifth grade designed to propel bright minds to explore their curiosity and give them the academic and leadership preparation needed to succeed in middle school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, over the years, St. James has nurtured many of Baton Rouge's future leaders in a warm and loving Christian community; and

WHEREAS, the Day School has maintained a commitment to developing each child's unique gifts by providing a strong foundation combining academic excellence and spiritual formation; and

WHEREAS, under the primary leadership of heads of school Mona Terry, Michael Glisson, Linda Chauviere, and Bridget Henderson, St. James has excelled academically; and

WHEREAS, St. James offers an integrated and accelerated curriculum designed to exceed national and state standards; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their core curriculum, St. James offers enrichment programs, including art, music, Spanish, and Christian education, cutting-edge technology programs from coding and robotics to virtual reality mobile immersion labs, and public speaking opportunities for students to hone their skills in the school's own in-house broadcast studio; and

WHEREAS, the Day School has earned the prestigious United States Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award in 2009, 2015, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, St. James earned the Apple Distinguished School award on several occasions; and

WHEREAS, given its downtown location, St. James students have immersed themselves in Louisiana's history and culture by participating in Easter Egg Hunts at the Old State Capitol, hosting student art exhibits at the River Center Branch Library, picnicking along the Mississippi River, visiting many of Baton Rouge's downtown museums, and touring the Louisiana State Capitol on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, over the last seventy-five years, the St. James Episcopal Day School has earned many accolades, but their greatest achievement is the development of generations of well-rounded, hard-working, and curious students that grow up, become parents, and send their children to their alma mater.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the current and former students, administrators, and faculty of St. James Episcopal Day School in Baton Rouge on the occasion of their seventy-fifth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Chris Duncan, Rector, Ms. Bridget Henderson, Head of School, and Mr. Tyler Gray, president of the Board of Trustees.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE