

## Laurence, St. Joseph School, Grade 8

*March 10, 2016 at the 2015 CISE Campaign Wrap-up*



Good evening. My name is Laurence and I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholar at St. Joseph Catholic School.

I'm so glad my mom chose St. Joseph, as my CISE School. I have truly learned the meaning of our (4) core values, which are: FAITH, COMMUNITY, RESPECT, and PERSEVERANCE.

I must be honest. I haven't enjoyed attending EVERY mass, but there were many times when I really needed to pray and ask God for help. I will truly miss the spirit filled music and choir here at St. Joseph. I do believe I have a closer relationship with God.

St. Joseph has really taught me the true meaning of being a community. I don't like to call it a community but it's more like a family. Many of my classmates have been together for a long time, and we are like brothers and sisters. My teachers are like my parents outside of home. I believe that everyone here wants the best for me, even when I can't see it or understand it for myself.

We are reminded daily how important it is to be a respectful scholar. I didn't really understand how important it was, until I became an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ambassador. Other scholars are paying attention to you and watching your every move, so I had to rise to the occasion! My mother has always taught me to be respectful, but St. Joseph made sure I practiced it!

Perseverance is what keeps me motivated. I was very excited when the school added the blended learning model last year, until I found out how hard I had to work

to get above grade level. My teachers pushed and I pushed back. But through perseverance, I understand that hard work does pay off! Now, my scores are above grade level in many subject areas.

Now I can say, I'm a man on a mission! Although I love St. Joseph, I know I can't stay here forever. My next assignment is to become a Purcell Marian Cavalier. I can proudly say that St. Joseph has prepared me for my high school years. I will never give up on my dreams.

Please don't walk away from this event believing that your financial support is your only contribution. You provide so much more than that. You've provided me with a safe place to learn, I'm a little closer to God, I was surrounded by people who love and care about me, but most of all I plan to be just like YOU! I will "pay it forward" when I become a millionaire.

I would like to thank the entire staff at St. Joseph and CISE for helping my mother and shaping me into the young man I am today. This experience has allowed me to see that the word impossible really means I'M POSSIBLE. Your actions have spoken much louder than any words, and I will never forget it.