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March 16, 2018

St. John's Lutheran Church
3738 Morganford Rd
St. Louis, MO 63116

Dear Friends of Open Sky Education,

Can you believe that this August marks five years of EAGLE Prep and Compass Programs in St. Louis?

Some days we have a tendency to keep our heads down and focus on the day-to-day work and it can be easy to lose sight of how far we've come as a team and family since we launched the region in 2013. I feel incredibly blessed to share this work with you, our community of supporters, as we continue to pursue our mission of providing a full and lasting learning environment that is accessible and affordable for all kids.

2018 is off to a great start and I'm excited to share with you the progress we've been making here at Open Sky Education this year. Your past gifts and your continued support has helped children and our community grow in ways we hadn't even imagined when we started five years ago. From community partnerships with organizations like Intersect Arts Center, where you see our scholars learning through art, music and dance, to the Character Formation Project, where young people are connecting and growing in their character alongside their peers as far across the globe as Africa, our children are soaring to new heights in their pursuit of their education on all fronts.

Your gifts, prayers and support make a huge impact on the momentum we're building and the work that we do each day. Below you'll find a few more highlights from this year so far, as well as details on our plans to move forward in advancing our mission.

Reflecting Back

Our dynamic team continues to grow and expand to provide even more support for our scholars in all areas of their education. Open Sky recently announced the addition of a President of Schools. Ciji Pittman, who has worked with Open Sky Education as a Principal Director, is a passionate educator dedicated to ensuring that every family and every child has great educational options that support a life of purpose and opportunity. She is also a nationally recognized education leader who has supported the professional growth of more than 200 school leaders in private, charter, and district schools over the last ten years. Ciji will bring her classroom experience, her most recent experience as a principal director, and her great relationship with our team to this role. She is ready to lead Open Sky Education toward being one of the premier education teams in America.

Looking Forward

Looking forward we continue to serve more children as we add a grade each year at our four **EAGLE schools**. The **Character Formation Project** will be used in even more schools across the nation with interest from schools as far as the Philippines. We are very excited that **Compass Educational Programs** has expanded and now serves scholars during "No School" camps. On days when school is not in session, Compass is available as a safe and loving environment for children to continue their learning in a fun and exciting way. Many of our families have been able to utilize this service and are grateful to know that their children are well taken care of even when school is not in session. This summer we'll be expanding the "No School" camps to include a full summer camp program. The program will offer daily activities, sports, meals, field trips, and Christian Character Formation, too!

As I reflect back on where we started in 2013 and where we are today, our core value of "Lasting" sticks out in my mind. At Open Sky Education we strive to build sustainable models for our serving leaders and our organization. **To us, "Lasting" means embracing timeless purpose, adapting strategies to stay relevant, growing relationships, and earning trust.** We are incredibly excited about our future in St. Louis, building on the strong work of those who came before us and leaving a trail for others. We hope you'll continue to walk with us as we build a strong foundation of a full and lasting education that is accessible and affordable for all children across the nation.

With hope,



Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner
Executive Director, Open Sky Education: St. Louis Region