

# 50+ ADVANCING THE MISSION

Dear friends and supporters of EDW,

God has blessed me tremendously in allowing me to spend 41 years of my life working with EDW students, parents, faculty and staff. It is a special place enhanced by the charisms of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Mt. Carmel and continually works to spread God's word through all aspects of the educational program. It is my privilege to serve as honorary chairperson in the fundraising efforts to expand and renovate the science facilities and thereby continue the school's mission for excellence in all areas.

My career began at Mt Carmel Academy right before Hurricane Betsy hit and forced all to prematurely move to E.D.White. It is hard to believe that was 50 years ago! During those 50 years there have been many changes to EDW. Students now enjoy eating lunch in the student union and no longer have to trek to St. Joseph. A new building with additional classrooms for Jr High students along with a remarkable library has been added. Plans included facilities to meet the needs of students with defined learning disabilities. Sorely needed new athletic facilities were built and old ones refurbished. The administrative section of the school was totally revamped. The technology infrastructure has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. Major changes in 50 years!!!

In 50 years, however, the science facilities have not changed. They are virtually the same as when I walked through the door during the 1965-66 school year. During my years as a science teacher and an administrator, we were so blessed by the EDW Mothers' club who continually provided up-to-date equipment for our science classes, but the classrooms themselves saw little change. Quality science classroom instruction today requires more collaborative laboratory opportunities. Some labs and demonstrations I did as a teacher can no longer be done in our classrooms due to new **and needed** safety regulations. Collaborative spaces, improved ventilation, additional safety features need to be added. Lab instruction is critical in providing the type of background that students need today to compete in the world beyond our walls. With your help we can update and expand our present facilities to provide those meaningful experiences for our students.

I am so proud of the large number of graduates we have who entered the medical profession and science-related fields. I really want that to continue and to do that we must continually strive to improve all aspects of the school. Now is the time to improve science instruction by providing state-of-the-art facilities. I ask that you join me in helping to fund this needed renovation of our school. If you have already donated to this cause, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

May God continue to bless EDW with His grace, and may He bless you and your family now and forever.

Jeanette Labat

