

My Fellow Alumni,

I write to you with an incredible feeling of honor in my heart. Returning to my alma mater to serve as your President is one of the most important things my family will ever do. Because for my family, this return is not just a job. I believe it is God calling me to return to the school that challenged and supported me, and pour all that I've learned right back into the next generation of Monarchs.

I have to be honest; I never saw this coming. A few years ago, my husband and I were running a family-owned business, helping ourselves and other social entrepreneurs pivot in the midst of a global pandemic. I was deep in years of social justice work, walking in lockstep with educational, civic, and reform leaders on implementing creative and lasting approaches to help make this world safer and more compassionate for all of us. I didn't imagine this path would lead me back to the halls of Archbishop Mitty to rejoin the over two dozen Mitty alumni who have become a part of the faculty and staff over the years.

Now as I step into this role as the next President, I am overwhelmed by what God can do and I feel an immense sense of pride. Attending Mitty was a life changing opportunity for me and my brother Jafari ('97). We made lifelong friendships, overcame challenges, and cemented our love for learning. From our experience, the education that Mitty fosters is rooted in faith, kindness, compassion, and an inherent respect for intellect. The tens of thousands of students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni and volunteers that have walked through Mitty's doors have applied this education towards achieving excellence in their fields, holding leaders accountable, shattering glass ceilings, and standing up for what they believe is right. I am proud to be a part of that legacy.

I also recognize that no institution is perfect. We are a diverse community coming from different backgrounds and experiences, continually learning how to coexist in harmony. As a long-standing member of the DEI Committee, I am encouraged by the steps taken in the last several years to improve our own work toward increased equity and inclusion. As an institution of learning, we may not always get it right, but we will always try.

This is the cornerstone of my vision for the future of Archbishop Mitty. A school that continues to celebrate its Catholic identity and the rich legacy of educating the whole student in the Catholic tradition. A rigorous college prep learning environment where it's cool to be smart. An innovative curricula with a global view towards the future and a thoughtful respect for the past. A campus culture with an unrelenting focus on belonging. A community of intentionality that creates authentic spaces for nurturing kinship. A good neighbor that advocates for the health and safety of our local communities. And a champion that wears its State School of the Century title with a fierce Monarch mentality.

What I know to be true about Archbishop Mitty is we lead with heart. The administration, faculty, staff, and coaches here are some of the most dedicated and brilliant people I have ever met. I want to thank them for giving us this gift that is Mitty and for believing in us.

Thank you to current and past Alumni Council members for your long standing dedication and your willingness to serve.

Thank you to Former President Tim Brosnan for his leadership in envisioning the best Catholic high school imaginable.

Finally, thank you to this alumni community for entrusting me with this opportunity. At this time, I have one ask of you. I invite you to take two minutes to <u>update your contact info</u> so we can stay connected. We will need your support. Your contributions of time, treasure, and talent will be required for us to ride the wave of the future. Our young people are navigating some uncertain times at a tender age, but I believe their intellect, passion, creativity, and desire for inclusion will bring forth some of the greatest good our world will ever see.

I welcome you to walk this journey with me.

May God bless and keep you and your families.

With gratitude,

Latanya (Johnson '92) Hilton

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President