

April 26, 2018

Dear Parents:

At the School Advisory Board meeting this month, the Board approved the tuition schedule for the 2019-20 school year. A preliminary budget was reviewed and current enrollment estimates were taken into consideration.

As the Advisory Board has reported in their meeting minutes and actions, the focus on Retention and Recruitment has been on-going and the addition of John Goodwin as Advancement Coordinator has provided extra “muscle” in that regard. As of the date of this letter we have 243 students registered K-8th grade and 78 students in our pre-school. On many fronts the “marketing” of the school has increased – whether that be social media, referrals (*yes, you continue to be our best ambassadors!*), our web-site, etc.

For the 2019-20 school year, a few budget highlights follow:

- 87% of our budget consists of compensation and benefits for our staff – very consistent levels with past budgets. Our teachers are covered by a contract between the Diocese and the Central Ohio Association of Catholic Educators (COACE) in its third and last year of this contract cycle.
- Other school costs have been held flat year over year. As the preschool enrollment is nearing capacity, their costs are close to being fully covered by pre-school tuition.
- For the 2019-20 school year, we budgeted 245 students in K-8th grades, flat to last years budget, and 78 students in preschool. As I mentioned, current enrollment stands at 243 in K-8th grades and 78 in preschool.
- Incoming kindergarten enrollment is currently at 30 students. We are graduating an 8th grade class of 31.
- 14% of our 2018-19 registered students are from other than St. Catharine Parish or non-Catholic students, consistent with the current school year.
- The budget contains one new teaching position – a second Intervention Specialist to work with Mrs. Knox, providing extra resources especially in the lower grades where early intervention is so critical.

Budget funding sources will continue to come from the following:

- Student tuition
- Grant from the Parish which is broken down as follows: \$275,000 - \$300,000 outright funding grant known as *Level I grant* and \$100,000 for *Level II* or needs based grants. The Parish financial commitment remains strong and supporting Catholic education remains a budget priority for St. Catharine. With pressure on enrollment, the Parish’s financial commitment has increased over the past few years to approximately \$400,000.

The Advisory Board also focused on the amount of funding the school receives from the State of Ohio in the following forms:

Auxiliary Service Funds (Used for non-religious text books and instructional materials, tutoring personnel, school nurse, guidance counselors, etc.)	\$212,000
Administrative Cost Reimbursement (State mandated attendance matters, time cards, fire drills, parent –teacher conferences, etc.)	\$100,000

Total:	\$312,000
Per Student K-8 th grade (Assume 245 students)	\$1,273 per student in value received for costs not covered by tuition/ parish funds

The Catholic Conference of Ohio, the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio, is instrumental in working with the state legislature to continue this funding.

Needs-based assistance for student tuition will continue to be supplemented through a variety of sources including the Parish Tuition Assistance Fund, Diocesan grants for those qualifying families, Direct Parish Tuition Assistance, a private grant for in-need non-Catholic families and COACE tuition assistance fund for students of Diocesan teachers. Total needs-based assistance to our qualifying families, including Level II grants, will be approximately \$170,000, one of the strongest levels among parochial schools in the Diocese.

Balancing all of the above, your Advisory Board approved the following tuition schedule for the 2019-20 school year for our Kindergarten through 8th grade students. The pre-school families will be notified separately for their tuition amounts. The board and school administration strive to provide a solid financial base to provide your child the quality education you have come to expect. You will note the percentage increase for the second child increased 7% year over year. This larger increase was in response to a comment we received from the Diocesan School Office as they reviewed our tuition rates relative to the Diocesan Bishops Elementary Planning guidelines. This increase brought this rate more in line with those guidelines relative to the discount to the first child rate.

	<u>2019-20 Tuition</u>	<u>\$ increase over 2018-19</u>	<u>Level I Grant for St. Catharine Parish K-8 Students</u>
First Child	\$5,373	\$182 / \$18 per month	\$1,314
Second Child	4,270	279 / 28 per month	\$2,417
Third Child	3,245	155 / 15 per month	\$3,442
Fourth Child	1,406	67 / 7 per month	\$5,281
Non-Parish	6,963	268 / 27 per month	

(per month assumes 10 months, rounded)

Tuition bills for the families not requesting Level II grants will be mailed shortly. As soon as we receive the financial information from FACTS for those families requesting a Level II grant, the Level II grants will be awarded and the remaining tuition bills will be distributed. We will keep you apprised of the status of this process. Level II grants will continue to go to those families with the most need. Tuition due dates will be listed on the bills.

We look forward to the rest of this school year and all its activities to come. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Weisner
Principal