



St. CATHARINE SCHOOL

Love of **God**. Love of **Learning**. Love of **Neighbor**.

April 22, 2021

St. Catharine School Parents and Guardians:

At the School Advisory Board meeting this month, the Board approved the tuition schedule for the 2021-22 school year. A preliminary budget was reviewed and current enrollment estimates were taken into consideration.

As the Advisory Board has reported over the past few years, student enrollment and retention is a top priority. We are happy to report that the preschool, now entering its 14th year of operations, even under COVID-19 restrictions, has been full. The establishment of the preschool and investment in its own facility is reaping the intended benefits in its contribution to another full incoming kindergarten class of 36 students. As of the date of this letter we have 252 students registered in K-8th grade and 62 students in our preschool for the coming year. While this past year during COVID certainly tested our “marketing program”, under the direction of our Marketing and Enrollment Coordinator, John Goodwin worked creatively to welcome new and prospective families to St. Catharine School.

For the 2021-22 school year, a few budget highlights follow:

- 86% 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). The coming school year will be the 2nd year of the COACE contract.
- Other school costs are budgeted at no increase.
- For the 2021-22 school year, we budgeted 252 students in K-8th grades and full enrollment in the preschool.
- Incoming kindergarten enrollment is currently at 36 students. The kindergarten class was filled according to the admission priority detailed in the School Handbook, as adopted in 2018-19. We are graduating an 8th grade class of 27.

Budget funding sources will continue to come from the following:

- Student tuition
- Grant from the Parish which is broken down as follows: \$200,000 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 guidance from the Parish Finance Committee to reduce the Parish financial commitment over time from a high water mark of \$400,000 several years ago, this year’s \$300,000 commitment fulfills that request.

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	\$100,000

(State mandated attendance matters, time cards, fire drills, parent –teacher conferences, etc.)

Total State of Ohio Funding:

\$312,000

Per Student K-8th grade (Assume 252 students)

\$1,238 per student in value received for costs not covered by tuition/ parish funds

As the *Irish Insider* has reported, the Legislative Action Network keeps us all posted on Ohio school-related issues, especially in regards to funding our schools. Through this Network, we are kept abreast of how we can advocate for the continued financial support of non-public Ohio schools.

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 again 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 2021-22 school year for our Kindergarten through 8th grade students. The preschool 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 third and fourth child had a stronger increase 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 began this current year and we have pledged to bring this more in line with the guidelines over time.

	<u>2021-22 Tuition</u>	<u>\$ increase over 2020-21</u>	<u>Level I Grant for St. Catharine Parish K-8 Students</u>
First Child	\$5,756	\$168 / \$17 per month	\$865
Second Child	4,574	133/ 13 per month	\$2,046
Third Child	3,677	107 / 11 per month	\$2,943
Fourth Child	2,000	383 / 38 per month	\$4,621
Non-Parish	7,530	219 / 22 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.

While this school year is ending very differently than we all hoped, we are committed to the continued education of your children. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark Watts, M.Ed, MS. M.Ed
School Principal