



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Mrs. Danette Ragusa, Principal

January 4, 2023

Dear Parents:

We have been truly blessed this year to return to our normal routines and traditions and the business of this has made the school year seem to fly by even faster than normal. Once again, we find ourselves in January and begin the process of preparing for the next school year. Our Re-Registration packets were sent home today in the Wednesday packets and you will notice an increase in tuition for the 2023-2024 school year. I would like to share with you some of the increases in our budget that will be absorbed by this increase in tuition.

First, and as always, salaries and benefits continue to increase each year and we generally budget a 2.5% increase in this area of the budget to cover adjustments to the salary scale and benefit costs. In addition, the diocese has moved to a new payroll and benefits program that we are required to implement. The cost to our school is a per employee cost and will increase this portion of our budget by approximately \$25,000/yr. We do not anticipate an increase in our number of faculty and staff for the upcoming year. Secondly, we continue to see an increase in the cost of maintenance and instructional materials area of the budget. The cost of A/C equipment and repairs specifically in the maintenance category has shown the most significant increases. In our instructional materials category, our standardized testing material costs have a significant increase in the second year of our new test, Terra Nova Next. We will continue to follow a cycle of adopting new textbooks to ensure all our textbooks are current and meet the rigorous standards and expectations of our school. In addition to a new adoption, the cost of existing textbooks has increased as well because many of our textbooks are now consumable which means we must reorder those books each year.

It is also important that we remind everyone that our tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating a child at St. Joseph School. With assistance from St. Joseph Church, the fundraising of our school families through our Spring Fair and Strawberry Festival Parking, and closely monitoring our spending each year, we are able to continue to provide our students with a strong faith-based and educational experience. As we look to the future, and work to continue to meet the needs of our students in this every-changing world, it will quite likely be necessary for tuition to increase as we strive to offer new and existing programs that help our students to be competitive and prepared for their educational future.

We sincerely appreciate and value that you choose St. Joseph as the school for your child/children. We recognize the importance of our role as a partner in your child's education and future. Our role includes a responsibility to seek and offer an academic experience that challenges your child to grow as a faith-filled child of God, a learner, and a problem-solver.

With Faith, Hope, and Love,

Danette E. Ragusa
Principal, St. Joseph School

"The mission of St. Joseph School is to encourage our students to have a zeal for their Catholic faith through prayer and service and to provide students with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents through academic excellence."