



Dear Parents,

The St. Joseph School Board, along with Father Pollard and Mrs. Clark, have approved tuition rates for the 2010-11 school year. Please know that much thought and discussion have gone into this process with best efforts to keep tuition as low as possible for our families.

- Tuition for Kindergarten through 8th grade will be increased 2%, and our school's book/material fee will be increased from \$100 to \$200 per student. (This book/material fee is being increased to more closely reflect the school's cost and timing of payments for books and instruction materials, which total \$350 per student and are paid at the beginning of the school year.) This combination of tuition and book/material fee increases result in an overall increase of 4%.
- Tuition for our Preschool will be increased 4%. The registration fee for all students will remain at \$125 per student (no increase).

These tuition and fee increases will partially offset increases in staff benefits of 8% and a staff salary increase of 2%, consistent with Archdiocesan guidelines. (As a reminder, staff salaries were held constant from the 2008-09 to the 2009-10 school year.) These increases will also offset a slight reduction in projected student enrollment of approximately 4% for the 2010-11 school year based on enrollment to date.

St. Joseph School has taken a number of additional measures to keep tuition affordable for our families including: (1) adjustment of class sizes to better match student enrollment by grade level (as outlined in the March 26, 2010 school newsletter); (2) taking advantage of improved Archdiocesan contracts for select school services including utility services and renegotiation of other church service contracts (e.g., snowplowing); and (3) parishioner support of select school budget items (e.g., IT services). Beyond these measures, we have also used a more conservative budgeting process this year by basing our budget on near-actual enrollment rather than forecasted enrollment. This more conservative approach, enabled by earlier registration deadlines, will enable us to better manage our budget and react to changes in 2010-11.

Please know that the School Board, Father Pollard, and Mrs. Clark all appreciate the challenges of the economic environment faced by SJS families, *and we believe the current balance of cost reduction actions and tuition/fee increases are the best way to balance both the short term and long term interests of the school.* We thank all of you for your continued support of St. Joseph School. Please contact Mrs. Clark if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The St. Joseph School Board