



From the Desk of

Principal Tim Fletcher



Dear OLMC School Families and Incoming Families,

As we close out the month of December and approach the beautiful Christmas season, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. The students and staff have been amazing this Advent, immersing themselves in the Church's traditions, praying together, serving together, and keeping their hearts centered on the joy that Christ brings. Their witness has been a true gift to our community.

In that same spirit of hope and renewal, I want to share a brief update on our preparation for the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program.

As many, if not all of you, have heard, after more than a year of prayerful discernment, study, listening sessions, surveys, and consultation with parish leadership, finance and school councils, and the wider parish community, we have formally decided to participate in the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program beginning with the 2026–2027 school year. This decision reflects everything we learned throughout the process and strengthens our mission to form disciples of Jesus Christ.

Over the past several weeks, I have also met with all the participating Catholic schools in Hamilton County. Their partnership and insights have been invaluable as we prepare for the administrative and financial components of implementation. Together, we are working to ensure strong compliance practices and a smooth transition.

A few important updates as we look ahead:

- The Indiana Department of Education will release updated 2026–2027 scholarship amounts sometime in February. These will be posted publicly at:
<https://www.in.gov/doe/students/indiana-choice-scholarship-program/>
- Because these amounts change annually, we will finalize our tuition estimates only after the state publishes the updated figures. In late January, OLMC will meet with the other Hamilton County Catholic schools to develop tuition estimates. This does not mean our tuition will match the other Catholic schools but rather that we all are thinking through the new details around school choice. Once the state releases the new scholarship amounts, we will make the necessary adjustments and share final numbers with all families.
- Families can plan confidently knowing that parent out-of-pocket costs will not exceed our traditional book bill. This remains a firm commitment. Participation in School Choice will not introduce financial

strain; rather, it will preserve accessibility for parish families and support the long-term mission of our school. I have shared in the past that our traditional book bill has run between \$500-\$800 per student; these numbers will be used as a guide for our parent portion of tuition for next year.

If you have not yet viewed the joint video message from Father Richard and me, posted on the parish's social media platforms, or the letters from Father Richard and the Parish Leadership Team, I encourage you to do so. They offer helpful spiritual context and speak beautifully to how this decision aligns with our parish's mission and stewardship vision.

Thank you for your faith, your trust, and your partnership in forming young disciples. May the joy of the Christ Child fill your homes, and may this Christmas season bring peace, renewal, and abundant grace to your families.

In Christ,

Tim Fletcher

Principal, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School