



Saint Agnes School 530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55103

January 13, 2020  
Feast of Saint Hilary

Dear Parents,

With this letter, we are pleased to communicate to you our Re-Enrollment Period for all returning students at Saint Agnes School and the 2020-21 Tuition Rates. We would like to offer some reflections on Saint Agnes's price and value following conversations with our school's leadership team, the Saint Agnes Headmaster's Council, the parish Finance Council, and a number of our parents.

**Reflection 1: A faithful, high quality, Catholic liberal arts education**, like the one our Saint Agnes School provides, is **challenging for many to find, afford, and access**. We no longer have 90+% of our labor provided by religious congregations. Even though we have four Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist working in our school, we contribute the equivalent of a teacher's salary to the Motherhouse for each of them. Their presence is invaluable, and we love their influence on our student body and faculty community. In addition, our commitment to educating a broad socio-economic array of families (and not simply those who can afford to pay full) puts us in the position of projecting a budget of just over \$6 Million for the 2020-21 school year (of which only \$3.6 Million comes from families). If we could collect every tuition dollar from our families and not raise any additional money, our budget would be \$6.6 Million. Regardless, we remain firmly committed to serving families of all sizes that cannot afford to pay full tuition, but who have discerned God's call to be at Saint Agnes!

**Reflection 2: We are doing our best to make sure that the value of a Saint Agnes Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education is definitely worth the sacrifice people make**. We know that most of our families and faculty/staff members make great, sometimes heroic, sacrifices to educate the children God has called to Saint Agnes School. Since economic justice slices two main ways when it comes to tuition increases, we are continually mindful of keeping tuition low while trying to compensate faculty and staff members for their good work—and we are acutely aware of the need to balance these competing justice claims. At the same time, we believe that every dollar invested in the education of our children by our families and donors is—and will always be—worth the sacrifices they make.

**Reflection 3: Saint Agnes School remains a beacon of light for our families and our world**, most especially considering the anti-Christian sentiment and secular ideologies from the culture that attempt to undermine what we do here. In fact, we may be headed toward a time when believing in the Natural Law and practicing the teachings of the Catholic Church will be illegal. By way of example, the St. Paul Public School district has put into place a gender identity policy that allows students to identify their "gender identity pronoun" as they wish, without any interference (or permission) from the children's parents or any acknowledgement that God assigns a sex to each person at conception. We *all* need Saint Agnes School, and God clearly wants us to do His work of preparing our young people to evangelize the world and make disciples of all nations!

**Reflection 4:** Finally, it is important to note that **no one pays the full cost of a Saint Agnes School education**. The full cost of our Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade school is currently \$8,400/year; the full cost of our 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade programs is currently \$14,400/year. Full tuition covers only between 55% and 84% of the cost to educate our students. Our Advancement team must make up the difference, which is subsidized by donors to the tune of \$2 Million this year (the parish offsetting \$300,000 of that \$2 Million). We rely on the generosity of others to help the 75+% of our families who need aid.

In light of our financial picture and commitments, we will increase tuition this coming year modestly.

Therefore, with all of these things in mind, we have prayerfully made the following tuition decisions:

- Pre-school-6<sup>th</sup> Grade will increase by 3%.
- Grades 7 and 8 will increase by 3%.
- Grades 9-12 will increase by 2%.



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### 2020-21 Tuition Rates and Responsibilities

Tuition is as follows:

- Preschool: \$3,740 (1/2 day); \$5,750 (full day); \$4,370 (half day extended)
- Grades K-6: \$5,250
- Grades 7-8: \$7,825
- Grades 9-12: \$12,100

*Additional Fundraising Requirement of \$100 per student, \$300 max per family.*

### Re-Enrollment Process, Financial Aid, Fees

The two-week Re-Enrollment Period for all returning students in grades Kindergarten through 12 begins on January 13, 2020 and will run through February 1, 2020.

- Your family should have received an email at your primary household email address with a link unique to your family for re-enrollment. For those families unable to re-enroll online, please contact the Admissions Office for assistance.
- Cost for re-enrollment is \$100 per child with a maximum of \$300 per family; these fees are nonrefundable and are not applied as a deposit toward overall tuition.
- Once re-enrollment is completed, tuition agreements will be forthcoming electronically from TADS beginning in the spring. Agreements are time sensitive, and we appreciate your prompt attention and submission once you receive them.

### Holding Spots/Waiting Lists/Late Fee

- Again this year, we already have waiting lists established for a couple grades. Out of fairness for all, for those families who do not re-enroll until after February 1, 2020, we will be in the unfortunate position of releasing your child(ren)'s spot(s).
- Beginning February 2, 2020, we will open up available seats to new families and students. Besides the risk of being placed on a waiting list, late re-enrollment will also incur an additional \$100 fee per student after February 2, 2020.

### Financial Aid

- After enrolling your children, those families seeking tuition assistance may click the corresponding online tab within TADS to apply for financial aid.
- Financial Aid forms must be completed online or postmarked by February 29, 2020. Any forms received after this date will not be eligible for several types of scholarships, and will not receive preferential consideration for additional aid. We will assume that your family does not need financial aid if the form is not completed by that date. Please note that only one Financial Aid form is needed per family.

We very much look forward to partnering with you again during the 2020-21 school year as we try our best to be good stewards of the treasure that is Saint Agnes School. Your family's participation in this community allows us to offer an enlightening academic program, a beautiful arts program, and a healthy athletics program.

Thank you for your commitment to Saint Agnes School and for the gift of your children. Please pray for our donors and for the faculty, staff, and administration of our school. With your prayers and the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Saint Agnes, we will continue to thrive in 2020-21 and on into the future!

Blessings to your family,

Kevin Ferdinandt  
Headmaster

Fr. Mark Moriarty  
Pastor/Superintendent