



March 2022

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Elementary Parents,

I'm sure that everyone in our community has seen these powerful words by St. Francis, "*Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*" These are the words at the heart of what we do at St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School. And over these past few years, through this pandemic, we have lived this essence. We have taken difficult situations and together, come through better than anyone could have imagined. That is a testament to the collective effort of our St. Francis family. Although at times we have made mistakes, the heart and intent has been to strive to do our best... To strive to care for each other, our students and this place... To strive to be a community built on the love, faith, inclusivity, and understanding that made St. Francis who he was and whose spirit has nurtured these walls.

At this point of the year, we begin the conversation of registration, tuition, dates, forms, etc. With the progression of everything around us, we will continue to do our registration paperwork online, just as we did last year. Online, you will receive all the necessary documents and instructions for completing registration, along with the timeline for completion.

This year, the school's needs are more challenging, as are those of everyone. Throughout the pandemic and over the years, we have been able to balance all our needs with only modest tuition increases in order to keep our community whole.

For the 2022-2023 school year, inflation, diocesan projections, assumptions, and challenges for the future have all come crashing together. Beyond these challenges, the true cost of tuition for each child continues to climb. This upcoming year, that figure is **\$8475**. Tuition alone does not meet that cost. Related to that is the simple fact that regardless of tuition paid for multiple children in a family, that number does not change. The reason for multiple child discounts in Catholic schools was built on the premise that families would be Parishioners, be involved in the Parish, and subsequently the Parish would subsidize the school. This paradigm of Parishes subsidizing schools no longer exists and yet we still need to make up that difference. One way to achieve that goal is to slowly move from multiple student reductions and go to a single rate for all students. We understand that all this comes with concerns and trepidation, so we will plan for these necessary adjustments over time. Here are our projections over the next few years.

Student Reduction	Current 2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1 st to 2 nd Child	7.5%	4%	2%	0 – Same Rate
2 nd to 3 rd Child	3.8%	2.5%	1.5%	0 – Same Rate
4 th Child	<i>No Cost</i>	<i>No Cost</i>	<i>No Cost</i>	<i>No Cost</i>

Tuition next year, for a one child, will increase **\$350**. For Extension, we have continued to adjust. With the limited number of families participating in the 3-day a week option, we will only be offering full-time (until 6:00pm) and part-time (until 4:30pm) for the upcoming school year.

The following are the Tuition increases and Extension rates for 2022-2023:

Tuition Increases: **\$350 annually** for a one (1) student family. Additional **\$555 annually** for a two (2) student family and additional **\$620 annually** for a family with three (3) or more students.

Extension Rates: **\$3400 annually** per student – full-time. **\$2675 annually** per student – part-time. As always, there is no additional cost for more than two (2) students per family in Extension.

The decision for this year's increases was a difficult one in order to meet the needs of our school. But if we do not begin to address our gaps and other obstacles, we may find ourselves in positions we would rather not be in. We also recognize that we will have members of our community for which burdens and finances may become too great. As we began two years ago, the ***St. Clare Education Fund*** was started to help bridge the gap between tuition and true cost. This fund was also created as an option for those that can contribute beyond tuition to donate and help families that need our community support. And to that end, Fr. Des has made a commitment to our families by doubling the Parish contribution for scholarship to provide the help they can. Our commitment is to every member of our community, regardless of financial ability. Now more than ever, if there are financial concerns or hardships, please contact us. Finances are a difficult conversation, but we are here to help one another to the best of our ability. We will work together to find the right solution.

As we move forward, let us continue to heed the words of St. Francis and continue to do “the impossible”... To build a school and a legacy... To build something truly meaningful, together. I think St. Francis and St. Clare would be proud of our commitment to our school and each other, especially through the times we have all had to endure. So, let us continue to do that which we are called to do and embrace the spirits of our patron Saints. As one, we will ensure that our heritage remains Inspiring... Loving... Thriving... *Together!*



Mr. Ivan M Hrga
Principal