



March 2023

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Elementary Families,

St. Francis of Assisi was a man of deep faith, conviction, love, and humility. This is how he lived his life. He was a man that existed among people, never above them. For St. Francis, he believed that *“True progress quietly and persistently moves along without notice.”* His life’s journey was built upon his belief in God, community, inclusivity, love, and ministry to others, without ever drawing attention to himself. Since 1895, the community has continued this tradition... a tradition in which our work and service is done for the greater good, quietly, intentionally, compassionately, humbly... *Together!*

And now, here we are, at this point of the year, in which we begin the conversation of registration, tuition, dates, forms, etc. We continue to do the work, although at times difficult, for the betterment of our students and entire St. Francis family, to the best of our ability. Attached, you will find all the necessary documents and instructions for completing registration, along with the timeline for completion.

Over the last few years, needs and times have been challenging. But all that we have managed to do has kept us going, even in the toughest of circumstances. For that, I am eternally grateful. And it is because of all we have done that we can move forward modestly while still keeping an eye on the ever-changing landscape that is the future.

For the 2023-2024 school year, diocesan projections, assumptions, and other variables such as insurance, property, and facility costs are the driving factors in budget increases. As is always the case, tuition does meet the actual cost to educate each child. For this year, that figure is over **\$9000**. Even with modest tuition increases, the cost to educate far exceeds tuition. And as was stated last year, the simple fact that regardless of tuition paid for multiple children in a family, the true cost to educate 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. We are now in year two of our goal of shrinking our multiple student tuition reductions. For the 22-23 year, we have operated at reduction of 4% and 2.5% between children as stated in the chart below. For 23-24, the percentages change to 2% and 1.5% with the ultimate goal of 0% reduction for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Tuition next year, for a one child, will increase **\$240 annually**. For Extension, a single child will increase **\$170** for full-time and **\$135** for part-time, **annually**.

The following are the Tuition increases and Extension rates for 2023-2024:

Tuition Increases: \$240 annually for a one (1) student family. Additional \$475 annually for a two (2) student family and additional \$704 annually for a family with three (3) or more students.

Extension Rates: \$3570 annually per student – full-time. \$2810 annually per student – part-time. As always, there is no additional cost for more than two (2) students per family in Extension.

When all is said and done, we are blessed to be able to keep tuition and Extension increases to a minimum, while also allowing a bit of flexibility. Regardless of amount, we also recognize that we have members of our community for which burdens and finances are great. As we began three 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. 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.

Let us continue to live the spirit of our patron saint and *quietly and persistently* move St. Francis forward. Together, we will ensure that our Franciscan education continues to be *true progress* for our children and families for generations to come.



Mr. Ivan M Hrga
Principal