

March 24, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The materials necessary for registration for the 2011-2012 school year are enclosed in this month's mailing.

Given the current economic challenges families are facing, we are very concerned about keeping our tuition increase to a minimal level which would still meet certain anticipated increasing costs for our school.

These are some of the facts that we work with:

- Currently, our per pupil cost is \$5,446 (tuition for one child will be \$3,217).
- Textbooks, testing, classroom and office supplies, paper and copy costs, etc., average \$469 per student.
- Current tuition and student fees only provide 45% of the operating cost of the school.
- The parish and fundraising provide the majority of the remaining necessary funds.
- Saint Joseph's School has a high per pupil cost and one of the lowest tuition rates of the Catholic elementary schools in McHenry County.
- Health Insurance will be increased by 3% for the new school year.
- Property insurance will be increased 2% for the new school year.
- Teachers' salary increases average 2%. (This increase still leaves them below their public school counterparts.)

With these facts and others in mind, the reflected 2% increase (on the base tuition) was deemed fair and necessary to continue to provide a quality Catholic education for our children.

The tuition increase reflects a monthly average increase of **\$6.80** per child for parish families in our school. We urge you to consider not the costs but the benefits obtained at St. Joseph's.

Please remember any family that registers and pays their registration fee early (by May 13th) will receive a \$35 discount per student, and if you fulfill your fundraiser obligations you will receive a \$300 reduction in tuition. Also, if you encourage a family to attend St. Joseph's School (Kg-8) you will receive a \$500 reduction in your school tuition. That is a savings of up to \$835, more than 2 months off in your school tuition.

(over, please)

Saint Joseph's School will continue the use of a third party professional analysis company to review requests for tuition assistance. They provide a high degree of objectivity, consistency and professionalism. For further information regarding tuition assistance, please call the school office.

Following are answers to questions frequently asked at registration time:

1. The school calendar will again follow District 50 as closely as possible.
2. By May 1st you all will be informed on the hire of the new 1st/2nd grade teacher. We will continue to offer a technology class to all students and an algebra class for those 7th and 8th students who it would be determined could benefit from such a class.

We hope to see all of our current school families return next year. If there is a concern or question please feel free to schedule an appointment so these can be addressed; dialog strengthens the school - home partnership.

In His Service and Yours,

Michael J. Shukis
Principal