



ST. PATRICK
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE 12

WE PRAY! WE LEARN! WE ACHIEVE!

March 15, 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you for helping St. Patrick School achieve another successful year. We have added many academic and extracurricular options for our students, including but not limited to our Student Ambassador Team, dual enrollment courses through Aquinas College, a 1:1 Chromebook program for students in grades 9-12 (grades 6-8 will be included in this program beginning this fall), and new touchscreen Chromebooks in the elementary computer lab. These options will help to nourish your child in mind, body, and spirit. Registration for the 2018-19 school year is now open, and we look forward to having you join us for another great school year!

It's an irrefutable fact that a St. Patrick School education provides your child(ren) with not only an outstanding curriculum infused with Catholic values, but with the foundation to succeed and achieve. The Class of 2017 received an average of \$16,500 each in scholarships to the college of their choice and have entered college/university life with many college credits already earned due to Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes they have taken while attending St. Patrick School, potentially shortening the length of time they will spend in college.

Thank you for the sacrifices you make in sending your child(ren) to St. Patrick School. We know it's not easy. We continue to work with our Faithful Giving program in the parish, eliminating nominal fees and fundraisers. Your contribution to Faithful Giving is greatly appreciated as \$380,000 of the church's offertory is used to support the school.

We are mindful of the immense financial sacrifices required to provide your child(ren) with a faith-based education and we are grateful for your commitment to St. Patrick. However, as we work to keep up with the common cost of living increases such as salaries, supplies and insurance, we will need to increase tuition for the 2018-19 school year. Currently, we are planning to implement a 1% increase in tuition for the first child and a 3% increase in tuition for other children. The actual cost of educating a student at St. Patrick School next year will be \$5,600. We are extremely thankful to the Father Flohe Foundation for providing \$95,000 which lowers your annual tuition fee by \$287 per student.

As part of their strategic plan for Catholic schools in the diocese, "Catholic Schools: Bridging Faith and Future," the diocese is continuing to provide scholarships at the same level as during the Bishop's Catholic Schools Initiative. In addition, the Welcome Scholarship for first time families is still being offered. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the financial assistance which is available. SMART Aid is a service to determine if you are eligible for financial assistance from a diocesan scholarship (grades 1-12) and/or St. Patrick Parish scholarship (grades DK-12). If you missed the deadline but would still like to apply for a scholarship, please contact the school office.

All you need to do to re-enroll is to verify the Emergency Record for your child(ren) and return it with your Tuition Contract (both are included in this mailing). Please send these along with the \$50.00 registration fee for each student on or before May 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

Enrolling your child(ren) as soon as possible will help us in planning for the next school year, including locking in teacher contracts. If returning students are registered after May 4 at 4:00 p.m. the registration fee is \$100.00 per student as we cannot emphasize enough the importance of turning registrations in to the office in a timely fashion.

In our pursuit of offering our students an education that will prepare them for the 21st century and beyond, we will be charging a \$75 technology fee per family (grades DK-12). While the technology fee does not cover all technology related expenses, it does go a long way in assisting with the cost of our IT services. This is also extremely helpful toward our implementation of a 1:1 program for all middle and high school students.

Once again, we will be using SMART Tuition Management; as do all other schools in the diocese. Families are required to enroll in this program and tuition will be paid through an ACH withdrawal. Each family will be assessed an annual fee payable to SMART of \$35.00 per family depending on the payment plan chosen. Please add customerservice@smarttuitionmessages.com to your contacts so future emails do not go to your spam. Please contact Mike Johnson, St. Patrick Parish Business Manager, at (517) 647-6505 if you believe you have a unique situation regarding tuition payment options.

Finally, it is important to keep our enrollment growing, so we ask our families to share three tuition programs with prospective families. The “Shamrock Commitment” allows all incoming freshmen (as well as any students new to our high school) to have their tuition capped at the first child rate of tuition for the entire four years they attend St. Patrick High School. The second program, called “Try Us, You’ll Like Us” allows for a new student in grades 1-11 to attend St. Patrick School at no cost (except for the \$50.00 registration fee and \$75.00 technology fee) for the first marking period they attend. The third program is the Welcome Scholarship which provides a one-time scholarship to students new to a Diocese of Grand Rapids school, regardless of need.

The 2018-19 tuition rates for students attending St. Patrick School is as follows:

Grade	1 st Child	2 nd Child	3 rd Child	4 th Child
*9-12 Tuition Rate	\$5,100	\$4,140	\$3,130	\$1,915
DK-8 Tuition Rate	\$4,375	\$3,555	\$2,650	\$1,390
Preschool 5-day	\$2,275	\$1,850	\$1,380	\$800
Preschool 3-day	\$1,440	\$1,135	\$825	\$425
Preschool 2-day	\$950	\$745	\$540	\$335

* Please remember that returning students in grades 10-12 have their tuition rates capped at the first child rate of tuition when your child(ren) entered high school through the Shamrock Commitment program. If your high school student is locked in at a lower rate, your tuition account will reflect that amount.

**Any children in the same family, enrolled at the same time, past the 4th child will attend St. Patrick School at no charge.

We thank you for the commitment you have made to St. Patrick School. Please feel free to contact me by email at randyhodge@portlandstpats.com or you may call me at (517) 647-7551 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Randy Hodge
Principal