



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 16, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for choosing St. John the Baptist for your child(ren)'s education! Your support of our school also makes it possible for other parents to have the option of sending their children to StJB. As a tuition-based school, enrollment is critical to our success. "Word of Mouth" marketing and referrals to the school from families like yours, continue to be our greatest marketing tool. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our school's mission.

Registration for the 2024-25 school year is now underway. If your family's circumstances have changed, and you will not be re-enrolling your child(ren) for the 2024-25 school year, we ask that you please notify the school as soon as possible.

Enclosed please find important enrolment information:

1. Tuition Rates

When working with the Finance Council to set tuition for the 2024-25 school year, we had three goals: ensure that we have the resources necessary to continue delivering an excellent Catholic education to our children; keep the education we provide affordable for our families and comparable to other Catholic schools in surrounding areas; and to lower the parish subsidy to the school and work toward a financially sustainable school. We believe this year's tuition rates achieve these goals. For the 2024-25 school year, K-8 tuition will increase appx. \$125. There was no increase to Pre-School/Pre-Kindergarten tuition.

The cost to educate a student at St. John the Baptist is \$9,300/per child. Despite ongoing challenges and the rising inflation, tuition rates are less than 50 percent of the actual cost to educate a student and remain lower than area Catholic schools.

2. Technology Fee

The technology fee is an additional cost not included in your tuition. The school collects the fee to help pay the Diocese Education & Tech Office for the equipment and technology support they provide us. This includes hardware, software, network and personnel (please see the technology handout for additional information). Prior to 2020, technology expenses were covered by the Diocese Technology Department, thanks to a significant private gift made to the Diocese. However, that funding was depleted during the 2021-22 school year, which shifted technology expenses back to the schools. As a result, the Diocese introduced a technology fee in 2021 which now requires families to cover some of the school's overall technology expenses.

3. Financial Aid and Scholarships

We strongly encourage everyone to apply for both the Good Shepherd Scholarship and the St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund. To be considered for both, you must apply online by March 31, 2024. Families must also submit 2022 or 2023 Tax Forms, including the 1040 and W-2. The application is one \$35 fee for both the GS scholarship and local STJB Tuition Assistance Fund.

- Good Shepherd Scholarship - The Good Shepherd Scholarship will be \$1,800 for grades K-8 and will cover families of all faiths within 225% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Family Tuition Cap Scholarship is offered to families with more than three students enrolled in Lincoln Diocese Catholic Schools. To be eligible for the Family Tuition Cap Scholarship, families must complete the online application and pay tuition for the first three students and the rest will be tuition-free. Pre-school students are not eligible for the scholarship.
- St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund - The St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund provides financial support to Parish families that are unable to cover K-8 tuition costs and do not qualify for the Diocesan Good Shepherd Scholarship (Pre-school students are not eligible). Eligible families must be in good standing with the Parish and school and pay a minimum of 50% (\$1,250) per student.

Only one application is needed to be eligible for both the Good Shepherd and St. John the Baptist Tuition Assistance Fund. The deadline to apply for assistance is March 31st. Everyone is encouraged to apply for these scholarships, even if you think you don't qualify.

- ***NEW THIS YEAR*** St. John the Baptist School is an official partner school with Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska. This scholarship enables St. John the Baptist students coming into kindergarten (and their siblings) who qualify financially or for several other reasons. It is also open to students transferring from a public school at any grade level. Eligibility is determined by a number of different factors. This scholarship has a separate application, with a priority deadline of April 30th. To see if your child is eligible, or to learn more, go to www.nebraskaopportunity.org

4. Tithing & Stewardship Agreement

Parish and school fundraising also plays an important role in offsetting tuition increases. Support of our fundraising efforts through your attendance, participation, and volunteering is very important. For the 2024-25 school year, the tithing requirement for participating parishioners will remain \$800 per calendar year. The stewardship requirements remain at 20 hours per school year. However, this year we are requiring that each family allocate 5 hours of your total 20 stewardship hours to **at least one** of the following four major fundraising events: Spring Dinner, Fall Festival, Fish Frys, or Catering Events. Additional information and instructions for completing ACH giving, can be found in the attached "Tithing and Stewardship" document. We appreciate your continued support of these efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns about your financial obligation as a parent, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- A \$100 registration fee will be waived for all returning school families who register by June 1, 2024.
- To begin the registration process, parents will need to login into PowerSchool Account. Go to <http://cdolinc.net/enrollment>
- Go to "RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION" to complete your child(ren)'s registration. Parents will be sent an invite to set up their online payments through FACTS Management when registration is completed through PowerSchool. A \$40 FACTS administration fee will apply.
- If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact the school office.

Thank you for entrusting St. John the Baptist with your child's education. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Fr. Sean Timmerman
Chief Administrative Officer