

March 20, 2018

Dear Parents,

After the School Board meeting on March 14, it was evident that the first letter sent to you in February regarding the Cost Based Tuition increase was unclear. Please review the following schedule to help clarify the three year movement toward Cost Based Tuition. These tuition rates pertain to Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade full time students.

**Families in need of tuition assistance are encouraged to submit a FACTS Application annually.**

### **2018-19 School Year**

- \$7,750 Cost to educate one full time student
- \$7,478 Formerly "Regular Rate"
- \$5,983 Formerly "Catholic Rate"

For the 2018-19 school year, you will be asked to pay the actual cost per student (\$7,750) or continue to pay the "Regular" rate or "Catholic" rate. (Submit a FACTS application as needed.)

### **2019-20 School Year**

- \$7,750 Cost to Educate (+any diocesan mandated increase)
- \$7,478 Formerly "Regular Rate" (+any diocesan mandated increase)

For the 2019-20 school year, you will be asked to pay the Cost to Educate rate of \$7,750 (+any diocesan mandated increase) or continue to pay the "Regular" rate tuition. (Submit a FACTS application as needed.)

### **2020-21 School Year**

- \$7,750 Cost to educate one full time student
- FACTS application based on need

For the 2020-21 school year, you will be asked to pay the Cost to Educate rate of 7,750 (+any diocesan mandated increase). (Submit a FACTS application as needed.)

You will receive an email from Maggie Kearns, Admission Director, in the next few days requesting that you select the "Cost Per Student" rate (\$7,750), but also giving you the option of continuing to pay the "Regular" or "Catholic" rate (whichever level you are charged this school year) for the 2019-20 school year.

Thank you for your time, consideration and sacrifice as we begin to close the salary gap between public schools and our Catholic Schools. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Hunt, Principal, [801-486-6933](tel:801-486-6933) or Mrs. Kearns, [mkearns@cosgriff.org](mailto:mkearns@cosgriff.org) 486-3197 or Fr. Andrzej [sandrzej@comcast.net](mailto:sandrzej@comcast.net) [801-485-5610](tel:801-485-5610).

Sincerely,

Fr. Andrzej, Pastor

Mrs. Hunt, Principal

Mrs. Kearns, Admissions Director

SUBJECT: J.E. Cosgriff Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 2018-19 Voluntary Move to Higher Tuition Response Requested

CHOICE A: I am willing to pay the Tier 1 \$7,750 Cost to Educate rate for the 2018-19 school year.

CHOICE B: I am willing to pay the Tier 2 \$7,478 Regular rate for the 2018-19 school year.

***You do not need to reply to me if you are not choosing any of the above for 2018-2019!***

For the 2018-19 school year, we will be charging families the Tier 2 (formerly Regular rate) of \$7478 and Tier 3 (Catholic rate) of \$5983 based on how we charged you for the 2017-18 school year. **For your convenience, you will not need to do anything unless you are requesting financial aid. If you need financial assistance and have not applied through the FACTS Grant and Aid link through your ParentsWeb account, please do so as soon as possible as we've extended the deadline to Wednesday, March 28, 2018.**

**Note that in your FACTS application, besides providing tax-related documents and expenses of your household, you will have the opportunity in the application to share additional information regarding your circumstances that will help in determining aid.**

If, however, you are willing to move up a tier for the 2018-19 sooner, please email me, [mkearns@cosgriff.org](mailto:mkearns@cosgriff.org), by no later than Friday, April 6, 2018. If you cannot recall what rate you are paying this school year, you can log into your FACTS account and see the notation set up around May 2017.

For your planning purposes, for the school year 2019-2020, will be asked to pay Tier 1 Cost to Educate \$7,750 (+any diocesan mandated increase). If you feel you cannot pay Tier 1, you will be asked to submit a FACTS application. We will work with you to place you in one of the other Tiers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this as we begin closing the gap in teacher salaries beginning the 2018-19 school year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. **Again, if you *do not want to move off the rate you are charged this 2017-18 school year (before any financial aid consideration)*, you DO NOT need to contact me.**

## Frequently Asked Financial Questions By Parents

- 1. How is tuition determined for our schools?** A diocesan committee comprised of principals, the superintendent and the associate superintendent of schools, and staff with financial expertise, propose tuition levels for the schools. The Proposal is then given to the bishop for his approval.
- 2. How are teacher salaries determined?** Prior to 2008, teachers were on a traditional teachers pay scale. Since the financial crisis in 2008, teachers in our system were given minimal raises because tuition levels were not increased proportionally. These minimal increases did not keep up with the cost of living. Recently, teachers in the diocese have been placed back on a scale.
- 3. I have heard that Catholic school teachers make more money than public school teachers, because they work in a private school. Is this true?** No. Most teachers and principals in our system make less than their public school and private school counterparts. This is because we are a tuition driven system and teacher salaries are determined by the amount of tuition we can charge.
- 4. Why did the tuition scale add an additional tier for the 2018-2019 school year?** The cost tier, or tier 1, was added to the scale this year to show the real cost a school incurs to educate a student in our school. This average amount has not been calculated since 2008. Therefore, no family has been required to pay the cost to educate a student in our system since 2008. Thus, this tier was calculated so that the tuition scale could reflect the true cost to educate a student.
- 5. Why are parents now being asked to pay the cost when the system has gotten by for so many years charging parent less than it costs to educate their children?** Many of you have read or heard media reports that there is a teacher shortage in Utah and that public schools have recently increased teacher pay by as much as 10%. For example, this year a starting teacher in the diocese received \$30,152 while a starting teacher in the public system received approximately \$41,000 on average. This low rate of pay for Catholic school teachers has kept tuition lower. If we continue this way, the wage gap between public/private and Catholic teachers will grow even greater. More importantly, we need to be able to pay our teachers a just and livable wage so that our talented teachers stay with us for many years.
- 6. Why can't the fundraising we do go towards paying teachers more?** Our school does not make enough in fundraisers each year to pay for this needed increase in teacher salaries. Additionally, fundraising is not a reliable source of income. If we fell short in any given year, we could not pay our teachers. In reality, fundraising efforts are needed to help with the upkeep of the school such as repairing roofs, heating systems, etc., and to purchase educational materials and equipment. Most of our schools rely on fundraising to meet their operational budget.
- 7. What if I cannot pay afford to pay any of the tiers listed or what if we were already receiving a reduction in tuition?** If you feel that you cannot afford any of the tiers or you already receive a tuition reduction, you may have your tuition level evaluated by

filling out a FACTS form. FACTS is a company our school uses to help the administration determine the tuition level that you can afford.

- 8. Does this FACTS Company provide the school with money to help with tuition reduction?** No. FACTS is only a tool that the school uses to determine your tuition level based on your income and size of family.
- 9. Tuition just goes up every year; I may have to remove my child from the school.** Our school will work with you to keep your children in the school. Tuition has gone up every year. It must, in order for us to pay our teachers and staff and for us to be able to hire new teachers in a competitive environment. We have always worked with families to pay what they can afford. This is still the case.
- 10. Why doesn't the Diocese give the schools money for teachers' salaries, or fund scholarships for students?** Currently, the Diocese annually assesses most Catholic parishes a portion of their income. This assessment goes into a fund for Catholic schools. All schools may write grants for emergency funding should a special need arise. Additional money is distributed to schools based on their financial need. The Skaggs Tuition Assistance Program also provides some financial assistance to schools for families that are below the poverty level. In order to receive this assistance, families must be referred by a principal or pastor.



## TUITION AND FEES

For the 2018-19 School Year

### **TUITION**

#### Pre-School Classes

Toddler:	\$2,380
Preschool:	\$3,780
Pre-Kindergarten:	\$4,750

#### Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Tier 1 Cost to Educate	\$7,750
Tier 2 Formerly Regular Rate	\$7,478
Tier 3 Formerly Catholic Rate	\$5,983
Tier 4 Needs Based	**

### **FEES (non-refundable)**

Application:	\$75
Enrollment:	
Todd/PreS/PreK	\$200
K-8	\$400
Graduation (8 <sup>th</sup> )	\$100

\*\* FACTS Grant & Aid is a service for families to apply for financial assistance. For a \$35 fee paid to FACTS, a family can provide pertinent information, and FACTS will provide analyzed data to J.E. Cosgriff to help determine what amount can be feasibly granted. The St. Ambrose Pastor and the school administration makes the final determination as to tuition assistance. Please click the link under Admissions/Overview & Process or visit [online.factsmtg.com/aid](http://online.factsmtg.com/aid) to apply.