



ST. TERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1108 LEBANON AVENUE
BELLEVILLE, IL 62221
618-235-4066

Dear St. Teresa School Families,

The School Board is sending this letter to give families a better understanding of how St. Teresa School manages its nearly \$1.5 million annual budget. It should also help you to understand how some financial decisions have been made in the past few years.

Tuition plays a crucial role in covering a large percentage of per pupil expenses. The current tuition rates are \$4050 per student for a parish family, and \$6000 per student for a non-parish family. Tuition primarily covers faculty, staff and administrative salaries and benefits. The annual \$395 technology/curriculum fee is used to fund all technology and curriculum costs which include hardware and software upgrades, maintenance, and IT Support staff.

The total cost to educate each individual student is not fully covered in the annual tuition. The "tuition gap" between actual tuition collected and the cost to educate each student has hovered around \$1200 per student over the past several years. Some fundraising efforts, including the Annual Fund and the PTO Dinner Auction, make up some of these shortfalls, but much of it is covered by the Parish Subsidy; the amount that the parish is allowed to donate to the school to assist in operating expenses

The Diocese of Belleville restricts the amount to of the Parish subsidy to 40% of total annual parish revenue. The subsidy that the Parish Finance Committee has approved for 2019-2020 is \$217K, based on current Sunday collection trends in the parish. As a reference point, the amount that was subsidized in 2011-2012 was \$318K. That is a substantial difference over 8 years.

If Sunday collections continue to fall, then tuition rates may have to rise further, fundraising may have to go strictly to operating expenses rather than upgrades and new initiatives, and services may need to be scaled back. The School Board encourages every family paying the parishioner tuition rate to prayerfully consider what they can further contribute to St. Teresa Parish in terms of time, talent and treasure. The Board is reviewing current policies in the coming weeks regarding what constitutes active participation as a parishioner of St. Teresa.

Thank you for your consideration. Please continue to pray for the success of St. Teresa School.

Respectfully,

The St. Teresa School Board

STEWARDSHIP POLICY PROPOSAL

3/19/19

CURRENT POLICY STATEMENT:

A. EXPECTATIONS

8. As supporting and participating parishioners, parents are expected to make **monetary donations** to help support the operation and functions of the church and parish. On a weekly basis, a bare minimum of a **\$10** donation to the church is recommended. They must be willing to share an appropriate portion of their time, talent, and treasure with the parish and the school.

PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT

As supporting and participating parishioners, families are expected to donate their time, talent, and treasure to St Teresa Parish. The parish provides a substantial subsidy to the school each year, keeping the cost of tuition down and comprising a sizable portion of the overall school budget. Therefore, it is expected that families contribute to the parish on a weekly or monthly basis and attend Sunday mass. This expectation is in addition to tuition payments and fundraising for the school. The parish business manager tracks donations to the parish. Families who are not contributing to the parish on a regular basis after a 3-month period will meet with the principal or designee to discuss how they can contribute time, talent or treasure in the future. If after 3 months such contributions are not evident, the principal and the business manager reserve the right to charge the family a non-parishioner tuition rate.