Fundraising is a common practice at most schools, and St. Monica Academy is no different. Each year we aim to offset costs and keep educational programs and activities affordable for students and their families. This is the primary reason why our school engages in fundraising efforts. However, it can be broken down even further to help you understand why we rely on the generous participation of our community:

- "Bridging the Gap": Our educational institution not only faces a budget constraint because of things like economic fluctuations and competing financial needs, but a gap is naturally created by our tuition costs and the actual cost to educate students. Fundraising condenses that gap.
- Preventing Large Fee Increases: Related to the reason above, raising tuition and fees substantially can deter returning families from re-registering and new families from joining this school environment. Fundraising prevents the need for frequent or drastic fee increases.
- Maintaining Quality: A high-quality education includes various extracurricular activities, updated
 resources, advanced technology, and specialized programs. Fundraising allows SMA to maintain or
 enhance these things without significantly increasing tuition.
- Accessibility: As a supplement to the budget, fundraising ensures that tuition will not be altered drastically and allows accessibility to families regardless of their financial backgrounds. Fundraising helps draw in more families.
- Enrichment: As a school, we will often organize field trips, athletic events, and other activities that contribute to the development of the whole student. Fundraising ensures that these experiences remain an integral part of a curriculum that fosters well-rounded young men and women.
- Engagement: Various activities related to fundraising bring students, parents, teachers, and the broader community together. Fundraising fosters a sense of belonging and involvement and this enhances the overall experience.
- Values: At St. Monica Academy, students are involved in our fundraising efforts. These can teach
 valuable skills and values such as teamwork, communication, and the importance of service.
 Fundraising is beneficial for the development of skills that can be used in both a student's personal
 and professional life.
- Flexibility: Often, funds generated through fundraising are more flexible than tuition dollars, parish subsidies, and government funding. Fundraising allows an allocation of funds based on pressing needs like facilities, technology, and the support of specific programs.
- Adaptation: Education is constantly evolving. Fundraising can help schools stay adaptable and responsive to changes in the educational landscape.

Currently, St. Monica Academy hosts a variety of fundraising activities throughout the year, ranging from small sales to larger events like the Gala or the Queen of Hearts, to hit our goal of \$100,000. Big or small, each effort reflects the reasons above and truly benefits the students of St. Monica Academy. Please know that whether you become one of our sponsors or dine out with us, you are investing in the future of St. Monica Academy.

In His Name,

Wayne Wenzel, Jr.

Principal