



January 2, 2023

Dear St. Clare School Families,

Thank you for choosing St. Clare School for your child's education!! It is because of your choice, support, and the dedication of an incredible Faculty and Staff, we are able to offer a Catholic-based education to the next generation! St. Clare's is a place where Catholic values and teachers are passed on to your children and role modeled by caring Faculty and Staff. These values are reinforced through daily religion class, service projects, and an infusion of faith and morals in all aspects of the curriculum.

Educational Philosophy from the Principal's Desk:

Our mission is to educate the whole child, spirit, mind, and body. In this philosophy of education, it is not enough to strive for academic excellence alone. We also strive to live the Gospel message wholeheartedly and be servant Disciples of Christ. In doing so, we enable students to grow closer in relationship with Jesus and utilize their time and God-given talents to make this world a better place.

As your Principal, it is my goal to enhance the literacy training for all teachers so that every student is reading at or above grade level. It is also a goal for St. Clare's to upgrade their Middle School Science lab and curriculum within the next year. These science upgrades will also include enhancing the curriculum at the Elementary levels and developing a standards aligned vertical skills assessments rotation. This will ensure that each student is being measured on academic content, age-appropriate skills, and the core values/dispositions of being a Disciple of Jesus.

Full Annual Cost of a St. Clare Education:

Because our school is not publicly-funded, we rely on several sources of operating revenue: tuition, fundraisers, the parish investment, and the Wisconsin School Choice Program. For the 2022-23 school year, it cost \$856,913 to operate our school. The cost to educate a single student is, on average, \$7,450. The following is an overview of the amounts budgeted for 2022-23:

Tuition.....	\$296,072	(35%)
Fundraisers.....	\$103,351	(12%)
Parish investment.....	\$308,408	(36%)
School Choice.....	<u>\$146,983</u>	<u>(17%)</u>
	\$856,913	(for 2022-23)

As we look ahead to the 2023/2024 school year, we will continue with the Wisconsin School Choice Program.

Purpose of the Tuition Funds:

As we budget for 2023/2024, we have determined that our teachers' salaries are approximately 75% of what comparable educators make in area public schools. Our goal is to move toward an 80% rate over the next several years. There are also increases in health care costs, along with remaining expenses. Our goal is to increase the health benefits of our staffing as we are currently below our Diocesan and Parish target for this benefit. Dedicated Catholic educators are at the heart of our school, and so we want to do everything we can to attract and retain truly good, skilled, and mission driven people.

For the 2023/2024 school year, the parental investment is being structured into three different tiers to accommodate a few changes. First, the Early Childhood Program is moving to a self-sustained financial model in order to support the needed aide positions. Secondly, the K-4 tuition is being separated from 5th-8th due to the varied technology and curricular needs of the older students. Lastly, each level of tuition will have a \$50-\$100 technology fee integrated into the cost.

Timing and Overview of Major Financial Changes:

For the past two years, St. Clare's received a combined total of approximately \$132,000 from the Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) Federal Funding Program related to COVID-19. These funds were used to upgrade security cameras, air purifiers, 75 Chromebooks, 15 iPads, Smart Technology, and personal protective equipment. The federal monies will be fully used by the end of 2024 and the devices will need to be replaced over the next 3-5 years. *The inclusion of a nominal technology fee does not cover the full cost of a device.* However, it assists over time in off-setting the replacement cost of new technology for all students. The technology portion of the tuition will be placed into a separate account earmarked solely for technology at the school. This will create a multi-year replacement rotation for all technology within St. Clare's School.

"Discounted" and "Regular" Tuition Rate Tiers:

Saint Clare School offers two tuition rates: Discounted and Regular (formerly labeled "Parishioner" and "Non-Parishioner" rates). The reason there are two tiers is because of the tight connection that exists between Saint Clare School and Saint Clare Parish. For more information on how to qualify for the Discounted rate, please see the enclosed sheet.

2023-2024 Approved Tuition Tiers					
Grade	Discounted Rate	Increase	Regular Rate	Increase	Technology
3K/Half	\$3,820	\$600	\$4,820	\$1,000	N/A
3K/Full	\$4,520	\$600	\$5,520	\$1,000	N/A
4K/Half	\$3,820	\$600	\$4,820	\$1,000	\$100 (4K Only)*
4K/Full	\$4,520	\$600	\$5,520	\$1,000	\$100 (4K Only)*
K-4th	\$3,375	\$600	\$4,375	\$1,000	\$50 Tech K-4^
5th-8th	\$3,500	\$525	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$100 for 5th-8th**

*3K does not use the iPads or Chromebooks- No Technology Fee will apply

^K-4 uses iPads, but they are only allowed during monitored group work and not taken home. Also, no aide is necessary as additional staff in the Kindergarten classroom.

**Middle School Students are allowed to take the Chromebooks home and transport them via personal backpacks. In addition, there are other supplemental curriculum resources that require technological funding.

Breakdown of the Increase:

About \$300 of that increase will go directly to improve the salaries of our dedicated staff; *the technology fee will go into the designated account*, and the remaining will go to operating expenses.

Tuition Grant for Each Student + Assistance Options:

Thanks to a generous tuition assistance grant, each family will ***receive a tuition assistance credit of \$150/student registered in K-8*** to help offset the higher than usual increase. This will automatically be reflected on your tuition statement prior to your first payment. Once the staffing and benefits gap is equalized, it is the intended goal of the Parish and School to keep tuition increases as minimal as possible.

To help with the increase, we offer our monthly payment plan over 10 months rather than 8 months. Should you choose monthly payments, they will start in July.

We encourage our families with children entering grades PK4, kindergarten and first grade to apply for the Wisconsin School Choice Program. There is no cost to apply. In addition, if a family does not qualify for school choice, there are tuition grants available and grant information included in this packet.

As in previous years, the multiple-student discount will also apply.

Referral Program:

The number one way that people hear about our school is through your awesome communication and word of mouth. Please tell your friends about St. Clare and you will receive a \$250 credit when they enroll and start at our school.

Finally, the School Advisory Board and Parish Finance Council will continue to look at some different funding opportunities for the future, and are engaging in long-range financial and strategic planning for the school as well.

Early Childhood Tuition Retention Credits
(3K, 4K, and Kindergarten)

To help you plan better your children's time at Saint Clare Catholic School and their ongoing education, we are offering some tuition credits.

For any students registering in 4K (for the 2023-24 school year) and continuing on into Kindergarten (for the 2024-25 school year), a \$300 credit will be applied to your 2024-25 tuition.

For any students registering in 3K (for the 2023-24 school year), continuing on through 4K (for the 2024-25 school year), and then continuing on into Kindergarten (for the 2025-26 school year), a \$600 credit will be applied to your 2025-26 tuition.

Thank you for choosing Saint Clare Catholic School to be such an important part of your children's education and early development! We understand the importance and magnitude of the decision to send your child/ren to Catholic Education. We look forward to exceeding your expectations in creating a faith-filled, servant-hearted, and academically enriched environment.

Thank you for trusting St. Clare Parish and School & May God Bless You,

Fr. Brian Wideman, Pastor
Katie M. Stanczak, Principal